

Supporting Information

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Palladium-Catalyzed **g**Arylation of **a**,**b**-Unsaturated Ketones: Application to a One-Pot Synthesis of Tricyclic Indolines

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Reagents

Toluene and THF were purchased from J.T. Baker in CYCLE-TAINER solvent-deliver kegs and vigorously purged with argon for 2 h. The solvents were further purified by passing them under argon pressure through two packed columns of neutral alumina and copper(II) oxide. Anhydrous dioxane was purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Pd₂(dba)₃, dppe, and dippf were purchased from Strem Chemicals. (R)-SEGPHOS and (R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS were received as gifts from Takasago. Pd(OAc)₂ was obtained as a gift from BASF. Cs_2CO_3 was obtained as a gift from Chemetall and the bulk of the material was stored in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. Periodically, a scintillation vial containing ~10g of Cs₂CO₃ was removed from the glovebox and stored in a desicator over anhydrous CaSO₄. K₂CO₃ was purchased from Aldrich and the bulk of the material was stored in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. Periodically, a scintillation vial containing ~10g of K₂CO₃ was removed from the glovebox and stored in a desicator over anhydrous CaSO₄. K₃PO₄ was purchased from Riedel-de Haën and stored outside the glovebox. 4methylanisole was purchased from Aldrich, 3,4-dimethylanisole was purchased from Acros, and 4-n-propylanisole was purchased from Pfaltz and Bauer and all were used as received. All other commercially available reagents were used as received except for α , β -unsaturated ketone (4) which was distilled prior to use. All ketones were stored under argon in a refrigerator at 5 °C.

Analytical Methods

All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova 500 MHz NMR. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with solvent as the internal standard (¹H CDCl₃: δ 7.27; ¹³C CDCl₃: δ 77.16). Gas chromatographic analysis was performed on an Agilent 6890 system equipped with an FID detector and a Hewlett-Packard 10 m x 0.2 mm HP-1 capillary column using dodecane as an internal standard. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 2000 FT-IR system using KBr plates coated with a thin film of the analyte. Elemental analyses were performed by Atlantic Microlabs Inc.; Norcross, GA. Melting points (uncorrected) were obtained using a Mel-Temp capillary melting point apparatus. Enantiomeric excess was measured with a Hewlett-Packard 1100 HPLC system using a Chiralcel OJ column (25 cm x 0.46 cm). Optical rotations were measured with a JASCO P-1010 Polarimeter. Single crystal X-ray analysis was performed at UCSD with a Bruker Kappa APEXII X-ray diffractometer using a copper source.

General Procedure A for the Arylation of **a**,**b** and **b**,**g**Unsaturated Ketones at the **g** Position:

A culture tube (18 x 150mm, VWR) equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), and Cs_2CO_3 (489 mg, 1.50 mmol). The tube was then sealed with an inverted 14/20 rubber septum and electrical tape. A needle was next inserted and the tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon; this process was repeated three times. The aryl bromide (1.0 mmol) was then added by syringe, followed by a solution of the ketone (1.4 mmol) in toluene (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C in an oil bath for 8 h. Following this, the reaction vial was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (~ 4 mL). This mixture was then filtered through a pad of celite (eluted with ethyl acetate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a Biotage SP-4 system (25+S cartridge).

General Procedure B for the One-Pot Synthesis of Ketoindolines:

A culture tube (18 x 150mm, VWR) equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar was charged with $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), and Cs_2CO_3 (816 mg, 2.50 mmol). The tube was then sealed with an inverted 14/20 rubber septum and electrical tape. A needle was next inserted and the tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon; this process was repeated three times. The *o*-bromoaniline (1.0 mmol) was then added by syringe if a liquid, or if it was if a solid, added with the other solids prior to sealing the tube. This was followed by addition by syringe of a solution of the ketone (1.4 mmol) in toluene (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C in an oil bath for 8 h. Following this, the reaction vial was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (~ 4 mL). This mixture was then filtered through a pad of celite (rinsed with ethyl acetate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a Biotage SP-4 system (25+S cartridge).

