

A $\text{TiCl}_4/\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ Promoted Three Component Condensation Between Aromatic Heterocycles, Aldehydes and Active Methylene Compounds

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Experimental Section

General : All solvents were dried and purified by standard literature methods prior to use. Melting points were determined on an hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. Reactions were monitored on silicagel plates (Kieselgel 60F₂₅₄) and preparative chromatographies were carried out on silica gel 60 (70-230 mesh ASTM). ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were acquired at 300 MHz and 75 MHz, respectively, in CDCl₃, with TMS as internal standard. IR spectra (thin film or KBr pastille) were measured with a Fourier Transformed instrument. Mass spectra were recorded with an ESI mass spectrometer.

Typical procedure for the three-component reaction: In a typical procedure, the malonester derivative is added to a solution of TiCl₄ (1 equiv) in dry dichloromethane (20 mL / 10 mmol), at 0°C, under nitrogen using 3Å molecular sieves. Et₃N (1.0 equiv) was added after formation of a yellow suspension. The solution became red. The aldehyde (1.0 equiv) was then dropwise added and the mixture was stirred at this temperature until its disappearance (monitored by TLC). The heterocycle (1.0 equiv) was then added and the mixture is allowed to reach room temperature until the reaction was completed. After quenching by an aqueous solution of 1M HCl, the organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum to give crude products which were purified either by column chromatography on silica gel or by recrystallization to furnish the corresponding trimolecular adduct.

Characterisation of compounds 1-7 ; 10-14 ; 16-22 :

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 1 (Table 1, Entry 5)

Prepared according to procedure using 1 mL (1.156 g, 8.75 mmol) of dimethyl malonate, 960 µL (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol) of TiCl₄, 1.23 mL (885 mg, 8.75 mmol) of Et₃N, 800 µL (631 mg, 8.75 mmol) of isobutyraldehyde and 1.025 g (8.75 mmol) of indole to yield **1** (2.146 g; 81 % yield) as a white solid; mp = 128-129 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.86 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.08 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.82 (dd, 1H, *J* = 11.0 Hz, *J* = 4.8

Hz), 3.99 (d, 1H, $J = 11.0$ Hz), 7.03 (d, 1H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.08 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 17.9, 21.8, 30.5, 42.1, 52.1, 52.6, 56.2, 110.8, 112.8, 119.2, 119.5, 121.7, 122.7, 128.3, 135.5, 168.7, 169.3. IR (KBr): ν 3401, 3048, 2952, 1727, 1432, 1335, 1269, 1150, 1018, 741 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 303, 260, 171, 156, 130, 101. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_4$ 303.1471; found 303.1463. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(3-pentyl)propanoate 2 (Table 2, Entry 1)

Prepared according to the general procedure using 1 mL (1.156 g, 8.75 mmol) of dimethyl malonate, 960 μL (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol) of TiCl_4 , 1.23 mL (885 mg, 8.75 mmol) of Et_3N , 1.076 mL (876 mg, 8.75 mmol) of 2-ethylbutyraldehyde and 1.025 g (8.75 mmol) of indole to yield **2** (1.767 g; 61 % yield) as a dark pink oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.82 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 0.97 (t, 3H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 1.35 (m, 5H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.72 (dd, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 3.75 (s, 3H), 4.05 (d, 1H, $J = 1.5$ Hz), 6.99 (d, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.21 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 11.9, 12.2, 23.1, 23.6, 38.1, 44.5, 52.1, 52.4, 56.2, 110.8, 113.1, 119.2, 119.3, 121.5, 122.8, 128.3, 135.4, 168.7, 169.3. IR (KBr): ν 3397, 2956, 2927, 1750, 1739, 1454, 1432, 1336 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 331, 260, 201, 170, 130. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ 331.1784; found 331.1807. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-cyclohexylpropanoate 3 (Table 2, Entry 2)

