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Diels-Alder reactions of α-amido acrylates with N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine and cyclopentadiene

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ABSTRACT | Thermal Diels-Alder reactions of α -amido acrylates with *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine and cyclopentadiene have been explored to investigate the factors influencing the *endo/exo* selectivity.



For the dihydropyridine, steric factors allowed the diastereoselectivity to be modulated to favor either *endo-* or *exo-*ester adducts. For cyclopentadiene, the *endo-*ester adducts were favored regardless of steric perturbation, although catalysis by bulky Lewis acids increased the proportion of *exo-*ester adducts in some cases. These Lewis acids were incompatible with the dihydropyridine diene as they induced its decomposition.

Since its discovery in 1928, the Diels-Alder (DA) reaction has fundamentally changed the landscape of organic synthesis.¹ It allows for the rapid generation of molecular complexity and has served as a pivotal transformation in many complex natural product syntheses.² Our focus here is on DA reactions of *N*-carbalkoxy-1,2-dihydropyridines, which are frequently employed for the synthesis of isoquinuclidines.³ This azabicyclo[2.2.2]octane unit is a common structural motif in many natural product classes, notably iboga⁴ and related catharanthus⁵ alkaloids (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Examples of iboga and catharanthus alkaloids having the isoquinuclidine core, and our target isoquinuclidinebased α -helix mimetic.



In our efforts towards the synthesis of 5-residue, multi-face α -helix mimetics based on an isoquinuclidine core (Figure 1),⁶ we envisaged that an attractive, convergent strategy by which to access this skeleton would be *via* reaction of dienophile **1** with *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (Figure 2).

Figure 2. The DA reaction between tri-substituted alkene 1 and N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine.



NMR studies and a single crystal X-ray structure determination (see SI) on the major product **2** revealed that this DA reaction afforded exclusively the undesired *exo*-ester isomer **2**. Looking to understand this selectivity, we were surprised to find only limited literature precedent for the use of α-amido acrylates, or β-substituted derivatives thereof in DA reactions. Published reports are limited to cyclic compounds in which the nitrogen is constrained as a lactam,^{7,8} part of a quinolone,⁹ or part of an oxazine-2,4dione.¹⁰ Consequently, we decided to probe the reactivity of acyclic α-amido acrylates as dienophiles in DA reactions to determine the factors influencing their *endolexo* selectivity. In particular, we wanted to investigate the influence of steric and electronic factors in controlling this diastereoselection. To this end, we prepared an array of β-unsubstituted-α-amido acrylates as test dienophiles. These substrates were chosen for three reasons: firstly, to preclude alkene isomerization,¹¹ secondly, because only two diastereoisomeric products can form, and thirdly, because they show increased reactivity compared to β-substituted congeners. The α-amido acrylates were reacted with both *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine and cyclopentadiene to allow an assessment of the role of the nitrogen substituent in the former dienophiles.¹²

The α -amido acrylates were synthesized in two steps starting from commercially available methyl malonyl chloride or mono*-tert*butyl malonate *via* amide bond formation followed by Mannich condensation-elimination (Scheme 1).¹³

Scheme 1. Method of synthesis of α-amido acrylates 4.



Rapid polymerization was observed upon attempted isolation of some α -amido methylacrylates containing a secondary amide (*e.g.* where R' = Me or Ph and R'' = H), whereas no polymerization was apparent with tertiary amides. Presumably the secondary **ACS Paragon Plus Environment**

amides are both sufficiently nucleophilic and sterically unencumbered to allow for anionic polymerization *via* a 1,4-addition pathway. By contrast, introducing 2,2-dimethyl substitution, or bulky groups on the aryl ring of the secondary amide, inhibits polymerization allowing the dienophiles to be stored at room temperature for weeks without noticeable decomposition.

1,2-Dihydropyridines typically require heating to achieve efficient DA reactions, particularly given that they are unstable in the presence of many Lewis acids,¹⁴ and so thermal DA reactions with *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine were investigated first (Table 1).

Table 1. Diels-Alder reactions between N-Cbz-1-2-dihydropyridine and α-amido acrylates 4a-h.^a



| Entry | Dienophile | dr ^b Endo : Exo | Reaction Time | Combined Isolated Yield |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Meo 4a | 62:38 | 3 d | 68% |
| 2 | MeO Het 4b | 58:42 | 7 d | 50% |
| 3 | MeO 4c | 69:31 | 6.5 h | 86% |
| 4 | Meo H H H | 24 : 76 | 16 h | 58% |
| 5 | Meo 4e | 20:80 | 2.5 h | 66% ^c |
| 6 | Buo Hr,Et | 78 : 22 | $7 d^d$ | 37% |
| 7 | tBuO 4g 0 0 0 − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − | 94 : 6 | $6 d^d$ | 48% |
| 8 | Meo H Ph | No reaction | 5 d | - |

^{*a*}Reaction conditions unless otherwise specified: dienophile (1 *eq.*), *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (1.5-2.5 *eq.*), neat, sealed tube, under Ar, 100 °C. ^{*b*}Endo/exo ratios were determined by VT 1D and 2D NMR analysis and nOe experiments (see SI). ^cNeat for 2 h at 100 °C, then added dry toluene (0.5M) and heated at 100 °C for 30 mins. ^{*d*}Unreacted dienophile remaining.

Overall, the *dr* of DA reactions of 1,2-dihydropryidines with α -amido acrylates appear to be dominated by the relative size of the substituents on the ester and amide. When the size of the groups on the ester and amide are both moderate, such as in dienophiles **4a** and **4b**, there is a slight preference for formation of the *endo*-ester isomer (entries 1 & 2). This intrinsic selectivity may reflect greater secondary orbital interactions between the ester and the diene due to the lower LUMO energy of an ester as compared to an amide. However, once the amide contains a large substituent, such as the 2,6-diisopropylphenyl group, the formation of the *exo*-ester becomes significantly more favored (entries 4 & 5). Presumably, the bulky aryl amide group sterically clashes with the *N*-Cbz group in the *endo*-ester TS thus favoring the *exo*-ester-TS (Figure 3).





Diphenyl-substituted amide **4c** (entry 3) showed similar levels of *endo*-ester selectivity as amides **4a** and **4b**, indicating that the two aryl rings do not impose significant steric hindrance. The reactivity of the dienophiles increases significantly when an alkyl group is replaced by an aryl group in the amide, presumably as the result of lowering of the LUMO energy (*cf.* reaction times for *e.g.* entries 2 *vs.* 1 *vs.* 3). Replacing the methyl ester with a *tert*-butyl ester tipped the *dr* in favor of the *endo*-ester isomer (*e.g.* **4f** \rightarrow **4g**, entries 6 and 7) and led to the highest *endo*-ester selectivities. This is consistent with the findings of Krow *et al.* who noted a greater preference for *endo* isoquinuclidine DA adducts when bulkier groups were present in simple acrylate esters.^{3a} The *gem*-dimethyl substituted dienophile **4h** was found to be unreactive under the thermal DA conditions (entry 8).

To exclude the possibility that *retro*-DA re-addition could be occurring, which would invalidate a TS-based rationalization of the selectivity trends, a mixture of the DA-adducts *endo-5e* and *exo-5e* was heated in the presence of the diene at 100 °C for 5 days. No equilibration was observed, indicating that the initially observed *exolendo* ratios reflect kinetic control. This is in agreement with previous studies.¹⁵

From a synthetic perspective, the ability to predictably promote either *exo* or *endo* product formation by appropriate choice of ester and amide substituents is attractive. Although the *exo*-ester configuration favored for the di-*ortho*-substituted diaryl amides **4d** and **4e** (*cf.* **1**, Figure 2) is not useful for our α -helix mimetic targets, the *endo*-ester configuration strongly favored for the *tert*-butyl esters **4f** and **4g** is potentially valuable for entry to the iboga alkaloids (Figure 1).⁴

For comparison, we next investigated the corresponding DA reactions of cyclopentadiene as the diene (Table 2).

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exo-6

Table 2. DA reactions between cyclopentadiene and α-amido acrylates.^a





^aReaction conditions unless otherwise specified: dienophile (1 *eq.*), cyclopentadiene (5 *eq.*), neat, sealed tube, under Ar, 80 °C. Reactions were stopped once all the dienophile was consumed. ^b*Endolexo* ratios were determined by VT 1D and 2D NMR analysis and nOe experiments (see SI). ^cNeat for 2 h at 80 °C, then added dry toluene (0.5M) and heated at 80 °C for a further 30 mins.