General Procedure C for the Asymmetric Synthesis of Ketoindolines:

A culture tube (18 x 150mm, VWR) equipped with a Teflon-coated magnetic stir bar was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), (R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (47 mg, 0.040 mmol), and K_3PO_4 (531 mg, 2.50 mmol). The tube was then sealed with an inverted 14/20 rubber septum and electrical tape. A needle was next inserted and the tube was evacuated and backfilled with argon; this procedure was repeated three times. The *o*-bromoaniline (1.0 mmol) was then added by syringe if a liquid, or if it was if a solid, added with the other solids prior to sealing the tube. This was followed by addition by syringe of a solution of the ketone (1.4 mmol) in toluene (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C in an oil bath for 8 h. Following this, the reaction vial was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (~ 4 mL). This mixture was then filtered through a pad of celite (rinsed with ethyl acetate) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using a Biotage SP-4 system (25+S cartridge).



4-methyl-4-phenylcyclohex-2-enone (Table 2, entry 1): General procedure A was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone¹ (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), bromobenzene (157 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-15% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 87% yield (161 mg) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.38-7.34 (4H, m), 7.28-7.25 (1H, m), 6.94 (1H, d, *J*=10.0Hz), 6.13 (1H, d, *J*=10.0Hz), 2.44-2.38 (1H, m), 2.32-2.24 (2H, m), 2.18-2.12 (1H, m), 1.57 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 199.53, 157.19, 145.28, 128.66, 128.58, 126.81, 126.20, 40.62, 38.13, 34.66, 27.64. IR (KBr plates): 3085, 3058, 3024, 2964, 2869, 1683, 1600, 1222, 1110 cm⁻¹.

4-methyl-4-phenylcyclohex-2-enone (Table 2, entry 2): General procedure A was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-2-enone² (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), bromobenzene (157 mg, 1.00 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-15% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 68% yield (126 mg) as a colorless oil. The ¹H NMR and GC spectra matched the data for the above compound.



4-(3-ethanoylphenyl)-4-methylcyclohex-2-enone (Table 2, entry 3): General procedure A was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), 3'-bromoacetophenone (199 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0%-35% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 80% yield (182 mg) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.91 (1H, s), 7.90 (1H, d, *J*=7.5Hz), 7.51 (1H, d, *J*=8.0Hz), 7.41 (1H, t, *J*=7.5Hz), 6.91 (1H, d, *J*=10.5Hz), 6.09 (1H, d, *J*=11.0Hz), 2.55 (3H, s), 2.39-2.34 (1H, m), 2.26-2.10 (3H, m), 1.54 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 198.86, 197.91, 156.22, 146.11, 137.34, 130.91, 128.84, 127.06, 125.52, 40.55, 37.88, 34.45, 27.51, 26.67. IR (KBr plates): 3027, 2964, 2869, 1684, 1598, 1582, 1426, 1358, 1273, 1232, 1113, 808 cm⁻¹.



(*E*)-4-(but-2-en-2-yl)-4-methylcyclohex-2-enone (Table 2, entry 5): General procedure A was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), (*E*)-2-bromo-2-butene (135 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and 3:1 dioxane/THF (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-20% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 66% yield (109 mg) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.00 (1H, d, *J*=10.5Hz) 5.88 (1H, dd, *J*=11, 3Hz) 5.36 (1H, q, *J*=7.5Hz) 2.43 (2H, m) 2.22 (1H, m) 1.91 (1H, m) 1.72 (3H, s) 1.62 (3H, d, *J*=7.5Hz) 1.28 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 199.82, 160.82, 138.98, 126.26, 122.65, 40.64, 34.72, 34.56, 25.25, 23.35, 15.55. IR (KBr plates): 3023, 2968, 2866, 1684, 1456, 1380, 1233, 1112, 804 cm⁻¹.



4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dimethylcyclohex-2-enone (Table 2, entry 4): General procedure A was followed using 3,4-dimethylcyclohex-3-enone³ (174 mg, 1.40 mmol), 4-bromoanisole (187 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-30% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 61% yield (141 mg) as a white solid, m.p. = 67-70 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.19 (2H, m), 6.88 (2H, m), 6.07 (1H, d, *J*=1.5 Hz), 3.80 (3H, s), 2.35 (1H, m), 2.23 (1H, m), 2.09 (2H, m), 1.83 (3H, d, *J*=1.0 Hz), 1.57 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 199.50, 166.78, 158.30, 136.17, 128.71, 127.61, 113.91, 55.31, 43.37, 39.90, 34.48, 25.36, 21.23. IR (KBr plates): 2951, 1670, 1653, 1506, 1030 cm⁻¹.



