

# Novel synthesis of 3,4-dihydro-5-bromo[1,4]oxazin-2-one derivatives, new protease inhibitor scaffold

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We designed and synthesized a new class of serine protease inhibitors based on the oxazinone core. To this end, we first developed a short and efficient route to synthesize a new 3,4-dihydro[1,4]oxazin-2-one ring. Then we successfully synthesised the corresponding 5-bromo derivatives which have never been reported before, and demonstrated their inhibitory activities on  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin.

## Introduction

Oxazin-2-ones and related structures have been extensively used as precursors for the synthesis of chiral compounds, mainly amino acids. Their synthesis as well as their biological properties are well documented.<sup>1,2</sup> Nevertheless an exhaustive literature survey reveals that 3,4-dihydro-5-halogeno[1,4]oxazin-2-ones **I** (Fig. 1) have never been previously described.

From a biological point of view, it appears to us that such chiral building blocks could be suitable for the design of new protease inhibitors. The presence of a leaving group (halogen atom) at the 5 position of the oxazinone ring could participate in the protease inhibitory process. Indeed as depicted in Fig. 1, nucleophilic attack on the lactone function by the hydroxyl function of the serine residue of a serine protease such as  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin, could lead to enzyme alkylation *via* substitution of the leaving group by the nucleophile residue (His-57) of the enzyme catalytic triad. Such a protease inhibition mechanism has been already reported in the case of serine protease inhibition by the 3-alkoxy-7-amino-4-chloroisocoumarin core (Fig. 1).<sup>3-9</sup>

The challenge we faced was to carry out a new original and efficient synthesis of this versatile oxazinone building block, bearing a halogen atom at the 5 position and various substituents at the 3, 4, and 6 positions. We report in this paper, the first synthesis of 3,4-dihydro-5-halogenooxazin-2-ones **I** and their corresponding  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin inhibitory activities.

## Results and discussion

The protected amino acids H-(L)-leucine-OtBu and H-(L)-phenylalanine-OtBu were selected in order to achieve the first oxazinone cores; nevertheless, it will be possible to extend this work to other commercially available amino acids in order to introduce a wide range of substituents at the 3 position of the oxazinone core. First, we tried to directly alkylate the amine function *via* a nucleophilic substitution through the use of ethyl bromoacetate as electrophilic reagent. Unfortunately, this synthetic pathway was not efficient, since it appeared difficult to limit the substitution reaction to monoalkylation of the amine function in reasonable yields. To circumvent this difficulty, we used the method of Fukuyama who reported an efficient monoalkylation method of the amine function *via* the formation of a sulfonamide intermediate (Scheme 1).<sup>10</sup> For this purpose, (H-(L)-leucine-OtBu and H-(L)-phenylalanine-OtBu were first sulfonylated to give the corresponding sulfonamides **1** and **2** in 96% and 84% yields respectively, through the use of 4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride in the presence of TEA in methylene chloride. The next step was the alkylation of the sulfonamide group which was carried out under mild conditions according to two procedures, either under Mitsunobu conditions (Method A: ROH, DEAD, Ph<sub>3</sub>P, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt) or under conventional nucleophilic substitution conditions (Method B: RX, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, DMF, rt).<sup>10</sup> The *N,N*-disubstituted 4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide derivatives **3a-c** and **4a-c** (Table 1)

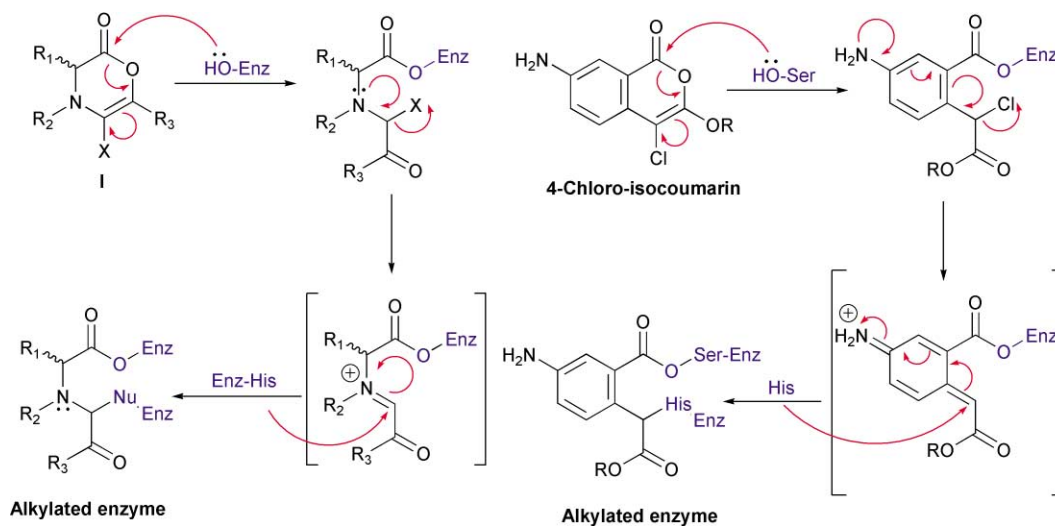
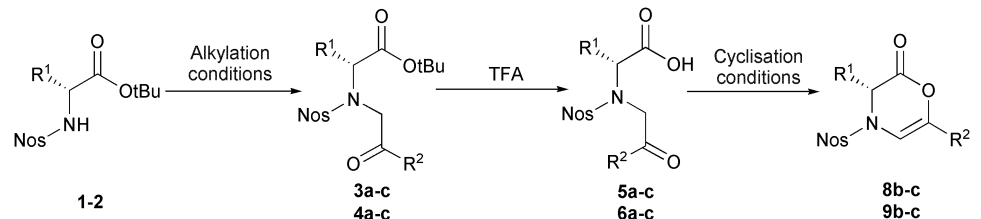


