# Enantioselective Synthesis of Tricyclic β-Lactones by NHC-Catalyzed Desymmetrization of Cyclic 1,3-Diketones

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#### **1.** General Information

Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon in flame-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps. 25 °C Corresponds to the room temperature of the lab when the experiments were carried out, and reactions at 50 °C have been performed using the pre-heated oil-bath maintained at 50 °C. Dry toluene was purchased from commercial sources and stored under argon over sodium wire and dry MeOH was purchased from commercial sources and stored under argon over 4Å molecular sieves. The 2-bromoenals were synthesized from the corresponding  $\alpha$ , $\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes following the literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> The cyclopentane-1,3-dione derivative **2a**, **2t** were synthesized by following the literature procedure.<sup>2</sup> The triazolium salt **4** was synthesized following the literature procedure.<sup>3</sup> Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was dried by heating at 120 °C under vacuum and cooling under argon atmosphere. LiOAc was purchased from Aldrich and was used without further purification. 4Å molecular sieves were powdered and activated in furnace (300 °C) before use.

Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on TLC Silica gel 60  $F_{254}$ . Visualization was accomplished with short wave UV light or KMnO<sub>4</sub> staining solutions followed by heating. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (230-400 mesh) by standard techniques eluting with Pet. Ether-EtOAc solvent system.

All compounds were fully characterized. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 400 and Bruker Ultrashield spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm. The residual solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$ H = 7.26 ppm,  $\delta$ C = 77.16 ppm). Infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum BX spectrophotometer, *v*-max in cm<sup>-1</sup>. Optical rotations were measured on JASCO P-2000 polarimeter at 20 °C using 50 mm cell of 1mL capacity. HRMS (ESI) data were recorded on a Micromass Q-TOF Micro instrument. HPLC analysis was performed on Agilent Technologies 1260 Infinity with UV detector.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> (a) Hayashi, Y.; Koshino, S.; Ojima, K.; Kwon, E. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56*, 11812. (b) Ramachary, D. B.; Kishor, M. Org. Biomol. Chem. **2008**, *6*, 4176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Struble, J. R.; Bode, J. W. Org. Synth. 2010, 87, 362.

#### 2. General Procedure for the Optimization of Reaction Conditions



To a flame-dried screw-capped test tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the triazolium salt 4 (0.0092 g, 0.025 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl) cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (0.25 mmol) and  $\alpha$ -bromo cinnamaldehyde **1a** (0.25 mmol) were added. Then the screw-capped tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon. To this mixture was added solvent (2.0 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at 25 °C. To this mixture base (0.55 mmol) was successively added and stirred for 12 h. After 12 h of stirring, the reaction is quenched and the reaction mixture is diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mL) and filtered through a short pad of silica gel and eluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL). The solvent was evaporated to obtain the crude product, which was analyzed using <sup>1</sup>H NMR using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> (18 µL, 0.25 mmol) as the internal standard. The enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase.

#### **Optimization Studies**



entry	variation of standard conditions <sup>a</sup>	yield (%) <sup>b</sup>	dr <sup>c</sup>	eed
1	none	35	4:1	96
2	5 instead of 4	30	6:1	98
3	6 instead of 4	28	5:1	92
4	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30	4:1	98

5	DIPEA instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	17	2:1	96
6	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	33	4:1	98
7	Et <sub>3</sub> N instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	15	3:1	92
8	DMAP instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	14	2:1	98
9	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	32	4:1	98
10	DBU instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	<5	-	-
11	DABCO instead of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	<5	-	-
12	DCM instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	30	4:1	98
13	DME instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	18	4:1	96
14	THF instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	18	5:1	96
15	DCE instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	30	3:1	96
16	1,4-dioxane instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	14	3:1	98
17	CH <sub>3</sub> CN instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	19	4:1	98
18	toluene instead of CHCl <sub>3</sub>	25	3:1	98
19	48 h instead of 12h	38	5:1	96
20	Slow addition of <b>1a</b>	14	2:1	98
21e	1.2 equiv of <b>1a</b>	40	5:1	96
22 <sup>f</sup>	1.5 equiv of <b>la</b>	49	5:1	96
23 <sup>g</sup>	2 equiv of <b>1a</b>	54	5:1	96
24	1.5 equiv of <b>2a</b>	32	3:1	97
25	4 equiv of Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	43	4:1	98
26 <sup>g</sup>	0°C instead of 25°C	44	4:1	96
27 <sup>g</sup>	0°C to 25°C	50	10:1	96
28 <sup>g</sup>	45°C instead of 25°C	14	2:1	92
29 <sup>g</sup>	4 ml CHCl <sub>3</sub>	52	4:1	96
30 <sup>g</sup>	20 mol% LiOAc as additive	59	>20:1	>99
31 <sup>g</sup>	50 mol% LiCl as additive	35	4:1	98
32 <sup>g</sup>	20 mol% LiOAc & 4 Å MS as additive	61	>20:1	>99
33 <sup>g</sup>	20 mol% NaOAc & 4 Å MS as additive	56	17:1	98
34 <sup>g</sup>	20 mol% NH <sub>4</sub> OAc & 4 Å MS as additive	52	17:1	98
35 <sup>g</sup>	20 mol % LiOAc, & 4 Å MS as additive	65	>20:1	>99

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.25 mmol), **4** (10 mol %), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.2 equiv), CHCl<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mL), 25 °C, 12h. <sup>b</sup> The yields were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of crude product using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as internal standard. <sup>c</sup> Diastereomeric ratio was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy prior to purification. <sup>d</sup> Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC analysis on a chiral stationary phase. <sup>e</sup>Reaction time is 48 h and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.4 equiv). <sup>f</sup> Reaction time is 48 h and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.7 equiv). <sup>g</sup> Reaction time is 48 h and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.2 equiv) and reaction carried out using 2.0 equiv of **1a** and 3.0 ml solvent.

#### 3. General Procedure for the Enantioselective Synthesis of Tricyclic β- Lactones



To a flame-dried screw-capped test tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the triazolium salt **4** (0.0092 g, 0.025 mmol) and cyclopentane-1,3-dione derivative **2** (0.25 mmol) and 2-bromoenal **1** (0.5 mmol), LiOAc (0.05 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (100 mg) were added. Then the screw-capped tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon. To this mixture was added CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at 25 °C. To this mixture Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.8 mmol) was successively added and stirred for 48 h. After 48 h of stirring, the reaction is quenched and the solvent was evaporated, and the crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to afford the corresponding tricyclic β-lactone derivatives.

All the racemic compounds were synthesized using *N*-mesityl triazolium-derived carbene (10 mol %) under identical conditions.



Procedure for the 1.0 mmol scale synthesis of 3a



To a flame-dried screw-capped test tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the triazolium salt **4** (36.8 mg, 0.1 mmol) and cyclopentane-1,3-dione derivative **2a** (185.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 2-bromoenal **1a** (424 mg, 2.0 mmol), LiOAc (13.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 Å molecular sieves (400 mg) were added. Then the screw-capped tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon. To this mixture was added CHCl<sub>3</sub> (12 mL) under argon atmosphere. The resultant reaction mixture was kept stirring at 25 °C. To this mixture, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (339 mg, 3.2 equiv) was successively added and stirred for 48 h. After 48 h of stirring, the reaction is quenched and the solvent was evaporated, and the crude residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (Pet. ether- Et-OAc: 80:20) to afford 5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3a** as a colorless solid (193 mg, 61% yield, >99% ee and >20:1 dr).

#### 4. X-Ray Data of 3a

Compound **3a** has been crystallized from mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-Pet.ether. The chromatographically pure **3a** was taken in a 5.0 mL vial and dissolved in minimum CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Then a few drops of Pet.ether was added slowly through the walls of the vial. Slow evaporation of the solvents provided good quality crystals of **3a**. X-ray intensity data measurements of compound **3a** was carried out on a Bruker D8 VENTURE Kappa Duo PHOTON II CPAD diffractometer equipped with Incoatech multilayer mirrors optics. The intensity measurements were carried out with Cu micro-focus sealed tube diffraction source (CuK<sub> $\alpha$ </sub>= 1.54178 Å) at 100(2) K temperature. The X-ray generator was operated at 50 kV and 1.1 mA. A preliminary set of cell constants and an orientation matrix were calculated from three sets of 40 frames. Data were collected with  $\omega$ scan width of 0.5° at different settings of  $\varphi$  and  $2\theta$ with a frame time of 10 secs keeping the sample-to-detector distance fixed at 5.00 cm. The X-ray data collection was

monitored by APEX3 program (Bruker, 2016).<sup>4</sup> All the data were corrected for Lorentzian, polarization and absorption effects using SAINT and SADABS programs (Bruker, 2016).<sup>4</sup> Using APEX3 (Bruker) program suite, the structure was solved with the ShelXS-97 (Sheldrick, 2008)<sup>5</sup> structure solution program, using direct methods. The model was refined with a version of ShelXL-2013 (Sheldrick, 2015)<sup>6</sup> using Least Squares minimization. All the hydrogen atoms were placed in a geometrically idealized position and constrained to ride on its parent atoms. An *ORTEP* III<sup>6</sup> view of the compound was drawn with 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and H atoms are shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii. The absolute configuration was established by anomalous dispersion effect (Flack parameter, 0.05(3) in X-ray diffraction measurements carried out with Cu radiation. The single-crystal X-ray diffraction data analysis clearly established that the synthesize compound has *S*, *R*, *R*, *R* and *R* configurations at C1, C2, C4, C5 and C6 positions respectively.

Crystal data of **3a** C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>, M = 315.31, colorless needle, 0.21 x 0.17 x 0.09 mm<sup>3</sup>, monoclinic, chiral space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>, *a* = 7.7612(2) Å, *b* = 10.9857(3) Å, *c* = 8.7485(2) Å,  $\beta$ = 92.1780(10)°, *V* = 745.38(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 2, *T* = 100(2) K,  $2\theta_{max}$ = 149.124°, *D<sub>calc</sub>* (g cm<sup>-3</sup>) = 1.405, *F*(000) = 332,  $\mu$  (mm<sup>-1</sup>) = 0.867, 31633 reflections collected, 2920 unique reflections (*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.0391, *R<sub>sig</sub>* = 0.0187), 2918 observed (*I* > 2 $\sigma$  (*I*)) reflections, multi-scan absorption correction, *T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.867, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.926, 210 refined parameters, number of restraints = 1, Good of Fit = *S* = 1.085, *R*1 = 0.0264, *wR*2 = 0.0682 (all data *R* = 0.0264, *wR*2 = 0.0682), maximum and minimum residual electron densities;  $\Delta \rho_{max} = 0.234$ ,  $\Delta \rho_{min} = -0.141$  (eÅ<sup>-3</sup>).



ORTEP representation of the X-ray structure of **3a** (thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bruker (2016). APEX2, SAINT and SADABS. Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Sheldrick, G. M. Acta Crystallogr. 2008, A64, 112.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Sheldrick, G. M. Acta Crystallogr. 2015, C71, 3.