(*E*)-ethyl 4-(2-methyl-5-oxohex-3-en-2-yl)benzoate (Table 2, entry 6): General procedure A was followed using (*E*)-5-methylhex-3-en-2-one (157 mg, 1.40 mmol), ethyl 4-bromobenzoate (229 mg, 1.00 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppe (16 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-25% gradient of ethyl acetate in

hexanes to provide the title compound in a 52% yield (134 mg) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.98 (2H, d, *J*=6.5Hz), 7.34 (2H, d, *J*=6.5Hz), 6.89 (1H, d, *J*=16.5Hz), 6.06 (1H, d, *J*=16.0Hz), 4.34 (2H, q, *J*=7.0 Hz), 2.25 (3H, s), 1.47 (6H, s), 1.36 (3H, t, *J*=7.0 Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz CDCl₃) δ : 198.90, 166.34, 155.18, 151.57, 129.76, 128.79, 127.81, 126.17, 60.93, 41.33, 27.76, 27.32, 14.37. IR (KBr plates): 3044, 2975, 2935, 1718, 1678, 1608, 1366, 1286, 1188, 1113, 1021, 857, 775, 708 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₀O₃: C, 73.82; H, 7.74. Found: C, 73.75; H, 7.70.

(*E*)-5-methyl-5-*o*-tolylhex-3-en-2-one (Table 2, entry 7): General procedure A was followed using (*E*)-5-methylhex-3-en-2-one (157 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromotoluene (171 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), dppb (17 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (489 mg, 1.50 mmol), and dioxane (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-20% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 70% yield (142 mg) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ : 7.39 (1H, dd, *J*=6.5, 2.0Hz), 7.22-7.15 (3H, m), 7.07 (1H, d, *J*=16.5Hz), 6.04 (1H, d, *J*=16.5Hz), 2.32 (3H, s), 2.26 (3H, s), 1.54 (6H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 199.08, 157.54, 144.14, 136.61, 132.51, 127.91, 126.94, 126.08, 125.89, 41.72, 28.44, 27.09, 22.40. IR (KBr plates): 3059, 2969, 2932, 2874, 1717, 1697, 1675, 1619, 1456, 1360, 1255, 984 cm⁻¹.





























4a-methyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H***-carbazol-2(3***H***)-one (Table 3, entry 1): General procedure B was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.4 mmol), 2-bromoaniline (172 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd_2(dba)_3 (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (815 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 10-35% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 83% yield (166 mg) as an off-white solid, m.p. = 97-101 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta: 7.05 (2H, m), 6.77 (1H, td,** *J***=7.5, 1.0Hz), 6.58 (1H, d,** *J***=8.0Hz), 4.00 (1H, m), 3.88 (1H, bs), 2.71 (1H, dd,** *J***=16.0, 3.0 Hz), 2.56 (1H, dd,** *J***=16.5, 3.5Hz), 2.23 (1H, dt,** *J***=18.0, 4.5Hz), 2.13-2.06 (1H, m), 2.00-1.95 (2H, m), 1.48 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta: 212.02, 149.98, 135.64, 127.93, 122.84, 118.83, 109.03, 63.92, 43.51, 42.22, 36.04, 35.15, 27.91. IR (KBr plates): 3339, 2950, 1701, 1608, 1486, 741 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₅NO: C, 77.58; H, 7.51. Found: C, 77.28; H, 7.78.**



6-fluoro-4a-methyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H***-carbazol-2(3***H***)-one (Table 3, entry 2)**: General procedure B was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromo-4-fluoroaniline (190 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), K₂CO₃ (346 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 15-50% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 63% yield (138 mg) as a beige solid, m.p. = 118-120 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.78-6.72 (2H, m), 6.47 (1H, m), 4.02 (1H, s), 3.82 (1H, bs), 2.67 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.0Hz), 2.54 (1H, dd, *J*=16.5, 3.8Hz), 2.24 (1H, dt, *J*=17.5, 4.0Hz), 2.12-2.05 (1H, m), 1.94 (2H, m), 1.45, (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.66, 157.20 (d, *J*=234Hz), 145.92, 137.50 (d, *J*=7.6Hz), 114.17 (d, *J*=22.9Hz), 110.27 (d, *J*=23.9Hz), 109.55 (d, *J*=8.6Hz), 64.70, 44.02, 42.28, 36.02, 35.08, 27.75. IR (KBr plates): 3325, 2968, 2956, 1705, 1491, 808 cm⁻¹.