Reaction of dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl_4 (960 μL , 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et_3N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), cyclohexanecarbaldehyde (1.060 mL, 982 mg, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol) yielded **3** (1.890 g; 63 %) as a yellow solid; mp = 128-129 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.92 (m, 2H), 1.19 (m, 2H), 1.66 (m, 7H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.78 (dd, 1H, $J = 10.9$ Hz, $J = 4.7$ Hz), 4.04 (d, 1H, $J = 10.9$ Hz), 7.02 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.66 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.06 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 26.1, 26.3, 26.6, 28.5, 32.2, 40.9, 41.8, 52.1, 52.5, 55.5, 110.8, 113.8, 119.3, 119.6, 121.7, 122.6, 128.3, 135.5, 168.8, 169.4. IR (KBr): ν 3404, 2924, 2851, 1749, 1431, 1262 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 343, 260, 211, 168, 130, 129, 101. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ 343.1784; found 343.1787. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-phenylpropanoate 4 (Table 2, Entry 3)

Yield from dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 µL, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), benzaldehyde (890 µL, 929 mg, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol): 1.594 g (54 %) as a pink solid; mp = 149-151 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 4.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.7 Hz), 5.09 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.7 Hz), 7.20 (m, 9H), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 8.03 (sl, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 42.8, 52.5, 52.7, 58.1, 111.0, 116.8, 119.3, 119.5, 120.7, 122.3, 126.5, 126.8, 128.0, 128.4, 136.2, 141.1, 168.1, 168.4. IR (KBr): ν 3386, 2947, 1752, 1754, 1457, 1433, 1252, 1014 cm⁻¹. MS (CI): *m/z* 337, 246, 206, 178, 149. C₂₀H₁₉NO₄ (337.28): calcd. C 71.20, H 5.68, N 4.15; found C 71.18, H 5.83, N 4.21. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(*p*-nitrophenyl)propanoate 5 (Table 2, Entry 4)

Reaction of dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 µL, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), 4-nitrobenzaldehyde (1.322 g, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol) yielded **5** (2.105 g; 63 %) as a red pale solid; mp = 145-146 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 4.34 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.5 Hz), 5.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.5 Hz), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.53 (m, 2H), 8.11 (m, 2H), 8.13 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 42.4, 52.8, 52.9, 57.4, 111.3, 115.2, 118.8, 119.9, 121.0, 122.7, 123.7, 126.1, 129.0, 136.2, 146.4, 148.9, 167.7, 167.8. IR (KBr): ν 3401, 3048, 2952, 1736, 1516, 1344, 1270, 1150, 741 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* 382, 355, 251, 161, 149, 133, 101. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂O₆ 382.1165; found 382.1153. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(phenethyl)propanoate 6 (Table 2, Entry 5)

Yield from dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 µL, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), phenylpropionaldehyde (1.22 mL, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol): 2.152 g (68 %) as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 2.10 (m, 4H), 2.48 (m, 1H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 7.15 (m, 8H), 7.38 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.65 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 8.03 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 30.5, 32.2, 42.0, 52.3, 52.5, 56.5, 110.8, 112.8, 119.2, 119.8, 121.2, 122.5, 128.3, 135.6, 136.1, 168.6, 169.5. IR (KBr): ν 3412, 3051, 2986, 2952, 1725, 1435, 1280, 1016, 750 cm⁻¹. MS

(**CD**): m/z 366, 235, 234, 144, 131. **C₂₂H₂₃NO₄** (365.16): calcd. C 72.31, H 6.34, N 3.83; found C 71.98, H 5.96, N 4.11. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

(3*R*S, 3*a*'*R*, 5'*R*, 6'*S*, 6*a*'*R*) Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(6'-benzyloxy-2',2'-dimethyl-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5'-yl)propanoate 7 (Table 2, Entry 6)