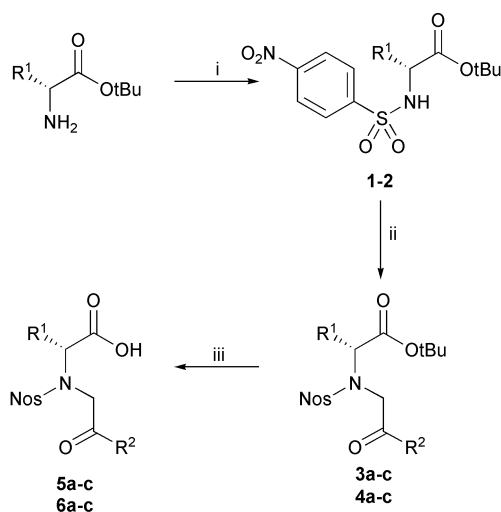
Fig. 1

Table 1



R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	Alkylation conditions			Cyclisation conditions					
		Method <sup>a</sup>	Product	Yield (%)	Coupling reagent	Mol eq.	Solvent	T/°C	Product	Yield (%)
(L)-Leu	OEt	A	<b>3a</b>	55	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Ph	A	<b>3b</b>	17	SOCl <sub>2</sub>	1	PhMe	70	<b>8b</b>	55
	(4-MeO)-Ph	B	<b>3c</b>	95	PyBOP	1.1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	25	<b>8c</b>	92
(L)-Phe	OEt	A	<b>4a</b>	85	PCl <sub>5</sub>	2.5	PhMe	110	<b>7</b>	46
	Ph	A	<b>4b</b>	24	PCl <sub>5</sub>	1	PhMe	25	<b>9b</b>	24
	Naphthyl	B	<b>4c</b>	87	SOCl <sub>2</sub>	1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	25	<b>9c</b>	84

<sup>a</sup> Method A: R<sup>2</sup>OH (2.5 eq.), DEAD (2.5 eq.), PPh<sub>3</sub> (2.5 eq.), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 1 h; Method B: R<sup>2</sup>X (1.7 eq.), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 eq.), MeCN, rt, 5 h.



**Scheme 1** Reagents and conditions: (i) *p*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride, TEA, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt; (ii) Method A: R<sup>2</sup>C(O)CH<sub>2</sub>OH, DEAD, PPh<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt; or Method B: R<sup>2</sup>C(O)CH<sub>2</sub>Br, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, DMF, rt; (iii) TFA-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 : 1), rt.

were obtained in variable yields depending on the reaction conditions and on the ketone or ester substituent R<sup>2</sup>. The results obtained indicate that alkylation appears more efficient under standard nucleophilic substitution conditions rather than under Mitsunobu reaction conditions. Upon treatment with TFA in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, *tert*-butyl esters **3a-c** and **4a-c** were easily deprotected into the corresponding carboxylic acids **5a-c** and **6a-c** in quantitative yields.<sup>11</sup> The key step of this synthesis was the cyclisation of carboxylic acid **5a-c** and **6a-c** into the corresponding 3,4-dihydro[1,4]oxazin-2-one core. For this purpose, we have investigated different cyclisation procedures using various chemical reagents. First, we tried to carry out the cyclisation on prototype **5a** through the use of phosphorus pentachloride (PCl<sub>5</sub>) in refluxing toluene (Scheme 2). Using an excess of PCl<sub>5</sub>, it seemed possible to perform both steps, *i.e.* the cyclisation then the chlorination at the 5-position of the resulting oxazinone ring, in a one-pot process.<sup>12</sup> Indeed, we hoped to carry out this two-step reaction according to the mechanism depicted in Scheme 2, *i.e.* PCl<sub>5</sub> first reacts with the carboxylic acid function leading to the corresponding acyl chloride; simultaneously, the experimental conditions, *i.e.* an acidic medium (HCl released) in refluxed toluene, favor the enol formation from the corresponding ester function. The enol form then reacts with the acyl chloride moiety leading to the

3,4-dihydrooxazin-2-ones. In a second step, excess PCl<sub>5</sub> can react with the double bond of the oxazinone ring leading to the corresponding 5,6-dihalogeno intermediate, which after a dehydrohalogenation reaction, leads to the desired compounds 3,4-dihydro-5-halogenoxazin-2-ones. Surprisingly, in the described conditions, we only isolated compound **7** in 46% yield, whose structure clearly indicated that the cyclisation reaction did not occur. Fully characterized by LCMS, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and elemental analysis, compound **7** was exclusively found under a *trans* configuration which was assigned on the basis of the characteristic coupling constant of 14.5 Hz between the two olefinic protons. It can be underlined that formation of **7** resulted from both processes, decarboxylation and dehydrogenation. According to the mechanism reported in Scheme 2, we cannot exclude the acid chloride intermediate formation resulting from the conversion of the corresponding carboxylic acid moiety in the presence of PCl<sub>5</sub>. Nevertheless it can be suggested that, under the experimental conditions, the formation of the enol function from the corresponding ester was not favored. Consequently, cyclisation did not occur, and only compound **7** is formed. To avoid this side-reaction, we decided first to perform the cyclisation process and to isolate the cyclic intermediate, and in a second separate step to achieve the halogenation reaction of the oxazinone ring. To reach the oxazinone ring, we have seen that the cyclisation depended on two independent conditions; on the one hand, the carboxylic acid function must be activated with a coupling reagent to allow the esterification, and on the other hand, the experimental conditions have to favor enol formation from the corresponding carbonyl group. As far as we had seen that enol formation did not occur in the case of ester functions (R = OEt), we carried out this cyclisation starting with the aromatic ketone compound (R = Ph, Ph(OMe), Naphthyl). Indeed, it is known that enol formation from aromatic ketones can be favored under acidic or basic conditions. Consequently, we have tried to achieve the cyclisation through the use of several coupling reagents in acidic or basic media (Scheme 3).

### Cyclisation in acidic conditions

First, we investigated the cyclisation on compound **6b** at room temperature in the presence of only one equivalent of PCl<sub>5</sub>. Under these experimental conditions, *i.e.* in an acidic medium, the enol formation from the ketone group is favored and consequently it readily reacted with the acyl chloride moiety resulting from the action of PCl<sub>5</sub>, leading to the oxazinone core. Following this method, the expected 3,4-dihydro[1,4]-oxazin-2-one **9b** was isolated in low yield (24%). To optimize



ring,<sup>17</sup> we first tried to achieve this halogenation using bromine under various conditions (solvents, temperature, and reaction time),<sup>18</sup> unfortunately, halogenation did not occur, and we observed the formation of compound **5c** which resulted from the opening of the oxazinone core. Next we used NBS as bromination reagent in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature (Scheme 4).<sup>19</sup> Under these experimental conditions, we isolated two compounds brominated at the 5 position, *i.e.*

Cyclisation was performed on compound **5c** which is stirred with the peptidic coupling reagent PyBOP (1.1 equivalent)<sup>14</sup> in the presence of TEA, leading to the corresponding oxazinone **8c** in almost quantitative yield. To summarize, it can be observed that oxazinone **8c** can be synthesized in 4 steps starting from commercial protected leucine in 84% overall yield, which represents a real synthetic improvement compared to previously reported oxazinone syntheses.<sup>15,16</sup> The whole results, including the different experimental conditions, are summarized in Table 1.

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Table 2

Compounds	$\alpha$ -Chymotrypsin inhibition (%)		
	1 $\mu$ M	10 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
<b>8b</b>	nd <sup>a</sup>	21	70
<b>8c</b>	nd	0	51
<b>9c</b>	nd	26	97
<b>10</b>	nd	nd	52
<b>11</b>	40	100	nd

<sup>a</sup> nd : not determined.

bromooxazinone compound **10** and dibromooxazinone compound **11**. 5-Bromo-3,4-dihydrooxazin-2-one **10** was obtained in 30% yield and fully characterized (LCMS, <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR and elemental analysis). Compound **10** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum shows the disappearance of the singlet signal at 6.6 ppm, characteristic of the proton at the 5-position of the oxazinone derivative **8c**. Compound **11** was obtained in 18% yield and resulted from the reaction of NBS with compound **10** according to the following sequence: formation of a double bond C=N at the  $\alpha$ -position of the lactone function, leading to the elimination of the 4-nitrosulfonamido moiety, followed by bromination of the allylic carbon C <sub>$\beta$</sub>  of the side chain.<sup>20</sup> When the same reaction was carried out in the dark, formation of the dibromo compound **11** was not observed.