8-fluoro-4a-methyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H***-carbazol-2(3***H***)-one (Table 3, entry 3):** General procedure B was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromo-6-fluoroaniline (190 mg, 1.00 mmol), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), K_2CO_3 (346 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110

°C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 5-30% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 60% yield (131 mg) as a white solid, m.p. = 81-83 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.86-6.80 (2H, m), 6.68 (1H, m), 4.09 (1H, bs), 4.04 (1H, q, *J*=3.5 Hz), 2.68 (1H, dd, *J*=16.5, 3.5 Hz), 2.59 (1H, dd, *J*=16.5, 3.5 Hz), 2.23 (1H, dt, *J*=18.0, 4.0 Hz), 2.10-1.90 (3H, m), 1.46, (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.43, 148.42 (d, *J*=240 Hz), 139.43 (d, *J*=4 Hz), 137.00 (d, *J*=13 Hz), 119.55 (d, *J*=6 Hz), 118.40 (d, *J*=3 Hz), 114.52 (d, *J*=17 Hz), 64.82, 44.42 (d, *J*=2 Hz), 42.14, 36.05, 35.05, 27.87. IR (KBr plates): 3379, 2956, 1715, 1628, 1487, 1473 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₃H₁₄FNO: C, 71.21; H, 6.44. Found: C, 71.40; H, 6.48.



7-chloro-4a-methyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H***-carbazol-2(3***H***)-one (Table 3, entry 4)**: General procedure B was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.4 mmol), 2-bromo-4-chloroaniline (207 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), K₂CO₃ (346 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 15-50% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 63% yield (148 mg) as an off-white solid, m.p. = 144-147 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.99 (2H, m), 6.47 (1H, d, *J*=7.5Hz), 4.02 (1H, m), 3.92 (1H, bs), 2.68 (1H, dd, *J*=16.3, 3.3Hz), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.5Hz), 2.24 (1H, dt, *J*=17.8, 3.8Hz), 2.10-2.05 (1H, m), 1.95 (2H, m) 1.45 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.59, 148.57, 147.07, 137.66, 127.85, 123.25, 109.92, 64.43, 43.88, 42.19, 35.99, 35.08, 27.89. IR (KBr plates): 3315, 2962, 1706, 1653, 1480, 1237, 807cm⁻¹.



4-propylcyclohex-3-enone: To a flame dried 2L 3-neck round bottom flask with mechanical stirrer was added THF (160 mL), EtOH (33 mL), 4-*n*-propylanisole (20.6 g, 137 mmol) and purged with Ar. A Dry-ice condenser was attached and the flask and condenser were cooled to -78 °C with a dry ice-actone mixture. Liquid ammonia (500 mL) was then condensed in the flask by passing a stream of gaseous ammonia through the apparatus for 45 min. At this time, small pieces of Li wire (4.2 g) were added potionwise over 5 min. The resulting deep blue solution was vigorously stirred for 40 min at -78 °C followed by addition of EtOH (20 mL) and solid ammonium chloride (5.0 g). Once the blue color faded, the reaction was warmed to rt with a water bath and the ammonia was allowed to boil off. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O/H₂O and the organic layer was washed with water (3x). The etheral solution was then dried with MgSO₄ and then concentrated with the aid of a rotary evaporator to give 1-methoxy-4-

propylcyclohexa-1,4-diene as a colorless oil. This material was dissolved in a 3:1 MeOH/H₂O solution (350 mL) in a 1L round bottom flask. Oxalic acid (650 mg, 7.22 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at rt for 2 h. The solution was then diluted with water and extracted with dichloromethane (4x). The organic layer was washed with water (2x), dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel, eluting with 87:13 hexanes/ethyl acetate to provide the title compound in 73% yield (13.8 g) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 5.44 (1H, s), 2.86 (2H, s), 2.48 (2H, t, *J*=6.5Hz), 2.39 (2H, t, *J*=7.0Hz), 2.04 (2H, t, *J*=7.5Hz), 1.45 (2H, m), 0.91 (3H, t, *J*=7.5Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 211.44, 138.83, 117.86, 39.77, 39.31, 38.86, 28.61, 20.84, 13.90. IR (KBr plates): 2959, 2734, 1718, 1457, 1337, 1191, 970, 894 cm⁻¹.