Reaction of dimethyl malonate (400 μ L, 462 mg, 3.5 mmol), TiCl₄ (380 μ L, 664 mg, 3.5 mmol), Et₃N (490 μ L, 354 mg, 3.5 mmol), aldehyde (0.938 g, 3.5 mmol) and indole (0.407 g, 3.5 mmol) yielded **7** (1.170 g; 66 %) as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 3.45 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.91 (d, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz), 3.97 (d, 1H, J = 3.0 Hz), 4.16 (m, 1H), 4.51 (m, 4H), 5.83 (m, 1H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 7H), 7.65 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.04 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 26.6, 26.8, 36.9, 50.1, 52.3, 52.5, 71.1, 80.6, 82.4, 104.6, 111.0, 112.1, 119.1, 121.6, 127.3, 127.6, 128.4, 135.6, 137.1, 168.7, 169.1. **IR** (KBr): ν 3401, 2987, 1740, 1454, 1432, 1370, 1256, 1018 cm⁻¹. **MS (EI)**: m/z 509, 387, 305, 243, 211, 129. **HRMS** calcd for C₂₈H₃₁NO₈ 509.2050; found 509.1956. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

COSY ¹H NMR spectrum, measured in CD₃OD allowed the identification of the two C-3 epimers as follows:

7a (major): ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.84 (d, 1H, J = 3.2 Hz), 4.16 (d, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 4.34 (dd, 1H, J = 7.8, 7.8 Hz), 4.44 and 4.70 (d, 2H, J = 11.6 Hz), 4.68-4.75 (m, 2H), 5.88 (d, 1H, J = 3.9 Hz), 6.98 (t, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.08 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 6.9 Hz), 7.32-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.55 (d, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz).

7b (minor): ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 3.45 (dd, 1H, J = 4.7, 9.3 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.89 (d, 1H, J = 3.1 Hz), 4.09 (d, 1H, J = 4.7 Hz), 4.45 and 4.72 (d, 2H, J = 11.8 Hz), 4.68-4.75 (m, 2H), 5.88 (d, 1H, J = 3.9 Hz), 7.00 (s, 1H), 7.05 (t, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.32-7.47 (m, 8H). A copy of the COSY ¹H NMR spectrum of **7** (zoomed between δ = 3.0 and δ = 5.0 ppm) in CD₃OD is provided.

Ethyl 2-ethoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 10 (Table 3, Entry 1)

Yield from diethyl malonate (1.33 mL, 1.400 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 μ L, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (800 μ L, 631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol): 1.506 g (52 %) as a white solid; mp = 75-76 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.74 (t, 3H, J = 7.1 Hz), 0.87 (m, 6H), 1.26 (t, 3H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.09 (m, 1H, H₃), 3.83 (dd, 1H, J = 11.3 Hz, J = 4.7 Hz), 3.97 (d, 1H, J = 11.0 Hz), 4.21 (q, 4H, J = 7.1 Hz),

6.98 (d, 1H), 7.11 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 8.19 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 13.4, 14.0, 17.8, 21.9, 30.5, 42.0, 56.6, 61.0, 61.4, 110.8, 113.0, 119.2, 119.7, 121.6, 122.8, 128.6, 135.5, 168.3, 169.0. IR (KBr): ν 3392, 3048, 2960, 1727, 1454, 1366, 1177, 1027, 736 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 331, 288, 171, 156, 130, 115. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ 331.1784; found 331.1745. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