#### 5. Synthesis and Characterization of Cyclopentane-1,3-dione Derivatives

Following a reported procedure,<sup>2</sup> 1,3-cyclopentanedione (1.0 equiv), Hantzsch ester (1 equiv), and the corresponding aldehyde (3.0 equiv) were added to CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. To the suspension was added *L*-Proline (0.05 equiv) and the mixture stirred for the time indicated. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure followed by purified by column chromatography to provide the cyclopentane-1,3-dione derivative bearing benzyl group at 2 position as a light brown solid. Next, 2-benzylcyclopentane-1,3-dione derivatives and 2-nitroethanol (1.2 equiv), succinic anhydride (2.4 equiv) and tributylphosphine (0.3 equiv) were added and the reaction mixture and heated under reflux for 2 hours. Water was added and heating continued for a further 0.5 hours. The reaction was allowed to cool, brine added and the solution extracted with EtOAc. The organic fractions were combined, washed with brine before drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded the crude product which was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc: Pet.ether) to provide the required cyclopentane-1,3-dione derivatives.



#### 2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2u)



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(4-methoxybenzyl) cyclopentane-1,3-dione (0.6 g, 2.75 mmol) and 2-nitroethanol (0.35 g, 3.85 mmol) with succinic anhydride (0.66 g, 6.6 mmol), and tributylphosphine (0.4 ml, 0.82 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (6.0 mL) and stirring the

reaction mixture under reflux for 2 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether-EtOAc: 80:20) afforded 2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2u** as a yellow solid (515 mg, 64% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.32; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.95 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.89 (s, 2H), 2.58 (dd,  $J_1$  = 19.7 Hz,  $J_2 = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.06 (dd,  $J_1 = 19.1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.2$  Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  216.0, 159.3, 130.9, 125.6, 114.3, 70.9, 60.0, 55.3, 43.8, 36.3, 30.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> 314.0999; found 314.1005. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3005, 2964, 2920, 1722, 1611, 1555, 1417, 1301, 1251, 962.

#### 2-(4-Nitrobenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2v)



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(4-nitrobenzyl) cyclopentane-1,3-dione (0.346 g, 1.48 mmol) and 2-nitroethanol (0.189 g, 2.07 mmol) with succinic anhydride (0.355 g, 3.5 mmol), and tributylphosphine (0.2 ml, 0.44 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5.0 mL) and stirring the

reaction mixture under reflux for 2 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether-EtOAc: 80:20) afforded 2-(4-nitrobenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione 2v as a yellow solid (302 mg, 70% yield).

*R<sub>f</sub>* (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.15; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.44 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (s, 2H), 2.72 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 19.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 19.3 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  214.5, 147.7, 141.6, 131.1, 124.0, 70.5, 59.3, 42.1, 36.1, 30.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> 307.0925; found 307.0927. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3080, 2971, 2926, 1723, 1603, 1556, 1418, 1349, 1108, 963.

#### 2-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2w)



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-(furan-2-ylmethyl) cyclopentane-1,3-dione (0.402 g, 2.25 mmol) and 2-nitroethanol (0.287 g, 3.15 mmol) with succinic anhydride (0.542 g, 5.4 mmol), and tributylphosphine (0.3 ml, 0.6 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (5.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture under reflux

for 2 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded 2-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2w** as a yellow solid (472 mg, 72% yield).

*R<sub>f</sub>* (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.34; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29-7.28 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.27 (m, 1H), 6.06 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (s, 2H), 2.68 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 19.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 18.5 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  214.5, 148.3, 142.6, 111.0, 109.2, 70.7, 57.4, 35.7, 29.9. HRMS (ESI)

m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> 274.0686; found 274.0691. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3156, 3123, 2924, 1724,1555, 1426, 1386, 1320, 1188, 919.

#### 2-Methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopent-4-ene-1,3-dione (2y)



Following the literature procedure, treatment of 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl) cyclopentane-1,3-dione (0.2 g, 1.08 mmol) and  $CuBr_2$  (0.53 g, 2.37 mmol) in MeOH (8.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture under reflux for 1 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded2-methyl-

2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopent-4-ene-1,3-dione **2y** as a yellow solid (165 mg, 84% yield). **R**<sub>f</sub> (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.23; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.27 (s, 2H), 4.45-4.41 (m, 2H), 2.34-2.30 (m, 2H) 1.22 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 205.5, 147.8, 70.7, 47.7, 30.0, 18.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> 206.0424; found 206.0424. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3080, 2971, 2926, 1723, 1603, 1556, 1418, 1349, 1108, 963.

#### 2-Methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione (2z)



Following the general procedure, treatment of 2-methyl-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione (0.2 g, 6.243 mmol) and and 2-nitroethanol (0.682 g, 7.492 mmol) with succinic anhydride (1.499 g, 14.983 mmol), and tributylphosphine (0.9 ml, 1.87 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (11.0 mL) and stirring

the reaction mixture under reflux for 2 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether-EtOAc: 80:20) afforded 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione 2z as a white solid (1.08 g, 74% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.16; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.01-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.93-7.89 (m, 2H), 4.49-4.45 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.46 (m, 2H) 1.34 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  202.2, 140.4, 136.5, 124.0, 71.0, 51.2, 30.7, 19.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub> 256.0580; found 256.0586. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3434, 2976, 2932, 1708, 1596, 1554, 1428, 1383, 1186, 984.

#### 6. Synthesis and Characterization of Tricyclic β-Lactone Derivatives

# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5*a*-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete2,6 (2a*H*)-dione (3a)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3

mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3a** as a colorless solid (50 mg, 63% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.30; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  = -217.0 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 14.4 min, *Minor*: 17.3 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 4.40-4.36 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 11.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.73-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.15 (t, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H),1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.6, 167.7, 138.4, 129.7, 128.8, 127.5, 85.3, 83.0, 60.2, 50.6, 44.7, 36.0, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> 338.0999; found 338.1004. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3453, 3070, 2921, 1831, 1747, 1554, 1456, 1375, 1251, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3b)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)acrylaldehyde **1b** (127 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered

4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3b** as a orange solid (36 mg, 40% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.34; ee =>99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -223.88 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 17.7 min, *Minor*: 29.8 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.95 (d, J = 8.63 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8.54 Hz, 2H), 4.33.4.27 (m, 1H), 3.65 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.59 Hz,  $J_2$  = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (s, 6H), 2.88-2.80 (m, 1H), 2.68-2.64 (m, 2H), 2.37-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.13 (t, J = 12.98 Hz, 1H),1.24 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.9, 168.0, 150.5, 127.9, 125.4, 113.1, 85.8, 83.1, 60.6, 50.5, 44.1, 40.5, 36.0, 35.0, 30.7, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 359.1601; found 359.1598. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2923, 2805, 2327, 1830, 1747, 1555, 1522, 1371, 1220, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3c)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4methoxyphenyl)acrylaldehyde 1c (120.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione 2a (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt 4 (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8

mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3c** as a yellow solid (58 mg, 67% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.40; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -164.32 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 18.2 min, *Minor*: 24.4 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.03 (d, J = 8.65 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.58 Hz, 2H), 4.34-4.28 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s,3H), 3.70 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.86$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.96$  Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 6.90 Hz, 1H) 2.88-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, J = 13.12 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.6, 167.6, 159.6, 130.0 128.2, 114.9, 85.5, 82.9, 60.3, 55.3, 50.4, 44.1, 35.8, 34.8, 30.5, 19.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> 346.1285; found 346.1286. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3469, 2978, 2924, 1836, 1745, 1553, 1458, 1376, 1257, 981.

#### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(*p*-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3d)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(p-tolyl)acrylaldehyde **1d** (112.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in

CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-(*p*-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a, 4-b]oxete-2, 6(2a*H*)-dione **3d** as a white solid (54 mg, 65% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.37; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -218.68 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 14.8 min, *Minor*: 18.7 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.13 (d,*J* = 7.8 Hz,2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.37-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.72 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 11.9 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.32 (m, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.14 (t, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H),1.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.8, 167.8, 138.6, 135.3, 130.3, 127.1, 85.4, 83.0, 60.3, 50.5, 44.4, 36.0, 34.8, 30.6, 21.2, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 384.1418; found 384.1425. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3024, 2922, 2327, 1834, 1745, 1554, 1456, 1375, 1249, 982.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3e)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4bromophenyl)acrylaldehyde**1e** (144.9 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in

CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-

5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3e** as a yellow solid (52 mg, 52% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.27; ee = 90%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -92.12 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). **HPLC** (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 20.4 min, *Minor*: 31.8 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.47 (d, J = 8.32 Hz,2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.73 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.5, 167.4, 137.2, 132.9, 128.9, 122.9, 84.8, 83.0, 59.9, 50.5, 44.2, 35.9, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNNaO<sub>6</sub> 448.0366; found 448.0375. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3025, 2923, 1832, 1749, 1555, 1491, 1375, 1251, 1105, 981.

## (2*aR*,3*S*,4*R*,5*aR*,8*aR*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione (3f)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylaldehyde **1f** (122.7 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol),

LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **3f** as a colorless solid (49.8 mg, 57% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.25; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -164.4 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 19.2 min, *Minor*: 29.2 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.75 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7.0$  Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H),1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.5, 167.4, 136.7, 134.8, 129.9, 128.6, 85.0, 83.0, 60.0, 50.5, 44.2, 35.9, 34.8, 30.6, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using

MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClNNaO<sub>6</sub> 404.0871; found 404.0869. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3027, 2961, 2921, 1832, 1749, 1555, 1457, 1373, 1249, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3g)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylaldehyde **1g** (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0

mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a, 4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3g** as a white solid (48 mg, 58% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.26; ee = 99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -124.76 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 19.4 min, *Minor*: 27.1 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 2H), 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.75 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.98$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.95$  Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 7.03 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.27 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, J = 12.76 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.6, 167.6, 162.6 (d, J = 248.5 Hz), 134.0 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 129.0 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 116.8 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 85.2, 83.0, 60.1, 50.5, 44.2, 35.9, 34.8, 30.6, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FNNaO<sub>6</sub> 388.1167; found 388.1174. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3419, 2960, 2922, 1831, 1748, 1555, 1458, 1375, 1223, 981.

#### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3h)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylaldehyde **1h** (139.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8

mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash

column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-5a-methyl-4nitro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3h** as a colorless solid (44 mg, 46% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.30; ee = 86%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -122.92 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 13.8 min, *Minor*: 21.6 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H), 4.43-4.37 (m, 1H), 3.85 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.91-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.77-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.16 (t, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H),1.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.5, 167.3, 142.2, 131.1 (q, J = 33.4 Hz), 127.8, 126.7 (q, J = 3.86 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 272.3 Hz), 84.6, 83.0, 59.8, 50.6, 44.5, 35.8, 34.8, 30.6, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+K]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>F<sub>3</sub>KNO<sub>6</sub> 454.0874; found 454.0870. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3453, 3070, 2921, 1831, 1747, 1554, 1456, 1375, 1251, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3i)

Following the general procedure, treatment of (Z)-2-bromo-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)acrylaldehyde**1i** (120.5 mg,0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4**(9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc



(3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(2-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3i** as a yellow solid (62 mg, 71%)

vield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.40; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -127.68 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 11.8 min, *Minor*: 14.4 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.88 (m, 2H), 4.80-4.73 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.75 (d, J = 6.10 Hz,1H), 3.64 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.43$ ,  $J_2 = 6.07$  1H), 2.87-2.80 (m, 1H), 2.68-2.59 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.09 (t, J = 13.10 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  214.1, 169.1, 156.2, 131.8, 130.4, 125.2, 121.8, 111.9, 83.3, 83.1, 58.6, 55.5, 50.5, 43.9, 35.5, 34.3, 30.4, 19.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> 346.1285; found 346.1282. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2959, 2921,2844, 1832, 1749, 1555, 1460, 1375, 1246, 982.

# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(o-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3j)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(o-tolyl)acrylaldehyde **1j** (112.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0

mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-(o-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a, 4-b]oxete-2, 6(2a*H*)-dione **3j** as a colorless solid (54 mg, 65% yield).

*R<sub>f</sub>* (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.35; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -219.3 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 20.5 min, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20-7.15 (m, 3H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.48-4.41 (m, 1H), 4.19-4.11 (m, 1H), 3.52 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.74-2.59 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.17 (t, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H),1.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.8, 167.8, 134.6, 131.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.4, 114.1, 85.38, 82.9, 61.0, 50.6, 39.6, 36.0, 35.0, 30.6, 19.6, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NKO<sub>6</sub> 400.1157; found 400.1158. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3022, 2975, 2925, 1831, 1749, 1556, 1459, 1375, 1252, 982.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3k)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(2-fluorophenyl)acrylaldehyde 1k (114.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione 2a (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt 4 (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL)

and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno [3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3k** as a white solid (35 mg, 45% yield). *R<sub>f</sub>* (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.27; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -115.80 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). **HPLC** (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 11.3 min, *Minor*: 13.3 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.333-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.52-4.46 (m, 1H), 3.77-3.72 (m, 2H), 2.85-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.64 (m, 2H), 2.53-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.09 (t, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.8, 168.1, 160.5 (d, *J* = 243.9 Hz), 131.6 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 125.7 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 125.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 116.6 (d, *J* = 20.9 Hz), 84.3, 83.6, 58.9, 50.7, 41.7, 35.5, 34.2, 30.3, 19.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FNNaO<sub>6</sub> 388.1167; found 388.1173. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2975, 2925, 1834, 1749, 1557, 1457, 1374, 1248, 983.

#### (2*aR*,3*S*,4*R*,5*aR*,8*aR*)-3-(3-Bromophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione (31)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(3-bromophenyl)acrylaldehyde **2l** (144.9 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL)

and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(3-bromophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexa hydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-*b*]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **31** as a white solid (50 mg, 51% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.26; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -159.48 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 13.9 min, *Minor*: 15.8 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.37-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.74 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.40.2.31 (m, 2H), 2.13 (t, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H),1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.4, 168.9, 140.5, 132.1, 131.3, 130.2, 126.1, 123.7, 84.8, 83.0, 59.9, 50.6, 44.3, 35.9, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of

corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrNNaO<sub>6</sub> 448.0366; found 448.0367. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3023, 2925, 1831, 1748, 1553, 1490, 1374, 1251, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3Chlorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3m)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(3-chlorophenyl)acrylaldehyde 1m (122.7 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione 2a (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt 4 (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0

mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4-*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione **3m** as a white solid (38 mg, 44% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.24; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -61.36 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 13.0 min, *Minor*: 14.9 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.03-7.00 (m, 1H), 4.37-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.75 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.55 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.92-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.75-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.28 (m, 2H), 2.14 (t, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.4, 167.3, 140.3, 135.6, 131.1, 129.1, 127.3, 125.6, 84.9, 83.0, 60.0, 50.6, 44.3, 35.9, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClNNaO<sub>6</sub> 404.0871; found 404.0874. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3026, 2961, 2921, 1831, 1749, 1555, 1457, 1374, 1212, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3n)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(3,4dichlorophenyl)acrylaldehyde **1n** (140.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(3,4-dichloro phenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3n** as a yellow solid (44 mg, 46% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.28; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -101.56 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 14.6 min, *Minor*: 21.2 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.98 (m, 1H) 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.73 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.91-2.83 (m, 1H), 2.76-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.39-2.30 (m, 2H), 2.13 (t, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H),1.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.5, 167.3, 138.2, 133.8, 133.2, 131.7, 129.2, 126.7, 84.5, 83.0, 59.6, 50.5, 44.0, 35.8, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 438.0482; found 438.0486. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3026, 2978, 2926, 1832, 1749, 1556, 1470, 1375, 1251, 982.

#### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3-Bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3o)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)acrylaldehyde **10** (159.9 mg,0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS

(100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-3-(3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a, 4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **30** as a yellow solid (56.3 mg, 53% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.41; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -168.35 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 21.6 min, *Minor*: 27.6 min

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  7.28 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.33-4.26 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.66 (dd,  $J_1$  = 11.9 Hz,  $J_2$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H) 2.89-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.62 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.12 (t, J= 12.9 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  213.7, 167.6, 156.1, 131.6, 131.4, 128.1, 112.8, 111.4, 85.2, 83.1, 60.0, 54.1, 50.5, 43.9, 35.9, 34.9, 30.6, 19.3. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrNNaO<sub>7</sub> 478.0472; found 478.0475. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3469, 2976, 2923, 1834, 1745, 1552, 1457, 1375, 1255, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3p)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylaldehyde **1p** (130.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0

mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4-*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione **3p** as a white solid (49 mg, 54% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.34; ee = 99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -171.92 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 18.8 min, *Minor*: 26.1 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84-7.77 (m, 3H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.66 Hz, 1H), 4.54-4.48 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, J = 6.77 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.76-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.32 (m, 2H), 2.20 (t, J = 12.89 Hz, 1H),1.27 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.8, 167.8, 135.3, 133.4, 133.1, 130.0, 128.1, 127.9, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 123.7, 85.1, 83.1, 60.0, 50.6, 44.9, 36.0, 34.8, 30.6, 19.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 420.1418; found 420.1423. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3023, 2977, 2925, 1832, 1749, 1556, 1456, 1376, 1281, 982.

## (2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(Furan-2-yl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3q)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (Z)-2-bromo-3-(furan-2-yl)acrylaldehyde **1q** (100.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-

nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3R,4R,5aR,8aR)-3-(furan-2-yl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **3q** as a white solid (40 mg, 52% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.37; ee = 96%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -199.52 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 19.4 min, *Minor*: 23.8 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34 (s, 1H), 6.29-6.27 (m, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 3.34 Hz, 1H), 4.39-4.33 (m, 1H), 3.97 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.1$  Hz,  $J_2 = 5.3$  Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, J = 5.31 Hz, 1H), 2.86-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.67-2.63 (m, 2H), 2.41-2.37 (m, 2H), 2.09 (t, J = 13.04 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.5, 167.5, 149.7, 143.4, 111.0, 109.0, 83.5, 83.0, 56.6, 50.4, 37.2, 36.0, 33.6, 30.4, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 328.0792; found 328.0786. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3120, 3067, 2923, 1831, 1750, 1557, 1453, 1338, 1246, 987.

# (2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3r)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(thiophen-2-yl)acrylaldehyde 1r (108.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione 2a (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt 4 (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0

mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR, 3R, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a, 4-b]oxete-2, 6(2a*H*)-dione **3r** as a white solid (37 mg, 45% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.26; ee = 98%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -221.08 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 22.2 min, *Minor*: 26.9 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.92-6.90 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.37 (m, 1H), 4.16 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.66$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.17$  Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, J = 6.02 Hz, 1H), 2.89-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.70-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.31 (m, 2H), 2.12 (t, J = 13.10 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

**CDCl<sub>3</sub>**) δ 213.4, 167.2, 141.4, 127.8, 126.8, 126.0, 86.4, 83.2, 60.7, 50.4, 39.6, 36.0, 34.5, 30.5, 19.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub>S 376.0825; found 376.0830. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3451, 2978, 2924, 1831, 1748, 1556, 1457, 1375, 1124, 981.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-3-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3s)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-(thiophen-3-yl)acrylaldehyde **1s** (108.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2a** (46.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3

mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2aR, 3S, 4R, 5aR, 8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-3-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno [3a, 4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **3s** as a colorless solid (33 mg, 42% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.25; ee = 98%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -167.76 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IC, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 20.8 min, *Minor*: 22.7 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.40-4.34 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.55 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.90-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.36-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.12 (t, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.6, 167.7, 138.7, 128.3, 125.2, 122.8, 85.0, 83.0, 59.7, 50.4, 39.8, 35.9, 34.9, 30.6, 19.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub>S 376.0825; found 376.0830. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3106, 2977, 2923, 1831, 1749, 1556, 1458, 1375, 1209, 982.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Benzyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3t)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-benzyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2t** (65.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3

mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 50 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-benzyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione **3t** as a white solid (37 mg, 38% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.25; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -232.96 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 11.6 min, *Minor*: 16.1 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 4H), 4.37-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd,  $J_1 = 13.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.46-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.13 (m, 2H), 2.10-1.97 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  214.2, 167.9, 138.2, 134.2, 130.7, 129.7, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 126.7, 85.2, 83.4, 62.2, 55.6, 44.7, 40.9, 36.8, 35.1, 31.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 446.1574; found 446.1581. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3065,3031, 2922, 1825, 1747, 1557, 1495, 1375, 1210, 989.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3u)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2u** (72.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 50 °C for 48 h

followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-(4-methoxybenzyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2H-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2aH)-dione**3u**as a white solid (42 mg, 40% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.36; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -112.24 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 15.4 min, *Minor*: 21.4 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.08 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H) 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.74 (m, 4H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 13.4 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.38 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.14 (m,

2H), 2.10-1.99 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 214.5, 168.0, 159.3, 138.3, 131.8, 129.7, 128.7, 127.2, 126.0, 114.1, 85.2, 83.5, 62.2, 55.7, 55.4, 44.7, 40.3, 36.9, 35.2, 31.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NNaO<sub>7</sub> 476.1680; found 476.1685. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3067, 3031, 2917, 1832, 1746, 1512, 1449, 1374, 1251, 988.

#### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-4-Nitro-5a-(4-nitrobenzyl)-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3v)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-(4-nitrobenzyl)-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2v** (76.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 50 °C for 48 h followed by flash

column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-4-nitro-5a-(4-nitrobenzyl)-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6 (2a*H*)-dione **3v** as a white solid (56 mg, 51% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.2; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -149.6 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). **HPLC** (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*:32.2.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.16 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 5H),7.12-7.10 (m, 2H), 4.36-4.29 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (d, J =13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H),2.67 (dd,  $J_1 = 13.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 2.55-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.19 (m, 3H), 2.07-1.98 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 213.5, 167.3, 147.7, 141.8, 137.9, 131.8, 129.8, 128.9, 127.1, 123.9, 84.9, 82.9, 62.2, 55.3, 44.6, 40.1, 36.7, 35.0, 31.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>8</sub> 491.1425; found 491.1430. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3029, 2925, 1833, 1748, 1557, 1521, 1377, 1347, 1211 989.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*S*,8a*R*)-5a-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3w)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2w** (62.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 50 °C for 48 h followed

by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded(2aR,3S,4R,5aS,8aR)-5a-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H* indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3w** as a white solid (38 mg, 40% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.26; ee = 98%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -176.96 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 14.4 min, *Minor*: 19.4 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 6.17-6.16 (m, 1H), 4.37-4.31 (m, 1H), 3.76 (dd,  $J_1 = 12.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1H), 2.75-2.65 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.16 (m, 3H), 2.07-1.97 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 213.1, 167.8, 148.6, 142.4, 138.2, 129.7, 128.8, 127.2, 111.0, 110.1, 85.1, 82.9, 61.8, 53.9, 44.7, 36.6, 34.7, 33.3, 31.2. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for (mass of corresponding ring-opened product using MeOH) C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>7</sub> 414.1547; found 414.1552. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3479, 3120, 2923, 1831, 1750, 1557, 1453, 1375, 1211, 987.

# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Cinnamyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3x)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-cinnamyl-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione **2x** (71.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 50 °C for 48 h followed by flash

column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-cinnamyl-

4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3x) as a white solid (47 mg, 45% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.32; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -240.96 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak OD-H, 85:15 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 24.0 min, *Minor*: 48.1 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.48 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.13-6.03 (m, 1H), 4.41-4.34 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.9$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.72 (m, 3H), 2.63-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.37-2.32 (m, 2H), 2.15 (t, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.36, 167.67, 138.28, 136.41, 135.89, 129.72, 128.82, 128.46, 128.14, 127.17, 126.52, 121.40, 85.32, 83.21, 61.55, 54.46, 44.63, 37.43, 36.40, 34.12, 31.51. HRMS (ESI) calculated [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> 440.1468; found 440.1476. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3063,3033, 2925, 1827, 1745, 1555, 1493, 1374, 1211, 989.

## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenyl-3,4,5,5a-tetrahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3y)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2nitroethyl)cyclopent-4-ene-1,3-dione **2y** (45.79 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS (100 mg) in

CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by flash column chromatography (Pet. ether- EtOAc: 80:20) afforded (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenyl-3,4,5,5a-tetrahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione **3y** as a white solid (47 mg, 60% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.28; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -370.40 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 17.1 min, *Minor*: 25.1 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, J = 5.78 Hz,1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 6.96 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.37-4.31 (m, 1H), 3.92 (d, J = 7.33 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd,  $J_1 = 11.62$  Hz,  $J_2 = 7.31$  Hz, 1H), 2.91-2.87 (m, 1H), 2.23 (t, J = 13.27 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  204.4, 166.6, 158.4, 137.7, 135.1, 129.7, 128.8, 127.3, 85.07, 81.9, 60.0, 49.8, 44.8, 35.0, 22.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NNaO<sub>5</sub> 336.0842; found 336.0840. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3068, 3029, 2924, 1836, 1725, 1554, 1454, 1340, 1109, 910.

# Methyl (2*R*,3*S*,4*R*,4*aS*,9*aR*)-4*a*-hydroxy-9*a*-methyl-2-nitro-9-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3,4,4*a*,9,9*a*-hexahydro-1*H*-fluorene-4-carboxylate (3*z*)



Following the general procedure, treatment of (*Z*)-2-bromo-3-phenylacrylaldehyde **1a** (106.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 2-methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione **2z** (58.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) with triazolium salt **4** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (84.7 mg, 0.8 mmol), LiOAc (3.3 mg, 0.05 mmol), and activated powdered 4Å MS

(100 mg) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL) and stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 48 h followed by treatment of 1.0 mL of Et<sub>3</sub>N in methanol (1.0 mL) and stirred at 30 °C for 24 h under argon atmosphere. Evaporation of the solvent followed by silica gel flash column chromatography afforded methyl (2R,3S,4R,4aS,9aR)-4a-hydroxy-9a-methyl-2-nitro-9-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3,4,4a,9, 9a-hexahydro-1H-fluorene-4-carboxylate 3z as a white solid (54 mg, 55% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.45; ee = >99%, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup>= -131.72 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (ChiralpakIA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Minor*: 11.5 min, *Major*: 17.5 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.6 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 2H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 4.87-4.80 (m, 1H), 3.79 (t, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.02 (dd,  $J_1 = 13.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.44-2.36 (m, 2H), 1.22 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  203.0, 173.5, 154.8, 135.1, 135.0, 132.8, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.0, 124.8, 122.8, 86.9, 58.8, 57.5, 52.2, 45.3, 33.2, 24.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 418.1261; found 418.1267. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3433, 3032, 2929, 1713, 1747, 1554, 1440, 1377, 1219, 966.

#### 7. Functionalization of Tricyclic β-Lactones

## Methyl (3a*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*indene-4-carboxylate (7)



An oven-dried round-bottomed flask was charged with (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2H-

indeno[3a,4-b]oxete2,6(2a*H*)-dione (**3a**)(63.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1.0 mL of Et<sub>3</sub>N in methanol (1.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 30 °C for

24 h under argon atmosphere. Evaporation of the solvent followed by silica gel flash column

chromatography afforded methyl(3aR, 4R, 5S, 6R, 7aR)-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*-indene-4-carboxylate 7as a yellow solid (65 mg, 94% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.45; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -77.44 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 15.5 min, *Minor*: 21.4 min.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.72-4.64 (m, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 3.70 (t, J = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 2.72-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.47 (d, J = 12.3 Hz,1H), 2.39-2.16 (m, 3H), 1.88-1.82 (m,1H), 1.19 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  215.2, 173.3, 135.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.9, 86.4, 76.4, 54.2, 53.0, 52.3, 44.8, 34.2, 32.8, 30.8, 19.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NNaO<sub>6</sub> 370.1261; found 370.1268. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3471, 3032, 2925, 1831, 1745, 1554, 1439, 1376, 1285, 1071, 942.

#### (3a*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-*N*-Benzyl-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*indene-4-carboxamide (8)



To a dry Schlenk tube containing compound (2aR,3S,4R,5aR,8aR)-5*a*methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete2,6(2a*H*)-dione **(3a)** (40.0 mg, 0.125 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added benzylamine (28.0  $\mu$ L, 0.25 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was allowed to

stir 48 h. Then the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/EtOAc (2:1) to afford the (3aR, 4R, 5S, 6R, 7aR)-N-benzyl-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1H-

indene-4-carboxamide (8) as a yellow solid (44.3 mg, 84% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.52; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -118.0 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 80:20 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 8.7 min, *Minor*: 11.5 min,

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.28-7.13 (m, 6H), 7.06 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 5.77 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.73-4.66 (m, 1H), 4.07 (dd,  $J_1 = 14.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 6.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd,  $J_1 = 14.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.78 (t, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.72-2.51 (m, 2H), 2.26-2.13 (m, 3H), 2.05 (d, J = 11.9 Hz,1H), 1.96-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.17 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  216.1, 171.7, 136.5, 136.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 86.5, 76.8, 54.2, 53.2, 44.8, 43.7, 34.2, 32.7, 30.7, 19.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 423.1914; found 423.1918. FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3329, 3031, 2927, 1743, 1632, 1554, 1457, 1374, 1220, 1084, 947.

#### (5S,6R,7aR)-7a-Methyl-6-nitro-5-phenyl-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydro-1H-inden-1-one (9)



An oven-dried round-bottomed flask was charged with (2aR,3S,4R, 5aR,8aR)-5a-methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4-*b*]oxete2,6 (2*aH*)-dione (**3a**) (40.0 mg, 0.125 mmol) and 200 mg of silica in toluene (2.0 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 6 h under argon

atmosphere. Upon consumption of the starting material (**3a**) (TLC), the crude reaction mixture was passed through Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to get a sufficiently pure (5S,6R,7aR)-7*a*-methyl-6-nitro-5-phenyl-2,3,5,6,7,7*a*-hexahydro-1*H*-inden-1-one (**9**) as a yellow solid (29 mg, 87% yield).

 $R_f$  (Pet. ether /EtOAc = 80/20): 0.15; ee = >99%,  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = -501.72 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HPLC (Chiralpak IA, 90:10 Hexane / IPA, 1.0 mL/min) *Major*: 7.4 min, *Minor*: 8.2 min,

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 7.34-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 2H), 5.68-5.67 (m, 1H), 4.40-4.34 (m, 1H), 4.07-4.04 (m, 1H), 2.86-2.80 (m,1H), 2.76-2.61 (m, 3H), 2.39-2.29 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 215.0, 143.1, 140.9, 140.2, 129.1, 128.0, 122.2, 88.0, 48.8, 44.6, 36.3, 32.6, 26.0, 23.6. **HRMS (ESI)** m/z: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>3</sub> 294.1101; found 294.1107. **FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** 3031, 2970, 2927, 2851, 1745, 1549, 1453, 1373, 1260, 1059, 973.

# 8. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of Cyclopentane-1,3-dione Derivatives

2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2u)





#### 2-(4-Nitrobenzyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2v)



2-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopentane-1,3-dione (2w)



2-Methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)cyclopent-4-ene-1,3-dione (2y)



## 2-Methyl-2-(2-nitroethyl)-1*H*-indene-1,3(2*H*)-dione (2z)

## 9. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of Tricyclic β-Lactone Derivatives

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5*a*-Methyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3a)


2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3b)





(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3c)

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(p-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3d)













(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3g)

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)hexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3h)





120 110 100 f1 (ppm)

130

140

80

70 60 50

40

30 20

90

O<sub>2</sub>N

210

200

190 180 170 160

3i, 100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>

Me∬ O

> . 150

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3i)

10

0



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(o-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3j)







(2*aR*,3*S*,4*R*,5*aR*,8*aR*)-3-(3-Bromophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione (31)







(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3n)

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3-Bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3o)





(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3p)

(2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(Furan-2-yl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3q)



(2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3r)





(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-3-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3s)



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Benzyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3t)



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3u)



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-4-Nitro-5a-(4-nitrobenzyl)-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3v)







(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Cinnamyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3x)





Methyl (2*R*,3*S*,4*R*,4a*S*,9a*R*)-4a-hydroxy-9a-methyl-2-nitro-9-oxo-3-phenyl-2,3,4,4a,9,9ahexahydro-1*H*-fluorene-4-carboxylate (3z)



Methyl (3a*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*indene-4-carboxylate (7)



(3a*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-*N*-Benzyl-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*indene-4-carboxamide (8)





(5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-7a-Methyl-6-nitro-5-phenyl-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydro-1*H*-inden-1-one (9)

## 10. HPLC data of Tricyclic β-Lactone Derivatives









(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3c)



## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(p-tolyl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3d)



Sample Info : CHIRALPAK IA, 10% IPA-HEXANE, 1.0mL -min, 220 nm



## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Bromophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3e)



## (2*aR*,3*S*,4*R*,5*aR*,8*aR*)-3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione (3f)



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3g)






13.76818 6.42070e-1

: CHIRALPAK IA, 10% IPA-HEXANE, 1.0mL -min, 220 nm

0.3457

2 14.431 MM

Sample Info

0.3574

(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3i)







### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(2-Fluorophenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3k)





(2*aR*,3*S*,4*R*,5*aR*,8*aR*)-3-(3-Bromophenyl)-5*a*-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3*a*,4*b*]oxete-2,6(2*aH*)-dione (31)









(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(3-Bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3o)



Sample Info : CHIRALPAK IA, 10%IPA-Hexane, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm

# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3p)



(2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-3-(Furan-2-yl)-5a-methyl-4-nitrohexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3q)





(2a*R*,3*R*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-2-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3r)



## (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Methyl-4-nitro-3-(thiophen-3-yl)hexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3s)







# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3u)



(2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-4-Nitro-5a-(4-nitrobenzyl)-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3v)

Sample Info

: CHIRALPAK OD-H, 20 % IPA-HEXANE, 1 mL -min, 254 nm



# (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*S*,8a*R*)-5a-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3w)

#### (2a*R*,3*S*,4*R*,5a*R*,8a*R*)-5a-Cinnamyl-4-nitro-3-phenylhexahydro-2*H*-indeno[3a,4-b]oxete-2,6(2a*H*)-dione (3x)















# (3a*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*R*,7a*R*)-N-Benzyl-3a-hydroxy-7a-methyl-6-nitro-1-oxo-5-phenyloctahydro-1*H*-indene-4-carboxamide (8)





(5S,6R,7aR)-7a-Methyl-6-nitro-5-phenyl-2,3,5,6,7,7a-hexahydro-1H-inden-1-one (9)