6-methoxy-4a-propyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H***-carbazol-2(3***H***)-one (Table 3, entry 5)** : General procedure B was followed using 4-propylcyclohex-3-enone (193 mg, 1.4 mmol), 2-bromo-4-methoxyaniline⁴ (202 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 15-40% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 71% yield (190 mg) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.61 (2H, m), 6.48 (1H, d, *J*=7.5Hz), 4.13 (1H, m), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.62 (1H, bs), 2.63 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.5Hz), 2.52 (1H, dd, *J*=16.3, 3.8Hz), 2.23 (1H, m), 2.11-1.99 (2H, m), 1.90 (1H, s), 1.76 (1H, m), 1.66 (1H, m) 1.41 (1H, m), 1.25 (1H, m), 0.92 (3H, t, *J*=7.3Hz). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 212.32, 153.50, 144.38, 135.67, 112.63, 110.31, 109.60, 61.11, 55.89, 48.11, 43.30, 43.08, 36.00, 33.57, 17.62, 14.66. IR (KBr plates): 3364, 2956, 1715, 1653, 1494, 1214, 1034 cm⁻¹.



4a,9a-dimethyl-7-(trifluoromethyl)-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-2(3*H*)-one

(**Table 3, entry 6):** General procedure B was followed using 3,4-dimethylcyclohex-3enone (174 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (240 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), K₂CO₃ (346 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 8-35% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 48% yield (135 mg) as yellow oil which crystallized upon standing, m.p. = 108-112 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.12 (1H, d, *J*=7.5Hz), 7.01 (1H, d, *J*=7.5Hz), 6.74 (1H, s), 3.82 (1H, bs), 2.65 (1H, d, *J*=16.0Hz), 2.48 (1H, d, *J*=16.0Hz), 2.26-2.12 (2H, m) 1.96 (2H, m), 1.40 (3H, s), 1.28 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ: 211.29, 149.03, 139.40, 130.39 (q, *J*=32Hz), 126.62 (q, *J*=271Hz), 123.25, 121.21, 116.02, 115.99, 105.61, 67.14, 49.15, 45.73, 36.71, 36.14, 24.72, 22.58. IR (KBr plates): 3395, 1716, 1653, 1457, 1320, 1161, 1118 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}F_{3}NO$: C, 63.60; H, 5.69. Found: C, 63.63; H, 5.72.

methyl 4a,9a-dimethyl-2-oxo-2,3,4,4a,9,9a-hexahydro-1*H***-carbazole-6-carboxylate (Table 3, entry 7**): General procedure B was followed using 3,4-dimethylcyclohex-3enone (174 mg, 1.40 mmol), methyl 4-amino-3-bromobenzoate (230 mg, 1.00 mmol), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (9.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (16.7 mg, 0.040 mmol), K_2CO_3 (346 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 110 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 15-50% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 68% yield (185 mg) as yellow oily solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.74 (1H, dd, *J*=8.5, 1.8Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, *J*=1.5Hz), 6.43 (1H, d, *J*=8.5Hz), 4.40 (1H, s) 3.82, (3H, s), 2.64 (1H, d, *J*=16.0Hz), 2.43 (1H, d, *J*=16.0Hz), 2.17 (1H, dt, *J*=17.5, 3.8Hz), 2.10 (1H, m), 1.93 (2H, m), 1.37 (3H, s), 1.22 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 211.43, 167.29, 153.03, 135.08, 131.30, 124.97, 120.05, 107.73, 67.07, 51.63, 49.13, 45.82, 36.71, 36.04, 24.81, 22.81. IR (KBr plates): 3343, 2951, 1708, 1610, 1435, 1291, 1220, 1110 cm⁻¹.