***i*-Propyl 2-*i*-propyloxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 11** (Table 3, Entry 2)

Prepared according to the general sprocedure using 1.645 g of diisopropyl malonate (8.75 mmol), 960 μL of TiCl_4 (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), 1.23 mL of Et_3N (885 mg, 8.75 mmol), 800 μL of isobutyraldehyde (631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and 1.025 g of indole (8.75 mmol) to yield **11** (1.735 g; 56 % yield) as a white solid; mp = 104-106 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.70 (d, 3H, $J = 6.2$ Hz), 0.88 (m, 9H), 1.26 (t, 6H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 2.13 (m, 1H), 3.85 (dd, 1H, $J = 11.4$ Hz, $J = 4.3$ Hz), 3.97 (d, 1H, $J = 11.4$ Hz), 4.67 (sept, 1H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 5.12 (sept, 1H, $J = 6.3$ Hz), 6.92 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.69 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 8.36 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 17.6, 20.8, 21.1, 21.6, 21.9, 30.5, 41.8, 57.0, 68.3, 68.8, 110.8, 112.9, 119.1, 119.8, 121.6, 122.8, 128.7, 135.6, 168.0, 168.6. IR (KBr): ν 3463, 2977, 2933, 1725, 1586, 1450, 1263 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 359, 316, 188, 170, 130. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4$ 359.2097; found 359.2108. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

(2*S, 3*R**) Methyl 2-(acetyl)-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 12** (Table 3, Entry 3)

Reaction of methyl acetoacetate (940 μL , 1.016 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl_4 (960 μL , 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et_3N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (800 μL , 631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol) yielded **12** (966 mg; 45 %) as a white solid; mp = 128-130 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.84 (d, 6H, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 1.90 (s, 3H), 2.05 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.88 (dd, 1H, $J = 12.2$ Hz, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 4.05 (d, 1H, $J = 12.2$ Hz), 6.89 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 7.12 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 7.67 (d, 1H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 8.14 (sl, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 17.2, 21.9, 30.7, 52.6, 64.8, 111.1, 111.9, 119.2, 119.6, 122.2, 128.2, 135.6, 169.8, 203.4. IR (KBr): ν 3277, 3048, 2977, 2951, 1727, 1696, 1423, 1253 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 287, 202, 170, 156, 130, 115. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$ 310.1419; found 310.1414. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

(2*R, 3*R**) Ethyl 2-nitro-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 13** (Table 3, Entry 4)

Yield from ethyl nitroacetate (1 mL, 1.164 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 µL, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (800 µL, 631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and indole (1.025 g, 8.75 mmol): 1.267 g (48 %) as a yellow solid; mp = 124-125 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.90 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 0.92 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 1.23 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 2.14 (m, 1H), 3.99 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.1 Hz, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 4.23 (m, 2H), 5.63 (d, 1H, *J* = 10.1 Hz), 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.62 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 8.13 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 13.7, 18.5, 21.7, 29.9, 43.7, 62.9, 91.3, 110.1, 111.1, 118.9, 119.6, 122.1, 122.9, 128.1, 135.6, 164.3. IR (KBr): ν 3424, 2962, 1754, 1562, 1190, 1018, 741 cm⁻¹. MS (CI): *m/z* 305, 259, 172, 141, 82. C₁₆H₂₀N₂O₄ (304.34): calcd. C 63.14, H 6.62, N 9.20; found C 63.46, H 6.76, N 9.13. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

(3*RS*, 3*a*'*R*, 5'*R*, 6'*S*, 6*a*'*R*) Ethyl 2-diethylphosphono-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(6'-benzyloxy-2',2'-dimethyl-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5'-yl)propanoate 14 (Table 3, Entry 5)

Reaction of triethyl phosphonoacetate (560 µL, 628 mg, 2.8 mmol), TiCl₄ (310 µL, 531 mg, 2.8 mmol), Et₃N (390 µL, 283 mg, 2.8 mmol), aldehyde (0.783 g, 2.8 mmol) and indole (0.330 g, 2.8 mmol) yielded **14** (915 mg; 54 %) as a white solid; mp = 101-103 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.94 (m, 3H), 1.05 (m, 3H), 1.18 (m, 3H), 1.30 (m, 3H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 3.80 (m, 8H), 4.55 (m, 4H), 4.90 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 3.4 Hz), 5.79 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 7.30 (m, 10H), 8.21 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 13.9, 15.9, 16.1, 26.3, 26.8, 34.2, 35.1, 49.4, 61.4, 62.1, 62.4, 71.1, 81.6, 82.5, 104.6, 110.8, 111.3, 112.2, 119.4, 124.0, 125.1, 127.2, 135.5, 137.1, 168.2, 169.3. IR (KBr): ν 3268, 2925, 1731, 1454, 1366, 1251, 1163 cm⁻¹. MS (EI): *m/z* 601, 528, 496, 464, 378. C₃₁H₄₀NO₉P (601.61): calcd. C 61.88, H 6.70, N 2.33; found C 62.06, H 6.76, N 2.11. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(*N*-methyl-3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 16 (Table 4, Entry 1)

