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### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

### Strategies Towards the Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C

### DISSERTATION

# submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of

#### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in Chemistry

by

Jennifer Pitzen

Dissertation Committee: Professor Kenneth J. Shea, Chair Professor David Van Vranken Professor Sergey Pronin

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# DEDICATION

For my family, for supporting me.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

LIST OF FIGURES	v
LIST OF SCHEMES	vi
LIST OF TABLES	ix
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	x
CURRICULUM VITAE	xi
ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION	xiv
<ul> <li>CHAPTER 1: Isolation and Bioactivity of the Welwitindolinone Alkaloids.</li> <li>1.1. Isolation and Bioactivity.</li> <li>1.2. Proposed Biosyntheses.</li> <li>1.3. Reported Formal and Total Syntheses.</li> <li>1.4. Selected Alternative Synthetic Approaches.</li> <li>1.5. Conclusion.</li> <li>1.6. References.</li> </ul>	1 4 5 8 10 11
<ul> <li>CHAPTER 2: Initial Studies Toward the Welwitindolinone Core.</li> <li>2.1. Previous Work in the Shea Lab.</li> <li>2.2. Type 2 IMDA Optimization and Mechanistic Studies</li> <li>2.3. Cycloadduct Elaboration.</li> <li>2.4. Conclusion.</li> <li>2.5. References.</li> <li>2.6. Supporting Information.</li> </ul>	14 19 25 27 29 30
<ul> <li>CHAPTER 3: Targeting Alternative Dienophiles.</li> <li>3.1. First Differentiated Dienophiles.</li> <li>3.2. Doubly Electron Withdrawing Dienophiles.</li> <li>3.3. Diester Dienophiles.</li> <li>3.4. Alternate Furan Syntheses.</li> <li>3.5. Conclusion.</li> <li>3.5. References.</li> <li>3.6. Supporting Information.</li> </ul>	36 39 42 46 48 49 51
<ul> <li>CHAPTER 4: Differentiation and Elaboration.</li> <li>4.1. Cycloadduct Reduction and Elaboration.</li> <li>4.2. Selective Diol Protection and Elaboration.</li> <li>4.3. Screening Methylation Conditions.</li> <li>4.4. Conclusion and Future Directions.</li> </ul>	71 76 79 80

<ul><li>4.5. References.</li><li>4.6. Supporting Information.</li></ul>	82 83
APPENDIX A: Selected NMR Spectroscopy Data	99

# LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure 1.1	The welwitindolinone alkaloids and related natural products.	1
Figure 2.1	Intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions.	14

# LIST OF SCHEMES

Page

Scheme 1.1	Moore's proposed biosynthesis.	4
Scheme 1.2	Baran's alternative proposed biosynthesis	5
Scheme 1.3	Garg's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).	6
Scheme 1.4	Rawal's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).	7
Scheme 1.5	Martin's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).	8
Scheme 1.6	Wood's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).	8
Scheme 1.7	Funk's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).	9
Scheme 1.8	Trost's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).	10
Scheme 2.1	Two possible type 2 IMDA reactions to establish the welwitindolinone core.	14
Scheme 2.2	Initial synthesis of the welwitindolinone core.	15
Scheme 2.3	Second generation synthesis.	16
Scheme 2.4	Revised second generation approach.	17
Scheme 2.5	Hydrogenation and vinyl chloride installation.	18
Scheme 2.6	Retrosynthetic strategy.	19
Scheme 2.7	Possible alkylation-IMDA cascade intermediates.	20
Scheme 2.8	One-step alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction.	20
Scheme 2.9	Proposed mechanism of the alkylation-IMDA cascade.	21
Scheme 2.10	Deuterium incorporation into vinyl oxindole 2.22.	22
Scheme 2.11	Synthesis of vinyl oxindole <b>2.44</b> .	23
Scheme 2.12	Hydrogenation and installation of the vinyl chloride.	25
Scheme 2.13	Attempted methyl ester hydrolysis	26

Scheme 2.14	Synthesis and cycloaddition of the revised dienophile.	27
Scheme 3.1	Isoxazolidone dienophile synthesis.	36
Scheme 3.2	Attempted lactone dienophile cycloaddition.	37
Scheme 3.3	Linear dienophile synthesis.	38
Scheme 3.4	Investigation of steric and electronic effects on cycloaddition.	39
Scheme 3.5	Synthesis and attempted cross-coupling of an amide dienophile.	40
Scheme 3.6	Attempted cross-coupling of a maleimide dienophile.	40
Scheme 3.7	Attempted aldehyde synthesis.	42
Scheme 3.8	Attempted differentiated diester synthesis.	43
Scheme 3.9	Differentiated benzyl ester alkene dienophile.	44
Scheme 3.10	Alternate differentiated benzyl ester regioisomer.	44
Scheme 3.11	Alternate diester alkene isomer.	45
Scheme 3.12	Attempted silyl deprotection	46
Scheme 3.13	Furan synthesis with an alternative protecting group.	47
Scheme 3.14	Alternative furan regioisomer synthesis.	47
Scheme 4.1	Attempted oxidative deprotection.	72
Scheme 4.2	Cycloadduct reduction.	72
Scheme 4.3	Reduced cycloadduct deprotection attempts.	73
Scheme 4.4	One-pot deprotection-hydrogenation reaction.	74
Scheme 4.5	Triol elaboration attempts.	74
Scheme 4.6	Triol global protection and elimination.	75
Scheme 4.7	Reduced cycloadduct protection.	76
Scheme 4.8	Selectively protected diol elaboration.	77

Scheme 4.9	Secondary alcohol protection attempts.	78
Scheme 4.10	Synthesis of methylation precursor <b>4.25</b> .	78
Scheme 4.11	Alternative methylation substrate.	80
Scheme 4.12	Cycloaddition with a tetrasubstituted alkene dienophile.	81
Scheme 4.13	Proposed endgame strategy based on our welwitindolinone B strategy.	81

# LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 2.1	Optimization of the alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction.	22
Table 2.2	Screening Lewis acid and solvent effects on the alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction.	24
Table 2.3	Optimization of the MoCl <sub>5</sub> chlorination.	25
Table 3.1	Attempted nitration of alkene dienophiles.	41
Table 3.2	Optimization of copper-catalyzed alkylation-cycloaddition reaction.	45
Table 4.1	Attempted hydrolysis of cycloadduct 4.1.	71
Table 4.2	Optimization of selective Piv protection.	77
Table 4.3	Screening methylation conditions.	79

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- "Progress toward the Total Synthesis of *N*-Methylwelwitindolinone B Isothiocyanate." Cleary, L.; Pitzen, J.; Brailsford, J. A.; Shea, K. J. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, *16*, 4460–4463.
- "Studies toward the synthesis of (-)-stenine." Cleary, L.; Mak, V. M.; Pitzen, J.; McCallum, M. E.; Loo, M. M.; Shea, K. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2015**, *56*, 3497–3499.

#### Presentations

- "Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C." Poster, American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Graduate Research Symposium, Irvine CA, 2014.
- "Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of *N*-methylwelwitindolinone C Isothiocyanate." Oral Presentation, 247<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting, Dallas TX, 2014.
- "Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C." Oral Presentation, Vertex Day, Irvine CA, 2013.
- "Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C." Poster, Pfizer Symposium, Irvine CA, 2012.
- "Progress Towards the Total Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C." Oral Presentation, UCI Graduate Student Colloquium, Irvine CA, 2012.
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#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

Strategies Towards the Synthesis of Welwitindolinone C

By

Jennifer Pitzen

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry University of California, Irvine, 2015 Professor Kenneth J. Shea, Chair

Progress towards the total synthesis of *N*-methylwelwitindolinone C isothiocyanate is reported. The tetracyclic core is established by a key alkylation–type 2 intramolecular Diels– Alder cascade reaction, forming three new carbon-carbon bonds and five stereocenters in one step. Mechanistic studies suggest that alkylation proceeds via a zinc enolate intermediate instead of a silyl ketene aminal, shortening the synthesis by one step. Elaboration of the welwitindolinone core was accomplished with novel use of chlorinating agent MoCl<sub>5</sub> to selectively convert a ketone to the vinyl chloride found in the natural product. To circumvent the problematic differentiation of two esters and install a bridgehead amine at an early stage in the synthesis, a series of new dienophiles were prepared. Ultimately selective protection of a diol intermediate allowed for differentiation, but methylation to install the final quaternary center proved to be challenging and remains one of the last hurdles in completing the synthesis.

#### Chapter 1: Isolation and Bioactivity of Welwitindolinone Alkaloids.

#### **1.1. Isolation and Bioactivity.**

The welwitindolinones are a family of alkaloids isolated from the Stigonemataceae family of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). Welwitindolinones A-C (1.1-1.7) were first isolated in 1994 from *Hapalosiphon welwitschii* and *Westiella intricata*,<sup>1</sup> while welwitindolinone D (1.11) and oxidized welwitindolinones (1.8-1.10) were isolated in 1999 from *Fischerella muscicola* and *Fischerella major* (Figure 1.1).<sup>2</sup> *N*-methylwelwitindolinone C isothiocyanate (1.7) was the major component of the lipophilic extracts. The structurally related fischerindoles (1.12), hapalindoles (1.13, 1.14), and hapalindolinones (1.15) were also isolated from these cyanobacteria.



Figure 1.1: The welwitindolinone alkaloids and related natural products.

The welwitindolinone alkaloids share many structural similarities but each provides unique synthetic challenges. For example, welwitindolinone A (1.1) is the only member that

contains a fused spirocenter while welwitindolinone D's (1.11) ethereal bridge makes it more highly oxidized than other members of the family. Additionally, both C3 epimers of welwitindolinone B (1.3, 1.4) are naturally occurring and welwitindolinones C (1.5-1.10) contain a vinyl chloride moiety. Welwitindolinone A (1.1) was the first to be synthesized in 2005,<sup>3</sup> followed by welwitindolinone D (1.11) in 2011.<sup>4</sup> Seventeen years after its isolation, the first total synthesis of *N*-methylwelwitindolinone C isothiocyanate (1.7) was reported by the Garg group. The welwitindolinones remain a popular target, with many groups reporting syntheses of the core and a number of total and formal syntheses.<sup>5,6</sup> All members of the family have been synthesized, with welwitindolinone B (1.3) being the last to be prepared.<sup>7</sup>

Of the welwitindolinones tested, *N*-methylwelwitindolinone C isothiocyanate (1.7) had the most interesting biological activity. Several members of the family were shown to reverse Pglycoprotein-mediated multiple drug resistance (MDR).<sup>8</sup> P-glycoprotein (P-gp) is a 170 kDa transmembrane protein. It functions as an ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporter and is found in epithelial cells of the liver, intestines, and brain capillaries.<sup>9</sup> P-gp transports a wide variety of substrates including many drug molecules out of the cell. It is believed to have a protective function, preventing the accumulation of toxic substances within cells and protecting sensitive organs such as the brain.<sup>10</sup>

The mechanism by which P-gp transports substrates is not fully understood but the active transporter uses energy released by ATP hydrolysis to transport substrates out of the cell. P-gp either acts as a hydrophobic vacuum cleaner, transporting substrate molecules from inside the plasma membrane outside the cell or as a flippase, transporting substrates from the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane to the outer leaflet, where the substrate can then diffuse out of the cell.<sup>11</sup>

Because P-gp substrates are relatively hydrophobic and readily partition into the plasma membrane it is difficult to differentiate between the two proposed transport mechanisms.

The overexpression of P-gp has been implicated in MDR, a condition in which cells acquire simultaneous resistance to a wide variety of structurally and functionally unrelated drugs. MDR has been attributed to over 90% of chemotherapeutic failure in patients with metastatic cancer.<sup>12</sup> P-gp acts as a drug efflux pump to reduce cellular retention of chemotherapeutic drugs. Additionally, P-gp limits the efficacy of treatment for HIV and parasitic diseases such as Malaria and Leishmaniasis.<sup>9</sup>

A wide variety of drugs are known substrates for P-gp and there appear to be few structural requirements for substrates. Most have one or two hydrophobic centers or aromatic rings. Substrates with electron donor groups have two groups  $2.5 \pm 0.3$  Å apart or two or three groups  $4.6 \pm 0.6$  Å apart.<sup>13</sup> Efforts to modify drugs to avoid P-gp usually results in a decrease in the desired activity of the drug. Little is known about how inhibitors function or the structural requirements for inhibitors. Many of the first P-gp inhibitors discovered act as P-gp substrates at low concentrations and P-gp inhibitors at high concentrations.<sup>14</sup> A proposed mechanism states that P-gp inhibitors are transported out of the cell then diffuse back into the cell rapidly. At high concentrations the inhibitor is constantly being transported out of the cell, outcompeting other P-gp substrates.<sup>15</sup> Compounds that inhibit P-gp are of interest both for their potential clinical use and to gain a better understanding of P-gp activity.

Welwitindolinone **1.7** was shown to promote the accumulation of known P-gp substrates vinblastine and taxol in vinblastine resistant cells (SK-VLB).<sup>8</sup> It was also significantly less cytotoxic than welwitindolinone **1.5** (IC<sub>50</sub> = 2.88  $\mu$ M vs 0.15  $\mu$ M, respectively). The compounds inhibit P-gp without being transported themselves, as evidenced by no change in cytotoxicity

between MCF-7/ADR cells which overexpress P-gp compared with MCF-7 cells. This otherwise unknown mechanism of action makes the welwitindolinones attractive synthetic targets.

#### 1.2 Proposed Biosynthesis.

In addition to isolating and evaluating the biological activity of the welwitindolinones, the Moore group proposed the biosynthetic pathway outlined in Scheme 1.1.<sup>1</sup> An enzymatic chloronium-induced polyene cyclization between terpene **1.16** and tryptophan **1.17** could result in formation of 12-*epi*-hapalindole E (**1.18**). Oxidation to proposed intermediate **1.19** could then undergo acid catalyzed cyclization to form welwitindolinone A (**1.1**). Oxidation followed by rearrangement would afford [4.3.1] bicycle **1.21**. Sulfurization, methylation and oxidation would afford welwitindolinone C (**1.7**).



Scheme 1.1: Moore's proposed biosynthesis.