By contrast to the DA reactions of 1,2-dihydropyridine, the diastereoelectivities obtained from reactions of cyclopentadiene do not appear to be influenced strongly by the steric demand of the amide and ester groups of the dienophile: all substrates afford the *endo*-ester with fairly high levels of selectivity (entries 1-7). As expected on account of strain-relief, cyclopentadiene is more reactive than 1,2-dihydropyridine as evidenced by shorter reaction times, although the *gem*-dimethyl substituted dienophile **4h** was still unreactive (entry 8). The good levels of *exo/endo* selectivity and insensitivity towards steric congestion displayed in these reactions make them attractive for the synthesis of otherwise difficult to obtain *exo*-amide cyclopentadiene DA adducts.^{1b,16}

DA adducts *endo-6e* and *exo-6e* were heated in the presence of cyclopentadiene at 100 °C for 48 h; there was no observed epimerization after 24 h although after 48 h traces could be detected (<5%). Given that all but one of the DA reactions (entry 6, 48 h) were complete within 24 h, the observed *exo/endo* ratios were concluded to be those of kinetic control.

Salvatella *et al.* have proposed that electrostatic rather than secondary orbital interactions are responsible for the high *endo* selectivity in the DA reaction between cyclopentadiene and acrolein.¹⁷ They hypothesized that given the greater electronegativity of carbon relative to hydrogen, the δ + charge on the hydrogen atom of the cyclopentadiene methylene facing the dienophile

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experiences a coulombic repulsion as it approaches the δ + charge on the carbonyl carbon thereby destabilizing the *exo*-TS. In our reactions, the lesser δ + charge on the amide carbonyl carbon as compared to on the ester carbonyl might therefore be expected to give rise to less repulsion and so favor the *endo*-ester TS, as observed (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Proposed rationale for endo-ester selectivity



Finally, we investigated whether Lewis acids could be used to perturb the *endo/exo* selectivity of the cyclopentadiene adducts. The effects of three Lewis acids were explored: Et_2AICl , one of the most frequently utilized Lewis acid in DA reactions;¹⁸ B(C₆F₅)₃, a bulky Lewis acid capable of overriding the typically observed *endo* selectivity in DA reactions of α , β -enals,¹⁹ and TBSOTf, which has been reported to activate acrylamides but not acrylates in DA reactions with cyclopentadiene.²⁰ Although selective activation of the amide over the ester, or *vice versa*, in an α -amido acrylate was anticipated to be challenging, it was expected that this would be most feasible for sterically and/or electronically differentiated examples. Consequently, each of the three Lewis acids was reacted with the 2,6-*iso*-propylphenyl amide/methyl ester dienophile **4e** and the diethyl amide/*tert*-butyl ester dienophile **4f** (Table 3).

Table 3. DA reactions between α-amido acrylates 4e and 4f and cyclopentadiene in the presence of Lewis acids.

| Entry | Dienophile | Lewis Acid | dr Endo : Exo | Reaction Time | Yield |
|-------|--|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| 1^a | Meo 4e | - | 76:24 | 2.5 h | 90% |
| 2 | | Et ₂ AlCl | 77:23 | 30 mins | 77% |
| 3 | | $B(C_{6}F_{5})_{3}$ | 76:24 | 30 mins | 88% |
| 4 | | TBSOTf | 71:29 | 30 mins | 75% |
| 5^b | ^o Buo V ^{Et} 4f | - | 83:17 | 48 h | 55% |
| 6 | | Et ₂ AlCl | 88:12 | 2 h | 66% |
| 7 | | $B(C_6F_5)_3$ | 52:48 | 30 mins | 67% |
| 8 | | TBSOTf | 50:50 | 2.5 h | 52% |

Reaction conditions unless otherwise specified: dienophile (1 eq.), cyclopentadiene (10 eq.), Lewis acid (1 eq.), under Ar, RT, CH₂Cl₂ (0.1M). ^aSame reaction as Table 2, entry 5. ^bSame reaction as Table 2, entry 6.

The reactions of the 2,6-diisopropylphenyl amide/methyl ester dienophile **4e** in the presence of 1 equivalent of each of the three Lewis acids resulted in only minor deviations from the *endo/exo* ratio that was observed for the uncatalysed reaction (entries 1-4). The Lewis acid catalyzed reactions were however significantly faster (2.5 h \rightarrow 30 min), suggesting that these Lewis acids are likely either bridging between or at least equally activating the carbonyl groups of the 1,3-dicarbonyl moiety. It would appear therefore

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that for dienophile **4e**, the bulky aryl amide and methyl ester carbonyls have balanced affinities for the Lewis acids (possibly the higher intrinsic bacisity of the amide is counterbalanced by steric factors). By contrast, the *drs* of reactions of the diethyl amide/*tert*-butyl ester dienophile **4f** were more strongly affected: Et_2AICl slightly increased the *endo*-ester ratio (entry 6), whereas $B(C_6F_5)_3$ markedly increased the amount of the *exo*-ester formed (entry 7), and TBSOTf similarly increased the amount of the *exo*-ester (entry 8). It would appear therefore that for dienophile **4f** the alkyl amide carbonyl displays stronger affinity than the *tert*-butyl ester carbonyl for the two most bulky Lewis acids (presumably because the bulky *tert*-butyl group limits co-ordination to the ester carbonyl). Finally, TMSOTf was briefly explored as a non-bulky trialkyl silyl triflate, but it was found to be incompatible with our reaction conditions.

In conclusion, we have explored the use of α -amido acrylates as dienophiles in DA reactions with *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine and cyclopentadiene. We found that the *endo/exo* selectivity in the DA reactions with the dihydropyridine is strongly influenced by steric factors, allowing access to good levels of selectivity favoring either isomer. By contrast, when cyclopentadiene is used as the diene, the *endo/exo* selectivity is relatively unaffected by steric factors and electronic factors favor the *endo-ester* product. Lewis acid catalysis of the reactions is not possible for the dihydropyridine cases due to decomposition of these dienes, but for the cyclopentadiene cases, significant rate accelerations are achieved and increased proportions of *exo*-ester products can be formed by using bulky Lewis acids [*e.g.* B(C₆F₅)₃ and TBSOTf] in conjunction with α -amido acrylates designed to allow coordination preferentially to the amide carbonyl rather than the ester carbonyl (*e.g.* acrylate **4f**). As the result of the trends revealed in this work, we anticipate that α -amido acrylates could find wide utility in the stereocontrolled synthesis of isoquinuclidine-containing natural and unnatural products.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

*N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine.*²¹ Pyridine (6 mL, 74.2 mmol) in MeOH (90 mL) was treated with NaBH₄ (2.81 g, 74.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C before carefully adding benzylchloroformate (10.4 mL, 74.2 mmol) over a 1 h period *via* a dropping funnel. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h, poured into ice-water (a gas presumed to be H₂ was evolved) and extracted with CH₃Cl (4 × 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude material as an off-white oil. FC (flash chromatography) purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 20:1 \rightarrow 5:1) afforded the 1,2-dihydropyridine as a pale yellow oil (5.49 g, 34%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.50 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 6.87 – 6.62 (m, 1H), 5.90 – 5.77 (m, 1H), 5.58 – 5.41 (m, 1H), 5.28 – 5.09 (m, 3H), 4.40 (br s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz,): δ 149.8, 136.0, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 125.6, 121.9, 119.2, 105.0, 67.8, 43.6. IR (neat): v = 3385, 3036, 2924, 2854, 1696, 1497, 1453, 1417, 1310, 1219, 1154, 1118, 1047, 1024, 735, 696. HRMS (Cl⁺): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₃H₁₄NO₂ 216.1025 [M+H]⁺, found 216.1019.