Yield from dimethyl malonate (500 µL, 578 mg, 4.375 mmol), TiCl₄ (480 µL, 830 mg, 4.375 mmol), Et₃N (615 µL, 443 mg, 4.375 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (400 µL, 316 mg, 4.375 mmol) and *N*-methylindole (560 µL, 4.375 mmol): 0.570 g (43 %) as a red solid; mp = 105-107 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.85 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7 Hz), 2.06 (m, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.79 (dd, 1H, *J* = 11.0 Hz, *J* = 4.9 Hz), 3.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 6.88 (s, 1H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.65 (d, 1H, *J* =

7.9 Hz). **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃): δ 17.9, 21.8, 30.5, 32.7, 42.1, 52.1, 52.4, 56.2, 108.8, 111.3, 118.7, 119.6, 121.2, 127.3, 128.9, 136.3, 168.6, 169.3. **IR** (KBr): ν 2951, 1736, 1432, 1322, 1155, 741 cm⁻¹. **MS (EI)**: *m/z* 317, 274, 215, 186, 144. **HRMS** calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₄ 317.1627; found 317.1636. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(2-methyl-3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 17 (Table 4, Entry 2)

Prepared according to procedure using 1 mL (1.156 g, 8.75 mmol) of dimethyl malonate, 960 μL (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol) of TiCl₄, 1.23 mL (885 mg, 8.75 mmol) of Et₃N, 800 μL (631 mg, 8.75 mmol) of isobutyraldehyde and 1.148 g (8.75 mmol) of 2-methylindole to yield **17** (1.248 g; 45 % yield) as a yellow oil; **¹H NMR** (CDCl₃): δ 0.89 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.58 (dd, 1H, *J* = 11.1 Hz, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.36 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.1 Hz), 7.00 (m, 2H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.57 (m, 1H), 8.19 (sl, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃): δ 12.2, 19.4, 21.5, 31.9, 43.6, 51.9, 52.6, 55.2, 108.7, 110.1, 118.8, 119.7, 120.3, 127.4, 133.8, 135.3, 169.2, 169.7. **IR** (KBr): ν 3393, 2954, 1752, 1458, 1267, 742 cm⁻¹. **MS (EI)**: *m/z* 317, 274, 187, 186, 185, 170, 144, 101. **HRMS** calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₄ 317.1627; found 317.1692. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-methyl-2-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 18 (Table 4, Entry 3)

Yield from dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl₄ (960 μL, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et₃N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (800 μL, 631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and 3-methylindole (1.148 g, 8.75 mmol): 2.524 g (91 %) as a red solid; mp = 103-104 °C; **¹H NMR** (CDCl₃): δ 0.73 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.02 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 2.21 (m, 1H), 2.21 (s, 1H), 3.30 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.3 Hz, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.07 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 7.08 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.48 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 9.36 (sl, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (CDCl₃): δ 8.5, 21.1, 21.5, 30.5, 43.7, 52.5, 52.7, 53.6, 109.5, 110.8, 118.2, 118.4, 121.2, 128.4, 132.5, 135.7, 168.9, 170.2. **IR** (KBr): ν 3402, 2956, 1732, 1462, 1271, 742 cm⁻¹. **MS (EI)**: *m/z* 318, 317, 275, 274, 242, 215, 186, 154. **HRMS** calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₄ 317.1627; found 317.1638. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(1,2-dimethyl-3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 19 (Table 4, Entry 4)