The last part of this study reports the preliminary results related to the protease inhibitory properties of the new synthesized scaffolds. As shown in Table 2, compounds **8b**, **8c**, **9c**, **10** and **11**, assayed as  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin inhibitors according to standard procedures,<sup>21</sup> have demonstrated interesting protease inhibitory properties, notably compound **11** which is the most potent inhibitor with an IC<sub>50</sub> value around 1  $\mu$ M. These encouraging preliminary results gave credit to our hypothesis relative to the design of protease inhibitors based on the 5-halogenooxazin-2-one scaffold. Synthesis of a focused library based on this scaffold is under way and will be tested on various classes of proteases known to be involved in different pathologies.

In conclusion, we have designed and synthesized a new class of serine protease inhibitors based on the oxazinone core. Indeed, we have developed a short original and efficient method to synthesize a new 3,4-dihydro[1,4]oxazin-2-one ring. Moreover we succeeded in synthesizing novel 5-bromo-3,4-dihydro[1,4]oxazin-2-one and 5-bromo[1,4]oxazin-2-one derivatives and in demonstrating their inhibitory activities on  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin.

## Experimental section

All common chemicals and solvents were reagent grade or better. The purity of each compound was checked by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy, mass spectroscopy, thin-layer chromatography, melting point, and elemental analysis and results are consistent with the proposed structures. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker AC-300 MHz or a Bruker AMX-250 instrument, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR on a Bruker AMX-62 MHz. Elemental analyses were performed by Service Central d'Analyses du CNRS (Vernaison, France) and were within  $\pm$  0.3% of the theoretical values. Thin-layer chromatographic analyses (TLC) were conducted on silica gel plates 0.2mm thick (60F<sub>254</sub> Merck) with various mixtures as eluent. Preparative flash column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (230–240 mesh, G60 Merck). Analytical purity was assessed by LC-MS using a Waters 2790 system. Low resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Micromass ZMD mass spectrometer. Mass spectra were acquired under electrospray ionisation (ESI).

## Sulfonylation. General procedure leading to compounds 1–2

To a solution of the amino acid *tert*-butyl ester (1 eq.) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were added TEA (2.2 eq.) then 4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride (1.1 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give compounds **1** and **2**.

### N-(4-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-L-leucine *tert*-butyl ester **1**

96% yield; *R*<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.57; mp 74 °C;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.38 (d, 2H, *J* 9.3, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 8.20 (d, 2H, *J* 9.3, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 4.31 (t, 1H, *J* 7.5, CH–CO<sub>2</sub>tBu), 1.70 (m, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>–CH–CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.57 (m, 2H, CH–CH<sub>2</sub>–CH), 1.35 (s, 9H, tBu), 0.85 (m, 6H, Me);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 171.53, 150.49, 146.35, 129.02, 124.59, 83.19, 55.54, 42.79, 28.06, 24.82, 23.15, 21.78; *m/z* (ESI) : (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 373.

### N-(4-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-L-phenylalanine *tert*-butyl ester **2**

84% yield; *R*<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.51; mp 54 °C;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.16 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 8.06 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 7.16 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.03 (m, 2H, Ph), 4.06 (m, 1H, CH–CO<sub>2</sub>tBu), 2.96 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>–Ph), 1.20 (s, 9H, tBu);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 168.49, 148.78, 144.63, 133.88, 128.33, 127.38, 127.15, 126.13, 122.92, 82.13, 56.21, 38.26, 26.55; *m/z* (ESI) : (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 429.

## Mitsunobu alkylation. Procedure A leading to compounds 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b

To a solution of *N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)amino acid *tert*-butyl ester (1 eq.) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 0 °C were added R<sup>2</sup>OH (2.5 eq), PPh<sub>3</sub> (2.5 eq.) and then DEAD (2.5 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5% NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compounds **3a**, **3b**, **4a** and **4b**.

### N-(Ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-N-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-L-leucine *tert*-butyl ester **3a**

55% yield; *R*<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 4]) 0.52;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.09 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 7.88 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 4.26 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>–COOEt), 4.03 (t, 1H, *J* 7.7, CH–CO<sub>2</sub>tBu), 3.93 (q, 2H, *J* 7.3, O–CH<sub>2</sub>–CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.50 (m, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>–CH–CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.29 (m, 2H, CH–CH<sub>2</sub>–CH), 1.05 (s, 9H, tBu), 1.02 (t, 3H, *J* 7.3, O–CH<sub>2</sub>–CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.62 (d, 6H, *J* 6.7, Me);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 169.84, 169.41, 150.16, 145.40, 129.33, 124.02, 82.64, 61.56, 58.62, 45.82, 39.66, 27.82, 24.41, 21.76, 14.16; *m/z* (ESI) (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 459.

### N-(2-Phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-N-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-L-leucine *tert*-butyl ester **3b**

17% yield; *R*<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 6]) 0.45;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.36 (d, 2H, *J* 9.3, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 8.19 (d, 2H, *J* 9.3, CH=CH–C–NO<sub>2</sub>), 7.82 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.65 (m, 3H, Ph), 5.08 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>–C(O)–Ph), 4.31 (t, 1H, *J* 7.4, CH–CO<sub>2</sub>tBu), 1.71 (m, 1H, CH<sub>3</sub>–CH–CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.57 (m, 2H, CH–CH<sub>2</sub>–CH), 1.16 (s, 9H, tBu), 0.85 (m, 6H, Me);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 194.28, 170.46, 150.22, 146.54, 135.66, 130.46, 129.85, 129.43, 128.64, 128.10, 125.71, 124.23, 83.18, 55.33, 50.04, 40.12, 28.15, 23.76, 22.81, 21.71; *m/z* (ESI) (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 513.



***N*-(Ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-phenylalanine *tert*-butyl ester 4a**

85% yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 4]) 0.50;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.18 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.00 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.15 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.04 (m, 2H, Ph), 4.40 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2tBu$ ), 4.27 (s, 2H,  $CH_2-CO_2Et$ ), 4.12 (q, 2H,  $J$  7.2,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 2.96 (m, 2H,  $CH_2-Ph$ ), 1.23 (t, 3H,  $J$  7.2,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 1.11 (s, 9H,  $tBu$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 167.84, 167.28, 149.14, 144.21, 134.34, 127.94, 127.88, 127.17, 125.75, 122.44, 81.49, 60.33, 58.41, 44.19, 35.74, 26.29, 12.76;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 515.

***N*-(2-Phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-phenylalanine *tert*-butyl ester 4b**

24% yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc– $CH_2Cl_2$ –cyclohexane [1 : 4 : 12]) 0.43;  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.27 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.10 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.88 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.60 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.19 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.11 (s, 2H,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.49 (q, 1H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH-CO_2tBu$ ), 3.00 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH_2-Ph$ ), 1.12 (s, 9H,  $tBu$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 194.36, 169.64, 150.71, 146.76, 136.41, 135.48, 134.65, 130.17, 129.70, 129.31, 128.66, 127.88, 124.56, 83.55, 62.40, 51.15, 38.19, 28.38;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 525.

**Alkylation using nucleophile substitution. Procedure B leading to compounds 3c and 4c**

To a solution of *N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-amino acid *tert*-butyl ester (1 eq.) in MeCN were added  $R^2X$  (1.7 eq), then  $K_2CO_3$  (2.0 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compounds 3c and 4c.

***N*-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-leucine *tert*-butyl ester 3c**

95% yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–toluene [1 : 6]) 0.63;  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.38 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.20 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.92 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 6.97 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 5.02 (AB, 2H,  $J$  18.9,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.31 (t, 1H,  $J$  7.5,  $CH-CO_2tBu$ ), 3.90 (s, 3H,  $O-CH_3$ ), 1.70 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.57 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 1.35 (s, 9H,  $tBu$ ), 0.87 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me), 0.84 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 192.52, 170.53, 164.47, 150.31, 146.49, 130.57, 129.85, 129.85, 128.60, 128.13, 125.75, 124.21, 114.44, 82.99, 58.87, 55.94, 50.37, 40.20, 28.25, 24.98, 22.61, 21.85;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 521, ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 543.

***N*-(2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-phenylalanine *tert*-butyl ester 4c**

87% yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 6]) 0.28; mp 59 °C;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.12 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.80 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.73 (m, 4H, Naphthyl), 7.42 (m, 3H, Naphthyl), 7.02 (m, 5H, Ph), 5.09 (s, 2H,  $CH_2-C(O)-Naphthyl$ ), 4.37 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2tBu$ ), 2.90 (m, 2H,  $CH_2-Ph$ ), 0.99 (s, 9H,  $tBu$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 193.57, 168.95, 149.93, 146.02, 135.85, 132.38, 132.13, 129.82, 129.41, 129.01, 128.72, 128.55, 128.31, 127.86, 126.97, 123.75, 123.18, 82.76, 61.73, 50.54, 37.48, 27.65;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 575.

**Cleavage of the *tert*-butyl ester function. General procedure leading to compounds 5a–c and 6a–c**

To a solution of *N,N*-disubstituted-amino acid *tert*-butyl ester (1 eq.) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at 0 °C was added TFA (20 eq.). The reaction

mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the compounds 5a–c and 6a–c.

***N*-(Ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-leucine 5a**

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.40;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.15 (dd, 2H,  $J$  9.1,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.90 (dd, 2H,  $J$  9.1,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 4.56 (t, 1H,  $J$  7.3,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 3.93 (m, 4H,  $CH_2-CO_2-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 1.51 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.31 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 1.01 (m, 3H,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 0.64 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me), 0.62 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 176.92, 170.54, 150.66, 144.57, 129.49, 124.46, 62.70, 58.21, 46.24, 39.27, 24.47, 22.68, 21.48, 14.16;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 403, ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 425.

***N*-(2-Phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-leucine 5b**

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.38;  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.40 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.20 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.96 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.1, Ph), 7.65 (t, 1H,  $J$  8.1, Ph), 7.53 (t, 2H,  $J$  8.1, Ph), 5.00 (AB, 2H,  $J$  18.9,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.44 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 1.65 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.27 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 0.84 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.3, Me), 0.82 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.3, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 194.74, 174.21, 150.48, 145.86, 134.70, 130.81, 129.77, 129.45, 128.43, 127.36, 124.49, 58.39, 52.34, 39.76, 24.82, 22.79, 22.06;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 435.

***N*-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-leucine 5c**

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–toluene [1 : 6]) 0.33; mp 173 °C;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz, DMSO) 10.50 (s, 1H,  $COOH$ ), 8.41 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.19 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.00 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 7.09 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 4.95 (AB, 2H,  $J$  19.2,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.32 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 3.87 (s, 3H,  $O-CH_3$ ), 1.87 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.47 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 0.84 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me), 0.80 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.6, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz, DMSO) 195.54, 171.58, 163.38, 149.70, 145.00, 131.50, 130.14, 129.63, 128.99, 128.14, 125.34, 122.92, 114.83, 58.75, 56.34, 53.68, 36.58, 23.68, 22.54, 21.66;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M - H$ )<sup>−</sup> 463.

***N*-(Ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-phenylalanine 6a**

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.37;  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.20 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.95 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.22 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.12 (m, 2H, Ph), 4.64 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 4.17 (m, 4H,  $CH_2-CO_2-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 3.04 (m, 2H,  $CH_2-Ph$ ), 1.28 (t, 3H,  $J$  7.2,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 174.31, 170.02, 150.54, 146.17, 136.78, 135.92, 129.45, 129.21, 128.84, 127.66, 124.44, 62.49, 58.61, 46.72, 36.67, 14.42;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 459.

***N*-(2-Phenyl-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*L*-phenylalanine 6b**

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 4]) 0.17; mp 144 °C;  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.25 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.00 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.89 (d, 2H,  $J$  7.2, Ph), 7.68 (t, 1H,  $J$  7.2, Ph), 7.52 (t, 2H,  $J$  7.2, Ph), 7.24 (m, 3H, Ph), 7.13 (m, 2H, Ph), 4.91 (AB, 2H,  $J$  18.9,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.53 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 3.18 (m, 2H,  $CH_2-Ph$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 195.74, 172.97, 150.91, 145.62, 136.55, 135.47, 134.72, 129.90, 129.84, 129.59, 128.92, 128.09, 124.81, 62.26, 51.12, 37.53;  $m/z$  (ESI) : ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 469, ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 491.

### *N*-(2-Naphthalen-2-yl-2-oxoethyl)-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-L-phenylalanine 6c

Quantitative yield;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–MeOH [9 : 1]) 0.43; mp 122 °C;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz, DMSO) 10.40 (s, 1H, COOH), 8.21 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.8,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.85 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.8,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.43 (m, 4H, Naphthyl), 7.10 (m, 3H, Naphthyl), 6.88 (m, 5H, Ph), 4.95 (AB, 2H,  $J$  19.2,  $CH_2-C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.48 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2H$ ), 3.18 (m, 2H,  $CH_2-Ph$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz, DMSO) 193.78, 172.78, 150.52, 145.74, 135.76, 132.11, 132.05, 129.54, 129.32, 129.12, 128.66, 128.32, 127.80, 127.00, 123.63, 123.41, 63.43, 50.84, 37.65;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 519.

### *N*-(4-Nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-*N*-(1-styryl)glycine ethyl ester 7

To a solution of **6a** (114 mg, 0.26 mmol) in toluene was added  $PCl_5$  (136 mg, 0.65 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 48 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **7** (47 mg, 46% yield); Found: C, 55.3; H, 4.7; N, 7.2.  $C_{18}H_{18}N_2O_6S$  requires C, 55.4; H, 4.65; N, 7.2%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 4]) 0.38;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.26 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.96 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.20 (m, 6H,  $CH=CH-Ph$ ), 5.63 (d, 1H,  $J$  14.5,  $CH=CH-Ph$ ), 4.35 (s, 2H,  $CH_2-CO_2Et$ ), 4.03 (q, 2H,  $J$  7.1,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ ), 1.10 (t, 3H,  $J$  7.1,  $O-CH_2-CH_3$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 167.45, 150.56, 144.76, 135.50, 129.05, 128.92, 127.49, 126.02, 125.79, 124.59, 113.47, 62.21, 47.96, 14.35;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup> 413.

### 3,4-Dihydro-(3*R*)-isobutyl-4-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-6-phenyl[1,4]oxazin-2-one 8b

To a solution of **5b** (90 mg, 0.21 mmol) in toluene was added  $SOCl_2$  (15  $\mu$ l, 0.21 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 2 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **8b** (48 mg, 55% yield); Found: C, 57.7; H, 4.9; N, 6.6.  $C_{20}H_{20}N_2O_6S$  requires C, 57.7; H, 4.8; N, 6.7%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.72; mp 104 °C;  $[a]_D^{20}$  ( $c$  = 1, DCM) +20;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.27 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.5,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.90 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.5,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.44 (m, 2H, Ph), 7.34 (m, 3H, Ph), 6.68 (s, 1H,  $CH=C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.61 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2$ ), 1.80 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.50 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 0.97 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.2, Me), 0.94 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.2, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 163.12, 144.41, 135.09, 130.89, 129.81, 129.73, 129.01, 128.81, 125.54, 125.03, 124.87, 101.89, 55.10, 39.06, 24.83, 23.44, 22.17;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 417.

### 3,4-Dihydro-(3*R*)-isobutyl-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)[1,4]oxazin-2-one 8c

To a solution of **5c** (1g, 2.2 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at 0 °C were added PyBOP (1.3 g, 2.5 mmol) then TEA (650  $\mu$ l, 4.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **8c** (0.9 g, 92% yield); Found: C, 56.4; H, 5.0; N, 6.3.  $C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_7S$  requires C, 56.5; H, 5.0; N, 6.3%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 3]) 0.42; mp 55 °C;  $[a]_D^{20}$  ( $c$  = 1, DCM) –86;

$\delta_H$  (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.34 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.97 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.7,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.45 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 6.93 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.0,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 6.62 (s, 1H,  $CH=C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.69 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2$ ), 3.85 (s, 3H,  $O-CH_3$ ), 1.88 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-CH-CH_3$ ), 1.48 (m, 2H,  $CH-CH_2-CH$ ), 1.06 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.2, Me), 1.02 (d, 3H,  $J$  6.2, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 162.96, 161.55, 151.02, 142.32, 128.65, 126.26, 125.07, 121.85, 114.75, 99.66, 55.84, 54.68, 38.57, 24.43, 23.08, 21.73;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 447.

### (3*R*)-Benzyl-3,4-dihydro-4-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-6-phenyl-[1,4]oxazin-2-one 9b

To a solution of **6b** (105 mg, 0.22 mmol) in toluene was added  $PCl_5$  (46 mg, 0.27 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 48 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **9b** (24 mg, 24% yield); Found: C, 61.3; H, 4.1; N, 6.2.  $C_{23}H_{18}N_2O_6S$  requires C, 61.3; H, 4.0; N, 6.2%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 2]) 0.68; mp 94 °C;  $[a]_D^{20}$  ( $c$  = 1, DCM) = +38;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.25 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.1,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.00 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.1,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.19 (m, 10H, Ph), 6.66 (s, 1H,  $CH=C(O)-Ph$ ), 4.73 (t, 1H,  $J$  6.9,  $CH-CO_2$ ), 2.96 (d, 2H,  $J$  6.9,  $CH_2-Ph$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 163.02, 151.04, 144.87, 135.48, 134.65, 130.17, 129.70, 129.31, 128.66, 127.88, 126.15, 125.07, 124.56, 101.16, 61.43, 37.21;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 451.

### (3*R*)-Benzyl-3,4-dihydro-6-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)[1,4]oxazin-2-one 9c

To a solution of **6c** (156 mg, 0.30 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  was added  $SOCl_2$  (22  $\mu$ l, 0.30 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was solubilized in EtOAc and the organic layer was successively washed with a 5%  $NaHCO_3$  aqueous solution, brine and 5% citric acid aqueous solution, then dried over  $MgSO_4$ . The organic solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a residue which was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **9c** (126 mg, 84% yield); Found: C, 64.7; H, 4.1; N, 5.6.  $C_{27}H_{20}N_2O_6S$  requires C, 64.8; H, 4.0; N, 5.6%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 3]) 0.61; mp 122 °C;  $[a]_D^{25}$  ( $c$  = 1, DCM) +11;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.11 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.72 (d, 2H,  $J$  9.3,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.64 (m, 4H, Naphthyl), 7.35 (m, 3H, Naphthyl), 7.06 (m, 5H, Ph), 6.65 (s, 1H,  $CH=C(O)-Naphthyl$ ), 4.73 (t, 1H,  $J$  6.9,  $CH-CO_2$ ), 2.96 (d, 2H,  $J$  6.9,  $CH_2-Ph$ );  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 162.97, 150.93, 144.32, 135.11, 134.65, 132.38, 132.13, 129.82, 129.41, 129.01, 128.72, 128.55, 128.31, 127.86, 126.97, 126.15, 125.07, 124.56, 123.75, 101.53, 62.05, 37.46;  $m/z$  (ESI) ( $M + H$ )<sup>+</sup> 501.

### 5-Bromo-3,4-dihydro-(3*R*)-isobutyl-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-*N*-(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-[1,4]oxazin-2-one 10

To a solution of **8c** (200 mg, 0.4 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  was added NBS (80 mg, 0.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **10** (70 mg, 30% yield); Found: C, 48.1; H, 4.0; N, 5.4.  $C_{21}H_{21}BrN_2O_7S$  requires C, 48.0; H, 4.0; N, 5.3%;  $R_f$  (EtOAc–cyclohexane [1 : 3]) 0.45;  $[a]_D^{25}$  ( $c$  = 1, DCM) –42;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 8.32 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 8.02 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-NO_2$ ), 7.46 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 6.86 (d, 2H,  $J$  8.9,  $CH=CH-C-OMe$ ), 4.78 (m, 1H,  $CH-CO_2$ ), 3.77 (s, 3H,  $O-CH_3$ ), 1.88 (m, 1H,  $CH_3-$

CH-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.48 (m, 2H, CH-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH), 1.05 (d, 3H, *J* 6.2, Me), 1.02 (d, 3H, *J* 6.2, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 163.76, 161.51, 151.03, 143.22, 130.23, 128.96, 124.55, 121.85, 113.84, 93.24, 56.71, 55.43, 36.86, 24.52, 22.84, 20.90; *m/z* (ESI) (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 526 (528, 530).

#### 5-Bromo-3-(1-bromo-2-methylpropyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)[1,4]-oxazin-2-one **11**

To a solution of **8c** (200 mg, 0.4 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added NBS (80 mg, 0.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days, then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to give the compound **11** (30 mg, 18% yield); Found: C, 43.2; H, 3.6; N, 3.3. C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> requires C, 43.2; H, 3.6; N, 3.4%; *R<sub>f</sub>* (EtOAc-cyclohexane [1 : 3]) 0.61;  $\delta_H$  (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.85 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH-C-OMe), 6.92 (d, 2H, *J* 9.0, CH=CH-C-OMe), 4.82 (d, 1H, *J* 9.5, Br-CH-CH(Me)<sub>2</sub>), 3.82 (s, 3H, O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.59 (m, 1H, CH(Me)<sub>2</sub>), 1.20 (d, 3H, *J* 6.6, Me), 0.96 (d, 3H, *J* 6.6, Me);  $\delta_C$  (62 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 161.58, 151.34, 149.54, 130.41, 120.98, 113.40, 110.93, 54.88, 31.33, 26.43, 20.78, 19.80; *m/z* (ESI) (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 418 (416, 420).

#### $\alpha$ -Chymotrypsin inhibition

The enzyme was preincubated for 10 minutes at 37 °C with inhibitor by adding an aliquot (10  $\mu$ l) of the inhibitor in DMSO to the enzyme in buffer (0.1 M Hepes, 0.5M NaCl, pH 6). Percentage of inhibition was spectrophotometrically measured ( $\lambda$  = 410 nm) on a Uvikon 930 spectrophotometer by adding an aliquot of the substrate solution (N-Succinyl-Ala-Ala-Pro-Phe-p-Nitroanilide) to the enzyme-inhibitor solution into a cuvette.

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