Some concerns have been raised about this proposed biosynthetic pathway. Oxidized hapalindole **1.19** has not been isolated, despite the discovery of 63 other members of the family,

suggesting it may not be a biosynthetic intermediate. Additionally, there is little precedent for the rearrangement from epoxide **1.20** to oxindole **1.21**. In response to these criticisms, the Baran group proposed an alternate biosynthetic pathway (Scheme 1.2).<sup>16</sup> Acid catalyzed cyclization of hapalindole **1.18** would lead to fischerindole **1.22**. Allylic oxidation could afford diene **1.23**, and subsequent oxidative ring contraction could result in spirocycle **1.24**. Oxidative ring expansion via enolate **1.26** would then afford welwitindolinone intermediate **1.27**. Sulfurization and methylation and would then afford welwitindolinone C (**1.7**).



Scheme 1.2: Baran's alternative proposed biosynthesis.

#### **1.3 Reported Total and Formal Syntheses.**

As the major component of the lipophilic extracts and with the alkaloid with the most interesting biological activity, welwitindolinone C (1.7) has been the most popular synthetic target within the welwitindolinone family.<sup>5.6</sup> As a result, a number of groups have developed unique routes to target the core. Overall the synthetic strategies can be divided into three groups. The Garg and Rawal groups couple indole and cyclohexyl fragments, forming the seven-

membered ring last. The Martin & Wood groups begin with an indole fragment, forming the seven-membered ring followed by the cyclohexyl ring.<sup>5</sup> Finally, the Trost and Funk groups begin with the [4.3.1] bicycle and construct the oxindole last.<sup>6</sup>



Scheme 1.3: Garg's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).

The Garg group was the first to report a total synthesis, and their key step used an aryne cyclization to form the carbon skeleton.<sup>5a,b</sup> From known enone **1.28**, cyclization precursor **1.29** was prepared in three steps (Scheme 1.3). Indolyne cyclization afforded tetracycle **1.31** in moderate yield, which could be elaborated to ketone **1.32**. Installation of the vinyl chloride proved challenging, and a three-step procedure was necessary to prepare the desired functional group from ketone **1.32**. The final challenge in the synthesis was installation of the bridgehead isothiocyanate. Intermolecular functionalization of the sterically congested bridgehead center

was unsuccessful, but intramolecular nitrene insertion provided the desired substitution. Welwitindolinone **1.7** was prepared in 17 steps from known enone **1.28**.

The Rawal group reported the second total synthesis of welwitindolinone C. Keys steps include a palladium-catalyzed enolate arylation and hydrazone chlorination.<sup>5c</sup> Similar to the Garg group's strategy, the synthesis builds off an indole scaffold to prepare tricycle **1.38** (Scheme 1.4). Palladium-catalyzed enolate arylation allows formation of tetracycle **1.39** as a single diastereomer in good yield. Chlorination proved challenging, but hydrazone condensation followed by electrophilic chlorination allowed the preparation of vinyl chloride **1.41** in two steps from ketone **1.40**. Finally, indole oxidation and isothiocyanate installation allowed for the completion of the synthesis. Welwitindolinone C (**1.7**) was prepared in 16 linear steps from commercially available starting materials.



Scheme 1.4: Rawal's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).

The Martin group reported a formal synthesis in 2012.<sup>5d,e</sup> Their approach was sequential construction of the seven-membered ring followed by the cyclohexanone onto an indole scaffold. Enolate arylation was used to prepare tetracycle **1.43** in high yield (Scheme 1.5). Oxidative cleavage of the furan proved to be challenging, but allowed for the synthesis of enol **1.44**.

Palladium-catalyzed intramolecular allylic alkylation of enol **1.44** afforded tetracycle **1.45** and subsequent diastereoselective methylation provided enone **1.46**. Two additional steps allowed the Martin group to intercept Rawal's intermediate **1.47** in the formal synthesis.



Scheme 1.5: Martin's synthesis of welwitindolinone C (1.7).

#### 1.4 Selected Alternative Synthetic Approaches.



Scheme 1.6: Wood's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).

In addition to the reported total syntheses, a number of groups have developed unique routes to target the welwitindolinone core. The Wood group utilized a rhodium-catalyzed C–H insertion to construct tetracycle **1.49** (Scheme 1.6)<sup>6a,m</sup>. Ring expansion afforded tricycle **1.52** which was followed by late stage cyclohexanone construction via transannular nitrone cycloaddition to afford [4.3.1] bicycle **1.54**. Amino alcohol **1.55** was revealed after an additional two steps. Key challenges that remain include installation of the methyl group at C12 and vinyl chloride at C13.

The Funk group took a different approach, constructing the oxindole last.<sup>6e</sup> Stille coupling of bicycle **1.56** (prepared in 11 steps from known compounds) afforded triene **1.58** which underwent clean electrocyclization to tricycle **1.59** (Scheme 1.7). Indole **1.60** was formed in an additional three steps. Early construction of the [4.3.1] bicycle allows the necessary cyclohexanone substitution to be installed with a high degree of diastereoselectivity but adds to the length of the synthesis. At the time of Funk's publication in 2006, indole **1.60** was the most advanced welwitindolinone intermediate reported, but the group has not completed the total synthesis.



Scheme 1.7: Funk's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).

The Trost group uses an approach similar to the Funk group, with a late-stage oxindole construction.<sup>6j</sup> Key steps include an enantioselective [6+3] cycloaddition to construct bicycle **1.64** (Scheme 1.8). Three additional steps converted bicycle **1.64** to triene **1.65** which then

underwent an intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction followed by aromatization to afford welwitindolinone core **1.67**. This route showcases the utility of the [6+3] and [4+2] cycloaddition reactions to rapidly construct complex frameworks.



Scheme 1.8: Trost's approach to welwitindolinone C (1.7).

#### 1.5 Conclusion.

Due to their interesting biological activity and chemical structure, the welwitindolinones have attracted substantial attention from the synthetic community. A number of different approaches towards the core have been reported, showcasing the utility of various reactions in complex settings. While all members of the family have been prepared, the molecules remain popular synthetic targets.

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#### **Chapter 2: Initial Studies Toward the Welwitindolinone Core.**

#### 2.1. Previous Work in the Shea lab.

While other groups focus on the C4–C11 bond as a key disconnection, we envisioned using the type 2 intramolecular Diels–Alder (IMDA) reaction pioneered in our laboratory to quickly establish the welwitindolinone core and showcase the utility of this reaction. Unlike a type 1 IMDA that results in fused bicyclic systems, a type 2 IMDA provides bridged bicyclic systems with a highly strained bridgehead olefin (Figure 2.1).<sup>1</sup> Two possible type 2 IMDA reactions could give rise to the welwitindolinone core (Scheme 2.1). Retrosynthetic disconnections are possible either at the C13–C14 and C10–C15 bonds (Route A) or the C12–C13 and C10–11 bonds (Route B) to give reasonable intermediates for the type 2 IDMA reaction.



Figure 2.1: Intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions.



Scheme 2.1: Two possible type 2 IMDA reactions to establish the welwitindolinone core.

Dr Ryan Lauchli, a former Shea lab graduate student began by investigating the first strategy.<sup>2</sup> Commercially available 4-bromoindole (2.6) could be formylated followed by a Suzuki cross–coupling to prepare diene 2.9 (Scheme 2.1). Tosylation, Grignard addition and oxidation afforded IMDA precursor 2.3. Cyclization of triene 2.3 occurred upon heating, to provide the welwitindolinone core and the first example of a type 2 IMDA reaction with a furan diene. While this route provided quick access to the welwitindolinone core, cycloadduct 2.2 is missing a substantial portion of the carbon skeleton of natural product 2.1. The second retrosynthetic strategy would provide a more highly functionalized cycloadduct and therefore a more concise route to welwitindolinone 2.1.



Scheme 2.2: Initial synthesis of the welwitindolinone core.

The second strategy was investigated by Dr. John Brailsford.<sup>3</sup> Starting from 4bromoindole (2.6), Boc protection and selective oxidation afforded oxindole 2.12 (Scheme 2.3). Protection was necessary to allow oxidation of the C-2 carbon, following a previously reported industrial procedure.<sup>4</sup> Deprotection, *N*-methylation, and a Heck reaction with diethylfumarate provided oxindole 2.14 in good yield but as a mixture of E/Z isomers. Formation of a silyl ketene aminal followed by alkylation with furan 2.15<sup>5</sup> formed intermediate triene 2.16, which gratifyingly cyclized under the Lewis acidic reaction conditions providing cycloadduct 2.17 as a single diastereomer. This reaction forms three new carbon–carbon bonds and five stereocenters in a single step. Surprisingly, hydrogenation of the bridgehead alkene in cycloadduct **2.17** was not observed, even under high pressures of hydrogen with various heterogeneous catalysts. Instead, silyl acetal **2.17** was cleaved with hydrofluoric acid to give enone **2.18**, but a narrow pH range must be maintained during isolation to avoid formation of retro-Claisen product **2.19**. While this strategy led to a more highly functionalized welwitindolinone core, challenges still remain. The yield for the cycloaddition is low, the two esters must be differentiated, and C-12 is lacking a methyl substituent found in the carbon skeleton. Therefore a revised approach was designed by Dr. Leah Cleary to address some of these problems.



To address the low IMDA yields, methyl esters were proposed as an alternative to the ethyl esters in dienophile **2.14**. Surprisingly, replacing diethylfumarate with dimethylfumarate in the Heck reaction resulted in low yields.<sup>6</sup> A Suzuki cross–coupling reaction was used to solve

this challenge. Bromoindole **2.13** was first protected as the silylketene aminal, followed by lithiation, installation of the pinacol borane and deprotection to boronic ester **2.20** (Scheme 2.4). Subsequent Suzuki cross–coupling proceeded with high yields to prepare dienophile **2.22** as a single isomer. Using previously established conditions, cycloadduct **2.23** was formed in slightly improved yields compared with ethyl cycloadduct **2.17** (54% compared with 41% over 2 steps, respectively). Deprotection to enone **2.24** proceeded as expected, but protection or oxidation of the alcohol proved challenging. Under basic conditions retro–Claisen reaction occurs to form rearranged lactone **2.25**, while under acidic conditions lactonization occurs between the bridging alcohol and the C-12 ester to form β-ketolactone **2.26**. The solution to this problem was to wait to remove the silyl protecting group until a later stage in the synthesis. Reduction of the C12 ester would prevent both retro–Claisen and lactone formation. Efforts were redirected on reduction of the bridgehead alkene, which had also been problematic.



Scheme 2.4: Revised second generation approach.

Reduction of the bridgehead alkene prior to deprotection should relieve ring strain and allow the cyclohexane ring to adopt a chair conformation. This would bring the bridging alcohol further from the ketone and ester, hopefully preventing retro–Claisen and lactonization. Despite the expected reactivity of bridgehead alkene **2.23**, reduction was not observed with a variety of heterogeneous catalysts, even under pressures up to 800 psi of hydrogen (Scheme 2.5). Addition of acid in an attempt to accelerate reaction resulted in silyl deprotection, lactonization and subsequent hydrogenation to β-ketolactone **2.27**.<sup>7</sup> From there, the ketone could chemo and regioselectively be converted to vinyl chloride **2.28** in a single step, showcasing an improvement over the multistep methods used by the Garg and Rawal groups.<sup>8,9</sup> Elaboration of vinyl chloride **2.28** also proved to be challenging, due to the crystalline and unreactive nature of the molecule. Selective reduction of the lactone to diol **2.29** was not observed, nor was nucleophilic opening to ketone **2.30**. At this point I joined the Shea group and Dr. Leah Cleary focused instead on a route towards welwitindolinone B.



Scheme 2.5: Hydrogenation and vinyl chloride installation.

#### 2.2 Type 2 IMDA Optimization and Mechanistic Studies.

Based on previous work in the group, the welwitindolinone core could be prepared rapidly, and key challenges that remained were late stage methylation and epimerization. Our retrosynthetic strategy using a type 2 IMDA reaction is outlined in Scheme 2.6. Welwitindolinone **2.1** could be prepared from aldehyde **2.31** by epimerization at C3, isothiocyanate installation at C11 and a Wittig olefination at C20. Aldehyde **2.31** would result from methylation at C12, chlorination at C13 and differentiation between the methyl ester at C11 and lactone at C12 in pentacycle **2.27**. Lactone **2.27** would arise from hydrogenation and deprotection of cycloadduct **2.23**, the product of the key type 2 IMDA reaction of triene **2.32**. Triene **2.32** can be prepared from alkylation of vinyl oxindole **2.22**, the cross-coupling product of bromo-alkene **2.21** and a suitably functionalized arene derived from commercially available 4-bromoindole (**2.6**). This strategy provides rapid access to the welwitindolinone core and allows the modular use of alkene coupling partners to incorporate other functionality necessary to complete the total synthesis.



Scheme 2.6: Retrosynthetic strategy.



Scheme 2.7: Possible alkylation-IMDA cascade intermediates.



Scheme 2.8: One-step alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction.

Upon joining the project, my initial focus was on further improving the yield of the key type 2 IMDA reaction. While we had initially proposed that alkylation occurs prior to cycloaddition we have no evidence to support that claim. Under the alkylation reaction conditions cycloaddition also occurs without the need to first isolate a triene intermediate (see **2.16**, Scheme 2.3). However, as shown in Scheme 2.7, two different intermediates are possible in this reaction cascade. If the alkylation occurs first, triene **2.32** would be formed, while if an intermolecular cycloaddition occurs first, tetracycle **2.34** would be formed. To determine if the intermolecular Diels–Alder reaction occurs prior to alkylation, vinyl oxindole **2.22** (lacking the silylketene aminal for alkylation) was subjected to the alkylation Diels–Alder cascade reaction conditions (Scheme 2.8). If alkylation occurs prior to cycloaddition, only unreacted starting material is expected, but if intermolecular cycloaddition can occur, tetracycle **2.35** is the expected product. Instead, cascade product **2.23** was isolated, where both alkylation and cycloaddition have occurred, demonstrating that preparation of the silyl ketene aminal is not
necessary for alkylation to occur. This result did not provide information about the order of events during the reaction but allows us to prepare cycloadduct **2.23** directly from oxindole **2.22**.

The proposed mechanism of this cascade reaction involves formation of zinc enolate **2.36** prior to alkylation (Scheme 2.9). Loss of iodide allows coordination of zinc enolate **2.38** to furan **2.15**. Formation of oxocarbenium **2.39** and nucleophilic attack by enolate **2.38** results in triene **2.40**. Loss of zinc followed by a type 2 IMDA affords cycloadduct **2.23**, ultimately forming three new carbon–carbon bonds and five new stereocenters. An alternative possible mechanism involves furan coordination prior to enolate formation, and the coordination state of zinc in each intermediate is unknown. In order to optimize the reaction conditions, we want to focus on how zinc facilitates alkylation and whether alkylation or cycloaddition occurs first.



Scheme 2.9: Proposed mechanism of the alkylation-IMDA cascade.

Deuterium incorporation studies were performed to determine the conditions needed for enolization. Vinyl oxindole **2.22** was treated with zinc iodide and di-*tert*-butylpyridine (DTBP)

then quenched with CD<sub>3</sub>OD (Scheme 2.10). Analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed >95% deuterium incorporation. When vinyl oxindole **2.22** was treated with only DTBP then CD<sub>3</sub>OD, no disappearance in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the oxindole protons was observed, indicating that zinc iodide is required for enolization. Additional experiments suggest alkylation occurs prior to cyclization (see chapter 3).



Scheme 2.10: Deuterium incorporation into vinyl oxindole 2.22.

CO <sub>2</sub> Me MeO <sub>2</sub> C	HO 2.15 (4 equiv) Znl <sub>2</sub> (6 equiv) DTBP (2 equiv) MeCN (0.1 M) rt, 18 h	TIPSO MeO <sub>2</sub> C MeO <sub>2</sub> C H MeO <sub>2</sub> C
<b>2.22</b> (1 equiv)		Ме 2.23

Table 2.1: (	Optimization o	f the alky	lation-IMDA	cascade rea	action.
		/ /			

Entry	Conditions	Yield	Entry	Conditions	Yield
1	Original conditions	20-40%	10	1.5 equiv <b>2.15</b>	15%
2	1 equiv $H_2O$	NR	11	5 equiv DTBP	NR
3	4Å MS	NR	12	5 equiv DTBP, 65 °C	30%
4	1 equiv MgSO <sub>4</sub>	38%	13	1.5 equiv $ZnI_2$	30%
5	0.2M	38%	14	3 equiv $ZnI_2$	40%
6	0.05M	30%	15	12 equiv ZnI <sub>2</sub>	40%
7	0 °C	NR	16	Add 2.15 after 12 h	40%
8	40 °C	20%	17	Add 2.15 over 2 days	45%
9	4 days	45%	I		

After confirming the formation of a zinc enolate, efforts were made to optimize the alkylation–IMDA cascade reaction. Low yields in this reaction were generally attributed to incomplete consumption of vinyl oxindole **2.22** and competing decomposition of furan **2.15** 

under the Lewis acidic reaction conditions. Increasing reaction times from 18 hours to four days or heating did not improve the yield (Table 2.1). The reaction is extremely sensitive to water but when desiccants such as molecular sieves or anhydrous magnesium sulfate were added to the reaction, yields did not improve. The amount of zinc iodide can be decreased to from six to three equivalents without affecting the yield but with 1.5 equivalents the yield decreased. Increasing the concentration of DTBP caused the zinc to dissolve in acetonitrile but stopped the reaction. Sequentially adding one equivalent of furan **2.15** every 12 hours over two days lead to the highest yields. It was found that furan **2.15** is unstable under the reaction conditions and deprotection to the butenolide is a competing side reaction. Cycloadduct **2.23** was isolated in 47% yield using the optimized conditions.



Scheme 2.11: Synthesis of vinyl oxindole 2.44.

To introduce the methyl group at C12 present in the natural product at an early stage, tetrasubstituted vinyl oxindole **2.44** was prepared according to previously established procedures (Scheme 2.11).<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, when subjected to the alkylation IMDA cascade conditions, cycloadduct **2.44** was not observed. Lewis acids were screened in order to find conditions that

induced the alkylation–cycloaddition cascade but did not contribute to the rapid decomposition of furan **2.15**. Vinyl oxindole **2.22** was used instead of tetrasubstituted oxindole **2.44** because it is more readily available and the formation of cycloadduct **2.23** can be easily quantified by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Of the metals screened, only zinc, copper and silver resulted in the formation of cycloadduct **2.23** (Table 2.2). A solvent screen with zinc iodide showed that DCM as a solvent improved the yield while using DMF and THF dissolved the zinc iodide but resulted in no detectable formation of cycloadduct **2.23**. Switching from zinc iodide to copper (II) triflate also improved the yield compared to the original conditions. These results suggest that further screening of Lewis acids and solvents can further increase the yield of the cascade reaction and tetrasubstituted vinyl oxindole **2.44** will be subjected to the optimized conditions to determine if cycloadduct **2.45** can be prepared. The use of copper Lewis acids also provides an opportunity to add chiral ligands to make the cascade enantioselective.

**Table 2.2:** Screening Lewis acid and solvent effects on the alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction.

CO <sub>2</sub> Me MeO <sub>2</sub> C	HO 2.15 DTBP Lewis Acid Solvent rt, 18 h	TIPSO MeO <sub>2</sub> C MeO <sub>2</sub> C H O N
2.22		2.23 <sup>Me</sup>

Entry	Lewis Acid	Solvent	Yield	Entry	Lewis Acid	Solvent	Yield
1	Sc(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	MeCN	NR	13	$ZnI_2$	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	20%ª
2	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	MeCN	NR	14	$ZnI_2$	DCE	50% <sup>a</sup>
3	Ir(OTf) <sub>3</sub>	DCE	NR	15	$ZnI_2$	DCM	65%ª
4	Me <sub>3</sub> Al	DCE	NR	16	$ZnCl_2$	DCM	17% <sup>a</sup>
5	LiI	THF	NR	17	$ZnBr_2$	DCM	16% <sup>a</sup>
6	AgOTf	MeCN	35% <sup>a</sup>	18	$Zn(OTf)_2$	DCM	6% <sup>a</sup>
7	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	DCE	50%	19	CuI	DCM	NR
8	$Zn(OTf)_2$	MeCN	14% <sup>a</sup>	20	CuBr	DCM	NR
9	$ZnI_2$	MeCN	20-40%	21	CuCl	DCM	NR
10	$ZnI_2$	DMF	NR	22	CuBr <sub>2</sub>	DCM	decomp
11	$ZnI_2$	THF	NR	23	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	DCM	decomp
12	$ZnI_2$	Toluene	20% <sup>a</sup>	24	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	DCM	15% <sup>a</sup>

*a)* Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR

# 2.3. Cycloadduct Elaboration.

After optimization of the alkylation–IMDA cascade reaction, efforts were directed towards the elaboration of cycloadduct **2.23**. Based on the work by Dr. Leah Cleary, hydrogenation at high pressure in the presence of hydrochloric acid afforded lactone **2.27** (Scheme 2.12).<sup>6</sup> Acid facilitates deprotection of the silyl ether and the resulting free alcohol forms a stable five-membered lactone. Ketone **2.27** was then converted to vinyl chloride **2.28** using tungsten (VI) chloride.<sup>8</sup>



Scheme 2.12: Hydrogenation and installation of the vinyl chloride.

	MeO <sub>2</sub> C	H H DCE N 7 <sup>Me</sup>	➤ MeO <sub>2</sub> C [		
Entry	Temperature	Concentration	Time	MoCl <sub>5</sub>	Yield
1	75 °C	0.2 M	15 h	4 equiv	decomp
2	45 °C	0.2 M	15 h	4 equiv	41%
3	rt	0.2 M	15 h	4 equiv	20%
4	45 °C	0.05 M	24 h	2 equiv	80%

**Table 2.3:** Optimization of the MoCl<sub>5</sub> chlorination.

The Rawal group experienced difficulties installing the alkyl chloride adjacent to the quaternary center at C12 in welwitindolinone **2.1** and the Garg group used a three step procedure to convert the ketone into a vinyl chloride to complete the synthesis of welwitindolinone **2.1** (see chapter 1).<sup>9</sup> In order to avoid difficulties in installing the vinyl chloride at a late stage, we

searched for a chlorinating reagent that is smaller and more reactive than tungsten (VI) chloride. Following periodic trends we chose to use molybdenum (V) chloride, which is not known to produce vinyl chlorides but has been used to chlorinate alkenes and alkynes.<sup>11</sup> At high temperatures MoCl<sub>5</sub> lead exclusively to decomposition of ketone **2.27** but lowered temperatures led to formation of desired chloride **2.28** (Table 2.3). Compared to WCl<sub>6</sub>, MoCl<sub>5</sub> allows for shorter reaction times and less decomposition of the starting material is observed. The use of MoCl<sub>5</sub> to convert ketones to vinyl chlorides has not been reported in the literature and the scope of this reagent is being investigated.

Based on the work by Dr. Leah Cleary, selective reaction of the lactone was ruled out as a strategy for elaboration. Instead, saponification of the methyl ester of lactone **2.27** was investigated (Scheme 2.13). Subsequent reduction of either the carboxylic acid or lactone group of **2.46** could then be used to differentiate the two carbonyl groups. The conditions screened were limited to those that are selective for methyl esters due to the presence of a lactone and an amide. To further complicate hydrolysis, the methyl ester is adjacent to a quaternary bridgehead carbon making it fairly hindered. None of the conditions screened resulted in the formation of a new compound. We attribute the lack to reactivity to the low solubility of pentacycle **2.27** in a variety of organic solvents.



Scheme 2.13: Attempted methyl ester hydrolysis.

To circumvent the difficult hydrolysis, the synthesis was revised to include benzyl esters on the oxindole dienophile instead of methyl esters (Scheme 2.14). The benzyl esters would be cleaved during hydrogenation of the bridgehead alkene to afford carboxylic acids without the need for an additional deprotection step. Esterification of commercially available bromomaleic anhydride (2.47) provided alkene 2.48. Suzuki cross-coupling between boronic ester 2.20 and alkene 2.48 afforded vinyl oxindole 2.49 and subjection to alkylation–IMDA cascade conditions gave cycloadduct 2.50. Hydrogenation afforded pentacycle 2.46. Low yields in this unoptimized reaction are attributed to difficulties in isolation and insolubility of pentacycle 2.46 in most solvents. Once again elaboration of acid 2.46 provided problematic, with attempts to chlorinate the ketone, induce a Curtius rearrangement on the carboxylic acid or reduce the lactone were unsuccessful. Again the highly crystalline nature of the compound and lack of solubility severely hindered both isolation and elaboration of acid 2.46.



Scheme 2.14: Synthesis and cycloaddition of the revised dienophile.

# 2.4 Conclusion.

Given the challenges encountered in elaborating cycloadduct **2.23**, the need to introduce differentiation at an earlier stage in the synthesis was recognized. The vinyl bromide Suzuki

cross-coupling partner was targeted as ideal component to modify, as it had already been demonstrated that a variety of alkenes are tolerated in the reaction. Making an unsymmetrical alkene prior to cross-coupling would also make the synthesis more concise.

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## 2.6. Supporting Information.

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen, unless otherwise noted, in oven- or flame- dried glassware. Extra-dry acetonitrile (99.9%, >10 ppm water) in an AcroSeal bottle was purchased from Fisher Scientific. Thin layer chromatography was performed using glass-backed EM Science Silica Gel 60 PF254 Plates. Flash chromatography was performed using EM Science Silica Gel 60 (230-400 mesh). All volatile solvents were removed, in vacuo, under reduced pressure using a Büchi rotary evaporator. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz, using a Bruker DRX 500 spectrophotometer, or at 600 MHz using an Avance 600 spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz. All spectra were taken at 298 K. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, or CD<sub>3</sub>OD with shifts reported as  $\delta$  values in ppm and referenced to residual solvent proton(s). Splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, sep = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Infrared (IR) spectra were acquired on a Perkin & Elmer FT IR System 2000 Series High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a MicroMass LCT (ES) spectrometer. spectrometer. High pressure hydrogenations were performed in a Parr Instrument 4767 Pressure Vessel.



**Cycloadduct 2.23** To a solution of vinyl oxindole **2.22** (0.400 g, 1.34 mmol) in acetonitrile (13 mL) under argon was added zinc iodide (2.57 g, 8.05 mmol), di-*tert*-butyl pyridine (0.58 mL, 2.58 mmol), then furan **2.15** (0.40 mL, 1.34 mmol). Furan **2.15** (0.40 mL, 1.34 mmol) was

added every 12 hours for 2 days while stirring at room temperature. After 2 days the reaction was washed with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 20 mL) and the combined organics were washed with water (2 x 40 mL) and brine (40 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) affording a pale yellow solid (0.359 g, 47%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.9, 1 H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.13–1.04 (m, 21H), 0.75 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.7, 171.8, 170.8, 158.6, 144.1, 137.5, 128.7, 127.8, 125.4, 124.5, 110.7, 106.8, 76.1, 67.6, 64.4, 53.1, 52.2, 51.7, 39.9, 26.3, 25.6, 19.5, 17.9, 12.7. Spectra are identical to literature report.<sup>1</sup>



**Vinyl oxindole 2.41** To a suspension of zinc iodide (0.067 g, 0.210 mmol) in  $CD_2Cl_2$  (0.7 mL) was added vinyl oxindole **2.22** (0.020 g, 69.1<sup>1</sup>  $\mu$ mol), di-*tert*-butyl pyridine (0.030 mL, 0.138 mmol), and  $CD_3OD$  (0.010 mL, 0.210 mmol). After 5 minutes, <sup>1</sup>H NMR showed >95% deuterium incorporation. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (2 mL) and extracted into EtOAc (3 x 3 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (2 x 3 mL) and brine (3 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. A mixture of protonated and deuterated vinyl oxindole was isolated due to NH<sub>4</sub>Cl quench.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Brailsford, J. PhD. Thesis, University of California, Irvine, **2009**.



Vinyl chloride 2.28 A suspension of lactone 2.27 (10 mg, 0.026 mmol) and MoCl<sub>5</sub> (14 mg, 0.052 mmol) in DCE (0.5 mL) under argon was sealed and heated to 45 °C. After 15 hours the reaction was cooled to room temperature and loaded directly onto a column of silica gel. The reaction was purified by flash column chromatography (4:1 → 2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) affording a white solid (4.8 mg, 48%, 65% brsm). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 (t, *J* = 7.9, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 7.9, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.7, 170.6, 170.1, 144.8, 130.1, 129.8, 126.5, 124.7, 124.5, 119.5, 107.9, 78.5, 59.1, 53.9, 52.9, 52.5, 50.4, 38.6, 29.6, 26.2, 21.4; IR (CaF<sub>2</sub> cell, 0.2 mm, CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 3060, 2959, 1803, 1712, 1612, 1469; HRMS (TOF MS+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>ClNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 424.0928, found 424.0926. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra match vinyl chloride **2.28** prepared with WCl<sub>6</sub><sup>2</sup>



2.48

Alkene 2.48 To a solution of bromomaleic anhydride (2.47) (1.00 g, 5.65 mmol) in benzyl alcohol (5.6 mL) was added concentrated  $H_2SO_4$  (0.2 mL), precipitating a brown oil. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cleary, L. PhD. Thesis, University of California, Irvine, **2013**.

reaction was heated to reflux for 24 hours, cooled to 75 °C for 24 hours then cooled to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting oil was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  50:1 hexanes/EtOAc) affording a pale yellow oil (1.27 g, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39–7.32 (m, 10H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.3, 162.6, 134.8, 134.5, 128.61, 128.60, 128.57, 128.53, 128.4, 127.4, 126.6, 68.4, 67.3; IR (CaF<sub>2</sub> cell, 0.2 mm, CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 3092, 3023, 2921, 1732, 1322, 1161; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>4</sub>BrNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 397.0051, found 397.0058.



**Vinyl oxindole 2.49** To a degassed solution of alkene **2.48** (0.500 g, 1.33 mmol) in DME was added to oxindole **2.20** (0.243 g, 0.888 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.036 g, 0.044 mmol) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.377 g, 1.78 mmol). Degassed water (0.6 mL) was then added and the reaction was heated to 85 °C. After 4 hours the reaction was cooled to room temperature, filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (10:1  $\Rightarrow$  7:1  $\Rightarrow$  4:1  $\Rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) affording a yellow oil (0.243 g, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39–7.33 (m, 10H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.3, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.1, 167.1, 164.4, 146.8, 146.0, 135.3, 134.8, 130.4, 128.8, 128.71, 128.68, 128.64, 128.62, 128.57, 123.0, 122.0, 121.3, 109.7, 68.0, 67.1,

35.6, 26.4; IR (CaF<sub>2</sub> cell, 0.2 mm, CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution)  $\nu$ [cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 3018, 2986, 1732, 1375, 1250, 1046; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 464.1474, found 464.1473.



Cycloadduct 2.50 To a solution of vinyl oxindole 2.49 (15 mg, 35.1 µmol) in acetonitrile (0.35 mL) under argon was added zinc iodide (67 mg, 211  $\mu$ mol), di-*tert*-butyl pyridine (15  $\mu$ L, 70.2  $\mu$ mol), then furan **2.15** (10 mg, 35.1  $\mu$ mol). Furan **2.15** (10 mg, 35.1  $\mu$ mol) was added every 12 hours for 2 days while stirring at room temperature. After 2 days the reaction was washed with saturated acqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (1 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 1 mL) and the combined organics were washed with water (3 x 2 mL), brine (2 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatograpy (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  10:1  $\rightarrow$  7:1 hexanes/EtOAc) affording a white solid (13.1 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32–7.28 (m, 8H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 3H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.5, 1H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.06 (d, J = 12.7, 1H), 5.00 (appar dd, J = 15.6, 12.8, 2H), 4.83 (d, J = 15.6, 12.8, 2H), 4.83 ( 12.5, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.30 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.10–1.07 (m, 3H), 1.05–1.03 (m, 18H), 0.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.5, 170.9, 169.9, 158.5, 144.0, 137.2, 135.9, 135.4, 128.49, 128.47, 128.43, 128.14, 128.10, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 125.4, 124.5, 110.7, 106.6, 76.0, 67.6, 66.7, 64.0, 51.6, 39.8, 26.1, 25.4, 19.4, 17.9, 17.8, 12.6; IR (CaF<sub>2</sub> cell, 0.2 mm, CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution)  $v[cm^{-1}] = 2895, 2407, 1737, 1706, 1524, 1213; HRMS (TOF ES+) m / z calcd$ for  $C_{43}H_{51}NO_7SiNa (M + Na)^+744.3333$ , found 74.3319; mp = 182–185 °C.



**Lactone 2.46** To a solution of cycloadduct **2.50** (100 mg, 139  $\mu$ mol) in EtOAc (0.55 mL) and MeOH (3.1 mL) was added concentrated HCl (0.36 mL) then Pd/C (5%, 59 mg, 27.7  $\mu$ mol). The reaction was purged with H<sub>2</sub> (3 **x**) then pressurized to 550 psi. After two days the reaction was filtered through Celite, washed with excess MeCN, EtOAc, MeOH and DCM (3 **x** 10 mL each) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction was suspended in acetone and a white solid (9.8 mg, 19%) was removed by vacuum filtration. Lactone **2.46** is only sparingly soluble in boiling MeOH and insoluble in all other solvents screened including DMSO and water. With the help of Dr. Phillip Dennison, no acceptable <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum could be obtained due to solubility difficulties. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.41–7.35 (m, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 6.6, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.2, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 4.24 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.62–2.46 (m, 2H), 2.01–1.93 (m, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H); IR (KBr pellet) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 1799, 1711, 1640, 1410, 1130; HRMS (TOF ES-) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> (M – H)<sup>-</sup> 368.1134, found 368.1138.

## **Chapter 3: Targeting Alternative Dienophiles.**

#### **3.1.** First Differentiated Dienophiles.

All of our previously studied vinyl bromide Suzuki cross-coupling partners have contained two esters, which have caused problems in differentiating them after synthesizing the welwitindolinone core. Therefore a revised strategy was introduced to include a vinyl bromide with two different substituents. The bridgehead substituent must be converted to an isothiocyanate, so incorporating nitrogen at that position was determined to be a priority. C12 will need to be methylated, so a carbonyl substituent will provide the most flexibility. An isoxazolidone was chosen to fulfill these requirements.



Scheme 3.1: Isoxazolidone dienophile synthesis.

Isoxazolidone dienophile **3.1** would provide an opportunity to form protected bridgehead amine **3.3** after reductive N–O bond cleavage of cycloadduct **3.2** and would bypass unreactive bridgehead carboxylic acid intermediates (Scheme 3.1). Synthesis of the dienophile began with the formation of oxime **3.5**.<sup>1</sup> Cyclization under basic conditions followed by alkylation afforded isoxazolinone **3.6**. To facilitate cross coupling, alkene **3.6** must be brominated. However, upon treatment with bromine, none of desired dibromide **3.7** was formed and vinyl bromide **3.8** with the undesired regiochemistry was isolated. Attempts to install bromine at an earlier stage in the

synthesis were unsuccessful and the route was set aside for more promising alkenes.



Scheme 3.2: Attempted lactone dienophile cycloaddition.

Lactone **3.10**, an intermediate in the synthesis of furan diene **3.12** was chosen as the second dienophile. This dienophile would result in hexacyclic cycloadduct **3.13** and upon transesterification to pentacycle **3.14** the bridgehead carbon would be differentiated from the adjacent ester (Scheme 3.2). The Suzuki cross-coupling conditions used for previous dienophiles only lead to trace amounts of vinyl oxindole **3.11**, as lactone **3.10** was found to be unstable under basic conditions. Switching to cesium fluoride as a Lewis base and adding tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB) as a phase transfer catalyst allowed improved the yield of the reaction to 93% when heated by microwave irradiation.<sup>2</sup> However, when oxindole **3.11** was subjected to optimized alkylation Diels–Alder reaction conditions, only trace amounts of cycloadduct **3.12** were present in a complex mixture. Using other solvents and Lewis acids that had been successful with diester dienophiles (see chapter 2) only resulted in unreacted starting material. In order to determine whether enolate formation was occurring under the reaction conditions, a deuterium incorporation experiment was performed. However, when oxindole **3.11** was treated with zinc iodide, base, and a deuterium source, no deuterium incorporation was observed after 18

hours, compared with complete incorporation after one hour in oxindole **2.22**. This suggests that relatively small changes in the oxindole dienophile significantly affect the ability to alkylate.

Efforts at finding a suitably functionalized alkene dienophile were directed towards a linear, differentiated alkene. Protection of propargyl alcohol (**3.16**) followed by alkylation afforded alkyne **3.19** (Scheme 3.3).<sup>3</sup> Copper catalyzed hydrostannylation then bromination resulted in vinyl bromide **3.18** with the desired regiochemistry.<sup>4</sup> A Suzuki cross-coupling reaction with boronic ester **3.9** provided alkylation–IMDA precursor **3.19**. Unfortunately, instead of the desired cycloadduct, alkylated oxindole **3.20** was isolated from the complex reaction mixture. Two possible causes for the lack of reactivity in the cycloaddition were proposed. Either the silyl protecting group is too large and hinders rotation or the electronics of the diene and dienophile are not aligned correctly. The rate of cycloaddition is slower than competing deprotection of the silyl acetal.



Scheme 3.3: Linear dienophile synthesis.

Two related dienophiles were prepared to determine whether steric or electronic problems were slowing cycloaddition. TBS alcohol **3.21** was prepared by a method analogous to TBDPS alcohol **3.19**. Again, deprotection of the silyl acetal was faster than cycloaddition, resulting in

formation of lactone **3.22** (Scheme 3.4). Alternate alkene regioisomer **3.23** also failed to produce the desired cycloadduct. Decomposition of furan **3.12** under the reaction conditions has always been of concern but when the dienophile contains two esters, cycloaddition is fast enough that the desired product is formed in modest yields. When the dienophile only contains one ester, decomposition is faster than cycloaddition. Two possible strategies were developed to counteract this problem. Either an alkene dienophile with two different electron withdrawing groups can be synthesized or a more stable furan with a different protecting group can be prepared.



Scheme 3.4: Investigation of steric and electronic effects on cycloaddition.

#### **3.2.** Doubly Electron Withdrawing Dienophiles.

Initial efforts were focused on preparing an alkene dienophile with two different electron withdrawing groups. An amide was chosen as the second substituent on the alkene due to its similar polarity as compared with an ester, and the ability to be rearranged to the necessary bridgehead amine. Maleimide **3.26** was prepared from maleic anhydride (**3.25**), (Scheme 3.5).<sup>5</sup> Dibromination followed by elimination afforded bromomaleimide **3.27** and subsequent esterification with methanol afforded amide **3.28** as a single regioisomer.<sup>6</sup> Attempts to cross–

couple amide **3.28** were unsuccessful, resulting in decomposition of amide **3.28**. While crosscoupling reactions of secondary amides are known, tertiary amides are more widely used.<sup>7</sup> Attempts to methylate amide **3.28** were unsuccessful.



Scheme 3.5: Synthesis and attempted cross-coupling of an amide dienophile.



Scheme 3.6: Attempted cross-coupling of a maleimide dienophile.

An alternative route to amide dienophile **3.29** was proposed. Maleimides are known to undergo Suzuki cross–coupling reactions and maleimide **3.30** could be esterified to afford amide **3.29** or taken into the alkylation–cycloaddition cascade reaction directly. However, bromomaleimide **3.27** was unreactive under standard Suzuki cross–coupling reaction conditions (Scheme 3.6). Alternative palladium precatalysts (**3.31**) were also screened.<sup>8</sup> When boronic ester **3.9** was used, only decomposition of maleimide **3.27** was observed, suggesting that

transmetallation is slow. Using a boronic acid resulted in trace formation of dienophile **3.30** within a complex mixture, detected by mass spectrometry. Difficulties in identifying and isolating trace quantities of the desired product have hindered optimization attempts.

Instead of installing nitrogen-containing functionality before the Suzuki cross-coupling reaction, efforts were directed at nitrating oxindole dienophiles. Hydrobromination and methylation of propiolic acid (**3.32**) afforded vinyl bromide **3.33** followed by Suzuki cross-coupling with to provide oxindole **3.34** (Table 3.1).<sup>9</sup> Silver nitrite in the presence of TEMPO was recently reported as a new method to nitrate alkenes.<sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, nitration of alkene **3.34** was not regioselective. Protecting the oxindole as silyl ketene aminal also resulted in non-selective nitration. Finally, treatment with CAN and sodium nitrite resulted in nitration of the aromatic ring while  $N_2O_4$  caused decomposition. While a dienophile with a nitro substituent remains a desirable synthetic target, difficulties with nitration have directed us towards alternate routes.





Due to the difficulties incorporating nitrogen-containing groups, alternate electron withdrawing groups were investigated. Aldehyde **3.37** was targeted first. Deprotection of silyl alcohol **3.23** did not afford the desired free alcohol but instead formed lactone **3.36** under the

reaction conditions (Scheme 3.7). Lactone **3.36** has previously been shown to not undergo cycloaddition. Attempted deprotection in the presence of oxidizing agents was also unsuccessful, and only unreacted starting material was isolated. The stability of the five-membered lactone necessitates avoiding a free alcohol intermediate, but the desire to avoid aluminum based reducing agents due to possible reduction of the oxindole meant selective reduction of an ester to aldehyde was not a viable strategy to prepare the desired aldehyde. Given the challenges in preparing various oxindole dienophiles, efforts were directed back to esters as electron-withdrawing substituents.



Scheme 3.7: Attempted aldehyde synthesis.

### **3.3. Diester Dienophiles.**

Alkene dienophiles with two different ester substituents were targeted. Known alkene  $3.38^{11}$  was dibrominated then eliminated to afford bromoalkene 3.39 as a single isomer (Scheme 3.8). Esterification provided differentiated ester 3.40 which was cross-coupled to produce dienophile 3.41.<sup>12</sup> Under the previously optimized alkylation-cycloaddition conditions, cycloadduct 3.42 was not observed. In addition, no starting alkene 3.41 or alkylated product was present in the complex reaction mixture. Changing the Lewis acid from zinc iodide to copper triflate gave the same result. This result was somewhat unexpected due to the similarities between alkene 3.41 and diester alkene 2.22, which does react under these conditions. As with the case of lactone 3.36, it is proposed that changes to the alkene substituents can have a

dramatic effect on the rate of alkylation of the oxindole. The increased size of the t-butyl ester compared with methyl appears to substantially hinder reactivity.



Scheme 3.8: Attempted differentiated diester synthesis.

The limits for successful cycloaddition have been narrowed further. In addition to two electron-withdrawing groups, the dienophile must remain relatively small. Nitrogen-containing alkenes could not be cross coupled, and only methyl, ethyl, and benzyl esters are small enough to facilitate cycloaddition. For this reason, alkenes with one benzyl and one methyl ester were prepared. The benzyl ester could then be selectively removed by hydrogenation, differentiating the two groups. Acid **3.39** was benzyl protected and cross–coupled to afford dienophile **3.44** (Scheme 3.9). The alkylation-cycloaddition cascade reaction affords cycloadduct **3.45** as a single diastereomer. Hydrogenation at 1 atm cleanly results in hydrogenolysis of the benzyl ester without reducing the bridgehead alkene. Unfortunately, when exposed to silica or simply upon standing decarboxylation of acid **3.46** is rapid to form ester **3.47**, followed by further decomposition. Attempted reduction of acid **3.46** with lithium borohydride, boranes and aluminum reducing agents resulted predominantly in competing decarboxylation. These results are unexpected because decarboxylation usually does not occur without significant heating, but

in this case may occur via a mechanism similar to the retro-Claisen reaction observed upon silyl deprotection.



Scheme 3.9: Differentiated benzyl ester alkene dienophile.



Scheme 3.10: Alternate differentiated benzyl ester regioisomer.

To prevent decarboxylation, regioisomeric alkene **3.51** was the next synthetic target (Scheme 3.10). Without the adjacent silvl acetal, decarboxylation is not expected to occur.

Esterification and cross coupling proceed as expected, and cycloadduct **3.52** was obtained in moderate yield.<sup>6</sup> Hydrogenolysis of benzyl ester **3.52** revealed carboxylic acid **3.53**, but subsequent ester reduction was not successful. Reduction of the carboxylic acid was not attempted due to expected subsequent lactone formation.

When attempting to prepare diester 2.22 it was discovered that an aliquot of bromoalkene 3.55 had isomerized upon standing at room temperature (Scheme 3.11). Suzuki cross-coupling to afford diester 3.57 was followed by alkylation-cycloaddition to form cycloadduct 3.58. When zinc iodide was used instead of copper triflate, no reaction occurred. Cycloadduct 3.58 is potentially useful because the two esters are found in different local environments and can possibly be differentiated.



Scheme 3.11: Alternate diester alkene isomer.

$\begin{array}{c} MeO_2C \\ \hline \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ $	HO 3.12 Lewis Acid, base solvent	TIPSO MeO <sub>2</sub> C MeO <sub>2</sub> C H N 3.58

**Table 3.2:** Optimization of copper-catalyzed alkylation-cycloaddition reaction.

Entry	Lewis Acid	Base	Solvent	Yield <sup>a</sup>	Entry	Lewis Acid	Base	Solvent	Yield <sup>a</sup>
1	Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	DTBP	DCM	57%	8	CuBr	DTBP	DCM	NR
2	$Cu(OTf)_2$	DTBP	DCE	46%	9	CuCl	DTBP	DCM	NR
3	$Cu(OTf)_2$	DTBP	MeCN	trace	10	CuBr <sub>2</sub>	DTBP	DCM	40% side pdt
4	$Cu(OTf)_2$	DTBP	DMF	trace	11	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	DTBP	DCM	60% side pdt
5	$Cu(OTf)_2$	DTBP	Toluene	NR	12	$Cu(OTf)_2$	NEt <sub>3</sub>	DCM	25% <sup>b</sup>
6	$Cu(OTf)_2$	DTBP	THF	NR	13	$Cu(OTf)_2$	iPr <sub>2</sub> NEt	DCM	55% <sup>b</sup>
7	CuI	DTBP	DCM	NR	14	$Cu(OTf)_2$	pyridine	DCM	NR <sup>b</sup>

a) Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR b) With 1.5 equiv furan 3.12

Using the conditions optimized for dienophile **2.22**, cycloadduct **3.58** was only isolated in low yields. In order to increase the yield, different copper sources, solvents and bases were screened (Table 3.2). Using DCM as the solvent gave the highest yields and copper triflate was found to be the best copper source. Screening bases revealed that Hünig's base gave similar yields while using fewer equivalents of furan **3.12**. Increasing the amount of furan **3.12** used did not improve the yield. Additionally, the yield of this reaction was found to be highly dependent on scale. Cycloadduct **3.58** could only be isolated in small quantities and all efforts to obtain more material failed.

Despite the challenges in obtaining material, elaboration of cycloadduct **3.48** was investigated. Deprotection did not give the desired alcohol but retro–Claisen product **3.59** was isolated (Scheme 3.12). Deprotection in the presence of an oxidizing agent in an attempt to prevent rearrangement was also unsuccessful, which is consistent with previous results from our lab.<sup>13</sup> Difficulties in obtaining and elaborating cycloadduct **3.58** lead us to focus instead on preparing more stable furan dienes.



Scheme 3.12: Attempted silyl deprotection.

## 3.4. Alternate Furan Syntheses.

In addition to dienophiles with two different electron withdrawing groups, efforts were also directed towards a more stable furan diene. Attempts to lithiate bromolactone **3.60** directly did not afford alcohol **3.61** (Scheme 3.13). Instead, enolization followed by pivaloyl protection afforded diene **3.62** which was then lithiated and converted to alcohol **3.63**.<sup>14</sup> Low yields are attributed to difficulties purifying alcohol **3.63** which does not appear to be stable to silica gel purification. This also suggests that it won't show improved stability under the Lewis acid alkylation-IMDA cascade reaction conditions compared with silyl furan **3.12**. Preliminary results support reduced stability and no cycloadduct could be isolated.



Scheme 3.13: Furan synthesis with an alternative protecting group.



Scheme 3.14: Alternative furan regioisomer synthesis.

Alternative furan **3.64** was also targeted. Cycloadduct **3.65** could be prepared from alkene dienophile **3.57**, differing only from related cycloadduct **3.58** in the position of the silyl acetal (Scheme 3.14). Upon deprotection of cycloadduct **3.65**, alcohol **3.66** is expected to be stable and should not undergo a retro–Claisen reaction. Enone **3.67** was converted to vinyl bromide **3.68** *via* a one-pot bromination elimination sequence.<sup>15</sup> Enolization and protection

afforded diene **3.69**<sup>16</sup> which was lithiated and treated with acetone to produce alcohol **3.64**. Upon exposure to silica gel during column chromatography, alcohol **3.64** decomposed to enone **3.70**.<sup>17</sup> The instability of alcohol **3.64** suggests it is also not be suited to the Lewis acidic conditions necessary to form cycloadduct **3.65**.

## 3.5. Conclusion.

A variety of dienophiles were prepared, with varying degrees of success. Initial studies showed that due to the sensitivity of furan **3.12** under the Lewis acidic cyclization conditions, a highly electron-withdrawn, and sterically compact dienophile is necessary to allow cycloaddition to be faster than competing deprotection. Challenges incorporating nitrogen-containing functional groups and unexpected lactonization and decarboxylation further demonstrate the challenges associated with this family of compounds.

Most of the cycloaddition cascade reactions are low yielding, and only when both esters are methyl can we obtain an appreciable quantity of material. For that reason, efforts were directed back at elaborating cycloadduct **2.23**.

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#### **3.7.** Supporting Information.

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen, unless otherwise noted, in oven– or flame– dried glassware. Thin layer chromatography was performed using glass-backed EM Science Silica Gel 60 (230-400 mesh). All volatile solvents were removed, *in vacuo*, under reduced pressure using a Büchi rotary evaporator. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz, using a Bruker DRX 500 spectrophotometer, or at 600 MHz using an Avance 600 spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz. All spectra were taken at 298 K. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, or CD<sub>3</sub>OD with shifts reported as  $\delta$  values in ppm and referenced to residual solvent proton(s). Splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, sep = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained on a MicroMass LCT (ES) spectrometer. High pressure hydrogenations were performed in a Parr Instrument 4767 Pressure Vessel.

#### 3.6

**Isoxazolinone 3.6** To a solution of sodium methoxide (0.67 mL, 2.5 M in methanol) was added oxime **3.5** (200 mg, 1.53 mmol) followed by *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (291 mg, 1.53 mmol). After 90 minutes the reaction slurry was extracted into dry ether (3 x 1 mL), filtered through Celite and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  10:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (185 mg, 51%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.13 (d, *J* = 3,9, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.6, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.1, 2H), 5.62 (d, J = 3.9, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  168.5, 151.5, 147.5, 130.3, 129.4, 128.4, 102.1, 21.9; IR (ATR)  $\nu$ [cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 3154, 3113, 1775, 1755, 1566, 1381; HRMS (TOF ES+) m / z calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NSNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup>262.0150, found 262.0143; mp = 128–129 °C.



Lactone 3.11 To a solution of oxindole 3.9 (50 mg, 0.183 mmol), alkene 3.10 (20 mg, 0.122 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 6.1  $\mu$ mol) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (39 mg, 0.122 mmol) in degassed THF (0.4 mL) was added a solution of CsF (74 mg, 0.488 mmol) in water (0.4 mL). The reaction was heated to 120 °C (200 W) in the microwave for 6 minutes then diluted with DCM (2 mL) and washed with 1M HCl (2 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 mL) and the combined organic extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (5:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1  $\rightarrow$  1:1  $\rightarrow$  1:2 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a pale orange solid (26 mg, 93%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.43 (t, *J* = 7.9, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.27 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.7, 173.6, 161.7, 146.5, 129.2, 126.1, 123.6, 120.3, 115.9, 111.0, 71.8, 36.6, 26.5; IR (ATR) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 3098, 2901, 1753, 1705, 1350, 1061; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 252.0637, found 252.0630.

MeO<sub>2</sub>C OTBDPS

3.17

Alkyne 3.17 To a solution of TBDPS protected propargyl alcohol (200 mg, 0.680 mmol) in THF (7 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise a solution of *n*BuLi (0.27 mL, 2.5 M) in hexanes. After 15 minutes, methyl chloroformate (43  $\mu$ L, 0.680 mmol) was added and the reaction was warmed to room temperature then diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL). The reaction was extracted into ether (3 x 5 mL), washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (40:1  $\rightarrow$  20:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a clear oil (176 mg, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74–7.70 (m, 4H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 6H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.8, 135.7, 132.5, 130.0, 138.1, 85.9, 76.5, 52,8, 52.3, 26.7, 19.2; IR (ATR) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 2951, 2858, 2241, 1716, 1250; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SiNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 375.1392, found 375.1388.



Alkene 3.18 To a solution of diisopropylamine (60  $\mu$ L, 0.426 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of *n*BuLi (0.15 mL, 2.5 M) in hexanes. After 15 minutes, freshly distilled tributyltin hydride (100  $\mu$ L, 0.369 mmol) was added. After stirring for 15 minutes, the reaction was cooled to -78 °C and CuBr•SMe<sub>2</sub> (76 mg, 0.369 mmol) was added. After 1 hour, alkyne 3.17 (100 mg, 0.284 mmol) was added and the reaction was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. After 12 hours the reaction was diluted with brine (1 mL) and extracted into ether (3 x 1 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (1 mL), brine (1 mL),

dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to a pale yellow oil (91 mg) which was dissolved in DCM (1.4 mL) and cooled to -78 °C. To the solution was added dropwise bromine (8 µL, 0.156 mmol). After 3 hours the reaction was diluted with DCM (2 mL), washed with saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, water, brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  97:3 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a pale yellow oil (39 mg, 64% over 2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.71 (d, *J* = 7.3, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.2, 4H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.1, 148.4, 135.7, 133.0, 129.8, 127.7, 123.1, 63.3, 51.7, 26.8, 19.4; IR (ATR) v[cm<sup>-1</sup>] = 2951, 2857, 1720, 1327, 1105; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>3</sub>SiBrNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 455.0654, found 455.0649.



#### **Oxindole 3.19**

A solution of alkene **3.18** (15 mg, 34.6  $\mu$ mol) in DME (65  $\mu$ L) was added to a vial containing borane **3.9** (14 mg, 51.9  $\mu$ mol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (15 mg, 69.2  $\mu$ mol), and Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mg, 1.73  $\mu$ mol) followed by water (22  $\mu$ L). The vial was sealed and heated to 85 °C. After 4 hours the reaction as filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc) to afford a pale yellow oil (14.3 mg, 84%). (10:1 hexanes/EtOAc is a more appropriate elution solvent). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.73 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.45 (m, 4H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.33– 7.29 (m, 4H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.9, 165.9, 135.6, 134.9, 133.2, 129.8, 129.7, 127.82, 127.76, 127.6, 122.9, 122.7, 118.4, 107.8, 61.6, 51.4, 35.6, 26.6, 19.1, 14.3.



## Alkene S1

To a solution of DIPA (0.46 mL, 3.29 mmol) in THF (4 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise *n*BuLi (1.14 mL, 2.85 mmol, 2.5M in hexanes). After 15 minutes, freshly distilled Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH (0.77 mL, 2.85 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 15 minutes then cooled to -78 °C and CuBrSMe<sub>2</sub> (586 mg, 2.85 mmol) was added. After 1 hour, alkyne (500 mg, 2.19 mmol) in THF (0.2 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred for an additional hour. MeOH (0.4 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature. The reaction was diluted with brine (25 mL), extracted into Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 25 mL), washed with water (50 mL), brine (50 mL), dried of MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude vinyl stannane was dissolved in DCM (22 mL) and cooled to -78 °C and Br<sub>2</sub> (123 µL, 2.41 mmol) was added dropwise. After 2 hours, warmed to 0 °C and quenched with sat. aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and warmed to room temperature. The organic layer was washed with 1M NaOH (20 mL), water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  100:1  $\rightarrow$  50:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a yellow oil (314 mg, 46%

over 2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.41 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.12 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 164.4, 149.6, 122.9, 62.8, 51.8, 25.9, 18.4, -5.2.



# Oxindole 3.21

To a microwave reaction vessel was added borane **3.9** (50 mg, 0.183 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 6.1 µmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (52 mg, 0.244 mmol) followed by alkene **S1** (46 mg, 0.122 mmol) in DME (0.46 ml). Reaction was stirred then water (0.15 mL) was added. The reaction was heated to 120 °C in the microwave for 10 minutes then filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  10:1  $\rightarrow$  7:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to afford a yellow oil (trace solvent could not be removed). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 0.65 (s, 9H), -0.01 (s, 6H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.0, 166.2, 159.9, 144.9, 136.4, 127.8, 123.1, 122.4, 118.1, 107.9, 60.9, 51.6, 35.8, 26.4, 25.5, 17.9, -5.5.




To a microwave reaction vessel was added borane **3.9** (50 mg, 0.183 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 6.1 µmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (52 mg, 0.244 mmol) followed by alkene (46 mg, 0.122 mmol) in DME (0.46 ml). Reaction was stirred then water (0.15 mL) was added. The reaction was heated to 120 °C in the microwave for 10 minutes, added Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 6.1 µmol) and heated to 120 °C in the microwave for 1 hour. Filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\Rightarrow$  10:1  $\Rightarrow$  7:1  $\Rightarrow$  4:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to afford a yellow oil (12 mg, 26%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.11 (s, 6H).



#### **Amide 3.28**

To a suspension of maleimide **3.27** (50 mg, 0.188 mmol) in MeOH (0.15 mL) was added dicyclohexylamine (37 mg, 0.207 mmol). After 2 hours the reaction was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude solid was suspended in EtOAc (1 mL), washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), extracted into EtOAc (3  $\times$  1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column

chromatography (hexanes → 7:1 → 4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (37 mg, 66%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27–7.17 (m, 5H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.8, 165.3, 161.1, 136.3, 128.7, 128.4, 127.8, 96.4, 58.9, 41.2.





To a solution of ether **3.23** (5 mg, 13.3 µmol) in MeCN (0.3 mL) was added 1 drop aqueous HF. After 15 minutes, quenched with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mL), extracted into DCM (3 x 0.2 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford lactone **3.36**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 3.25 (s, 3H).



### Vinyl bromide 3.39

To a suspension of alkene **3.38** (200 mg, 1.54 mmol) in DCM (6 mL) was added  $Br_2$  (0.12 mL, 2.31 mmol). After 18 hours, diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and quenched with sat. aq  $Na_2S_2O_3$ . Extracted into EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude

dibromide was dissolved in acetone (15 mL) and KOAc (151 mg, 1.54 mmol) was added. After 18 hours the reaction was diluted with DCM (15 mL), washed with 1M HCl (20 mL, saturated with NaCl), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc, 2% AcOH) to afford a white solid (220 mg, 67% over 2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.65 (br s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). Spectra matches the literature report for this compound.<sup>1</sup>



# **Ester 3.40**

To a solution of alkene **3.39** (100 mg, 0.478 mmol) in *t*BuOAc (1.2 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise HClO<sub>4</sub> (62  $\mu$ L, 0.718 mmol) then warmed to room temperature. After 18 hours, washed with water (1 mL), dried of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (25:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a pale yellow oil (52 mg, 41%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.43 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.2, 162.0, 129.0, 125.2, 82.8, 53.4, 27.9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Batchelor, M. J.; Mellor, J. M. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1989, 985–995.



### Oxindole 3.41

To a microwave vial was added borane **3.9** (67 mg, 0.245 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mg, 9.43  $\mu$ mol), TBAB (61 mg, 0.189 mmol) then alkene **3.40** (50 mg, 0.189 mmol) in THF (0.6 mL). Stirred for 5 minutes then added CsF (115 mg, 0.754 mmol) in water (0.6 mL). Heated to 120 °C in the microwave for 10 minutes. Diluted with DCM (5 mL), washed with 1M HCl (5 mL), extracted the aqueous layer into DCM (3 x 5 mL), dried the combined organics over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (10:1  $\rightarrow$  7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a yellow solid (54.5 mg, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.3, 167.9, 163.8, 145.9, 144.8, 130.9, 128.7, 124.2, 122.9, 122.0, 109.4, 82.1, 52.7, 35.6, 28.1, 26.4.



## Alkene 3.43

To a solution of carboxylic acid **3.39** (100 mg, 0.478mmol) in DMF (2.4 mL) was added  $Cs_2CO_3$  (234 mg, 0.718 mmol) then benzyl bromide (85  $\mu$ L, 0.718 mmol) and stirred at room temperature. After 18 hours, quenched with 1M HCl (5 mL), and extracted into EtOAc (3 x 5

mL). The combined organics were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow 25:1 \rightarrow 10:1$  hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (113 mg, 79%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39–7.35 (m, 5H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.1, 162.7, 134.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 126.6, 67.5, 53.4.



# Oxindole 3.44

To a microwave vial was added borane **3.9** (119 mg, 0.435 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (142 mg, 0.669 mol) and Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (14 mg, 16.7 µmol). Alkene **3.43** (90 mg, 0.301 mmol) was added in DME (0.6 mL) and the reaction was stirred for 5 minutes. Added water (0.2 mL) then heated the reaction in the microwave to 120 °C for 10 minutes. Filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a yellow oil (86 mg, 78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40–7.32 (m, 6H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 3.22 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.2, 167.7, 164.4, 146.9, 146.1, 135.2, 130.5, 128.8, 128.72, 128.67, 128.64, 123.0, 122.0, 121.3, 109.7, 67.2, 52.8, 35.6, 26.4.



# **Cycloadduct 3.45**

To a solution of oxindole **3.44** (150 mg, 0.411 mmol) in DCM (2 mL) was added ZnI<sub>2</sub> (393 mg, 1.23 mmol) followed by DTPB (178  $\mu$ L, 0.822 mmol). Furan **3.12** (490 mg, 1.64 mmol) in DCM (2 mL) was added via syringe pump (0.14 mL/hour). After 18 hours, diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and quenched with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL). Extracted into EtOAc (3 x 20 mL), washed with water (50 mL), brine (50 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a yellow solid (130 mg, 49%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.26 (d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.43 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.11–1.03 (m, 21), 0.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 174.5, 171.5, 170.0, 158.5, 144.0, 137.4, 136.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 125.2, 124.4, 110.7, 106.6, 76.0, 67.6, 66.7, 64.1, 52.7, 51.5, 39.8, 26.1, 25.4, 19.4, 17.8, 12.6.



## Carboxylic acid 3.46

To a suspension of cycloadduct (30 mg, 46.4  $\mu$ mol) in EtOH (0.5 mL) was added EtOAc (0.1 mL) followed by Pd/C (20 mg, 9.3  $\mu$ mol, 5%). Purged with H<sub>2</sub> 3 x then stirred under 1 atm H<sub>2</sub>. After 2.5 hours, filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Product is not silica stable and decomposes upon standing at room temperature. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 3.26 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.15–1.05 (m, 21H), 0.76 (s, 3H).



### **Ester 3.47**

Crude carboxylic acid **3.46** was purified by silica gel column chromatography (4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) followed by preparatory TLC (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc). Ester **3.47** further decomposed upon standing for 24 hours, preventing full characterization. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.17 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (s, 1H),

5.40 (s, 1H), 5.14 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.87 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.19 (sep, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.09–1.01 (m, 21H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 174.2, 172.6, 154.0, 150.5, 144.4, 139.1, 128.5, 125.5, 122.9, 120.2, 106.8, 104.1, 66.6, 61.0, 57.1, 53.0, 43.0, 26.0, 24.0, 20.1, 17.9, 12.5.



## Carboxylic acid 3.49

To a solution of bromomaleic anhydride (1.0 g, 5.65 mmol) in BnOH (4.5 mL) at 0 °C was added slowly dicyclohexylamine (1.2 mL, 6.22 mmol). After 2 hours, added EtOAc (20 mL), stirred for 1 hour and collected the resulting solid by vacuum filtration. The solid was suspended in EtOAc (100 mL) and water (100 mL). Added KHSO<sub>4</sub> until the aqueous layer reached pH 3, extracted into EtOAc, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford an off white solid (1.25 g, 78%). Taken on directly without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39–7.35 (m, 5H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  166.7, 163.4, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.1, 68.7.



### Alkene 3.50

To a solution of carboxylic acid **3.49** (1.25 g, 4.38 mmol) in DMF (22 mL) was added  $Cs_2CO_3$  (2.14 g, 6.58 mmol) followed by MeI (0.41 mL, 6.58 mmol). After 2 hours, quenched with 1M

HCl (20 ml), extracted into EtOAc (3 x 40 mL), washed the combined organic layers with brine (100 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  50:1  $\rightarrow$  10:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (1.07 g, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.43–7.25 (m, 5H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  163.5, 163.4, 134.6, 128.8, 128.7, 127.2, 126.7, 126.6, 68.5, 52.3.



## Oxindole 3.51

To a microwave vial was added borane **3.9** (351 mg, 1.28 mmol),  $K_3PO_4$  (545 mg, 2.57 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (53 mg, 64  $\mu$ mol) followed by alkene **3.50** (500 mg, 1.67 mmol) in DME (2.4 mL). Stirred for 5 minutes then added water (0.8 mL). Heated in the microwave to 120 °C for 10 minutes. Filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford oxindole **3.51** (271 mg, 58%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.41–7.34 (m, 5H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.2, 167.2, 165.1, 146.8, 146.0, 134.9, 130.5, 129.0, 128.75, 128.71, 128.68, 123.0, 122.0, 121.4, 109.6, 68.1, 52.2, 35.7, 31.6.



# Cycloadduct 3.52

To a solution of oxindole **3.51** (80 mg, 0.219 mmol) in DCM (1 mL) was added ZnI<sub>2</sub> (210 mg, 0.657 mmol) then DTBP (95  $\mu$ L, 0.438 mmol). Added furan **3.12** (0.27 mL, 0.876 mmol) in DCM (1.2 mL) via syringe pump (0.07 mL/hour). After 24 hours, quenched with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (2 mL), and extracted into EtOAc (3 x 5 mL). Washed the organic layer with water (10 mL), brine (10 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a pale yellow solid (49 mg, 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H) 5.81 (s, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.15 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.13–1.06 (m, 21H), 0.75 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.5, 170.9, 170.5, 158.4, 144.0, 137.3, 135.5, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 125.3, 124.4, 110.6, 106.7, 76.0, 67.7, 67.4, 64.2, 51.8, 51.5, 39.8, 26.1, 25.4, 19.4, 17.8, 12.5.



# Carboxylic acid 3.53

To a solution of cycloadduct **3.52** (5 mg, 7.7 µmol) in EtOAc (30 µL) was added EtOH (0.17 mL) followed by Pd/C (3 mg, 1.6 µmol, 5%). The reaction was purged with H<sub>2</sub> 3 x then stirred under 1 atm H<sub>2</sub>. After 2 hours, filtered through Celite, washed with excess EtOAc and concentrated *in vacuo*. Taken on without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30–7.24 (m, 2H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 3.23 (s, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.05–1.04 (m, 21H), 0.75 (s, 3H).



### **Oxindole 3.57**

To a microwave vial was added borane **3.9** (246 mg, 0.900 mmol), TBAB (290 mg, 0.900 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub> (37 mg, 45  $\mu$ mol) followed by alkene **3.56** (261 mg, 1.17 mmol) in THF (3 mL). Stirred for 5 minutes then added CsF (547 mg, 3.60 mmol) in water (3 mL). Heated in the microwave to 120 °C for 10 minutes. Diluted with DCM (20 mL), washed with 1M HCl (20 mL). Extracted into DCM (3 x 20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1  $\rightarrow$  1:1 hexanes/EtOAc) followed by a

second silica gel column (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford oxindole **3.57** (151 mg, 58%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.84 (app dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.34 (s, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H).



# Cycloadduct 3.58

To a solution of oxindole **3.57** (50 mg, 0.173 mmol) and Cu(OTf)<sub>2</sub> (375 mg, 1.04 mmol) in DCM (1.7 mL) was added DTBP (75  $\mu$ L, 0.346 mmol) followed by furan **3.12** (206 mg, 0.691 mmol). Stirred for 18 hours, then quenched with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (3 mL). Extracted into Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 5 mL), washed with water (10 mL), brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford cycloadduct **3.58** (16.2 mg, 17%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.11 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 4.16 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.60 (s, 1H), 3.52 (s 3H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.12 (sep, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 18H), 0.96 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.7, 173.0, 170.8, 153.4, 144.9, 134.8, 129.3, 128.2, 125.3, 121.8, 111.3, 107.0, 79.3, 69.6, 61.6, 53.4, 52.0, 51.7, 39.2, 26.7, 26.1, 20.1, 17.8, 12.6.



## Furan 3.62

To a solution of lactone **3.60** (750 mg, 4.60 mmol) and PivCl (1.7 mL, 13.8 mmol) in MeCN (23 mL) was added NEt<sub>3</sub> (1.9 mL, 13.8 mmol) and heated to 60 °C. After 2 hours, cooled to room temperature and filtered through Celite. Diluted with DCM (25 mL), washed with 10% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL), brine (30 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes) to afford a clear oil (893 mg, 79%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.09 (s, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 1.34 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.9, 151.4, 133.4, 100.6, 96.2, 39.2, 26.5.



### Furan alcohol 3.63

To a solution of furan **3.62** (20 mg, 80.9 µmol) and acetone (6.5 µL, 89.0 µmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (0.23 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise *t*BuLi (0.11 mL, 0.17 mmol, 1.52 M in hexanes). After 2 hours, quenched with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (0.2 mL) and warmed to room temperature. Extracted into EtOAc (1 mL), washed with water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  50:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a yellow oil (7 mg, 39%). Crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR prior to purification showed 66% conversion. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.99 (s, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 1.52 (s, 6H), 1.35 (s, 9H).



## Furan alcohol 3.64

To a solution of furan **3.69** (1.45 g, 4.54 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (13 mL) at -78 °C was added dropwise *n*BuLi (2.0 mL, 4.54 mmol, 2.22 M in hexanes). After 1.5 hours, added acetone (0.37 mL, 5.00 mmol) dropwise in Et<sub>2</sub>O (4.5 mL). After 2.5 hours, quenched with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL). Extracted into EtOAc (20 mL), washed with water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR showed 50% conversion, product is not silica stable and could not be purified. Upon expose to silica gel, product decomposes to enone **3.70** whose spectra match literature reports.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.72 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.35–1.25 (m, 3H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 18H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.2, 130.3, 110.6, 103.3, 68.6, 30.5, 17.6, 12.3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sigman, M. S.; Kerr, C. E.; Eaton, B. E. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1993, 115, 7545-7546.

## **Chapter 4: Differentiation and Elaboration.**

#### 4.1. Cycloadduct Reduction and Elaboration.

All the various differentiated dienophiles that have been prepared failed at various stages during the synthesis. Ultimately the steric and electronic demands of the type 2 IMDA reaction as well as the sensitivity of the furan diene to the Lewis acidic reaction conditions could not be successfully overcome except in the case of the cycloadduct **4.1** with two methyl ester substituents. For this reason efforts were directed back at elaborating and differentiating this compound.

Comparing the two esters in cycloadduct **4.1** it is unclear which group is more reactive or if selective reactivity can be achieved. The bridgehead ester, despite being neopentylic, is expected to be slightly less hindered than the ester at C12 with its adjacent silyl protecting group. The concave structure of the ring system also helps the bridgehead ester sit in a more exposed environment, hopefully making it more reactive. Attempts to hydrolyze ester **4.1** to acid **4.2** resulted in no reaction, decomposition, or hydrolysis of the silyl protecting group resulting in a retro–Claisen rearrangement to lactone **4.3** (Table 4.1). None of conditions surveyed resulted in any detectable ester hydrolysis.





The sensitivity of silyl acetal **4.1** is problematic due to the retro–Claisen rearrangement that occurs upon deprotection. To avoid this non-productive rearrangement, oxidative deprotections were attempted. DMP or IBX alone are not acidic enough to remove the TIPS group but in the presence of HCl, enone **4.4** was not formed (Scheme 4.1).<sup>1</sup> Again, retro–Claisen product **4.3** is the major product of the reaction, suggesting that rearrangement is faster than oxidation.



Scheme 4.1: Attempted oxidative deprotection.



Scheme 4.2: Cycloadduct reduction.

Reduction of the esters of cycloadduct **4.1** was also targeted as a potential method for differentiation. The silyl acetal is expected to be stable under the reaction conditions, removing the potential for rearranged side products. Sodium borohydride reduced the less hindered bridgehead alkene followed by lactonization to form lactone **4.5** (Scheme 4.2). This confirms

that the bridgehead ester is less hindered and differentiation is possible. However, opening the stable 5-membered lactone is expected to be problematic in the presence of the silyl acetal. Alternately, reduction with lithium borohydride resulted in formation of diol **4.6**. The lack of a carbonyl substituent at C12 should allow silyl deprotection of diol **4.6** to proceed without lactonization or retro–Claisen reaction.

Therefore, synthetic efforts were focused on elaborating reduced cycloadduct **4.6**. Deprotection with a variety of fluoride sources afforded mixtures of diol **4.7** and triol **4.8** (Scheme 4.3). None of the conditions screened gave good selectivity but desired triol **4.8** could be separated from the reaction mixture. Subsequent hydrogenation of alkene **4.8** under atmospheric pressure afforded triol **4.9**. While triol **4.9** could be accessed via this route, formation of side product **4.7** limited the amount of material that could be accessed.



Scheme 4.3: Reduced cycloadduct deprotection attempts.

To improve the yield of triol **4.9**, one-pot deprotection-hydrogenation conditions were screened.<sup>2</sup> Again competing elimination to enone **4.10** was observed (Scheme 4.4). Additionally, triol **4.9** was not stable to silica gel purification and could not be separated from enone **4.10**. Elimination of the alcohol is proposed to occur after hydrogenation, as hydrogenation of the exocyclic alkene is generally not observed. Attempts to favor elimination by using stronger acids or longer reaction times were unsuccessful, resulting in decomposition or hydrogenation of the exocyclic alkene. Isolation of the mixture and subjection to dilute acid also did not promote

elimination to enone **4.10**. Instead, triol **4.9** could be formed selectively by shortening the reaction time to 30 minutes and used without further purification.



Scheme 4.4: One-pot deprotection-hydrogenation reaction.



Scheme 4.5: Triol elaboration attempts.

Several approaches to elaborate triol **4.9** were considered. First, global oxidation to ketoaldehyde **4.11** was investigated (Scheme 4.5). While keto-aldehyde **4.11** lacks differentiation, it would provide an opportunity to screen methylation conditions. However, even in the presence of excess oxidant, only a single oxidation was observed by mass spectrometry. The compound formed decomposed upon isolation but it is proposed that oxidation of a primary alcohol occurs followed by formation of a lactol. The lactol and secondary alcohol are not oxidized under the reaction conditions but the resulting compound could not be isolated for characterization. Selective protection to form alcohol **4.12** was also unsuccessful. Desired alcohol **4.12** relies on formation of the thermodynamically more stable six-membered ring instead of the two other possible seven-membered rings.<sup>3</sup> However, protected alcohol **4.12** with a carbonate, silyl ether or acetal could not be formed. Conditions screened resulted either in no reaction or decomposition of triol **4.9**, motivating us to search for milder elaboration conditions.

Acetate protection of triol **4.9** was investigated. Global protection with trichloroacetate anhydride (TCAA) afforded ketone **4.13** (Scheme 4.6). Attempted selective deprotection of the less hindered primary acetate resulted in global deprotection and elimination to enone **4.10**. Switching from trichloroacetate to the more stable acetate analog was also unsuccessful. Attempted global protection resulted in a mixture of mono-, di-, and triprotected products due to the lower reactivity of acetyl chloride compared with TCAA. Ultimately these intermediates did not solve the problem of differentiation, and difficulties in isolating triol **4.9** lead to an alternate elaboration strategy.



Scheme 4.6: Triol global protection and elimination.

Alcohol protection prior to hydrogenation was considered as a strategy to avoid unstable triol **4.9**. Acetate and trichloroacetate (TCA) protecting groups were chosen to promote elimination after silyl deprotection. Acetate protection was incomplete provided an inseparable mixture of diacetate **4.15** and monoacetate **4.14** (Scheme 4.7). Only a single regioisomer of acetate **4.14** was observed, suggesting that selective protection of one of the primary alcohols is possible. Diprotection with trichloroacetic anhydride cleanly afforded diacetate **4.16** without the need for further purification. Unfortunately, further elaboration again proved to be problematic. The silyl protecting group must be cleaved prior to bridgehead alkene hydrogenation, but the

TCA esters were also removed under those conditions. Similarly, hydrogenation of the mixture of acetate protected diols **4.14** and **4.15** did not afford the desired ketone. Selective monoacetate protection was also not observed.



Scheme 4.7: Reduced cycloadduct protection.

## 4.2. Selective Diol Protection and Elaboration.

Instead, efforts were focused on a larger protecting group. Protection with pivaloyl chloride led to separable mixtures of mono- and diprotected products, allowing the assignment of regioisomers **4.17** and **4.18** (Table 4.2). Screening protection conditions showed that the addition of DMAP increased the regioselectivity to 6:1 favoring bridgehead ester **4.17**, while shortened reaction times and lower temperatures decreased formation of diprotected cycloadduct **4.19**. Attempts to further increase the regioselectivity of protection using *N*-pivaloyl imidazole were unsuccessful, with no reaction occurring even at elevated temperatures.<sup>4</sup> Reasonable quantities of protected diol **4.17** could be obtained, with a highest isolated yield of 57%.

TIPSO		-	TIPSO,	Т	IPSO	TIPSO
	H N Me	pyridine HO Piv(		/ PivO + + + HC =O	+ F Me 4.18	Pivo Pivo H Me 4.19
Entry	Temperature	Equiv PivCl	Additive	Time	4.6 : 4.17 : 4.18 : 4.1	9 Yield 4.17
1	0° C to rt	1.05	none	7 h	4:1.4:1:0	22% <sup>1</sup>
2	0° C to rt	2.2	none	7 h	3.3:6.3:4:1	43% 1
3	0° C	2.2	none	36 h	1.4:3.7:2.2:1	50%
4	0° C	2.2	DMAP	36 h	7.5:4:1:0	34% 1
5	0° C to rt	2.2	DMAP	1.5 h	4.19 only	0%
6	0° C to rt	1.05	DMAP	24 h	5.5:1.6:1:0	20% 1
7	0° C to rt	2.2	DMAP	45 min	0:1:0:1.2	34% 1
8	rt	2.2	DMAP	45 min	0:1:0:3.7	21% 1
9	rt	1.05	DMAP	2.5 h	17:5:1:0	22% <sup>1</sup>
10	0° C to rt	2.2	DMAP	30 min	0:6:1:3	63% <sup>1</sup>
<sup>1</sup> Determined	hy <sup>1</sup> H NMP					

**Table 4.2:** Optimization of selective Piv protection.

Determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR

Elaboration of diol 4.17 proceeded smoothly to afford triol 4.20 (Scheme 4.8). Unfortunately, oxidation did not lead to aldehyde formation but instead gave a mixture of products including lactol 4.21 in addition to overoxidation. This suggests that protection of the secondary alcohol is necessary before oxidation.



Scheme 4.8: Selectively protected diol elaboration.

Efforts were then directed towards selectively protecting secondary alcohol 4.20. One-pot procedures to first silvl protect the primary alcohol followed by trichloroacetate protection of the secondary alcohol instead lead to selective trichloroacetate protection of the primary alcohol (Scheme 4.9).<sup>5</sup> This is hypothesized to occur via silyl transfer to the secondary alcohol, leaving the primary alcohol free to react with trichloroacetic anhydride. Switching to a larger silyl protecting group and isolating the intermediate protected diol allowed formation of globally protected triol **4.23**. Unfortunately, upon treatment with TBAF, both the silyl and trichloroacetate protecting groups were cleaved. To avoid deprotection of the secondary alcohol, an acetate protecting group was used instead of trichloroacetate.



Scheme 4.9: Secondary alcohol protection attempts.



Scheme 4.10: Synthesis of methylation precursor 4.25.

Acetate protection of the secondary alcohol proved to be somewhat more challenging than trichloroacetate protection. A large excess of acetyl chloride was required as no reaction was observed with acetic anhydride, and the reaction proceeded slowly with unreacted starting material recovered after 18 hours (Scheme 4.10). Silyl deprotection of triol **4.24** followed by

oxidation led to enol 4.25, which was then subjected to various methylation conditions.

### 4.3. Screening Methylation Conditions.

While there are few examples of methylating  $\alpha$ -formyl ketones, the reaction is not entirely unprecedented.<sup>6</sup> Attempts to use methyl iodide to favor C-methylation were unsuccessful, and only O-methylation was observed. Strong bases tended to cause decomposition (Table 4.3) while weaker bases resulted in O-methylation or no reaction. While a wide variety of conditions remain to be screened, this route was ultimately abandoned due to the number of steps required to manipulate protecting groups, instability of enol **4.25** and lack of the desired reactivity in methylating.

H Piv		conditions X C	OHC PivO 4.2	H H Me 66
Entry	Base	Me Source	Solvent	Result
1	NaHMDS	MeI	THF	decomp
2	NaH	MeI	THF	decomp
3	KOtBu	MeI	THF	O-methylation
4	$K_2CO_3$	MeI	THF	O-methylation
5	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeI	DMSO	O-methylation
6	$K_2CO_3$	MeI	HMPA	O-methylation
7	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeI	none	O-methylation
8	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeI	$Et_2O$	NR
9	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	MeI	$Et_2O$	NR
10	Li <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	$Me_2SO_4$	Et <sub>2</sub> O	NR

**Table 4.3:** Screening methylation conditions.

Enamine alkylation was considered as an alternative solution.<sup>7</sup> Aldehyde **4.27** was targeted as a suitable substrate (Scheme 4.11). Surprisingly, oxidation of primary alcohol **4.17** proved to be difficult. Hypervalent iodine, chromium, and sulfoxide based oxidations all failed to

oxidize the primary alcohol, possibly due to the crowded steric environment. Only TEMPOmediated oxidation was successful in preparing small quantities of aldehyde **4.27**, but the conditions failed upon increasing the scale of the reaction beyond 5 mg. A preliminary survey of methylation conditions also failed to provide the desired reactivity, again attributed to steric crowding. Methylation of the welwitindolinone core does not appear to be the optimal approach, and introducing the quaternary center earlier would solve most of the problems encountered.



Scheme 4.11: Alternative methylation substrate.

### 4.4. Conclusions and Future Directions.

Installing the quaternary center at C12 is one of the major challenges remaining in completing the total synthesis of welwitindolinone C (4.38). The acidity of the C3 proton has limited which substrates are potentially amenable to selective deprotonation and/or methylation and lead to the synthesis of unstable dicarbonyl 4.25. Observed *O*-methylation instead of the desired *C*-methylation has further complicated the process, and the current route is not well suited to our natural product target.

In her work towards welwitindolinone B, Dr. Leah Cleary reported T2IMDA reactions with tetrasubstituted alkene dienophiles.<sup>8</sup> Cycloadduct **4.31** could be prepared with the desired quaternary center in place, followed by hydrogenation and protection to afford ether **4.32** (Scheme 4.12). Further elaboration of ether **4.32** could allow the synthesis of welwitindolinone

C. Nucleophilic hydroxide opening, analogous to the chlorination reaction in the welwitindolinone B route could afford diol **4.35** (Scheme 4.13).<sup>9</sup> From there, oxidation and chlorination would afford vinyl chloride **4.37**. Functional group manipulations would then allow the synthesis of welwitindolinone C (**4.38**).



Scheme 4.12: Cycloaddition with a tetrasubstituted alkene dienophile.



Scheme 4.13: Proposed endgame strategy based on our welwitindolinone B strategy.

While selective pivaloyl protection has allowed the differentiation of reduced cycloadduct **4.6**, difficulties in methylating have ultimately limited the utility of our route towards welwitindolinone C (**4.38**). A strategy that allows the use of tetrasubstituted alkene dienophile in the IMDA-cascade reaction would install the desired C12 quaternary center while avoiding unstable 1,3-dicarbonyl intermediates.

## 4.5. References.

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#### 4.6. Supporting Information.

All reactions were carried out under nitrogen, unless otherwise noted, in oven– or flame– dried glassware. Thin layer chromatography was performed using glass-backed EM Science Silica Gel 60 (230-400 mesh). All volatile solvents were removed, *in vacuo*, under reduced pressure using a Büchi rotary evaporator. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz, using a Bruker DRX 500 spectrophotometer, or at 600 MHz using an Avance 600 spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 125 MHz. All spectra were taken at 298 K. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, or CD<sub>3</sub>OD with shifts reported as  $\delta$  values in ppm and referenced to residual solvent proton(s). Splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, sep = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad. Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained on a MicroMass LCT (ES) spectrometer. High pressure hydrogenations were performed in a Parr Instrument 4767 Pressure Vessel.



#### Lactone 4.5

To a solution of cycloadduct **4.1** (10 mg, 17.6  $\mu$ mol) in THF (0.2 mL) at 0 °C was added MeOH (17  $\mu$ L) then NaBH<sub>4</sub> (8 mg, 0.211 mmol) and the reaction was warmed to room temperature. After 4 hours, diluted with EtOAc (1 mL), quenched with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (1mL). Extracted into

EtOAc (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (7.4 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 4.56 (t, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.84 (s, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.16 (sep, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.11–1.08 (m, 18H), 0.86 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.4, 171.5, 158.1, 144.4, 140.0, 129.8, 128.4, 123.4, 122.4, 111.8, 106.5, 79.23, 79.17, 62.8, 62.3, 51.6, 38.9, 26.3, 26.2, 20.2, 17.8, 12.6.



#### **Diol 4.6**

To a solution of cycloadduct **4.1** (410 mg, 0.720 mmol) in THF (7 mL) at 0 °C was added MeOH (0.35 mL) then LiBH<sub>4</sub> (2.16 mL, 4.32 mmol, 2M in THF) dropwise. The reaction was then warmed to room temperature. After 4 hours, quenched with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and stirred until gas evolution stopped. Extracted into EtOAc (3 x 30 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (2:1  $\rightarrow$  1:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (217 mg, 59%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.15 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.03–3.98 (m, 2H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.24 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.18 (sep, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 18H), 0.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  175.0, 156.8, 144.1, 141.6, 128.9, 126.9,

124.5, 122.6, 111.0, 105.9, 99.9, 75.5, 67.1, 61.2, 57.3, 51.8, 39.5, 26.1, 25.7, 19.7, 17.9, 12.6; IR (ATR)  $v[cm^{-1}] = 3559$ , 3010, 2946, 2869, 1707, 1463; HRMS (TOF ES+) m / z calcd for  $C_{29}H_{43}NO_5SiNa (M + Na)^+ 536.2808$ , found 536.2819.



## Enone triol 4.8

To a suspension of diol **4.6** (5 mg, 9.73  $\mu$ mol) in MeCN (0.3 mL) was added HF (0.3 mL, 6M in MeCN). After 1 hour, adjusted pH to 4 with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted into EtOAc (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc) to afford triol **4.8** (2.1 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H). Enone **4.7** is the minor product of this reaction.



#### Triol 4.9

To a solution of alkene **4.8** (5 mg, 14.0  $\mu$ mol) in EtOH (0.35 mL) was added Pd/C (6 mg, 2.8  $\mu$ mol, 5%). Stirred under 1 atm H<sub>2</sub> for 7 hours, then filtered through Celite, washed with excess DCM then MeOH and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a white solid (4 mg, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.22–4.19 (m, 2H), 4.12 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.32–2.26 (m, 1H), 2.20–2.10 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 0.78 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.9, 175.3, 144.4, 141.6, 129.3, 124.4, 121.4, 106.8, 68.8, 68.1, 60.8, 60.4, 55.7, 53.6, 52.4, 40.2, 37.8, 30.4, 26.2, 19.7.

#### Alternate 1-step deprotection and reduction

To a solution of diol **4.6** (10 mg, 19.5  $\mu$ mol) in EtOAc (80  $\mu$ L) and MeOH (0.43 mL) was added HC1 (50  $\mu$ L, 5M) then Pd/C (8 mg, 3.89  $\mu$ mol, 5%). Stirred under 1 atm H<sub>2</sub> for 40 minutes, then filtered through Celite and diluted with EtOAc (5 mL). Washed with water (3 x 4 mL), brine (4 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Taken on without further purification, was not stable to silica gel column chromatography. Spectra matches product from the two-step procedure.



#### Acetate 4.14 and Diacetate 4.15

To a solution of diol (5 mg, 9.73  $\mu$ mol) in DCM (0.1 mL) was added pyridine (2.4  $\mu$ L, 29.2  $\mu$ mol) then cooled to 0 °C. Added acetyl chloride (1.5  $\mu$ L, 20.4  $\mu$ L), stirred for 1 hour then warmed to room temperature. After 4 hours, diluted with EtOAc (2 mL). Washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude mixture showed a 2.7:1 mixture of diacetate **4.15** to acetate **4.14**. Not separable by silica gel column chromatography. **Acetate 4.14**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.22 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 4.63 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.28 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.18–1.12 (m, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 18H), 0.79 (s, 3H). **Diacetate 4.15**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.23 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (s, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.18–1.12 (m, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 18H), 0.78 (s, 3H).



# **Trichloroaceate 4.13**

To a solution of triol **4.9** (2 mg, 5.56 µmol) in DCM (0.1 mL) was added pyridine (1.8 µL, 22.3 µmol) then cooled to 0 °C. Added trichloroacetic anhydride (3.4 µL, 18.4 µmol) and stirred for 2 hours then warmed to room temperature. Diluted with EtOAc (2 mL). Washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (4:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford acetate **4.13** (1.1 mg, 31% from triol **4.x**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.44 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.48–2.43 (m, 1H), 2.36–2.29 (m, 2H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H).



### **Diol 4.10**

To a solution of protected triol 4.13 (0.5 mg, 0.63 µmol) in MeOH (50 µL) was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

(0.1 mg, 0.16 µmol) in water (5 µL). After 2 hours, diluted with water (0.2 mL), extracted into EtOAc (3 x 0.5 mL), washed with brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Diol **4.10** can also be found as a side product in the 1 step deprotection and reduction of diol **4.9** if the reaction is allowed to stir for too long. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.30 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.41 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.16–2.10 (m, 1H), 1.96 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 0.78 (s, 3H).



#### **Diester 4.16**

To a suspension of diol **4.6** (5 mg, 9.73  $\mu$ mol) in MeCN (0.1 mL) and DCM (0.1 mL) was added pyridine (2.4  $\mu$ L, 29.2  $\mu$ mol) and cooled to 0 °C. Added trichloroacetic anhydride (4  $\mu$ L, 21.4  $\mu$ mol) and stirred for 1 hour then warmed to room temperature. After an additional hour, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc (2 mL). Washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford diester **4.16**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 5.11 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, *J* = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (t, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.16 (sep, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 18H), 0.81 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  174.6, 161.8, 161.0, 157.3, 144.0, 139.4, 129.1, 126.9, 125.0, 123.2, 110.1, 106.2, 75.6, 73.4, 68.1, 57.3, 54.9, 51.7, 39.2, 26.1, 25.7, 19.7, 17.9, 12.6.





To a suspension of diol **4.6** (100 mg, 0.195 mmol) in DCM (4 mL) at 0 °C was added DMAP (54 mg, 0.438 mmol), pyridine (35  $\mu$ L, 0.438 mmol), then PivCl (36  $\mu$ L, 0.292 mmol). After 10 minutes, quenched with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (4 mL). Diluted with EtOAc (20 mL), washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 × 20 mL), water (20 mL), brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (66.4 mg, 57%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.70 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18–4.13 (m, 2H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.78 (br s, 1H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.17 (sep, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 18 H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  177.7, 174.9, 156.1, 143.6, 141.5, 128.8, 127.2, 124.0, 122.72, 122.66, 111.2, 105.7, 75.7, 68.2, 61.2, 57.5, 56.7, 52.0, 39.3, 27.0, 26.1, 25.9, 19.7, 17.9, 12.6; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>51</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>SiNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 620.3383, found 620.3395.



Piv diol regioisomer 4.18 and Diprotected diol 4.19

To a suspension of diol **4.6** (5 mg, 9.73 µmol) in DCM (0.2 mL) was added pyridine (2.4 µL, 29.2 µmol) then cooled to 0 °C. Added PivCl (2.6 µL, 21.4 µmol), stirred for 3 hours then warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. Diluted with EtOAc (1 mL), washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by preparatory TLC (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to separate regioisomers **4.17** and **4.18** from diester **4.19**. **Regioisomer 4.18:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.18–4.13 (m, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.18 (s, 3H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 1.46 (sep, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 18H), 0.78 (s, 3H). **Diprotected diol 4.19:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.21–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 4.95 (d, *J* = 11.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H), 1.14 (sep, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 18H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.79 (s, 3H).



## **Monoprotected triol 4.20**

To a solution of diol **4.17** (55 mg, 92.0 µmol) in EtOAc (1.25 mL) and MeOH (4.1 mL) was added HCl (0.25 mL, 5M) then Pd/C (39 mg, 18.4 µmol, 5%). Stirred under 1 atm H<sub>2</sub> for 75 minutes then filtered through Celite. Diluted with EtOAc (30 mL), washed with water (2 x 20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (3:2  $\rightarrow$  1:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (38.4 mg, 94%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34 (t, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.2, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 4.53 (app t, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 4.16–4.12 (m, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (t, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.80 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  213.3, 178.1, 175.1, 144.0, 141.6, 129.2, 124.2, 121.5, 106.6, 67.03, 66.96, 60.05, 59.75, 54.4, 54.0, 52.6, 40.2, 38.8, 37.8, 30.5, 27.0, 26.2, 19.8; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>2x</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 466.2206, found 466.2223.


## Acetate 4.22

To a solution of triol **4.20** (2 mg, 4.5 µmol) in DCM (100 µL) at 0 °C was added TMSCl (0.6 µL, 4.6 µmol) then NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.7 µL, 5.0 µmol) then warmed to room temperature. After 2 hours, cooled to 0 °C, added trichloroacetic anhydride (0.9 µL, 4.7 µmol) and pyridine (0.4 µL, 5.0 µL). Stirred for 1 hour then warmed to room temperature. After 15 minutes at room temperature, diluted with EtOAc (1 mL). Washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.37 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.76 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (s, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H, 3.21 (s, 1H), 2.38–2.29 (m, 2H), 2.19–2.16 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.81 (s, 3H).



## Silyl alcohol S2

To a solution of ester 4.20 (38.4 mg, 86.6 µmol) in DCM (0.9 mL) was added TBSCl (20 mg,

0.130 mmol), imidazole (12 mg, 0.173 mmol), and DMAP (5 mg, 43.3 µmol). After stirring for 1.5 hours, diluted with DCM (20 mL). Washed with water (15 mL), brine (15 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (2:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (41.8 mg, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.30 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 2.0, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 3.0 (s, 3H), 2.98 (br s, 1H), 2.37–2.32 (m, 2H), 2.11 (t, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.79 (s, 3H), 0.21 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  208.4, 177.9, 175.3, 144.1, 142.3, 129.0, 124.7, 121.2, 106.4, 66.5, 66.3, 60.0, 58.1, 54.4, 54.0, 52.8, 40.1, 38.7, 37.9, 30.6, 27.0, 26.2, 25.8, 20.0, 18.3, –5.7, –5.8; HRMS (TOF ES+) *m* / *z* calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>47</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>SiNa (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 580.3070, found 580.3156.



# **Triprotected triol 4.23**

To a solution of alcohol **S2** (1.5 mg, 2.7  $\mu$ mol) in DCM (0.1 mL) at 0 °C was added pyridine (0.4  $\mu$ L, 5.4  $\mu$ mol) then trichloroacetic anhydride (0.5  $\mu$ L, 3.0  $\mu$ mol) and stirred for 1.5 hours then warmed to room temperature. After 2 hours, added excess pyridine (2  $\mu$ L) then excess trichloroacetic anhydride (2  $\mu$ L) and stirred for an additional 2 hours. Diluted with EtOAc (2

mL), washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (1.2 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 1H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.37–2.32 (m, 1H), 2.30–2.23 (m, 2H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 6H).



#### Acetate 4.24

To a solution of alcohol **S2** (5.0 mg, 9.0 µmol) in DCM (0.1 mL) at 0 °C was added pyridine (2.2 µL, 27 µmol), acetyl chloride (1.3 µL, 28 µmol), then DMAP (1.1 mg, 9.0 µmol) and the reaction was warmed to room temperature. After 18 hours, diluted with EtOAc (2 mL), washed with sat. aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), 10% aq CuSO<sub>4</sub> (2 x 1 mL), water (1 mL), brine (2 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexanes  $\rightarrow$  7:1  $\rightarrow$  4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to afford a white solid (3.3 mg, 61%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 4.77 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 3.18–3.14 (m, 1H), 2.28 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.23–2.19 (m, 1H), 2.14–2.11 (m, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.91 (s, 9H),

0.78 (s, 3H), 0.16 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 208.9, 177.6, 175.0, 168.9, 143.7, 142.0, 129.4, 124.2, 121.4, 106.4, 70.5, 68.0, 62.9, 61.6, 52.6, 52.5, 51.1, 40.0, 38.7, 38.0, 30.2, 27.0, 26.3, 26.0, 21.1, 19.8, 18.2, -5.4, -5.5.



# Alcohol S3

To a solution of acetate **4.24** (9.2 mg, 15.4  $\mu$ mol) in MeCN (0.47 mL) was added HF (0.47 mL, 6M in MeCN). After 1 hour, the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), extracted into DCM (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Taken on directly to enol **4.25**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (t, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (td, *J* = 10.6, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 1H), 3.35 (d, *J* = 10.3, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.34–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.16–2.12 (m, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  214.5, 177.7, 174.8, 168.9, 144.1, 140.8, 129.5, 124.1, 121.2, 106.8, 69.6, 66.3, 61.6, 60.5, 52.5, 52.4, 51.2, 40.3, 38.1, 30.1, 29.8, 26.9, 26.3, 21.3, 19.8.



Enol 4.25

To a solution of alcohol **S3** (8.1 mg, 16.7 µmol) in DCM (0.17 mL) was added DMP (10.6 mg, 25.0 µmol). After 1 hour, the reaction was quenched with 1:1 sat aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub> : Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1 mL). Extracted into EtOAc (3 x 1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Used immediately without further purification or stored in benzene at -20 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  14.22 (br s, 1H), 7.52 (br s, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 4.45 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.09–2.06 (m, 4), 2.01–1.97 (m, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  202.9, 177.8, 175.0, 169.5, 162.5, 143.9, 137.1, 128.9, 123.9, 122.0, 114.8, 106.7, 68.9, 66.3, 52.2, 49.8, 48.7, 38.4, 37.5, 30.2, 29.8, 27.9, 26.3, 21.3, 20.0.



#### Aldehyde 4.27

To a solution of alcohol 4.17 (2 mg, 3.3 µmol) in DCM (0.1 mL) at -10 °C was added KBr (10

µL, 2M in H<sub>2</sub>O), TEMPO (0.1 mg, 3.3 µmol), then buffered NaOCl (5 µL, 0.78M, 20 mg NaHCO<sub>3</sub>/mL). After 90 minutes, added buffered NaOCl (10 µL) and stirred for 30 minutes. Diluted with water (1 mL), extracted into DCM (3 x 1 mL), washed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  sat. aq Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (1 mL), brine (1 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. Used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.90 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 4.57 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 1H), 3.19 (s, 3H), 2.73 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.19–1.07 (m, 21H), 0.96 (s, 9H), 0.82 (s, 3H).

# Appendix A: Selected NMR Spectroscopy Data























































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