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Methyl 2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pent-2-enoate (1). A solution of α -amidoester 3d (180 mg, 0.56 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL) in a round bottom flask was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. To the cooled solution, was added TiCl₄ by syringe (1M solution in CH₂Cl₂, 0.62 mL, 0.62 mmol) drop-wise over 10 mins. The resulting mixture was stirred with cooling for 30 mins at 0 °C, then 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanal (101 mg, 0.62 mmol) was added (diluted in 1.5 mL CH₂Cl₂) by syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 mins at 0 °C after which anhydrous pyridine (0.09 mL, 1.12 mmol) was then added drop-wise (caution: exothermic). The reaction was allowed to warm gradually to RT and stirred for 4 h under N₂. The reaction mixture was poured over ice and extracted with EtOAc (\times 3). The organic solution was then washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to dryness. The crude residue was purified by FC (*n*-hexane:EtOAc $7.1 \rightarrow 8:3$) to afford a mixture of Z:E isomers in a 29:71 ratio (199 mg, 76%). Z-Isomer: methyl (Z)-2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pent-2*enoate:* ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 6.88 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.80 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.71 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.92 - 2.74 (m, 4H), 2.46 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.11 - 1.97 [m, 1H), 1.92 - 1.78 (m, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H). 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 101) MHz): δ 168.0, 162.9, 161.9, 158.1, 154.6, 154.2, 154.1, 153.2, 140.1, 132.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.7, 127.5, 127.3, 126.9, 122.2, 122.2, 114.0, 113.8, 109.6, 74.8, 74.6, 55.3, 55.2, 52.4, 52.2, 41.3, 41.2, 34.0, 33.9, 32.8, 31.9, 29.3, 29.2, 28.4, 28.3, 22.6, 19.3, 19.2. E-**Isomer**: *methyl* (*E*)-2-((2-*isobutoxy*-6-*isobutylphenyl*)*carbamoyl*)-5-(4-*methoxyphenyl*)*pent*-2-*enoate*: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87 – 6.69 (m, 4H), 7.82 (s, 3H), 7.75 (s, 3H), 7.70 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 3H), 7.8 2H), 3.00 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.06 - 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.77 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 162.9, 158.0, 154.2, 153.2, 140.3, 132.7, 129.5, 128.7, 127.5, 122.2, 114.0, 113.8, 109.6, 74.8, 55.2, 52.4, 41.2, 33.9, 31.9, 29.2, 28.3, 22.6, 19.3, 19.2. HRMS (ES) (of E:Z mixture): m/z *calcd.* for C₂₈H₃₈NO₅ 468.2750 [M+H]⁺, found 468.2744.

Methyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (3a).²² To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (0.5 mL, 4.52 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (23 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ was added *N*-methylaniline (0.44 mL, 4.11 mmol) after which a suspension resulted. Et₃N (0.69 mL, 4.93 mmol) was then added and after initial white fumes, a clear yellow solution formed. The reaction was allowed to warm up to RT and stirred for 2 h under N₂. The reaction mixture was concentrated, diluted in EtOAc and then sequentially washed with 1M HCl solution, *sat*. NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to provide α -amido-ester **3a** as an orange oil (840 mg, 99 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 168.2, 165.9, 143.5, 130.0, 128.3, 127.3, 52.3, 41.3, 37.5.

*Methyl 3-(diethylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (3b).*²³ To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (0.7 mL, 6.53 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (32 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ was added diethylamine (1.35 mL, 13.05 mmol). The reaction was allowed to warm up to RT and

stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was further diluted in CH_2Cl_2 and then sequentially washed with 1M HCl solution, *sat.* NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to provide α -amido-ester **3b** as an orange oil (1.03 g, 91 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 2H), 3.40 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 168.3, 165.1, 52.4, 42.7, 41.1, 40.3, 14.2, 12.8.

Methyl 3-(diphenylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (*3c*).²⁴ To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (0.90 mL, 8.40 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ was added diphenylamine (1.18 g, 7.0 mmol) and then Et₃N (1.17 mL, 8.40 mmol). The reaction mixture was slowly allowed to warm up to RT and stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was further diluted in CH₂Cl₂ and then sequentially washed with 1M HCl solution, *sat*. NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was recrystallized using *n*-hexane:Et₂O 1:2 to provide α-amido-ester **3c** as a pale yellow powder (820 mg, 43%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.52 – 7.14 (m, 10H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 168.0, 166.0, 142.4, 130.0, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 126.5, 126.3, 52.4, 42.5. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd*. for C₁₆H₁₆NO₃ 270.1130 [M+H]⁺, found 270.1143.

Methyl 3-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3d**). To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropionate (0.14 mL, 1.24 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (7 mL) was added Et₃N (0.20 mL, 1.42 mmol) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. To this was added drop-wise a solution of di-*ortho*-substituted aniline²⁵ (274 mg, 1.24 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 mins. The solution was washed with a *sat.* NH₄Cl solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (× 2). The organics were combined, washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4.1 \rightarrow 7:3) to afford α-amido ester **3d** as a yellow oil (181 mg, 45%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.30 (*br* s, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.14 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.00 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 127.7, 122.2, 109.6, 74.6, 52.5, 41.4, 41.2, 29.3, 28.4, 22.6, 19.2. IR (neat): v = 3272, 2952, 2868, 1742, 1655, 1531, 1460, 1439, 1348, 1304, 1273, 1226, 1200, 1142, 1058, 727, 767. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₈H₂₈NO₄ 322.2018 [M+H]⁺, found 322.2000.

Methyl 3-((2,6-diisopropylphenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (3e). To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (0.68 mL, 6.40 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (26 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ was added 2,6-diisopropylaniline (1.0 mL, 5.3 mmol) and then Et₃N (0.89 mL, 6.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was slowly allowed to warm up to RT and stirred for 3 h. The reaction mixture was further diluted in CH₂Cl₂ and then sequentially washed with 1M HCl solution, *sat.* NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 4.1 \rightarrow 7:3) to provide α -amido-ester

3e as a fluffy white solid (1.27 g, 86%). MP = 110 – 113 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.49 (*br.* s, 1H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.04 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.20 [d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 170.6, 164.2, 145.9, 130.8, 128.5, 123.5, 52.7, 40.8, 28.9, 23.6. IR (neat): v = 3235, 2966, 1751, 1648, 1529, 1437, 1337, 1277, 1255, 1155, 796, 745, 709. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₆H₂₄NO₃ 278.1756 [M+H]⁺, found 278.1762.

tert-Butyl 3-(diethylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (3f).²⁶ To a solution of DMAP (159 mg, 1.30 mmol) and diethylamine (0.67 mL, 6.49 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (26 mL) was added 3-(*tert*-butoxy)-3-oxopropanoic acid (1 mL, 6.49 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred under N₂ for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted further in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 1M HCL solution, brine (× 2) and dried over MgSO₄. The organic solution was then concentrated under reduced pressure to provide α -amido-ester **3f** as a colourless oil (1.21 g, 87%), with no purification necessary. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 3.39 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (s, 2H), 3.28 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 167.1, 165.6, 81.8, 42.5, 40.1, 28.0, 14.2, 12.8.

tert-Butyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3g**).²² To a solution of DMAP (159 mg, 1.30 mmol) and *N*-methylaniline (0.70 mL, 6.49 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (26 mL) was added 3-(*tert*-butoxy)-3-oxopropanoic acid (1 mL, 6.49 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred under N₂ for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then diluted further in CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 1M HCL solution, brine (× 2) and dried over MgSO₄. The organic solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to provide α -amido-ester **3g** as a dark orange oil (1.50 g, 93%), with no purification necessary. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 167.0, 166.5, 143.7, 129.9, 128.2, 127.3, 81.6, 42.7, 37.4, 28.0. IR (neat): v = 2980, 2936, 1720, 1634, 1478, 1460, 1393, 1368, 131257, 1155, 1117, 850, 734, 701.

Methyl 3-oxo-3-(phenylamino)propanoate (**3h**).²⁷ To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-3-oxopropanoate (0.5 mL, 4.52 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) at 0 °C under N₂ was added aniline (0.41 mL, 4.52 mmol) after which a suspension resulted. Et₃N (0.73 mL, 5.2 mmol) was then added and after initial white fumes were observed, a clear yellow solution formed. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h under N₂. The reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure, diluted in EtOAc and then sequentially washed with 1M HCl solution, *sat.* NaHCO₃ solution and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4:1 \rightarrow 3:2) to afford α-amido-ester **3h** as a yellow semi-solid (865 mg, 99 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.16 (*br* s, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 170.5, 162.7, 137.4, 129.0, 124.6, 120.1, 52.7, 41.3.

Methyl 2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4a). To a solution of methyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3a**, 150 mg, 0.752 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (65 mg, 2.17 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (156 mg, 0.72 mmol) in dry THF (7 mL) was added **ACS Paragon Plus Environment**

TFA (6 μL, 0.07 mmol). The reaction mixture was then heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with *sat*. NH₄Cl solution (× 2), brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 1:1) to give α-amido-acrylate **4a** as a pale yellow oil (115 mg, 73%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.4, 164.3, 143.3, 138.6, 130.3, 129.4, 127.6, 127.2, 52.1, 37.3. IR (neat): v = 1725, 1648, 1595, 1496, 1435, 1377, 1264, 1201, 1160, 1112, 772, 699. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd*. for C₁₂H₁₄NO₃ 220.0974 [M+H]⁺, found 220.0968.

Methyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4b). To a solution of methyl 3-(diethylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3b**, 400 mg, 2.31 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (208 mg, 6.93 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (497 mg, 2.31 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added TFA (18 μ L, 0.23 mmol). The reaction mixture was then heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with *sat.* NH₄Cl solution (× 2), brine and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue purified by FC (EtOAc:*n*-hexane 3:2 \rightarrow 4:1) to give α-amido-acrylate **4b** as a pale yellow oil (248 mg, 58%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 6.41 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.83 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.3, 164.4, 138.4, 127.8, 52.5, 42.9, 39.0, 13.8, 12.6. IR (neat): v = 1723, 1618, 1486, 1460, 1440, 1326, 1264, 1201, 1173, 1122. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₂H₁₄NO₃ 220.0974 [M+H]⁺, found 220.0968.

Methyl 2-(*diphenylcarbamoyl*)*acrylate* (*4c*). To a solution of methyl 3-(diphenylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (**3c**, 800 mg, 2.97 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (268 mg, 8.91 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (640 mg, 2.97 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added TFA (23 µL, 0.29 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 20 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by FC (Et₂O:*n*-hexane 7:3) to give α-amido-acrylate **4c** as a pale yellow oil (780 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.44 – 7.06 (m, 10H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.2, 164.2, 142.2, 139.3, 131.2, 129.2 (*br*), 128.8 (*br*), 127.5 (*br*), 126.5 (*br*), 52.2. IR (neat): v = 1727, 1662, 1593, 1490, 1399, 1351, 1266, 1201, 1132, 974, 760. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃ 282.1130 [M+H]⁺, found 282.1142.

Methyl 2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4d). To a solution of methyl 3-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (3d, 65 mg, 0.20 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (18 mg, 0.61 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂ⁱPr₂ salt (44 mg, 0.20 mmol) in dry THF (2 mL) was added TFA (2 μ L, 0.02 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 18 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by FC (Et₂O:*n*-hexane 1:1) to give α-amido-acrylate 4d a coloulress oil (33 mg, 50%), which was used immediately in the next step. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.75

(dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.71 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (dh, J = 13.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (dh, J = 13.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.9, 160.7, 154.1, 140.0, 138.7, 132.8, 127.4, 124.2, 122.1, 109.7, 74.6, 52.7, 41.3, 29.3, 28.4, 22.6, 19.2. IR (neat): v = 3310, 2953, 2868, 1745, 1733, 1666, 1581, 1516, 1508, 1460, 1266, 1053, 776, 734. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₉H₂₈NO₄ 334.2018 [M+H]⁺, found 334.2028.

Methyl 2-((2,6-*diisopropylphenyl*)*carbamoyl*)*acrylate* (*4e*). To a solution of methyl 3-((2,6-*diisopropylphenyl*)amino)-3oxopropanoate (**3e**, 800 mg, 2.88 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (260 mg, 8.65 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (620 mg, 2.88 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added TFA (23 µL, 0.29 mmol). The reaction mixture was then heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 16 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 7:3 \rightarrow 3:7) to give α-amido-acrylate **4e** as an off-white fluffy solid (505 mg, 61%). MP = 97 – 98 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.66 (s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.05 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.20 [d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 167.2, 161.3, 145.8, 139.7, 132.3, 131.2, 128.2, 123.4, 52.8, 28.9, 23.6. IR (neat): v = 3235, 2966, 1751, 1648, 1529, 1437, 1338, 1255, 1214, 1155, 745, 709. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₇H₂₄NO₃ 290.1756 [M+H]⁺, found 290.1758.

tert-Butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4f). To a solution of the *tert-*butyl 3-(diethylamino)-3-oxopropanoate (3f, 1.2 g, 5.58 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (503 mg, 16.7 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (1.2 g, 5.58 mmol) in dry THF (28 mL) was added TFA (43 µL, 0.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 16 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 3:2) to give α-amido-acrylate 4f as a yellow oil (558 mg, 44%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 6.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 0.8 Hz), 5.76 (d, 1H, *J* = 0.8 Hz), 3.45 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.7, 162.9, 140.3, 126.7, 82.1, 42.6, 38.7, 28.0, 13.9, 12.4. IR (neat): v = 2977, 2931, 1722, 1640, 1460, 1368, 1258, 1158, 1118, 851. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₂H₂₂NO₃ 228.1600 [M+H]⁺, found 228.1602.

tert-Butyl 2-(*methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate* (4g). To a solution of *tert*-butyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-3-oxopropanoate (3g, 1.29 g, 5.98 mmol), *p*-formaldehyde (540 mg, 17.95 mmol) and CF₃COONH₂^{*i*}Pr₂ salt (1.29 g, 5.58 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL) was added TFA (46 µL, 0.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C under N₂ for 40 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting residue purified by FC (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 4:1 \rightarrow 3:2) to give α-amido-acrylate 4g as a yellow oil (873 mg, 56%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.36 – 7.13 (m, 5H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.83 (s, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 162.6, 143.4, 140.7, 129.2, 129.2, 127.2, 127.2, 81.8, 37.2, 27.9, 27.8. IR (neat): v = 2976, 1715, 1650, 1595, 1496, 1394, 1368, 1272, 1257, 1149, 1110, 849, 768, 699. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd*. for C₁₅H₂₀NO₃ 262.1443 [M+H]⁺, found 262.1447.

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Methyl 3-methyl-2-(phenylcarbamoyl)but-2-enoate (4h). A solution of methyl 3-oxo-3-(phenylamino)propanoate (150 mg, 0.77 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) in a round bottom flask was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath. To the cooled solution, was added TiCl₄ by syringe (1M solution in CH₂Cl₂, 0.85 mL, 0.85 mmol) drop-wise over 10 mins. The resulting mixture was stirred with cooling for 30 mins at 0 °C, after which acetone (0.063 mL, 0.85 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 mins at 0 °C before drop-wise addition of anhydrous pyridine (0.13 mL, 1.55 mmol) (caution: very exothermic). The reaction was allowed to warm gradually to RT overnight and then poured over ice and extracted with EtOAc (× 3). The organic solution was then washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to dryness. The crude residue was purified by FC (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4:1 \rightarrow 3:2) to give the tetra-substituted alkene **4h** as a white solid (137 mg, 76%). MP = 137 – 142 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.73 (*br* s, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 166.1, 164.6, 155.1, 137.8, 129.1, 127.0, 124.5, 119.9, 52.0, 24.1, 22.6. IR (neat): v = 3240, 1715, 1652, 1547, 1444, 1331, 1258, 1217, 1062, 762. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd*. for C₁₃H₁₆NO₃ 234.1130 [M+H]⁺, found 234.1127.

General procedure for DA reactions between α -amido acrylates and N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (GP1): N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (1.5-2.5 eq.) and α -amido acrylate (1 eq.) were transferred to a Biotage[®] microwave vial containing a Teflon-coated magnetic stirrer bar which was subsequently thoroughly purged with Ar prior to sealing. The reaction was then heated at 100 °C until consumption of the dienophile was observed by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was directly loaded onto a Si gel column and purified by FC to afford the DA adducts.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl ($1R^*,4S^*,6S^*$)-6-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-5-(4-methoxyphenethyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (2). According to **GP1**, *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (133 mg, 0.62 mmol) and methyl 2-((2-isobutoxy-6isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)pent-2-enoate (1, 145 mg, 0.31 mmol; as a 29:71 mixture of *Z*:*E* isomers) were heated for 4 d. FC purification (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4:1 \rightarrow 3:2) afforded *exo*-ester 2 exclusively (108 mg, 51%). MP = 39 – 40 °C. ¹H NMR & ¹³C NMR: complex even at 398 K due to atropisomerism – see SI. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₄₁H₅₁N₂O₇ 683.3696, found 683.3671. IR (neat): v = 3387, 2954, 2928, 2868, 1740, 1693, 1584, 1512, 1457, 1416, 1366, 1335, 1245, 1179, 1115, 1054, 748. A single crystal X-ray structure determination was performed on this compound to confirm its structure – see SI and CIF file.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl ($1R^*, 4R^*, 6R^*$)-6-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5a) & 2benzyl 6-methyl ($1R^*, 4R^*, 6S^*$)-6-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5a). According to **GP1**, *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (135 mg, 0.63 mmol) and methyl 2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4a, 55 mg, 0.25 mmol) were heated for 3 d. FC purification (Et₂O: *n*-hexane 1:1 \rightarrow 4:1) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo*-5a:*exo*-5a in a 62:38 ratio (74 mg, 68%). Isolated *endo*-5a, white solid. MP = 83-85 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz, 398K): δ 7.43 – 7.22 (m,

10H), 6.39 - 6.24 (m, 2H), 5.23 (dd, J = 5.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.19 - 5.06 (*AB*, m, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.33 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.88 (dt, J = 9.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.84 - 2.74 (m, 2H), 1.49 (dt, J = 13.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 170.2, 167.1, 154.1, 142.6, 136.5, 133.4, 130.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.9, 126.8, 65.5, 59.1, 51.1, 49.2, 45.2, 33.1, 29.6. IR (neat): v = 1737, 1680, 1652, 1638, 1496, 1441, 1417, 1405, 1247, 1215, 1130, 1122, 990, 732. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₅H₂₇N₂O₅ 435.1920 [M+H]⁺, found 435.1928. Isolated *exo-5a*, off-white semisolid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 378K): δ 7.43 - 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.16 - 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.51 (ddd, J = 7.7, 5.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.33 (ddd, J = 7.8, 6.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (dd, J = 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.08 - 4.96 (*AB*, m, 2H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.18 - 3.08 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.86 - 2.75 (m, 2H), 2.16 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.62 (dt, J = 13.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 378K): δ 170.5, 168.7, 153.6, 141.7, 136.5, 132.5, 131.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.1, 127.1, 126.8, 124.3, 65.5, 60.2, 51.5, 51.0, 44.7, 37.8, 32.9, 29.6. IR (neat): v = 1739, 1696, 1650, 1593, 1496, 1411, 1363, 1335, 1294, 1276, 1114. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₅H₂₇N₂O₅ 435.1920 [M+H]⁺, found 435.1924.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl ($1R^*, 4R^*, 6R^*$)-6-(diethylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5b) & 2-benzyl 6methyl ($1R^*, 4R^*, 6S^*$)-6-(diethylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5b). According to **GP1**, N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (350 mg, 1.63 mmol) and methyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (**4b**, 100 mg, 0.54 mmol) were heated for 7 d. FC purification (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4:1 \rightarrow 2:3) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo*-5b:exo-5b in a 58:42 ratio (120 mg, 50%). Isolated *endo*-5b, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 378K): δ 7.45 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 6.48 – 6.36 (m, 2H), 5.22 – 5.18 (m, 1H), 5.11 – 4.97 (*AB*, m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.40 – 3.09 (m, 5H), 2.91 – 2.82 (m, 2H), 1.76 (*br* s, 1H), 1.06 – 0.92 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 171.3, 166.0, 154.0, 136.7, 134.1, 130.6, 127.7, 127.0, 126.8, 65.4, 58.5, 51.6, 49.0, 45.3, 32.6, 29.8, 11.81. IR (neat): v = 2978, 2957, 1731, 1699, 1638, 1417, 1293, 1245, 1211, 1114, 736, 699. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₂H₂₉N₂O₅ 401.2076 [M+H]^{*}, found 401.2082. *Exo*-5b not fully separated from *endo*-5b, pale yellow paste. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 378K): δ 6.51 – 6.45 (m, 1H), 6.33 – 6.25 (m, 1H), 5.14 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 1.45 (dt, *J* = 12.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.32 – 1.19 (m, 1H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 378K): δ 171.5, 168.1, 153.7, 136.6, 132.9, 131.5, 127.7, 127.1, 65.6, 59.9, 51.8, 51.0, 30.3, 29.6, 21.3, 13.1.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl (1R*,4R*,6R*)-6-(diphenylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5c) & 2-benzyl 6methyl (1R*,4R*,6S*)-6-(diphenylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5c). According to GP1, N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (467 mg, 2.17 mmol) and methyl 2-(diphenylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4c, 305 mg, 1.09 mmol) were heated for 6.5 h. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 3:2 \rightarrow 3:7) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-5c:exo-5c* in a 69:31 ratio (465 mg, 86%). Isolated *endo-5c*, white solid. MP = 140 – 141 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz, 398K): δ 7.45 – 7.20 (m, 15H), 6.37 – 6.30 (m, 1H), 6.30 – 6.24 (m, 1H), 5.33 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.23 – 5.10 (*AB*, *app* q, 2H, *J* = 15.5 Hz), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.39 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 2.93 (dt, *J* = 9.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.78 (m, 2H), 1.50 – 1.43 (dt, 1H, *J* = 16.5, 3.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 126 MHz, 398K) δ 169.7, 167.8, 154.4, 142.3, 136.4, 133.3, 130.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.6, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 65.7, 59.8, 51.1, 49.6, 45.2, 33.4,

29.6. IR (neat): v = 2948, 1719, 1693, 1654, 1491, 1417, 1333, 1275, 1258, 1104, 768, 752, 706. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for $C_{30}H_{29}N_2O_5$ 497.2076 [M+H]⁺, found 497.2073. Isolated *exo-5c*, white solid. MP = 72 – 75 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 398K): δ 7.43 – 7.18 (m, 15H), 6.52 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 5.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 6.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.03 (*AB*, *app.* q, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.84 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.00 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.82 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 171.2, 170.0, 154.6, 142.6, 137.6, 133.3, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.8, 66.6, 62.0, 52.5, 52.4, 34.1, 30.8. IR (neat): v = 2952, 1740, 1695, 1661, 1491, 1410, 1333, 1292, 1274, 1212, 1107, 753, 693. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₃₀H₂₉N₂O₅ 497.2076 [M+H]⁺, found 497.2069.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl ($IR^*, 4R^*, 6R^*$)-6-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5d) & 2-benzyl 6-methyl ($IR^*, 4R^*, 6S^*$)-6-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5d). According to GP1, N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (50 mg, 0.23 mmol) and methyl 2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4d, 30 mg, 0.09 mmol) were heated for 16 h. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 7:3 \rightarrow 1:1) afforded an inseparable mixture of diastereoisomers *endo*-5d:exo-5d in a 24:76 ratio²⁸ (29 mg, 58%;): colourless oil. *Endo*-5d:exo-5d mixture: ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 398K): δ 8.18 (*br* s, 0.76H), 8.03 (*br* s, 0.24H), 7.41 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.19 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.86 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 6.54 – 6.37 (m, 2H), 5.47 – 5.36 (m, 1H), 5.18 – 5.04 (m, 2H), 3.72 – 3.59 (m, 5H), 3.35 – 3.22 (m, 1H), 3.02 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.82 – 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.45 – 1.95 (m, 4H), 1.92 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.02 – 0.95 (m, 6H), 0.84 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 171.7, 170.6, 169.9, 166.9, 154.4, 153.8, 139.9, 136.5, 133.5, 131.0, 130.0, 127.5, 127.5, 126.9, 126.9, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.4, 124.4, 120.9, 109.7, 109.7, 74.3, 65.7, 65.5, 60.6, 51.7, 51.5, 49.7, 49.2, 46.9, 45.5, 31.0, 30.2, 29.9, 29.7, 29.6, 27.3, 27.2, 27.1, 27.0, 21.7, 21.6, 21.6, 18.3, 18.2. IR (neat): v = 2955, 2932, 2876, 1736, 1699, 1585, 1499, 1459, 1414, 1248, 1112, 1055, 749, 698. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₃₂H₄₁N₂O₆ 549.2965 [M+H]⁺, found 549.2982, Δ = 3.1 ppm.

Methyl (*1R**,*4S**,*6S**)-6-((2-*isobutoxy*-6-*isobutylphenyl*)*carbamoyl*)-2-*isobutyl*-2-*azabicyclo*[2.2.2]*octane*-6-*carboxylate* (*exo*-5*dx*). To a solution of a mixture of *N*-Cbz-alkenes *endo*-5d:*exo*-5d in a 24:76 ratio (23.8 mg, 0.043 mmol,) in MeOH (1 mL) was added NH₃ (7N *soln*. in MeOH, 31 µL, 0.22 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (12 µL, 0.13 mmol) and Pd/C (10% *wt.*, 9 mg, 0.0086 mmol) after which the reaction mixture was subjected to a H₂ atmosphere for 18 h. The reaction was concentrated to dryness and the residue was then purified by FC (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 7:3) to afford the *N*-alkylated quinucidine *exo-5dx* as a yellow oil (11.3 mg, 56%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 11.22 (s, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.71 – 3.62 (m, 2H), 3.29 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 3.17 (m, 1H), 2.96 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.32 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.18 (t, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 2.00 – 1.84 (m, 3H), 1.83 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.55 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 1.40 – 1.30 (m, 1H), 1.03 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H), 0.92 – 0.83 (m, 9H), 0.74 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz): δ 172.8, 172.6, 154.6, 141.0, 127.0, 123.8, 122.3, 109.4, 74.6, 64.5, 57.4, 55.5, 54.2, 52.4, 41.5, 3H).

31.8, 29.4, 28.5, 26.1, 25.8, 23.3, 22.8, 22.5, 21.3, 20.0, 19.5, 19.4, 18.1. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₈H₄₅N₂O₄ 473.3379 [M+H]⁺, found 473.3398.

2-Benzyl 6-methyl (1R*,4R*,6R*)-6-((2,6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5e) & 2-benzyl 6-methyl (1R*,4R*,6S*)-6-((2,6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5e). According to GP1, N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (349 mg, 1.62 mmol) and methyl 2-((2,6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4e, 276 mg, 0.96 mmol) were heated for 2 h, after which dry toluene (0.2 mL) was added to aid solubility and the mixture heated at 100 °C for a further 30 mins. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 7:3 \rightarrow 3:7) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo*-5e:*exo*-5e in a 20:80 ratio (319 mg, 66%): Isolated *endo-5e*, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz, 398K): δ 8.64 (br s, 1H), 7.42 – 7.08 (m, 10H), 6.48 (dd, J = 4.4, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 5.50 (dd, J = 4.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.12 – 5.05 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.28 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 – 2.92 (m, 4H), 2.55 (dd, J = 13.6, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (dt, J = 13.6, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.10 (app. dd, J = 6.9, 5.3 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 170.2, 166.8, 154.9, 145.9, 145.8, 136.2, 134.5, 131.6, 130.8, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 125.8, 122.2, 122.1, 122.0, 65.7, 60.1, 51.5, 49.4, 46.4, 30.51, 29.7, 27.1, 22.7, 22.6. IR (neat): v = 3371, 2961, 1731, 1695, 1682, 1506, 1496, 1456, 1417, 1334, 1249, 1203, 1120. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for $C_{30}H_{37}N_2O_5$ 505.2702 [M+H]⁺, found 505.2706. Isolated *exo-5e*, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_{6} , 400 MHz, 398K): δ 8.72 (*br* s, 1H), 7.43 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.26 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.15 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.58 - 6.39 (m, 2H), 5.47 (dd, J = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.15 - 5.05 (AB, m, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.34 - 3.26 (m, 1H), 3.06 - 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.97 - 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.69 (dd, J = 13.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (dt, J = 13.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.11(dd, J = 14.1, 6.9 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 170.5, 167.7, 153.8, 145.9, 136.6, 133.7, 131.7, 130.9, 127.6, 126.9, 126.8, 126.6, 122.2, 122.0, 65.4, 60.7, 51.3, 49.4, 45.7, 31.1, 29.7, 26.9, 22.6, 22.5. IR (neat): v = 3323, 2961, 1737, 1692, 1680, 1498, 1415, 1336, 1245, 1114. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for $C_{30}H_{37}N_2O_5$ 505.2702 [M+H]⁺, found 505.2727.

2-Benzyl 6-(tert-butyl) ($1R^*$, $4R^*$, $6R^*$)-6-(diethylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5f) & 2-benzyl 6-(tert-butyl) ($1R^*$, $4R^*$, $6S^*$)-6-(diethylcarbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5f). According to GP1, *N*-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (568 mg, 2.64 mmol) and tert-butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4f, 300 mg, 1.31 mmol) were heated for 7 days. FC purification (*n*-hexane:EtOAc 4:1 \rightarrow 2:3) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers endo-5f:exo-5f in a 78:22 ratio (219 mg, 37%): Isolated endo-5f, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz, 398K): δ 7.42 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 6.44 – 6.34 (m, 2H), 5.26 – 5.12 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.11 – 5.00 (*AB*, m, 2H), 3.42 – 3.14 (m, 5H), 2.89 – 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.49 – 2.44 (m, 1H), 1.82 (br d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H), 1.06 (app. t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 101 MHz, 398K): δ 169.4, 166.6, 154.0, 136.7, 133.5, 130.6, 127.5, 126.8, 126.6, 81.0, 65.3, 59.3, 49.3, 45.5, 32.3, 29.9, 26.9, 11.7. IR (neat): v = 2972, 2936, 1698, 1638, 1411, 1367, 1332, 1294, 1273, 1250, 1157, 1114, 761, 698. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd*. for C₂₅H₃₅N₂O₅ 443.2546 [M+H]⁺, found 443.2551. *Exo-5f* not fully separated from endo-5f, pale yellow paste. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz, 398K): δ 6.50 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 5.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.30 – 6.24 (m, 1H), 3.15 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 2.95 (dt, *J* = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H).

Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 134.0, 132.3, 130.8, 127.4, 126.8, 126.3, 65.4, 51.1, 45.1, 38.2, 32.2, 29.7, 27.6, 26.6, 25.0, 22.6, 12.5.

2-Benzyl 6-(tert-butyl) (IR*,4R*,6R*)-6-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (endo-5g) & 2-benzyl 6-(tert-butyl) (IR*,4R*,6R*)-6-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)-2-azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-7-ene-2,6-dicarboxylate (exo-5g). According to **GP1**, N-Cbz-1,2-dihydropyridine (393 mg, 1.83 mmol) and *tert*-butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4g, 321 mg, 1.23 mmol) were heated for 6 days. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 1:1 \rightarrow 3:7) afforded a mixture of diastereoiosmers *endo*-5g:exo-5g in a 94:6 ratio (280 mg, 48%): Isolated *endo*-5g, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz, 398K): δ 7.44 – 7.13 (m, 10H), 6.44 – 6.34 (m, 2H), 5.35 – 5.28 (m, 1H), 5.15 – 5.05 (AB, m, 2H), 3.27 – 3.15 (m, 4H), 2.92 – 2.85 (m, 1H), 2.85 – 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.67 (*br.* d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 169.0, 167.5, 154.0, 144.0, 136.5, 133.4, 130.5, 128.2, 127.5, 126.9, 126.6, 126.5, 126.0, 81.2, 65.5, 60.0, 49.0, 45.32, 38.3, 32.5, 29.8, 27.0. IR (neat): v = 2976, 2936, 1694, 1600, 1495, 1443, 1413, 1367, 1272, 1251, 1153, 1110, 1085, 733, 697. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₈H₃₃N₂O₅ 477.2389 [M+H]⁺, found 477.2379. Isolated *exo*-5g, pale yellow paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 398K, 400 MHz): δ 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 8H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.48 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 5.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 6.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.11 – 4.99 (m, 2H), 3.26 – 3.22 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz, 398K): δ 168.9, 168.8, 153.8, 143.0, 136.2, 132.9, 131.5, 128.1, 127.4, 126.8, 126.6, 126.2, 125.9, 81.5, 65.4, 61.0, 51.1, 44.8, 37.0, 32.2, 29.7, 26.7. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₈H₃₃N₂O₅ 477.2389 [M+H]⁺, 10ud 477.2386.

General procedure for DA reactions between α -amido acrylates and cyclopentadiene (GP2): Cyclopentadiene (5 eq.) and α -amido acrylate (1 eq.) were transferred to a Biotage[®] microwave vial containing a Teflon-coated magnetic stirrer bar which was subsequently thoroughly purged with Ar prior to sealing. The reaction was then heated at 80 °C until consumption of the dienophile was observed by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was directly loaded onto a Si gel column and purified by FC to afford the DA adducts.

Methyl ($1R^*, 2R^*, 4R^*$)-2-(*methyl*(*phenyl*)*carbamoyl*)*bicycle*-[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*endo-6a*) & *methyl* ($1R^*, 2S^*, 4R^*$)-2-(*methyl*(*phenyl*)*carbamoyl*)*bicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*exo-6a*). According to **GP2**, cyclopentadiene (0.38 mL, 4.56 mmol) and methyl 2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (**4a**, 200 mg, 0.91 mmol) were heated for 5 h. FC purification (Et₂O: *n*-hexane 1:1 \rightarrow 3:2) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-6a:exo-6a* in a 80:20 ratio (222 mg, 86%): Isolated *endo-6a*, yellow solid. MP = 61-63 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 373K, 400 MHz): δ 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.19 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.43 – 3.39 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 2.88 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 1.98 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.43 – 1.37 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR

(DMSO- d_6 , 101 MHz, 398K): δ 170.6, 170.3, 142.6, 139.5, 131.7, 128.4, 127.7, 126.8, 58.7, 51.4, 51.1, 49.3, 41.5, 38.3, 35.8. IR (neat): v = 2974, 1737, 1648, 1595, 1496, 1357, 1251, 1231, 1116, 1057, 705. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₁₇H₂₀NO₃ 286.1443 [M+H]⁺, found 286.1468. *Exo-6a* not fully separated from *endo-6a*, colourless oil. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO d_6 , 400 MHz, 373K): δ 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.95 – 2.88 (m, 3H), 2.81 – 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.04 (dd, J = 12.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (dd, J = 12.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.27 – 1.21 (m, 1H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 101 MHz, 373K): δ 172.9, 168.1, 137.6, 134.1, 128.5, 127.5, 126.8, 60.5, 51.5, 49.9, 46.6, 40.9, 38.4, 37.2, 30.0. From trace amounts of *exo-6a* isolated: HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₁₇H₂₀NO₃ 286.1443 [M+H]⁺, found 286.1457.

Methyl (*1R**,2*R**,4*R**)-2-(*diethylcarbamoyl)bicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*endo-6b*) & *methyl* (*1R**,2*S**,4*R**)-2-(*diethylcarbamoyl)bicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*exo-6b*). According to **GP2**, cyclopentadiene (0.23 mL, 2.8 mmol) and methyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (**4b**, 102 mg, 0.55 mmol) were heated for 24 h. FC purification (Et₂O: *n*-hexane 3:2) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-6b:exo-6b* in a 78:22 ratio (62 mg, 45%). Isolated *endo-6b*, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 6.29 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.46 – 3.41 (m, 1H), 3.39 – 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.30 – 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.18 – 3.05 (m, 2H), 2.92 – 2.79 (m, 1H), 2.13 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.70 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.42 – 1.36 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz): δ 172.7, 169.7, 140.9, 132.6, 59.1, 52.6, 51.7, 50.4, 42.2, 40.5, 36.1, 13.4, 12.6. IR (neat): v = 2974, 2941, 1733, 1642, 1456, 1432, 1274, 1251, 1236, 1116, 1059, 711. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₁₄H₂₂NO₃ 252.1600 [M+H]⁺, found 252.1594. *Exo-6b* not fully separated from *endo-6b*, colourless oil. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 6.14 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.11 – 6.03 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.35 – 2.24 (m, 1H), 1.51 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.31 – 1.26 (m, 1H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz,) δ 174.6, 168.3, 138.0, 135.9, 61.0, 53.0, 51.0, 47.0, 37.6, 13.7, 12.4.

Methyl ($1R^*, 2R^*, 4R^*$)-2-(*diphenylcarbamoyl*)*bicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*endo-6c*) & *methyl* ($1R^*, 2S^*, 4R^*$)-2-(*diphenylcarbamoyl*)*bicyclo*[2.2.1]*hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate* (*exo-6c*). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.30 mL, 3.56 mmol) and methyl 2-(diphenylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4c, 200 mg, 0.71 mmol) were heated for 80 mins. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 7:3 \rightarrow 3:7) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-6c:exo-6c* in a 70:30 ratio (221 mg, 90%). Isolated *endo-6c*, colourless paste. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 7.46 – 7.16 (m, 10H), 6.16 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (dd, J = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.39 – 3.36 (m, 1H), 2.90 – 2.78 (m, 1H), 2.18 (dd, J = 12.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (dd, J = 11.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.43 – 1.37 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz): δ 171.7, 171.0, 140.7, 132.5, 129.5, 127.9, 59.7, 52.8, 52.4, 50.5, 42.59, 37.1. IR (neat): v = 2980, 2948, 1743, 1714, 1663, 1491, 1333, 1298, 1273, 1255, 1232, 1154, 1116, 756, 700. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₂H₂₂NO₃ 348.1600 [M+H]^{*}, found 348.1606. *Exo-6c* not fully separated from *endo-6c*, colourless paste. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 6.36 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.80 – 2.70 (m, 2H), 1.72 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz): δ 173.8,

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169.2, 139.3, 134.5, 61.7, 52.9, 48.2, 41.8, 38.6. From trace amounts of *exo-6c* isolated: HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₂₂H₂₂NO₃ 348.1600 [M+H]⁺, found 348.1591.

Methyl (1R*,2R*,4R*)-2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carb-amoyl)bicycle[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (endo-6d) & methyl $(1R^{*}, 2S^{*}, 4R^{*})$ -2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)-carbamoyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (exo-6d). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.10 mL, 1.19 mmol) and methyl 2-((2-isobutoxy-6-isobutylphenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4d, 30 mg, 0.09 mmol) were heated for 14 h. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 9:1 \rightarrow 4:1) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo*-6d:*exo*-6d in a 84:16 ratio (28 mg, 58%). Isolated *endo-6d*, white solid. MP = 62.0 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz): δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.59 - 3.54 (m, 1H), 2.93 - 2.81 (m, 1H), 2.36 (dd, J = 12.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.33 - 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.35 (dd, J = 12.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.33 - 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.35 (dd, J = 12.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (2H), 2.00 – 1.86 (m, 2H), 1.82 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.50 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.46 – 1.38 (m, 1H), 0.95 (dd, J = 6.6, 2.2 Hz, 6H), 0.80 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_{6} , 101 MHz): δ 172.3, 169.3, 155.4, 141.0, 140.4, 133.9, 127.7, 125.2, 122.1, 110.0, 74.4, 62.0, 52.6, 49.5, 48.9, 28.6, 28.4, 23.0, 22.9, 19.5. IR (neat): v = 3364, 2955, 2928, 2868, 1732, 1762, 1586, 1498, 1461, 1276, 1260, 1054, 750. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₂₄H₃₄NO₄ 400.2488 [M+H]⁺, found 400.2477. Isolated **exo-6d**, white solid. MP = 100.3 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz): δ 8.65 (s, 1H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.27 - 6.09 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.68 - 3.58 (m, 3H), 2.85 (s, 1H), 2.28 - 2.21 (m, 2H), 2.17 (dd, J = 12.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 -1.91 (m, 2H), 1.87 - 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.47 - 1.37 (m, 2H), 0.96 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.6 Hz, 6H), 0.79 (dd, J = 6.4, 1.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 101 MHz): 8 173.7, 167.9, 155.3, 141.0, 139.1, 134.6, 127.5, 125.2, 121.9, 110.0, 74.6, 62.2, 52.9, 49.3, 48.9, 41.9, 35.7, 28.3, 28.2, 23.0, 19.7. IR (neat): v = 3332, 2955, 2928, 2868, 1733, 1704, 1500, 1462, 1276, 1261, 1056, 750. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₂₄H₃₄NO₄ 400.2488 [M+H]⁺, found 400.2497.

Methyl $(1R^*, 2R^*, 4R^*) - 2 - ((2, 6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)-bicycle[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (endo-6e) & methyl (1R^*, 2S^*, 4R^*) - 2 - ((2, 6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]-hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (exo-6e). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.20 mL, 2.40 mmol) and methyl 2 - ((2, 6-diisopropylphenyl)carbamoyl)acrylate (4e, 139 mg, 0.48 mmol) were heated for 2 h, after which dry toluene (0.2 mL) was added to aid solubility and the mixture heated at 80 °C for a further 30 mins. FC purification ($ *n* $-hexane:Et₂O 4:1 <math>\rightarrow$ 3:2) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-6e:exo-6e* in a 76:24 ratio (153 mg, 90%). Isolated *endo-6e*, white powder. MP = 140 - 142 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17 - 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.31 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 - 3.56 (m, 4H), 3.05 - 2.86 (m, 3H), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.52 - 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.43 - 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.24 - 0.94 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 101 MHz): δ 172.2, 169.9, 146.6, 140.3, 133.8, 133.1, 128.1, 123.2, 62.1, 52.5, 49.3, 49.0, 35.8, 28.3, 28.3, 23.9, 23.8, 23.7. IR (neat): v = 3311, 2960, 2932, 2868, 1743, 1644, 1501, 1236, 1157, 735. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₂H₃₀NO₃ 356.2226 [M+H]⁺, found 356.2224. Isolated *exo-6e*, white powder. MP = 165 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J*)

= 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.30 (dd, J = 5.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 5.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.67 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.08 – 2.95 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.20 (dd, J = 12.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 1.50 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.21 – 0.96 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 101 MHz): δ 173.8, 168.8, 146.8, 146.7, 139.6, 134.3, 133.1, 128.0, 123.2, 62.3, 52.8, 49.2, 49.1, 41.9, 35.7, 28.0, 24.0, 23.9. IR (neat): v = 3300, 2957, 2928, 2868, 1738, 1639, 1504, 1236, 736. HRMS (ES): *m/z calcd.* for C₂₂H₃₀NO₃ 356.2226 [M+H]⁺, found 356.2236.

tert-Butyl ($IR^{+}, 2R^{+}, 4R^{+}$)-2-(diethylcarbamoyl)bicycle[2.2.1]-hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (endo-6f) & tert-butyl ($IR^{+}, 2S^{+}, 4R^{+}$)-2-(diethylcarbamoyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (exo-6f). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.28 mL, 3.30 mmol) and tert-butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (exo-6f). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.28 mL, 3.30 mmol) and tert-butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4f, 150 mg, 0.66 mmol) were heated for 48 h. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 4:1 \rightarrow 2:3) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers endo-6f:exo-6f in a 83:17 ratio (106 mg, 55%). Isolated endo-6f, white solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO-46, 400 MHz): δ 6.29 (dd, J = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dd, J = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.52 - 3.39 (m, 2H), 3.31 - 3.21 (m, 1H), 3.19 - 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.83 (br. s, 1H), 1.95 (dd, J = 11.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (dd, J = 11.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.43 - 1.28 (m, 11H), 1.01 (dt, J = 17.9, 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-46, 101 MHz): δ 171.0, 170.2, 140.6, 132.6, 81.0, 60.0, 51.85, 50.5, 42.3, 39.1, 35.6, 28.0, 13.6, 12.4. IR (neat): v = 2976, 2948, 1718, 1635, 1458, 1423, 1367, 1280, 1257, 1139, 1116, 1100, 1052, 845, 709. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₁₇H₂₈NO₃ 294.2069 [M+H]⁺, found 294.2065. Exo-6f not fully separated from endo-6f, white powder. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-46, 400 MHz): δ 6.16 - 6.10 (m, 1H), 6.09 - 6.02 (m, 1H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO-46, 101 MHz): δ 81.4, 41.9, 37.2, 27.9, 13.9, 12.0. From trace amounts of exo-6f isolated: IR (neat): v = 2976, 2944, 1718, 1636, 1458, 1421, 1367, 1280, 1257, 1139, 1117, 1099, 1053, 846, 709. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for C₁₇H₂₈NO₃ 294.2057.

(1R*,2R*,4R*)-2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)bicycle-[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate tert-Butyl (endo-6g) Å tert-butyl (1R*,2S*,4R*)-2-(methyl(phenyl)carbamoyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-carboxylate (exo-6g). According to GP2, cyclopentadiene (0.42 mL, 4.94 mmol) and tert-butyl 2-(diethylcarbamoyl)acrylate (4g, 258 mg, 0.99 mmol) were heated for 24 h. FC purification (*n*-hexane:Et₂O 4:1 \rightarrow 1:1) afforded a mixture of diastereoisomers *endo-6g:exo-6g* in a 81:19 ratio (217 mg, 67%). Isolated *endo-***6g**, off-white powder. MP = 132-136 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz): δ 7.39 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.40 - 6.20 (br. m, 1H), 5.85 (br. M, 1H), 3.44 - 3.38 (m, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.87 (br. s, 1H), 2.09 - 1.81 (br. m, 1H), 1.50 – 1.33 (m, 11H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 101 MHz) δ 171.3, 170.5, 140.6, 132.4, 129.4, 127.0, 81.3, 60.2, 52.0, 50.6, 42.6, 38.7, 35.7, 28.1. IR (neat): v = 2976, 2932, 1731, 1660, 1494, 1366, 1257, 1154, 1115, 764. HRMS (ES): m/z calcd. for $C_{20}H_{26}NO_3$ 328.1906 [M+H]⁺, found 328.1913. *Exo-6g* not fully separated from *endo-6g*, white powder. Distinguishable peaks only: ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz): δ 6.22 – 6.03 (m, 2H). Distinguishable peaks only: ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 101 MHz): δ 172.8, 129.5, 81.6, 28.0. From trace amounts of exo-6g isolated: IR (neat): v = 2981, 1721, 1658, 1494, 1367, 1247, 1154, 1075, 693. HRMS (ES): m/z *calcd.* for C₂₀H₂₆NO₃ 328.1906 [M+H]⁺, found 328.1909.

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General procedure for DA reactions between α -amido acrylates **4e** and **4f** and cyclopentadiene in the presence of Et₂AlCl: To a solution of α -amido acrylate (**4e** or **4f**, 1 *eq*.) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (0.1M) at 0 °C under Ar was added Et₂AlCl (1 *eq*., 1M in hexane). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 30 mins before cooling back down to 0 °C and adding cyclopentadiene (10 *eq*.), after which the reaction mixture was stirred at RT until consumption of the dienophile was observed by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was then directly loaded onto a Si gel column and purified by FC to afford the DA adducts.

General procedure for DA reactions between α -amido acrylates **4e** and **4f** and cyclopentadiene in the presence of $B(C_6F_5)_3$: To a solution $B(C_6F_5)_3$ (1 *eq.*) and 4Å MS in dry CH₂Cl₂ at RT under Ar was added a solution of α -amido acrylate (**4e** or **4f**, 1 *eq.*) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (0.1M). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 30 mins before cooling back down to 0 °C and adding cyclopentadiene (10 *eq.*), after which the reaction mixture was stirred at RT until consumption of the dienophile was observed by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was then directly loaded onto a Si gel column and purified by FC to afford the DA adducts.

General procedure for DA reactions between α -amido acrylates **4e** and **4f** and cyclopentadiene in the presence of TBSOTf: To a solution of α -amido acrylate (**4e** or **4f**, 1 *eq*.) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (0.1M) at 0 °C under Ar was added freshly distilled TBSOTf (1 *eq*.). The reaction mixture was stirred at RT for 30 mins before cooling back down to 0 °C and adding cyclopentadiene (10 *eq*.), after which the reaction mixture was stirred until consumption of the dienophile was observed by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was then directly loaded onto a Si gel column and purified by FC to afford the DA adducts.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

¹H and ¹³C NMR for all new compounds and the CIF file and crystallographic details for compound **2** can be found in the SI files.

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