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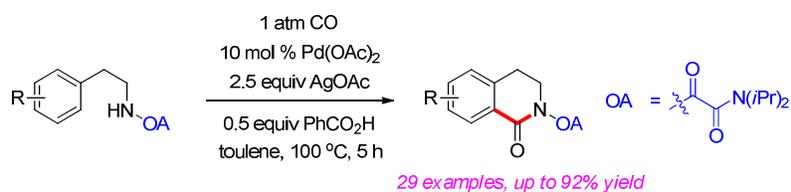
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# Palladium-catalyzed carbonylation of $\beta$ -arylethylamide directed by oxalyl amide in the presence of carbon monoxide

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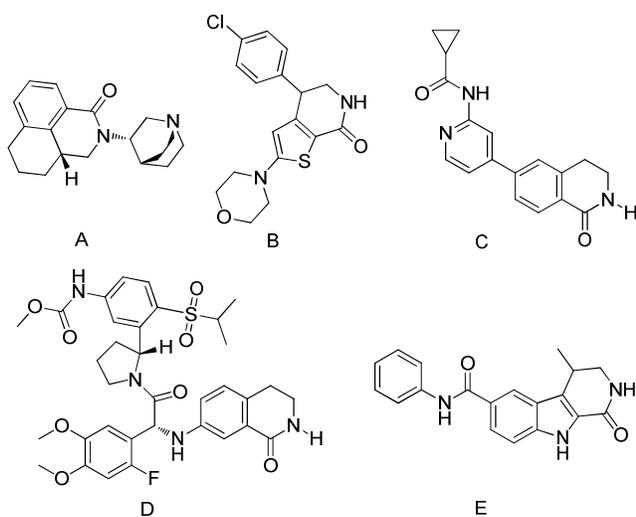
**ABSTRACT:** Pd-catalyzed regioselective coupling of  $\beta$ -C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H bonds in aromatic amines protected by oxalyl amide with carbon monoxide is reported. The reaction could tolerate various functional groups and could afford good to excellent yields of the corresponding 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinones derivatives. Remarkably, it could also tolerate  $\beta$ -arylethylamino acid and thiopheneethylamine derivatives, thus showing their potential for producing several important units for bioactive compound synthesis.

Over the past decades, transition-metal-catalyzed direct C-H functionalization has become a powerful approach for forming carbon-carbon and carbon-heteroatom bonds. It provides an alternative route for the synthesis of bioactive compounds, natural products, and pharmaceutical agents.<sup>1-3</sup> Meanwhile, development in the carbonylation of C-H bonds using CO as the carbon source has also seen significant progress.<sup>4-11</sup> The first carbonylation of arene C-H bond was reported by Fujiwara group in 1980. Carbonylation of some arenes is carried out in an autoclave utilizing CO (15 atm) and palladium catalyst, which afforded poor to moderate yields of the corresponding carboxylic acids.<sup>12</sup> The method lacked of regioselectivity with substituted arenes hindered its application, then Some research groups have addressed this problem by using a directing-group strategy or special substrates.<sup>13</sup> For example, a Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed selective ethoxycarbonylation

1 reactions of arene C-H bonds employing diethyl azodicarboxylated together with Oxone or  $K_2S_2O_8$  has been disclosed by  
2 Yu and co-workers in 2008.<sup>13a</sup> Palladium-catalyzed oxidative carbonylation of *N*-sulfonyl-2-aminobiaryls via C-H bond  
3 activation has been reported by Chung and Co-workers.<sup>13b</sup> Yu and co-workers reported a protocol for the carboxylation of  
4 anilides that yielded *N*-acetylanilin acids.<sup>14</sup> Daugulis group developed carbonylation of aminoquinoline benzamides using  
5 cobalt as the catalyst.<sup>15</sup> Orito group reported a procedure for benzolactam synthesis via direct carbonylation of  
6 *N*-alkyl- $\omega$ -arylalkylamines using a  $Pd(OAc)_2/Cu(OAc)_2/air$  system.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, Granell group described free  $NH_2$ -assisted  
7 carbonylation for preparing benzolactams.<sup>17</sup> However, their substrates were limited to quaternary  $\alpha$ -amino  $\alpha$ -alkyl esters. A  
8 concurrent study by Gaunt and co-workers reported carbonylation directed by a secondary amine for benzolactam synthesis  
9 using a palladium catalyst.<sup>18</sup> Recently years, the oxidative carbonylation of  $Csp^3$ -H bonds has also achieved. For example, the  
10 Yu group reported the  $\gamma$ -C-H carbonylation of aliphatic acids by using a combination of a quinoline-based ligand and a  
11 weakly coordinating amide directing group.<sup>13c</sup> The groups of Wang<sup>13d</sup> and Zhao<sup>13e</sup> respectively developed the oxidative  
12  $\gamma$ -C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-H carbonylation reaction to afford the pyrrolidones via the directing group strategy.

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3,4-Dihydroisoquinolinones are key synthetic units in many natural products and in biologically active moieties of  
pharmaceuticals (Figure 1).<sup>19-20</sup> Examples of such pharmaceuticals include palonosetron **A**, which is a potent, highly selective  
antagonist of the serotonin 5-HT(3) receptor and it has been studied for its use in the prevention of chemotherapy-induced  
nausea and vomiting; compound **C**, an inhibitor of glycogen synthase kinase-3 compound; and **D**, which is a potent inhibitor  
used in treating thromboembolic disorders. Herein, we report a palladium-catalyzed C-H carbonylation assisted by oxalyl  
amide for 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone synthesis.

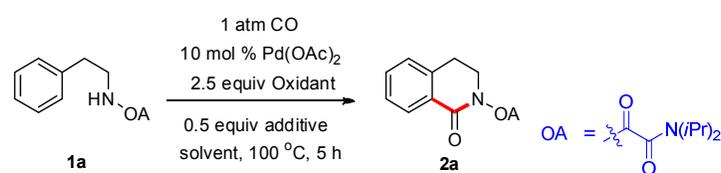
**Figure 1. Representative drugs from 3, 4-Dihydroisoquinolinones**



At the outset of our study, we treated  $\beta$ -phenylethylamine protected by oxalyl amide **1a** with CO (1 atm) in toluene at 100  
°C for 5 h, using  $Pd(OAc)_2$  as catalyst and  $AgOAc$  as oxidant. The desired 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone **2a** was obtained in 72%

yield. We then used various oxidants, including Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 1,4-Benzoquinone, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, AgOAc, O<sub>2</sub>, and PhI(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (Table 1, entries 1-6). The results reveal that AgOAc is indispensable for the carbonylation. It might be the appropriate oxidant to oxidize the Palladium(0) to Palladium(II) in the catalytic cycle. We subsequently tested different additives to optimize the yield of **2a**. Well-known additives such as PivOH, AcOH, Ac-Gly-OH, (BnO)<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub>H, MesCO<sub>2</sub>H, and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, afforded **2a** in low yields.<sup>21</sup> We found that among the tested additives, benzoic acid gave the best result. Although the role of benzoic acid remains unclear, it probably takes part in proton transferring and in stabilization of palladium (0) during the catalytic cycle. During optimization studies, the reaction proceeded cleanly, only **2a** and starting material **1a** were observed by GC. The control reaction revealed that no reaction proceeded without the palladium catalyst, indicating the indispensable role of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in the carbonylation.