1-(3,3,5,7-tetramethylindolin-2-yl)propan-2-one (Table 3, entry 8): General procedure B was followed using 5-methylhex-4-en-2-one⁵ (157 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromo-4,6-dimethylaniline (200 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (9 mg, 0.010 mmol), dippf (17 mg, 0.040 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (815 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-25% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 70% yield (162 mg) as yellow oil which solidified upon standing, m.p. = 78-84 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 6.72 (2H, s), 4.27 (1H, bs), 3.74 (1H, dd, *J*=8.0, 5.0Hz), 2.75 (2H, m), 2.27 (3H, s), 2.26 (3H, s) 2.13 (3H, s), 1.30 (3H, s), 1.05 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 208.68, 145.34, 137.88, 129.03, 128.42, 120.07, 118.92, 64.66, 43.95, 43.19, 30.56, 25.98, 23.30, 20.90, 16.63. IR (KBr plates): 2958, 1717, 1559, 1457, 1167 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₂₁NO: C, 77.88; H, 9.15. Found: C, 78.00; H, 9.04.



(4a*R*,9a*R*)-4a,6,8-trimethyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-2(3*H*)-one (Table 4, entry 1): General procedure C was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.4 mmol), 2-bromo-4,6-dimethylaniline (200 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), (R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (47 mg, 0.040 mmol), K₃PO₄ (531 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 0-30% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 51% yield (117 mg) as a pale yellow oil which solidified upon standing, m.p. = 145 °C (dec). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 6.76 (1H, s), 6.75 (1H, s), 3.99 (1H, t, *J*=3.5Hz), 3.67 (1H, bs), 2.71 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.5Hz), 2.59 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.5Hz), 2.78 (3H, s), 2.23 (1H, dt, *J*=17.5, 4.0Hz), 2.14-2.07 (1H, m), 2.08 (3H, s), 2.00-1.90 (2H, m), 1.47 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 212.24, 146.21, 135.40, 129.60, 128.52, 120.91, 118.55, 64.24, 43.91, 42.44, 36.24, 35.28, 27.98, 20.87, 16.70. IR (KBr plates): 3447, 1700, 1653, 1559, 1457 cm⁻¹. $\alpha_{\rm D}$ (589nm CHCl₃) = +22.5 (c = 0.069 g/mL in chloroform). A crystal suitable for X-ray diffraction was grown by vapor diffusion of hexane into an ethyl acetate solution of **5** at room temperature.



(4a*R*,9a*R*)-6-methoxy-4a-methyl-4,4a,9,9a-tetrahydro-1*H*-carbazol-2(3*H*)-one (Table 4, entry 2): General procedure C was followed using 4-methylcyclohex-3-enone (154 mg, 1.40 mmol), 2-bromo-4-methoxyaniline⁴ (202 mg, 1.00 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (4.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), (R)-DTBM-SEGPHOS (47 mg, 0.040 mmol), K₃PO₄ (531 mg, 2.50 mmol), and toluene (4 mL) at 100 °C. The product was purified by column chromatography employing a 15-40% gradient of ethyl acetate in hexanes to provide the title compound in a 37% yield (86 mg) as yellow solid, m.p. = 104 °C (dec). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 6.67 (1H, d, *J*=2.5Hz), 6.63 (1H, dd, *J*=8.0, 2.5Hz), 6.51 (1H, d, *J*=8.5Hz), 3.98 (1H, t, *J*=3.5Hz), 3.76 (3H, s), 3.71 (1H, bs), 2.67 (1H, dd, *J*=16.3, 3.3Hz), 2.54 (1H, dd, *J*=16.0, 3.5Hz), 2.22 (1H, dt, *J*=17.6, 4.3Hz), 2.14-2.07 (1H, m), 2.00-1.93 (2H, m), 1.45 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 211.95, 153.81, 143.80, 137.54, 112.84, 109.94, 109.89, 64.69, 56.01, 44.13, 42.47, 36.19, 35.20, 27.82. IR (KBr plates): 2952, 1717, 1700, 1653, 1559, 1221, 1031 cm⁻¹. α_D (589nm CHCl₃) = +34.6 (c = 0.0059 g/mL in chloroform). Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇NO₂: C, 72.70; H, 7.41. Found: C, 72.54; H, 7.48.

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X-ray crystal structure of 5.

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X-ray Crystal Structure of **5** (thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability)