Supporting Information

for

Synthesis and in silico screening of a library of β -carboline-containing compounds

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Experimental procedures and spectral data for compounds 1{5}, 1{16}, 2{1,3–8}, 3{1,2–4}, 4, 6{1–10}, 6{12–13}, 6{15}, 7{1–7}, 9{1,2–4}.

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General. All reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere and all glassware was dried in an oven at 140 °C for 24 h prior to use. THF, CH₂Cl₂ and toluene were purified using an alumina column filtration system. DMF, MeOH, acetone and CH₃CN were dried over activated 3 or 4 Å molecular sieves. Et₃N was distilled from CaH₂ and stored over KOH. Reactions were monitored by TLC analysis (precoated silica gel 60 F254 plates, 250 µm layer thickness) and visualization was accomplished with a 254 nm UV light and by staining with a Vaughn's reagent $(4.8~g~of~(NH_4)_6Mo_7O_{24}\cdot 4H_2O~and~0.2~g~of~Ce(SO_4)_2~in~100~mL~of~a~3.5~N~H_2SO_4$ solution) or a KMnO₄ solution (1.5 g of KMnO₄ and 1.5 g of K₂CO₃ in 100 mL of a 0.1% NaOH solution). Flash chromatography or preparative TLC on SiO₂ was used to purify the crude reaction mixtures. ¹H/¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on either a Bruker Avance 300/75 MHz or Bruker Avance 400/100 MHz instrument. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million with the residual solvent peak used as an internal standard. Chemical shifts were tabulated as follows: Chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, ovrlp = overlapping, app = apparent), coupling constants, and integration. Microwave reactions were performed using a Biotage Initiator in glass microwave vials (cap sealed) with continuous magnetic stirring and an external surface temperature sensor. Mass spectra were obtained on a Micromass Autospec double focusing instrument. Infrared spectra were measured on a Smiths Detection IdentifyIR FTIR spectrometer (ATR). Melting points (uncorrected) were determined using a Mel-Temp instrument.

(±)-Methyl 2-((1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)-2-benzamidopenta-3,4-dienoate (A) [S1]

(±)-Methyl 2-((1*H*-indol-3-yl)methyl)-2-aminopenta-3,4-dienoate (4) [S1]

To a solution of benzamide **A** (3.60 g, 9.93 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (180 mL) was added Et₃OBF₄ (3.77 g, 19.9 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (14 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The reaction was concentrated in vacuo and diluted with THF (8 mL) and 5% acetic acid (aq) (70 mL) and stirred for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with the addition of saturated K₂CO₃ and stirred for 10 min. The resulting mixture was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 50–80% EtOAc:hexane) to afford amine **4** (1.20 g, 47%) as a viscous brown oil. R_f 0.23 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:4), ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (br s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.29–7.08 (m, 3 H), 5.63 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.97 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.71 (s, 3 H), 3.47 (A of an ABq, J = 14.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.15 (B of an ABq, J = 14.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.91 (br s, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.4, 175.5, 135.9, 127.9, 123.7, 121.8, 119.4, 119.0, 111.1, 109.7, 96.3, 79.4, 61.0, 52.3, 35.6.

(\pm) -(3S)-Methyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-pyrido

[3,4-b]indole-3-carboxylate (6{5}). To a solution of amine 4 (0.100 g, 0.390 mmol) in MeOH (4 mL) was added activated 4 Å molecular sieves (185 mg, 470 mg/mmol), 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (0.055 g, 0.390 mmol), and trifluoroacetic acid (0.029 mL, 0.390 mmol). After 3 h, the reaction was filtered through Celite and the filtrate was treated with saturated NaHCO₃ (~1 mL) and stirred for 5 min. The resulting solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x

5 mL). The organic fractions were combined, washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, 10–20% EtOAc:hexane) to afford **6{5}** (77.5 mg, 52%, dr 2:1 by 1 H NMR) as an off-white amorphous solid, which turned yellow upon storage. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.49 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58–7.53 (m, 1.5 H), 7.41–7.29 (m, 7.5 H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 1.5 H), 7.18–7.09 (m, 3 H), 5.51–5.46 (m, 1 H), 5.42 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 0.5 H)*, 5.35 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 0.5 H)*, 5.23 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.01 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H)*, 4.91 (dd, J = 11.3, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.73 (dd, J = 11.3, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.83 (s, 3 H), 3.67–3.61 (m, 2 H)*, 3.30–3.24 (m, 2 H), 3.04 (dd, J = 15.2, 2.6 Hz, 0.5 H)*, 2.80 (br s, 1 H). * Denotes *syn*-product.

(\pm) -Methyl 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3H-indolizino[6,7-b]indole-11a-

carboxylate (1{5}). To a solution of allene 6{5} (70 mg, 0.185 mmol, as a 2:1 mixture of diastereomers) in acetone (3.6 mL) in a septum-sealed 10 mL reaction vial wrapped in aluminum foil, was added silver nitrate (6.3 mg, 0.037 mmol, 20 mol %, weighed and transferred under low light). The reaction mixture was protected from light and stirred for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ (2 x). The combined aqueous layers were back-extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 x) and the combined organic layers dried over $MgSO_4$, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified using flash chromatography (SiO_2 , hexane:acetone, 20:1) to afford 1{5}-syn (13.4 mg, 19%) and 1{5}-anti (16.4 mg, 23%) as amorphous white residues, which turned yellow during concentration. 1{5}-syn: R_f 0.1 (hexane:acetone, 20:1); 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.58–7.55 (m, 1 H), 7.43–7.31 (m, 5 H), 7.22–7.16 (m, 1 H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 2 H), 6.14–6.11 (m, 1 H), 6.04–6.01 (m, 1 H), 5.50 (s, 1 H), 3.82–3.69 (m, 2 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 3.47 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.01 (dd, J = 14.3, 2.8 Hz, 1 H); LCMS m/z: 379.4 ($t_R = 10.13$ min); 1{5}-anti: R_f 0.07 (hexane:acetone, 20:1); 1H NMR

(300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60–7.54 (m, 3 H), 7.44–7.34 (m, 3 H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 1 H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 2 H), 6.04–5.96 (m, 2 H), 5.04 (s, 1 H), 4.12 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.87–3.77 (m, 2 H), 3.47 (s, 3 H), 2.79 (dd, J = 14.7, 1.5 Hz, 1 H).

(±)-Methyl 3-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole-3-carboxylate (6{1}). To a solution of amine **4** (0.763 g, 2.98 mmol) in MeOH (18 mL) was added formaldehyde 37% (0.268 mL, 3.57 mmol), and trifluoroacetic acid (0.22 mL, 2.98 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt. After 16 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ (~12 mL) and stirred for 5 min. The resulting solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic fractions were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 50–80%, EtOAc:hexane) to afford **6**{1} (545 mg, 68%) as a yellow/tan amorphous oil/foam. R_f 0.23 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:4); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.29–7.19 (m, 1 H), 7.17–7.12 (m, 2 H), 5.40 (dd, J = 6.6, 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.96 (dd, J = 6.9, 11.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.88 (dd, J = 6.4, 11.1, 1 H), 4.16 (A of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.10 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 3.38 (A of an ABq, J = 15.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.04 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.51 (br s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.2, 173.9, 136.2, 130.9, 127.2, 121.4, 119.2, 117.8, 110.7, 106.6, 94.0, 79.3, 60.6, 52.5, 39.8, 29.7.

General procedure for (±)-allenes 6{2–16}. To a solution of amine 4 (0.076 g, 0.297 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added aldehyde (0.322 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and trifluoroacetic acid (0.024 mL, 0.322 mmol, 1.1 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred 2 h at rt. The reaction was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ (~1 mL) and stirred for 5 min. The resulting solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic fractions were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, variable EtOAc:hexane gradients) to afford allenes. Products were characterized by ¹H NMR (see spectral data) to determine dr then used directly in next reaction step.

General procedure 7{1–7}: (±)-Methyl 6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-*b*]indole-11a-carboxylate (7{1}). To a solution of allene 6{1} (43 mg, 0.16 mmol) in acetone (2 mL) in a septum-sealed reaction vial wrapped in aluminum foil, was added silver nitrate (5.0 mg, 0.032 mmol, 20 mol %, weighed and transferred under low light). The reaction was then degassed by bubbling argon for 15 min. The reaction mixture was protected from light and stirred at rt for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO4, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was passed through a short column (SiO₂, EtOAc:hex, 1:1) to afford the crude cyclized product, which was used directly in the next step [S2]. To a dry 1 dram vial was added dissolved carboline (0.162 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.25 mL) followed by addition of crushed NaOH (10 mg, 0.26 mmol), TEBA (4 mg, 0.016 mmol), and *p*-toluene sulfonyl chloride (37 mg, 0.19 mmol). The reaction

mixture was sonicated at rt for 1 h. The reaction was filtered through a short silica plug, washed with hexane:EtOAc (1:1), and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:EtOAc, 4:1–1:1) followed by preparative TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1)) to afford tosylated carboline **7{1}** (19.4 mg, 28%) as a pale yellow amorphous foam/oil. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.85 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:2); IR (neat): 1724, 1450, 1364, 1215, 1167, 1152, 1122, 1088, 973, 755, 745, 703, 660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.32–7.26 (m, 1 H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 1 H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.22 (dd, J = 2.0, 6.0, 1 H), 5.99 (d, J = 6.0, 1 H), 4.62 (A of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.45 (B of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 4.04 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.93 (B of an ABq, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.53 (ovlp s, 3 H), 3.55 (ovlp A of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.74 (B of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 144.7, 136.4, 135.5, 133.6, 132.0, 131.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 126.5, 126.4, 124.3, 123.3, 118.3, 116.4, 114.2, 71.8, 56.9, 51.7, 45.4, 31.6, 29.5, 22.6, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₂₃N₂O₄S, 423.1379; found, 423.1378.

(\pm)-Methyl 5-cyclopropyl-6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-*b*]indole-11a-

carboxylate (7{2})). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:EtOAc, 4:1–1:1) followed by prep TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to afford 7{2}- *syn* (17.2 mg, 0.037 mmol, 17%) as a yellow/tan amorphous oil/foam. R_f 0.5 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2 H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 5.68 (s, 2 H), 4.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.96 (A of an ABq, J = 14.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.82–3.81 (m, 4 H), 3.49 (A of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.10 (B of an ABq, J = 14.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (B of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 1.31–0.88 (m, 5 H), 0.59–0.54 (m, 3 H), 0.40–0.38 (m, 1 H);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.7, 144.8, 136.5, 136.4, 136.1, 133.6, 129.7, 127.7, 126.4, 124.5, 123.6, 118.2, 117.6, 115.0, 71.7, 61.1, 59.3, 52.9, 27.6, 21.5, 16.4, 4.0, 3.7; IR (neat): 1724, 1448, 1366, 1213, 1167, 1146, 1088, 1053, 1023, 744, 704, 665 cm⁻¹; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺calcd for C₂₆H₂₇N₂O₄S, 463.1692; found, 463.1699.

(\pm) -Methyl 5-isobutyl-6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3H-indolizino[6,7-b]indole-11a-

carboxylate (7{3}). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:EtOAc, 4:1–1:1) followed by prep. TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to afford 7{3}-syn (25 mg, 0.053 mmol, 23%) as a yellow/tan amorphous oil/foam. R_f 0.33 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 1 H), 7.30 (td, J = 1.4, 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 1 H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.79–5.76 (m, 1 H), 5.75–5.63 (m, 1 H), 4.62 (dd, J = 10.8, 3.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.04 (A of an ABq, J = 13.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.50 (A of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.32 (B of an ABq, J = 14.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.83 (B of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.35 (s, 3 H), 2.21–2.09 (m, 1 H), 1.57–1.51 (m, 2 H), 1.13 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.5, 144.7, 138.2, 136.7, 135.9, 133.7, 129.9, 129.7, 127.6, 126.3, 124.3, 123.5, 118.1, 116.4, 114.9, 70.4, 61.9, 55.0, 52.7, 43.9, 26.7, 24.8, 23.7, 21.5, 20.9; IR (neat): 1726, 1450, 1364, 1213, 1169, 1148, 1088, 745, 665 cm⁻¹; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₇H₃₁N₂O₄S, 479.2005; found, 479.2004.

(\pm)-Methyl 5-phenyl-6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-*b*]indole-11a-

carboxylate (7{4}). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–30% EtOAc:hex) to afford 7{4}-syn (33 mg, 28%) and 7{4}-anti (13 mg, 11%) both as yellow amorphous foams.

7{4}-*syn:* $R_{\rm f}$ 0.31 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 186–188 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1737, 1450, 1370, 1185, 1172, 1120, 744, 701, 662 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98–7.96 (m, 1 H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 1 H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 7 H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.10 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.95–5.94 (m, 1 H), 5.90 (s, 1 H), 3.84 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (A of an ABdq, J = 15.2, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 3.29 (B of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (B of an ABdq, J = 14.8, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.29 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 144.0, 141.9, 137.9, 137.7, 134.9, 132.7, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 129.2, 127.9, 127.3, 126.8, 124.7, 123.6, 120.3, 118.6, 115.3, 73.0, 60.5, 54.7, 51.7, 30.7, 21.5; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₉H₂₇N₂O₄S, 499.1692; found, 499.1688.

7{4}-anti: $R_{\rm f}$ 0.17 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 166–168 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1724, 1450, 1372, 1210, 1169, 1150, 1120, 1088, 1059, 977, 745, 703, 667 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 3 H), 7.37–7.30 (m, 1 H), 7.20–7.17 (m, 3 H), 7.06–7.01 (m, 4 H), 5.99 (s, 1 H), 5.92 (dt, J = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.76–5.74 (m, 1 H), 4.31 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 (B of an ABq, J = 13.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (A of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.12 (s, 3 H), 2.91 (B of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 144.5, 139.6, 136.4, 135.6, 134.1, 133.9, 129.4, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 127.1, 126.6, 124.7, 123.4, 118.6, 118.2, 114.6, 69.7, 60.3, 58.9, 52.2, 27.2, 21.5; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₉H₂₇N₂O₄S, 499.1692; found, 499.1693.

(±)-Methyl 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-*b*]indole-

11a-carboxylate (**7**{**5**}). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–30%, hexane:EtOAc) followed by preparative TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to afford **7**{**5**}-*syn* (21 mg, 17%) and **7**{**5**}-*anti* (42 mg, 34%) both as yellowish foams.

7{5}-syn: R_f 0.36 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 197–199 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1728, 1448, 1368, 1211, 1169, 1118, 1085, 1014, 971, 813, 742, 667 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (d. J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.48 - 7.46 (m, 1 H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3 H), 7.19 (br)s, 3 H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.10 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.94 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.88 (s, 1 H), 3.80 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.64–3.62 (m, 1 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 3.27 (B of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.97 (B of an ABdq, J = 16.0, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1, 144.2, 140.3, 137.8, 137.4, 134.9, 133.0, 132.6, 131.5, 130.8, 130.4, 130.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.0, 126.5, 124.9, 123.7, 120.3, 118.7, 115.4, 73.0, 59.8, 54.6, 51.8, 30.6, 21.5; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{29}H_{26}N_2O_4SCl$, 533.1302; found, 533.1292. **7{5}-anti:** R_f 0.24 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 125–127 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1722, 1362, 1208, 1169, 1150, 1087, 1014, 809, 745, 662 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.52-7.39 (m, 3 H), 7.37-7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.11-7.09 (m, 2 H), 7.05(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.94-5.92 (m, 2 H), 5.74 (dt, J = 6.0, 1.9 Hz,1 H), 4.30 (A of an ABtq, J = 13.6, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.78 (B of an ABtq, J = 13.6, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.59 (A of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.16 (s, 3 H), 2.88 (B of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.5, 144.7, 138.3, 136.6, 135.7, 133.8, 133.4, 132.8, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 126.3, 124.9, 123.5, 118.7, 118.3, 114.6, 69.5, 60.1, 58.1, 52.1, 27.1, 21.5; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{29}H_{26}N_2O_4SCl$, 533.1302; found, 533.1288.

(±)-Methyl 6-tosyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-

b]indole-11a-carboxylate (**7{6}**). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–20% hexane:EtOAc) to afford **7{6}-syn** followed by preparative TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) (12 mg, 10%) and **7{6}-anti** (43.5 mg, 35%) both as yellowish solids.

7{6}-syn: R_f 0.28 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 191–192 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1731, 1374, 1323, 1170, 1116, 1066, 1018, 829, 744, 665 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02–7.99 (m, 1 H), 7.49–7.48 (m, 3 H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 3 H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 3 H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.11–6.09 (m, 1 H), 5.98–5.97 (m, 2 H), 3.82 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.62 (A of an ABdq, J = 15.2, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.58 (s, 3 H), 3.23 (B of an ABq, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.97 (B of an ABdq, J = 14.8, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.30 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.0, 145.8, 144.3, 137.8, 136.9, 134.9, 132.5, 130.3, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.2, 126.5, 125.1, 124.9, 124.8, 123.8, 120.5, 118.7, 115.4, 73.0, 60.1, 54.6, 51.8, 30.6, 21.4; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₀H₂₆N₂O₄SF₃, 567.1565; found, 567.1563.

7{6}-anti: $R_{\rm f}$ 0.21 (hexane:EtOAc, 4:1); mp 148–150 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1720, 1321, 1210, 1163, 1124, 1090, 1064, 808, 745, 673, 654 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 1 H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 5 H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.02 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 5.99 (s, 1 H), 5.95 (dt, J = 2.0, 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.78 (dt, J = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.32 (A of an ABtq, J = 13.2, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.85 (B of an ABdq, J = 13.2, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.61 (A of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 2.89 (B of an ABq, J = 16.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 144.7, 143.8, 136.8, 135.7, 133.7, 132.7, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 128.2, 126.2, 125.1, 124.7, 124.6, 123.6, 118.7, 118.6,

114.7, 69.3, 60.2, 58.3, 52.0, 27.1, 21.4; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{30}H_{26}N_2O_4SF_3$, 567.1565; found, 567.1558.

(\pm)-Methyl 5-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-6-tosyl-5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-

b]indole-11a-carboxylate (7{7}). Followed general procedure. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–60% EtOAc:hexane) followed by preparative TLC (EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to afford 7{7}-syn (17 mg, 17%) and 7{7}-anti (12 mg, 12%) both as yellowish residues.

7{7}-syn: R_f 0.58 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); IR (neat): 1722, 1511, 1448, 1372, 1264, 1234, 1169, 1139, 1088, 1025, 978, 811, 745, 665 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02–7.99 (m, 1 H), 7.48–7.46 (m, 1 H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.30–7.27 (m, 3 H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.86 (br s, 1 H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.10 (app d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.95–5.90 (m, 1 H), 5.83 (s, 1 H), 3.87 (s, 3 H), 3.79–3.77 (m, 4 H), 3.62 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.59 (s, 3 H), 3.30 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.96 (B of an ABq, J = 14.8 Hz, 1 H) 2.30 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.4, 148.2, 148.1, 143.9, 138.1, 137.7, 135.2, 134.3, 132.7, 130.3, 129.8, 129.0, 126.5, 124.7, 123.5, 119.7, 118.6, 115.3, 110.4, 73.0, 60.1, 55.8, 55.7, 54.8, 51.7, 30.7, 21.4; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₁H₃₁N₂O₆S, 559.1903; found, 559.1900.

7{7}-anti: $R_{\rm f}$ 0.28 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); mp 148–150 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 1726, 1511, 1450, 1368, 1254, 1219, 1170, 1027, 809, 745, 660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.42–7.29 (m, 4 H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.79–6.68 (m, 1 H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.36 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.92–5.90 (m, 2 H), 5.74–5.73 (m, 1 H), 4.24 (br s, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.76–3.70 (m, 1 H), 3.58 (A of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.21 (s, 3 H), 2.91 (B of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.6, 148.1, 144.5, 136.4, 135.7, 133.9, 129.3, 128.3, 126.6, 124.7, 123.4, 120.5, 118.6, 117.8, 114.6, 111.9, 110.2, 60.2, 58.7, 55.8, 55.6, 52.4, 27.2, 21.5; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₁H₃₁N₂O₆S, 559.1903; found, 559.1900.

 (\pm) -(5S,11aS)-5-Ethyl 11a-methyl 5,6,11,11a-tetrahydro-3*H*-indolizino[6,7-*b*]indole-5,11adicarboxylate (1{16}). To a solution of allene 6{16} (235 mg, 0.693 mmol, dr = 1.4/1) in acetone (8 mL) in a septum-sealed reaction vial wrapped in aluminum foil, was added silver nitrate (23 mg, 0.14 mmol, 20 mol %, weighed and transferred under low light). The reaction mixture was degassed with bubbling argon (15 min) and protected from light for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 x). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified using chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–30% EtOAc/hexane) to afford $1\{16\}$ -syn (18 mg, 8%) as a yellow foamy residue. R_f 0.68 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); mp 180–182 °C; IR (neat): 3344, 1750, 1705, 1318, 1200, 1163, 1016, 749 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (br s, 1 H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, J8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1 H), 6.22 (dt, J = 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (dt, J = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.38 (s, 1 H), 4.41-4.31 (m, 2 H), 4.24 (A of an ABq, J = 13.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.86 (B of an ABq, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.63 (A of an ABdq, J = 14.4, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.53 (s, 3 H), 2.98 (B of an ABdq, J = 14.8, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1, 170.4, 136.2, 132.1, 130.7, 129.0, 127.0, 122.1, 119.4, 118.4, 110.9, 109.0, 74.5, 61.7, 58.4, 54.8, 51.8, 28.8, 14.4; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}N_2O_4$. 341.1501; found, 341.1505.

$(\pm) - Methyl \ 3 - (propa-1,2-dien-1-yl) - 2 - (3 - (trimethylsilyl)propioloyl) - 2,3,4,9 - tetrahydro-1 \\ H-1 - (1-yl) - 2 - (1-yl) - (1-yl) - 2 - (1-yl) - 2$

pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole-3-carboxylate (9{1,2}). To a solution of 3-(trimethylsilyl)propiolic acid (159 mg, 0.112), amino ester 6{1} (200 mg, 0.745 mmol), and PyBroP (276 mg, 0.112 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) was added DIEA (519 μL, 2.98 mmol) at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and stirring continued at rt for 1 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 10–20% EtOAc:hexane) to afford amide 9{1,2} (187 mg, 64%) as an amorphous residue. R_f 0.7 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); IR (neat): 3388, 1735, 1618, 1392, 1249, 1200, 841, 738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (s, 1 H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 7.28–7.17 (m, 1 H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 1 H), 5.46 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.35 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.81–4.71 (m, 2 H), 4.54 (B of an ABdq, J = 6.6, 11.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.83 (s, 3 H), 3.46 (A of an ABq, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.22 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 0.27–0.22 (m, 9 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.3, 171.0, 155.0, 136.3, 128.5, 127.0, 122.1, 119.7, 118.1, 110.9, 108.0, 99.0, 95.6, 90.6, 79.5, 62.6, 52.7, 44.2, 26.7, -0.7; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₂O₃Si, 393.1634; found, 393.1639.

(±)-Methyl 2-(but-2-ynoyl)-3-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*] indole-3-carboxylate (9{1,3}). To a solution of but-2-ynoic acid (70 mg, 0.84), amino ester 6{1} (150 mg, 0.559 mmol), and PyBroP (207 mg, 0.839 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) was added DIEA

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(389 µL, 2.24 mmol) at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and stirring continued at rt for 1 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 20–80% EtOAc:hexane) to afford **9{1,3}** (140 mg, 75%) as an amorphous residue and bis-allene (19 mg, 10%). R_f 0.24 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1) (bis-allene, R_f 0.16); IR (neat): 3387, 2233,1731, 1612, 1390, 1372, 1251, 1183, 1042, 852, 740 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 (s, 1 H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1Hz, 1 H), 7.21–7.14 (m, 1 H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 1 H), 5.47 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.35 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.80–4.56 (m, 2 H), 4.52 (B of an ABq, J = 11.7, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 3.46 (A of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.22 (B of an ABq, J = 15.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.99 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.2, 171.3, 155.9, 136.4, 128.8, 126.9, 121.9, 119.5, 117.9, 111.0, 107.5, 90.8, 90.7, 79.4, 73.3, 62.6, 52.7, 44.2, 31.5, 26.9, 22.6, 14.1, 4.0; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{20}H_{19}N_{2}O_{3}$, 335.1396; found, 335.1403.

(±)-Methyl 2-(3-cyclopropylpropioloyl)-3-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-

pyrido[3,4-*b***]indole-3-carboxylate (9{1,4})**. To a solution of 3-cyclopropylpropiolic acid (0.123 g, 1.12 mmol), amino ester **6{1}** (0.200 g, 0.745 mmol), and PyBroP (0.276 g, 1.12 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4.0 mL) was added DIEA (519 μL, 2.98 mmol) at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and stirring continued at rt for 3 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (30 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃, brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was purified using chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 20–50% EtOAc:hexane) to afford **9{1,4}** (191 mg, 71%) as an amorphous residue. R_f 0.39 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); IR (neat): 3373, 2216, 1731, 1610, 1390, 1331, 1252, 1178, 1042, 854, 738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.26 (s, 1 H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.8 Hz,

1 H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 1 H), 7.13–7.11 (m, 1 H), 5.44 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.32 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 4.80–4.68 (m, 2 H), 4.51 (B of an ABdq, J = 11.4, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.82 (s, 3 H), 3.43 (A of an ABq, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.23 (B of an ABq, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.38–1.28 (m, 2 H), 0.94–0.82 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.2, 171.3, 155.9, 136.3, 128.8, 127.0, 121.9, 119.6, 118.0, 110.9, 107.7, 98.3, 90.8, 79.4, 69.2, 62.5, 52.7, 44.2, 31.6, 26.8, 22.6, 14.1, 9.2, -0.4; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₂O₃, 361.1552; found, 361.1556.

$(\pm) - Methyl\ 2 - methyl\ -3 - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [2, 3-g] quinolizine - oxo\ -1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 11a - hexahydrocyclobuta [b] indolo [b$

11a-carboxylate (**2{1,3}**). Method A: To an oven-dried microwave vial (2–5 mL) was added **9{1,3}** (55 mg, 0.16 mmol) in DMF (1 mL). The reaction mixture was subjected to microwave irradiation at 160 °C for 7 min. The crude product was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 20–50% EtOAc:hexane) to afford the **2{1,3}** (40 mg, 73%) as a off-white/clear amorphous residue. R_f 0.39 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); mp 258–260 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 3338, 1731, 1664, 1621, 1381, 1329, 1256, 1195, 1165, 1046, 744 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 10.92 (s, 1 H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.09–7.01 (m, 1 H), 7.01–6.97 (m, 1 H), 5.40 (s, 1 H), 5.32 (A of an ABq, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.22 (B of an ABq, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.73 (A of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.54 (s, 3 H), 3.22 (br s., 2 H), 2.92 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 171.3, 158.0, 154.0, 137.4, 136.8, 131.3, 130.2, 126.5, 121.6, 119.2, 118.2, 111.6, 107.0, 104.9, 70.7, 53.6, 32.9, 16.8; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉N₂O₃, 335.1396; found, 335.1397.

(\pm)-Methyl 2-cyclopropyl-3-oxo-1,3,5,6,11,11a-hexahydrocyclobuta[b]indolo[2,3-

g]quinolizine-11a-carboxylate (2{1,4}). Method A: To an oven-dried microwave vial (2–5 mL) was added 9{1,4} (50 mg, 0.14 mmol) in DMF (1 mL). The reaction mixture was subjected to microwave irradiation at 160 °C for 7 min. The crude product was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, 30–50% EtOAc:hexane) to afford the 2{1,4} (28 mg, 57%) as an off-white solid. R_f 0.47 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); mp 239–240 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 3271, 1728, 1648, 1612, 1333, 1202, 1169, 1042, 745, 660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.09 (s, 1 H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.20–7.16 (m, 1 H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 1 H), 5.59 (A of an ABq, J = 17.2 Hz, 1 H), 5.28 (s, 1 H), 4.55 (B of an ABq, J = 17.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.82 (A of an ABq, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.59 (ovlp B of an ABq, J = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.63 (ovlp s, 3 H), 3.11–3.05 (m, 2 H), 2.09–1.99 (m, 1 H), 1.18–1.12 (m, 4 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 160.4, 158.5, 136.7, 136.4, 129.6, 128.2, 126.4, 121.6, 119.2, 117.9, 111.0, 105.5, 105.5, 70.8, 53.0, 39.7, 37.1, 33.0, 12.9, 10.1, 10.0; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₂O₃, 361.1552; found, 361.1544.

(\pm)-Methyl 3-oxo-2-phenyl-1,3,5,6,11,11a-hexahydrocyclobuta[b]indolo[2,3-g]quinolizine-11a-carboxylate (2{1,5}).

Method A: To an oven-dried microwave vial (2–5 mL) was added **9{1,5}** (76 mg, 0.19 mmol) in DMF (1 mL). The reaction mixture was subjected to microwave irradiation at 160 °C for 7 min. The crude product was purified by chromatography (SiO₂, ISCO-Rf, DCM:acetone, 39:1) to afford **2{1,5}** as an off-white solid.

Method B: To a solution of 3-phenylpropiolic acid (73.5 mg, 0.503 mmol), amino ester 6{1} (90 mg, 0.335 mmol), and PyBroP (124 mg, 0.503 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) was added DIEA (234 µL, 1.34 mmol) under stirring at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and stirring continued at rt for 1 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (15 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was filtered through a short plug of silica (eluted with EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to isolate a mixture of allene-yne 9{1,5} and cyclobutene 2{1,5} (91 mg combined). The mixture was resuspended in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) and placed in front of two 6 W $(\lambda = 254 \text{ nm})$ lamps for 24 h without stirring at rt. The reaction mixture was concentrated and purified using flash chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1) to afford the cyclobutene **2{1,5**} (53.3 mg, 40%) as a white solid. R_f 0.28 (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1); mp 291–293 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 3237, 1735, 1646, 1605, 1333, 1264, 1239, 1197, 1157, 1308, 757, 734. 686 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 10.99 (s, 1 H), 8.06 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.53–7.45 (m, 4 H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.03–6.99 (m, 1 H), 5.68 (s, 1 H), 5.43 (A of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.35 (B of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (A of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz) 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.60 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.56 (s, 3 H), 3.00 (B of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*₆-DMSO) δ 171.1, 158.1, 149.9, 137.2, 136.8, 132.7, 131.1, 130.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 126.5, 121.6, 119.2, 118.2, 111.6, 110.0, 104.8, 71.2, 53.7, 39.9, 36.9, 32.8; HRMS $(TOF-ES^+)$ (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{21}N_2O_3$, 397.1552; found, 397.1587.

(±)-Methyl 3-oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1,3,5,6,11,11a-hexahydrocyclo-

buta[*b*]indolo [2,3-*g*]quinolizine-11a-carboxylate (2{1,6}). Method B: To a solution of 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propiolic acid (108 mg, 0.503 mmol), amino ester 6{1} (90 mg, 0.335 mmol), and PyBroP (124 mg, 0.503 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1.0 mL) was added DIEA (234 μ L, 1.34 mmol) at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (15 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄,

saturated NaHCO₃, and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was filtered through a short plug of silica (eluted with EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to isolate a mixture of allene-yne **9{1,6}** and cyclobutene **2{1,6}** (105 mg combined). The mixture was resuspended in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) and placed in front of two 6 W (λ = 254 nm) lamps for 24 h without stirring at rt. The reaction was concentrated and purified using flash chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1) to afford the cyclobutene **2{1,6}** (64.4 mg, 41%) as a yellow solid. R_f 0.43 (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1); mp 284–286 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 3284, 1735, 1646, 1605, 1320, 1200, 1163, 1122, 1113, 1064, 829, 740 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 11.00 (s, 1 H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.11–7.07 (m, 1 H), 7.03–6.99 (m, 1 H), 5.80 (s, 1 H), 5.45 (A of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.36 (B of an ABq, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (A of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.67 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 3.02 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 170.8, 157.8, 147.9, 140.0, 136.8, 136.2, 130.9, 130.0, 129.5, 126.4, 126.2, 126.1, 121.7, 119.2, 118.2, 111.8, 111.7, 104.8, 71.4, 53.8, 37.0, 32.7; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₀N₂O₃F₃, 465.1426; found, 465.1436.

(\pm) -Methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxo-1,3,5,6,11,11a-hexahydrocyclobuta[b]indolo[2,3-

g]quinolizine-11a-carboxylate (2{1,7}). Method B: To a solution of 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propiolic acid (89 mg, 0.503 mmol), amino ester 6{1} (90 mg, 0.335 mmol), and PyBroP (124 mg, 0.503 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1.0 mL) was added DIEA (234 μ L, 1.34 mmol) at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (15 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was filtered through a short plug of silica (eluted with EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to isolate a mixture of allene-yne 9{1,7} and cyclobutene 2{1,7} (69 mg combined). The mixture was resuspended in CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL) and placed in front of two 6 W (λ = 254 nm) lamps for 24 h without stirring at rt.

The reaction was concentrated and purified using flash chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1) to afford the cyclobutene **2{1,7}** (43.6 mg, 30%) as a white solid. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.20 (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1); mp 296–298 °C (decomp); IR (neat): 3256, 1733, 1646, 1599, 1508, 1331, 1305, 1252, 1170, 1025, 829, 738 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 10.98 (s, 1 H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.10–7.06 (m, 3 H), 6.99–6.98 (m, 1 H), 5.57 (s, 1 H), 5.41 (A of an ABq, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.32 (B of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.78 (A of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.57–3.52 (m, 5 H), 2.99 (B of an ABq, J = 15.2 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 171.2, 161.7, 158.4, 150.0, 137.3, 136.8, 131.1, 130.2, 126.5, 126.0, 125.7, 121.6, 119.2, 118.2, 114.8, 111.6, 108.5, 104.9, 71.1, 55.9, 53.6, 36.8, 32.9; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₃N₂O₄, 427.1658; found, 427.1620.

(±)-Methyl 2-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)-3-oxo-1,3,5,6,11,11a-hexahydrocyclobuta[b]indolo [2,3-g]quinolizine-11a-carboxylate (2{1,8}). Method B: To a solution of 3-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)propiolic acid (83.6 mg, 0.503 mmol), amino ester 6{1} (90 mg, 0.335 mmol), and PyBroP (124 mg, 0.503 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) was added DIEA (234 uL, 1.34 mmol) while stirring at 0 °C. The ice bath was removed after 1–2 min and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h. The mixture was poured into EtOAc (15 mL) and washed with 5% NaHSO₄, saturated NaHCO₃ and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was filtered through a short plug of silica (eluted with EtOAc:hexane, 1:1) to isolate a mixture of allene-yne 9{1,8} and cyclobutene 2{1,8} (62 mg combined). The semipurified product was placed in front of two 6 W (λ = 254 nm) lamps for 24 h without stirring at rt. The reaction was concentrated and purified using flash chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1) to afford the cyclobutene 2{1,8} (45.6 mg, 0.109 mmol, 33%) as a yellow solid. R_f 0.24 (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 39:1); mp 297–298 °C (decomp); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 10.97 (s, 1 H), 7.48–7.44 (m, 2 H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.02–6.94 (m, 1 H), 6.93 (d, J =

2.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.57 (s, 1 H), 5.38 (A of an ABq, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.28 (B of an ABq, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (A of an ABq, J = 15.5 Hz, 1 H), 3.58–3.56 (m, 5 H), 2.98 (B of an ABq, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 171.1, 157.9, 147.2, 141.3, 137.3, 136.8, 133.9, 132.1, 130.2, 127.7, 126.5, 124.2, 121.6, 119.2, 118.2, 111.6, 109.1, 104.8, 71.3, 53.7, 38.0, 32.9, 15.9; IR (neat): 3247, 1731, 1642, 1599, 1331, 1264, 1195, 1159, 1040, 734 cm⁻¹; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₂O₃S, 417.1271; found, 417.1273.

(±)-Methyl 3-methyl-1-methylene-2,4-dioxo-1,2,4,6,7,12,12a,12b-octahydrocyclo-

penta[1,2]indolizino[6,7-b]indole-12a-carboxylate (3{1,3}). To an oven dried 1 dram tall sealable vial was added Mo(CO)₆ (83 mg, 0.31 mmol). The vial was evacuated under vacuum and filled with argon (3 x). A solution of allene-amide 9{1,3} (70 mg, 0.21 mmol) in dry toluene (4 mL) was added by syringe followed by the addition of dry DMSO (125 µL, 1.77 mmol). The solution was placed in a preheated oil bath at 95 °C for 2 h. After completion the solution was passed through a pipette containing silica. The filtrate was concentrated and the crude material was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:EtOAc, 2:1) to afford 3{1,3} (36.8 mg, 0.101 mmol, 48%) as a 1:1 mixture of two diastereomers as an amorphous residue. $R_{\rm f}$ 0.11 (hexane:EtOAc, 2:1); 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (s, 0.5 H), 8.52 (s, 0.5 H), 7.55 (d, J =7.5 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.33 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.29–7.16 (m, 1.5 H), 7.13–7.11 (m, 0.5 H), 6.49 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 6.36 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 0.5 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.97 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.76 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.32 (dd, J = 16.6, 1.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.01 (dd, J = 17.2, 1.4 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.66 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.38 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.16 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.00-3.98 (m, 1 H), 3.78 (s, 1.5 H), 3.44 (s, 1.5 H), 3.32 (d, 1.5 H) $J = 15.6 \,\mathrm{Hz}, \ 0.5 \,\mathrm{H}$), 3.09 (d, $J = 15.1 \,\mathrm{Hz}, \ 0.5 \,\mathrm{H}$), 2.37 (d, $J = 15.6 \,\mathrm{Hz}, \ 0.5 \,\mathrm{H}$), 2.19 (d, $J = 15.6 \,\mathrm{Hz}, \ 0.5 \,\mathrm{Hz}$) 3.2 Hz, 1.5 H), 2.15 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1.5 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 195.5, 171.7, 168.9, 165.6, 164.1, 154.9, 153.9, 143.0, 141.8, 140.4, 139.8, 136.7, 136.4, 128.9, 127.6, 126.5, 126.1, 122.3, 122.2, 121.1, 120.9, 119.8, 119.7, 118.0, 117.9, 111.1, 111.0, 105.9, 105.1, 69.2, 66.7, 60.4, 53.3, 53.0, 52.1, 48.3, 38.8, 38.0, 30.8, 25.0, 21.0, 14.1, 9.1, 9.0; IR (neat): 3332, 1733, 1698, 1387, 1370, 1331, 1232, 1198, 1042, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{21}H_{19}N_2O_4$, 363.1345; found, 363.1341.

(±)-Methyl 3-cyclopropyl-1-methylene-2,4-dioxo-1,2,4,6,7,12,12a,12b-octahydrocyclo-

penta[1,2]indolizino[6,7-b]indole-12a-carboxylate (3{1,4}). To an oven-dried tall sealable vial was added Mo(CO)₆ (142 mg, 0.54 mmol). The vial was evacuated under vacuum and filled with Argon (3 x). A solution of allene-amide **9{1,4}** (130 mg, 0.361 mmol) in dry toluene (4 mL) was added by syringe followed by the addition of dry DMSO (218 µL, 3.1 mmol). The solution was placed in a preheated oil bath at 95 °C for 2 h. After completion the solution was passed through a pipette containing silica. The filtrate was concentrated and the crude material was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, hexane:EtOAc, 2:1) to afford **3{1,4}** (63 mg, 0.162 mmol, 46%) as a 1:1 mixture of two diastereomers as an amorphous residue. R_f 0.52 (hexane:EtOAc, 1:1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.89 (s, 0.5 H), 8.66 (s, 0.5 H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 1 H), 7.22-7.11 (m, 1.5 H), 6.42(d, J = 2.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 6.30 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.94 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.73 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 0.5 Hz)0.5 H), 5.31 (dd, J = 13.2, 1.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 5.01 (dd, J = 13.3, 1.4 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.66 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1.3 Hz0.5 H), 4.40 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 4.10 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.77 Hz(s, 1.5 H), 3.46 (s, 1.5 H), 3.29 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.07 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 2.24 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.07 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 2.24 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.07 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 2.24 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.07 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 2.24 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.07 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 3.08 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 0.5 Hz, 8.8 Hz, 0.5 H), 1.62–1.60 (m, 1 H), 1.53–1.39 (m, 1 H), 1.15–1.08 (m, 1 H), 1.06–1.02 (m, 1 H), $1.01-0.99\ (m,\ 1\ H);\ ^{13}C\ NMR\ (100\ MHz,\ CDCl_3)\ \delta\ 194.6,\ 194.4,\ 171.8,\ 169.0,\ 164.3,\ 151.3,$ 150.6, 148.7, 147.9, 140.4, 140.0, 136.9, 136.8, 136.4, 129.1, 127.8, 126.5, 126.1, 122.2, 122.1, 120.7, 119.7, 119.6, 118.0, 117.8, 111.1, 111.0, 105.7, 105.5, 105.1, 69.0, 66.7, 53.2, 52.9, 52.1, 48.1, 39.1, 38.1, 30.7, 25.0, 9.5, 9.2, 8.9, 8.5, 8.0, 7.7; IR (neat): 3353, 1735, 1694, 1661, 1353, 1331, 1200, 973, 952, 742 cm⁻¹; HRMS (TOF-ES⁺) (m/z): $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{23}H_{21}N_2O_4$. 389.1501; found, 389.1518.

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