**Table 1. Optimization of the Reaction Conditions<sup>a</sup>**

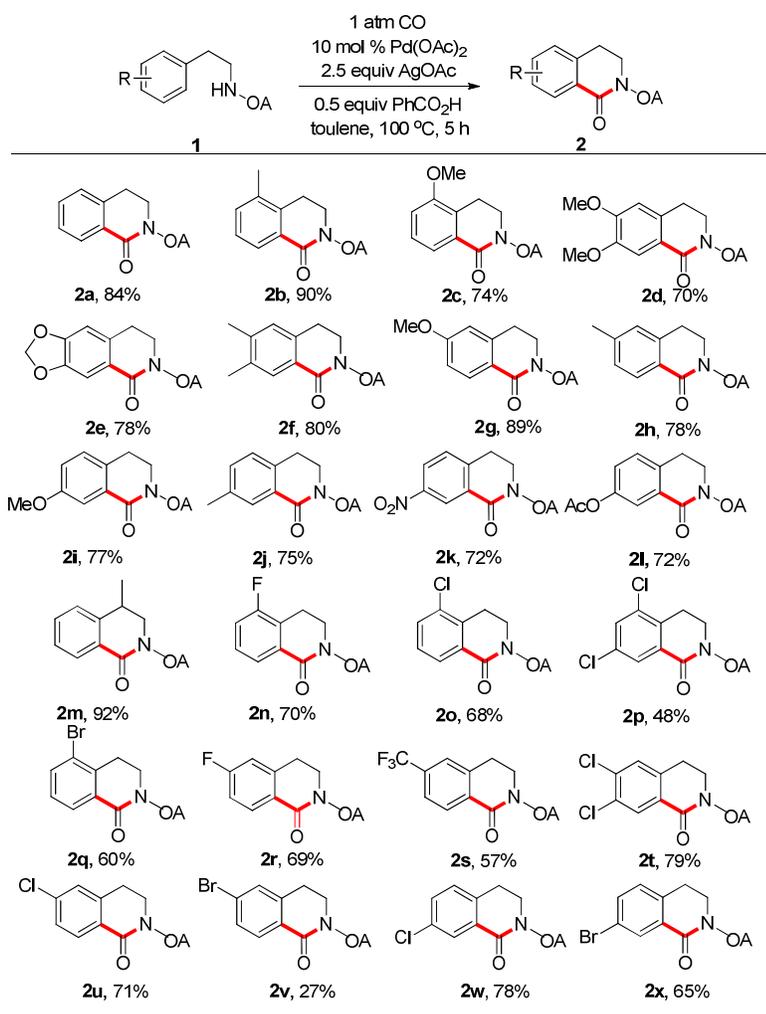


entry	oxidant	additive	solvent	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	none	toluene	<5
2	BQ	none	toluene	<5
3	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	none	toluene	39
4	AgOAc	none	toluene	72
5	O <sub>2</sub>	none	toluene	<5
6	PhI(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	none	toluene	6
7	AgOAc	PivOH	toluene	54
8	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	toluene	62
9	AgOAc	HOAc	toluene	31
10	AgOAc	Ac-Gly-OH	toluene	43
11	AgOAc	(BnO) <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	58
12	AgOAc	MesCO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	72
13	AgOAc	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	55
14	AgOAc	m-CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	76
15	AgOAc	9-Anthroic	toluene	70
16	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	87 (84) <sup>c</sup>
17	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	DCE	68
18	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	1,4-dioxane	53
19	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	HFIP	32
20	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	PhCF <sub>3</sub>	70
21 <sup>d</sup>	AgOAc	PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	toluene	0

<sup>a</sup>Conditions: Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CO (1 atm), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol %), oxidant (2.5 equiv), additive (0.5 equiv), solvent (1 mL), 100 °C, 5 h. <sup>b</sup>GC yield of **2a** determined using tridecane as internal standard. <sup>c</sup>Isolated yield. <sup>d</sup>No catalyst.

With the optimized conditions, various β-arylethylamines protected by oxalyl amide were examined (Table 2). In general, carbonylation proceeded smoothly with substrates bearing electron-rich (methyl, methoxy, and methylenedioxy) or electron-withdrawing (fluoride, chlorides, bromides, and trifluoromethyl) functional groups, affording the corresponding products in moderate to high yield. The multiple substituted β-arylethylamines also have good yields of carbonylation products. It is worthy to note that the functional group bromide, which could be easily transformed to other functional groups, was well tolerated (**2q**, **2x**, **2v**). Stronger electron-withdrawing substituent afforded lower yield under standard reaction conditions (**2s**). Notably, the carbonylation was selective, occurring only at less sterically hindered positions, leading to single products.

**Table 2. Substrate scope of β-arylethylamide<sup>a</sup>**

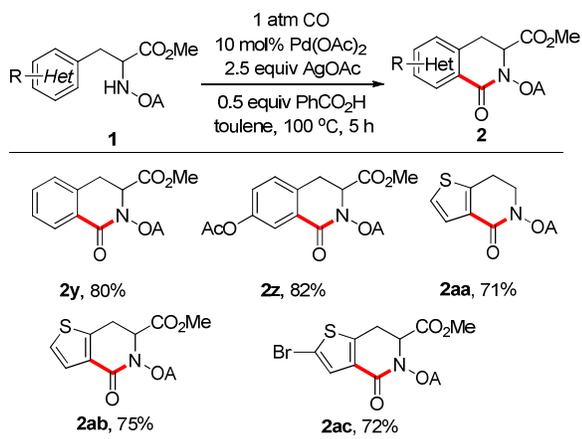


<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CO (1 atm), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol %), AgOAc (2.5 equiv), PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (0.5 equiv), toluene(1

mL), 100 °C, 5 h.

To further expand the substrate scope, amino esters protected by oxalyl amide were also subjected to standard conditions. To our satisfaction, the carbonylation products were obtained in good yields (Table 3). For example,  $\beta$ -arylethylamino ester could be carbonylated well in this transformation (**2y**, **2z**). It is worth to mention that several thiopheneethylamine derivatives could produce good yields of the corresponding carbonylated products (**2aa**, **2ab**, **2ac**).

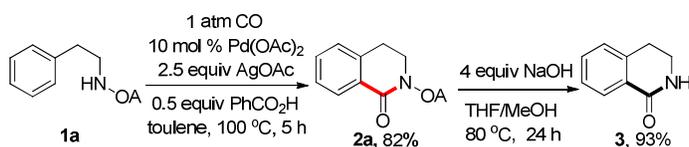
**Table 3. Substrate Scope of  $\beta$ -arylethylamino ester<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), CO (1 atm), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol %), AgOAc (2.5 equiv), PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (0.5 equiv), toluene (1 mL), 100 °C, 5 h.

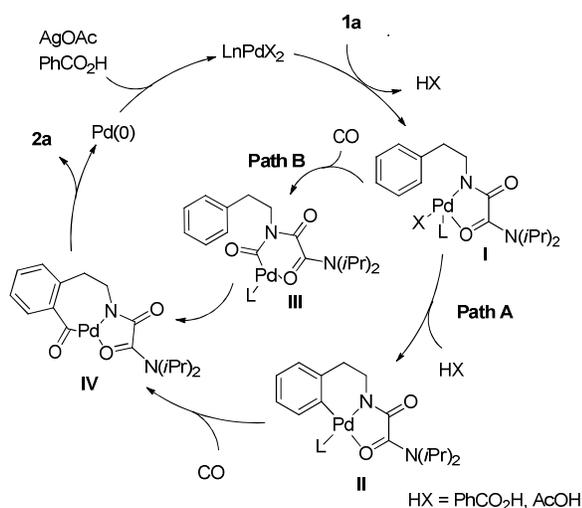
The gram-scale reaction was achieved in 82% yield using 5 mol % Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, CO (1 atm), and toluene at 120 °C for 16 h. Subsequent removal of oxalylamide under basic conditions afforded **3** in quantitative yield (Scheme 1).

### Scheme 1. Large-Scale Synthesis and Removal of Directing Group



A plausible mechanism for carbonylation assisted by oxalyl amide is proposed on the basis of our previous studies and pioneering reports (Scheme 2). In the path **A**, the palladium complex **II** could be generated through a concerted metalation–deprotonation pathway. The combination of one molecule of CO with the Pd(II) center is followed by 1,1 migratory insertion of CO into the Pd–C bond, which then forms the key palladium intermediate **IV**. The catalytic cycle might be undergo a pathway, the palladium complex **I** combined with one molecular of CO and then with the insertion of CO generating the palladium complex **III** (Path **B**), followed by C–H activation, affording the key intermediate **IV**. This seven-membered palladacycle **IV** then undergoes reductive elimination to the desired product.

## Scheme 2. Proposed Catalytic Cycle



## CONCLUSION

In summary, we have developed a practical approach for the synthesis of 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinone derivatives from  $\beta$ -arylethylamines protected by oxalyl amide, using palladium as catalyst under 1 atm CO. The reaction could tolerate various functional groups and could afford good to excellent yields of the corresponding 3,4-dihydroisoquinolinones derivatives. Remarkably, it could also tolerate  $\beta$ -arylethylamino acid and thiopheneethylamine derivatives, thus showing their potential for producing several important units for bioactive compound synthesis.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. HRMS analysis were carried out using TOF-MS instrument with ESI source. Multiplicities are recorded as: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet. General procedures for the synthesis of products are represented as follows:

**General Procedure for Palladium-catalyzed carbonylation of  $\gamma$ -C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H bonds (Table 2-3) (2a-2z, 2aa-2ac).** A mixture of oxalamide (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (4.5 mg, 0.1 eq), AgOAc (83.4 mg, 2.5 eq), PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (12.2 mg, 0.5 eq) and toluene (0.5 mL) in a 20 mL glass vial was purged with CO (3-times), and sealed with a teflon septa. The vial was heated at 100 °C in an oil bath for 5 hours, then the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **2**.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxo-2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)acetamide (2a).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 84% (50.8 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 118–121 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.12 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H),

3.82 (s, 1H), 3.69-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.57-3.44 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 1H), 3.00 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.25 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 164.6, 163.8, 140.1, 134.0, 129.7, 127.8, 127.6, 127.5, 51.1, 45.7, 41.1, 27.8, 20.2, 19.9; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 325.1528; Found: 325.1535.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(5-methyl-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2b)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 90% (56.9 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 159–161 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H), 3.68–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.00 (d,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.26 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.0, 164.8, 163.8, 138.6, 135.4, 135.3, 127.9, 127.6, 126.9, 51.1, 45.7, 40.4, 24.7, 20.2, 19.9, 19.1; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 339.1685; Found: 339.1684.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(5-methoxy-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2c)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (7/1) as an eluent; Yield 74% (49.2 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 142–145 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.66–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 1H), 3.01 (s, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.25 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 164.6, 163.8, 155.8, 129.0, 127.8, 121.3, 115.10, 55.9, 51.1, 45.7, 40.7, 21.2; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 355.1634; Found: 355.1641.

**2-(6,7-dimethoxy-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-*N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2d)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (4/1) as an eluent; Yield 70% (50.68 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 179–182 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.55 (s, 1H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.91 (d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, 6H), 3.75 (d,  $J$  = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 1H), 2.89 (s, 1H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.24 (m, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.0, 164.2, 163.9, 153.8, 148.4, 134.8, 120.0, 111.2, 109.5, 56.3, 51.1, 45.7, 41.3, 27.5, 20.5, 20.3, 19.9, 19.7; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 385.1739; Found: 385.1730.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxo-2-(5-oxo-7,8-dihydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*g*]isoquinolin-6(5H)-yl)acetamide (2e)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (5/1) as an eluent; Yield 78% (53.9 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 168–169 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.53 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.03 (s, 2H), 4.34 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 1H), 3.66-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.54–3.57 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 1H), 2.99–2.80 (m, 1H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.24 (d,  $J$  = 14.9 Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 163.9, 152.6, 147.5, 136.9, 121.7, 108.9, 107.3, 102.1, 51.1, 45.7, 41.1, 28.0, 20.3, 20.1, 19.8, 19.6, 20.1; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 369.1429; Found: 369.1453.

**2-(6,7-dimethyl-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-*N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2f)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 80% (52.8 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 174–175 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 1H), 3.66–3.59 (m, 1H),

3.54–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 1H), 2.90 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.24 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 164.8, 163.9, 143.9, 137.8, 136.2, 130.4, 128.8, 125.3, 51.1, 45.7, 41.3, 27.4, 20.2, 19.4; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ : 353.1841; Found: 353.1852.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(6-methoxy-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2g).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (5/1) as an eluent; Yield 89% (59.1 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 163–164 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 1H), 3.66–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.54–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.15 (s, 1H), 2.94 (s, 1H), 1.52 (d,  $J$  = 15.0 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 164.3, 163.9, 142.6, 132.2, 120.5, 113.6, 112.2, 55.7, 51.1, 45.7, 41.1, 28.3; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$  355.1634; Found: 355.1622.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(6-methyl-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2h).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 78% (49.3 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 162–164 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.34 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H), 3.66–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 1H), 2.94 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.25 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 164.6, 163.9, 145.1, 140.2, 129.9, 128.5, 128.2, 125.3, 51.1, 45.8, 41.2, 27.9, 21.9; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ : 339.1689; Found: 339.1694.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(7-methoxy-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2i).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 78% (51.1 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 145–148 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 4H), 3.67–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.03 (s, 1H), 2.99–2.84 (m, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.26 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 164.6, 163.8, 159.0, 132.6, 128.8, 121.9, 112.4, 55.8, 51.1, 45.8, 41.4, 27.0; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ : 355.1634; Found: 355.1646.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(7-methyl-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2j).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (9/1) as an eluent; Yield 75% (47.4 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 127–129 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 4H), 3.67–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 1H), 2.95 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.26 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 164.6, 163.8, 159.0, 132.6, 128.8, 121.9, 112.6, 55.8, 51.1, 45.7, 41.4, 27.0; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}^+]$ : 339.1685; Found: 339.1692.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(7-nitro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2k).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (3/1) as an eluent; Yield 72% (49.9 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 209–210 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.98 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz,

1H), 4.43 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 1H), 3.69–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.58–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 2H), 1.52 (d,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.6, 163.2, 162.8, 147.7, 146.6, 129.3, 128.1, 125.0, 51.3, 45.9, 40.5, 28.0; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 370.1379; Found: 370.1392.

**2-(2-(diisopropylamino)-2-oxoacetyl)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-7-ylacetate (2l).** Purified by column

chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 72% (51.8 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 148–150 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.84 (d,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.63–3.57 (m, 1H), 3.54–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 3.00 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 6H), 1.24 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.4, 167.0, 163.8, 163.6, 150.0, 137.6, 129.0, 127.5, 122.7, 51.1, 45.8, 41.1, 27.3, 21.0; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 383.1583; Found: 383.1589.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-(4-methyl-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoacetamide (2m).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (7/1) as an eluent; Yield 92% (58.1 mg); pale yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.14 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 4.22 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 1H), 3.55–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.20 (s, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.38 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), 1.25 (d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  164.3, 163.6, 133.9, 129.6, 127.1, 50.9, 45.5, 19.5; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 339.1685; Found: 339.1689.

**2-(5-fluoro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-*N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2n).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 70% (44.8 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 162–165 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.97 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J = 13.3, 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 1H), 3.68–3.62 (m, 1H), 3.57–3.50 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 1.54 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 6H), 1.28 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.9, 163.8, 163.5, 159.0 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 240.0$  Hz), 129.8 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 4.0$  Hz), 128.4 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.0$  Hz), 127.3 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 190.0$  Hz), 125.4 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.0$  Hz), 120.7 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8.0$  Hz), 120.5, 51.2, 45.8, 40.5, 20.7; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 343.1434; Found: 343.1444.

**2-(5-chloro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-*N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2o).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (9/1) as an eluent; Yield 68% (45.7 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 172–173 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.08 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 3.66–3.60 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.18 (s, 2H), 1.52 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 6H), 1.26 (d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.2, 163.2, 162.9, 137.4, 133.9, 132.5, 129.2, 127.7, 50.6, 45.2, 39.6, 24.6; HRMS Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}_3\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$ ]: 359.1138; Found: 359.1147.

**2-(5,7-dichloro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-*N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2p).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (10/1) as an eluent; Yield 48% (35.5 mg); pale yellow solid;

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mp = 208–210 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.65–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.15 (s, 2H), 1.51 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.7, 163.3, 162.9, 136.5, 134.1, 130.7, 128.3, 127.1, 51.2, 45.9, 40.2, 24.9; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 393.0749; Found: 393.0762.

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**2-(5-bromo-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2q).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (10/1) as an eluent; Yield 60% (45.6 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 175–177 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.12 (m, 1H), 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 1H), 3.68–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.57–3.47 (m, 1H), 3.18 (s, 2H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.8, 163.8, 163.5, 139.8, 137.8, 129.9, 129.1, 128.6, 123.4, 51.2, 45.9, 40.3, 28.1, 20.1, 20.0; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 403.0633; Found: 403.0642.

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**2-(6-fluoro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2r).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 69% (44.2 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 168–171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 4.41 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 1H), 3.68–3.62 (m, 1H), 3.57–3.50 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 1.54 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 6H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.9, 166.6, 164.4, 163.3 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2 Hz), 142.9 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 10 Hz), 132.5 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 10 Hz), 123.9 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3 Hz), 114.8 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22 Hz), 114.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22 Hz), 50.8, 45.4, 40.6, 27.6; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 343.1434; Found: 343.1441.

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**N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxo-2-(1-oxo-6-(trifluoromethyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)acetamide (2s).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 57% (42.2 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 116–119 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 3.64 (m, 1H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.17 (s, 2H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.2, 162.9, 162.8, 140.2, 134.7 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33 Hz), 130.4, 129.8, 124.2 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 4 Hz), 123.8 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 4 Hz), 122.9 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271 Hz), 50.6, 45.3, 40.3, 27.2; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 393.1402; Found: 393.1397.

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**2-(6,7-dichloro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2t).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (7/1) as an eluent; Yield 79% (58.5 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 196–197 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.65–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 40.3 Hz, 2H), 1.51 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.8, 163.4, 163.0, 139.5, 138.5, 132.4, 131.5, 129.7, 127.6, 51.2, 45.9, 40.9, 27.2; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 393.0749; Found: 393.0759.

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**2-(6-chloro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2u).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 71% (47.7 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 135–138 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 2.99 (s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 6H), 1.24 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.8, 163.8, 163.6, 141.8, 140.4, 131.3, 128.0, 127.7, 126.3, 51.2, 45.8, 40.9, 27.7, 20.0; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 359.1138; Found: 359.1146.

**2-(6-bromo-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2v).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (8/1) as an eluent; Yield 27% (20.5 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 183–184 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (m 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 1H), 3.62 (m, 1H), 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.16 (s, 1H), 2.98 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.9, 164.0, 163.6, 141.9, 131.4, 131.1, 130.8, 129.2, 126.8, 51.2, 45.8, 40.9, 27.6, 20.3, 20.0; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 403.0633; Found: 403.0645.

**2-(7-chloro-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2w).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 78% (52.4 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 168–170 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1H), 3.65–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.55–3.48 (m, 1H), 3.10 (s, 1H), 3.00 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.9, 163.6, 138.4 (s), 133.9, 133.7, 129.6, 129.0, 51.2, 45.8, 41.02, 27.3; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 359.1138; Found: 359.1148.

**2-(7-bromo-1-oxo-3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-N,N-diisopropyl-2-oxoacetamide (2x).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (5/1) as an eluent; Yield 65% (49.4 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 169–171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 1H), 3.67–3.59 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.09 (s, 1H), 2.98 (s, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.3, 162.9, 138.3, 136.2, 131.9, 129.0, 128.8, 120.8, 50.6, 45.2, 40.4, 30.5, 26.8; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 403.0633; Found: 403.0645.

**methyl 2-(2-(diisopropylamino)-2-oxoacetyl)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (2y).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 80% (57.6 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 137–138 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.58–3.39 (m, 3H), 1.59 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 170.3, 166.9,

163.5, 163.4, 136.6, 134.4, 129.8, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 53.2, 50.9, 45.8, 30.1, 20.6, 20.4, 19.8, 19.6; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{24}N_2O_5Na$   $[M+Na^+]$ : 383.1583; Found: 383.1589.

**methyl-7-acetoxy-2-(2-(diisopropylamino)-2-oxoacetyl)-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylate (2z).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (3/1) as an eluent; Yield 82% (68.6 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 152–153 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.87 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.57–3.50 (m, 1H), 3.48 (d,  $J$  = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.58 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.50 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  149.7, 133.4, 128.5, 127.29, 122.0, 52.7, 52.5, 50.3, 45.2, 28.9, 20.5, 19.9, 19.6, 19.5, 19.1; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{26}N_2O_7Na$   $[M+Na^+]$ : 441.1638; Found: 441.1643.

***N,N*-diisopropyl-2-oxo-2-(4-oxo-6,7-dihydrothieno[3,2-*c*]pyridin-5(4*H*)-yl)acetamide (2aa).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (4/1) as an eluent; Yield 71% (43.7 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 114–117 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 3.70–3.58 (m, 1H), 3.56–3.44 (m, 1H), 3.20 (s, 1H), 3.14 (s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 6H), 1.25 (s, 6H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  167.1, 163.7, 160.7, 150.5, 131.2, 126.7, 124, 51.1, 45.7, 42.2, 24.3, 20.5, 19.8; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{20}N_2O_3SNa$   $[M+Na^+]$ : 331.1092; Found: 331.1101

**methyl 5-(2-(diisopropylamino)-2-oxoacetyl)-4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrothieno[3,2-*c*]pyridine-6-carboxylate (2ab).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (6/1) as an eluent; Yield 75% (54.9 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 157–158 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.46 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89–3.78 (m, 1H), 3.74–3.65 (m, 4H), 3.55–3.47 (m, 2H), 1.57 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.49 (d,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.32 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.4, 162.8, 158.8, 146.5, 130.4, 126.2, 124.5, 53.6, 52.8, 50.3, 45.2, 25.9, 20.0, 19.9, 19.2, 19.0; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{22}N_2O_5SNa$   $[M+Na^+]$ : 389.1147; Found: 389.1149.

**methyl 2-bromo-5-(2-(diisopropylamino)-2-oxoacetyl)-4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydrothieno[3,2-*c*]pyridine-6-carboxylate (2ac).** Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (5/1) as an eluent; Yield 72% (63.9 mg); pale yellow solid; mp = 172–174 °C;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (s, 1H), 5.55 (d,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83–3.75 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.60 (d,  $J$  = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd,  $J$  = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd,  $J$  = 17.3, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.48 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.30 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (d,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  169.1, 166.0, 162.6, 157.5, 147.5, 131.0, 128.4, 111.7, 53.3, 52.9, 50.3, 45.2, 26.0, 20.0, 19.7, 19.0; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{21}BrN_2O_5SNa$   $[M+Na^+]$ : 467.0252; Found: 467.0266.

**Gram-Scale Preparation of 2a (Scheme 1)** A mixture of oxalamide (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (40.8 mg, 0.05 equiv), AgOAc (1.5 g, 2.5 equiv), PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (221 mg, 0.5 equiv) and toluene (20 mL) in a 100 mL glass vial was purged with CO (3-times) and CO ballon, sealed with a teflon septa. The vial was heated at 120 °C in an oil bath for 16 hours, then the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **2a** as a pale yellow solid (1.09 g) in 82% yield.

**Gram-Scale Preparation of 3 (Scheme 1)** Compound **2a** (0.15 g, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in a mixture of THF/MeOH (0.4/0.1 mL). NaOH (80 mg, 2.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added later. The mixture was heated at 80 °C for 24 h and then diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with DCM (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the desired product **3** (68.4 mg) as a pale yellow oil in 93% yield.

**3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-1(2H)-one (3)**. Purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ester/ethyl acetate (2/1) as an eluent; Yield 93% (68.4 mg); pale white solid; mp = 61-63 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.07–8.05 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.42 m, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.69-3.55 (m, 2H), 2.99 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 166.6, 139.0, 132.3, 129.1, 128.1, 127.3, 40.3, 28.0; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NONa [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]: 170.0582; Found: 170.0585.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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