Prepared according to procedure using 1 mL of dimethyl malonate (1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), 960 μ L of TiCl_4 (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), 1.23 mL of Et_3N (885 mg, 8.75 mmol), 800 μ L of isobutyraldehyde (631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and 1.270 g of dimethylindole (8.75 mmol) to yield **19** (1.804 g; 72 % yield) as a white solid; mp = 100-101 $^\circ\text{C}$; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 0.88 (d, 3H, J = 6.7 Hz), 0.89 (d, 3H, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, 1H, J = 11.1 Hz, J = 6.1 Hz), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.36 (d, 1H, J = 11.1 Hz), 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 10.7, 20.4, 21.5, 29.7, 31.9, 43.9, 51.9, 52.6, 55.3, 108.0, 108.5, 118.4, 119.9, 120.4, 126.6, 135.6, 136.8, 168.8, 169.9. **IR** (KBr): ν 3040, 2952, 1753, 1731, 1467, 1432, 1252, 1155, 1014, 736 cm^{-1} . **MS (EI)**: m/z 331, 288, 229, 200, 198, 158. **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4$ 331.1784; found 331.1741. A copy of the $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum is provided.

(3*R*S, 3*a'R*, 5'*R*, 6'*S*, 6*a'**R*) Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-[3-(2-ethoxycarbonyl)indolyl]-3-(6'-benzyloxy-2',2'-dimethyl-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5'-yl)propanoate 20** (Table 4, Entry 5)

Reaction of dimethyl malonate (740 μ L, 859 mg, 6.5 mmol), TiCl_4 (710 μ L, 1.233 g, 6.5 mmol), Et_3N (910 μ L, 658 mg, 6.5 mmol), aldehyde (1.799 g, 6.5 mmol) and 2-ethoxycarbonylindole (1.223 g, 6.5 mmol) yielded **20** (2.590 g; 66 %) as a yellow oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 1.20-1.45 (m, 9H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.75 (m, 5H), 4.38 (m, 3H), 4.43 (dd, 1H, J = 9.4 Hz, J = 6.8 Hz), 5.82 (d, 1H, J = 3.8 Hz), 7.35 (m, 8H), 7.84 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz), 8.79 (sl, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 14.2, 26.4, 33.0, 36.9; 50.1, 52.4, 54.5, 60.8, 71.7, 77.9, 79.3, 81.6, 83.0, 111.2, 111.8, 119.9, 120.2, 124.1, 124.8, 125.2, 126.6; 127.3, 127.5, 128.3, 128.8, 135.8, 137.7, 161.2, 168.3, 169.0. **IR** (KBr): ν 3374, 2987, 2951, 1736, 1709, 1454, 1375, 1247, 1159, 855 cm^{-1} . **MS (EI)**: m/z 581, 509, 387, 305, 273, 243, 129. **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{35}\text{NO}_{10}$ 581.2274; found 581.2261. A copy of the $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(2-furyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 21 (Table 4, Entry 6)

Yield from dimethyl malonate (1 mL, 1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), TiCl_4 (960 μ L, 1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), Et_3N (1.23 mL, 885 mg, 8.75 mmol), isobutyraldehyde (800 μ L, 631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and furan (640 μ L, 596 mg, 8.75 mmol): 1.378 g (62 %) as a yellow oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ

0.82 (d, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 0.86 (d, 3H, $J = 6.9$ Hz), 1.92 (m, 1H), 3.46 (dd, 1H, $J = 11.1$ Hz, $J = 4.5$ Hz), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.94 (d, 1H, $J = 11.1$ Hz), 6.05 (d, 1H, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 6.28 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H, $J = 1.9$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 17.5, 21.4, 29.5, 44.7, 52.4, 52.6, 54.0, 107.9, 109.9, 141.4, 152.7, 168.2, 168.6. IR (KBr): ν 3120, 2985, 1755, 1731, 1438, 1023 cm^{-1} . MS (CI): m/z 255, 245, 242, 211, 123. $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_5$ (254.28): calcd. C 61.40, H 7.14; found C 60.98, H 6.75. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(5-methyl-2-furyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate 22 (Table 4, Entry 7)

Prepared according to procedure using 1 mL of dimethyl malonate (1.156 g, 8.75 mmol), 960 μL of TiCl_4 (1.660 g, 8.75 mmol), 1.23 mL of Et_3N (885 mg, 8.75 mmol), 800 μL of isobutyraldehyde (631 mg, 8.75 mmol) and 789 μL of 2-methylfuran (718 mg, 8.75 mmol) to yield **22** (2.110 g; 90 % yield) as a pale yellow oil; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 0.84 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 0.89 (d, 3H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.90 (m, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd, 1H, $J = 11.2$ Hz, $J = 4.5$ Hz), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.91 (d, 1H, $J = 11.2$ Hz), 5.84 (m, 1H), 5.94 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 13.5, 17.6, 21.5, 29.4, 44.8, 52.4, 52.6, 54.1, 105.7, 108.5, 150.7, 150.8, 168.4, 168.7. IR (KBr): ν 3101, 2952, 1753, 1736, 1560, 1432, 1260, 1023, 785 cm^{-1} . MS (EI): m/z 268, 225, 181, 166, 137, 135, 125. HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_5$ 268.1311; found 268.1302. A copy of the ^1H NMR spectrum is provided.

Determination of the stereochemistry of 7

(3*S*, 3*a'R*, 5'*R*, 6'*S*, 6*a'**R*) Methyl 2-methoxycarbonyl-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(6'-hydroxy-2',2'-dimethyl-tetrahydrofuro[2,3-*d*][1,3]dioxol-5'-yl)propanoate 8a** (Scheme 1)

A diastereomeric mixture (60/40) of **7** (150 mg, 0.295 mmol) dissolved in ethyl acetate (8 mL) hydrogenated at room temp and 4 bar in the presence of 50 mg of 10% Pd on charcoal as catalyst. After 48 h the catalyst was filtered off, the filtrate was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash-chromatography (elution: cyclohexan/ethyl acetate 8/2 to 6/4) affording two main fractions. From the higher running one, a modified diastereomeric mixture (**7a/7b** = 1/1) of the starting material **7** (98 mg, 65 %) was identified.

The lower running fraction corresponded to the diastereomerically enriched alcohol **8a** (33 mg, 27%) resulting from the debenzoylation of **7a**.

8a: Pale yellow oil; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.84 (d, 1H, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 4.14 (m, 2H), 4.24 (d, 1H, $J = 10.1$ Hz), 4.38 (dd, 2H, $J = 5.5, 10.1$ Hz), 4.45 (d, 1H, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 4.54 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.6, 5.5$ Hz), 5.83 (d, 1H, $J = 3.7$ Hz), 7.12-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, 1H, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 7.23-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.72 (dd, 1H, $J = 2.5, 6.6$ Hz), 8.32 (sl, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 26.2, 26.8, 35.5, 52.4, 52.9, 55.5, 76.0, 80.5, 85.3, 104.2, 111.2, 111.6, 111.7, 118.9, 119.8, 122.2, 123.8, 126.5, 135.7, 168.4, 170.3. **IR** (KBr): ν 3836, 3732, 3379, 2992, 1728, 1634, 1545, 1522, 1426, 1116, 1064, 1036 cm^{-1} . **MS (EI)**: m/z 419, 388, 387, 371, 345, 322, 313, 271, 270. **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_8$ 419.1580; found 419.1552. A copy of the $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum is provided.

(3aR, 3bS, 6S, 7S, 7aR, 8aR) 7-(3-Indolyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-oxo-hexahydro-1,3-dioxolo[4,5]furo[3,2-*b*]pyran-6-carboxylic acid methyl ester 9a (Scheme 1)

To an ice-cooled suspension of freshly sublimated $t\text{BuOK}$ (19 mg, 0.17 mmol) in dry THF was added dropwise alcohol **8a** (30 mg, 0.071 mmol), dissolved in THF (2 mL). After 1 h stirring under nitrogen, the reaction mixture was quenched with 10% NH_4Cl , the solvent was partially evaporated and the residue was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO_4), filtered and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash-chromatography (elution: cyclohexan/ethyl acetate 8/2 to 7/3) affording **9a** (19 mg, 69 %), as a viscous oil. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 1.33 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.90 (d, 1H, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 4.41 (dd, 1H, $J = 4.0, 4.1$ Hz), 4.74- 4.83 (m, 3H), 5.90 (d, 1H, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 7.03 (d, 1H, $J = 2.1$ Hz), 7.19 (t, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.28 (t, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.47 (d, 1H, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.65 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 8.38 (sl, 1H). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CD_3OD): δ 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.98 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.5, 10.3$ Hz), 4.18 (d, 1H, $J = 10.3$ Hz), 4.70 (dd, 1H, $J = 3.1, 3.2$ Hz), 4.83 (d, 1H, $J = 3.8$ Hz) 4.98 (d, 1H, $J = 2.9$ Hz), 5.97 (d, 1H, $J = 3.8$ Hz), 7.03 (t, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.09 (d, 1H, $J = 1.2$ Hz), 7.13 (t, 1H, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 7.37 (d, 1H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.63 (d, 1H, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 10.42 (sl, 1H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3): δ 26.2, 26.7, 35.7, 49.5, 52.9, 76.3, 82.8, 83.6, 105.0, 111.6, 112.6, 112.8, 118.4, 120.2, 121.0, 122.9, 125.8, 136.3, 166.1, 168.3. **IR** (KBr): ν 3721, 3390, 2985, 1745, 1644, 1535, 1520, 1458, 1166, 1081, 1011 cm^{-1} . **MS (EI)**: m/z 387, 371, 345, 329, 313, 271, 269, 255, 237, 218. **HRMS** calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$ 387.1318; found 387.1329. $[\alpha]_D^{26} +3.2$ (c 0.72, MeOH). A copy of the $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum is provided. A copy of the COSY $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of **9a** (zoomed between $\delta = 3.0$ and $\delta = 5.5$ ppm) in CD_3OD is provided.

Typical procedures for the synthesis of tryptophan analogues 15

(2*R**, 3*R**) Ethyl 2-amino-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate **15a** (Scheme 2)

Method a :

To a solution of **13** (39 mg, 0.13 mmol) in a mixture of EtOH (5 mL), concd HCl (0.37 mL) and water (4 mL) was added at 0°C Zn dust (190 mg, 2.9 mmol), followed by stirring for 3 h at 0°C. The Zn dust was filtered off, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with water and satd aq Na₂CO₃. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 97/3) to furnish **15a** in 67 % yield (24 mg).

Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.82 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.10 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.15 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.91 (sl, 2H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 3.18 (dd, 1H, *J* = 9.6 Hz, *J* = 4.6 Hz), 3.90 (m, 3H), 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 8.15 (sl, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 14.0, 21.4, 30.1, 47.2, 55.9, 60.8, 109.9, 111.0, 118.9, 119.3, 121.9, 128.22, 135.9, 175.2. IR (KBr): ν 3408, 3380, 3354, 2973, 2872, 1724, 1368, 1153 cm⁻¹. MS (CI): *m/z* 274, 216, 201, 172, 157, 130. HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₂₂N₂O₂ 274.1681; found 274.1678. A copy of the ¹H NMR spectrum is provided.

Method b :

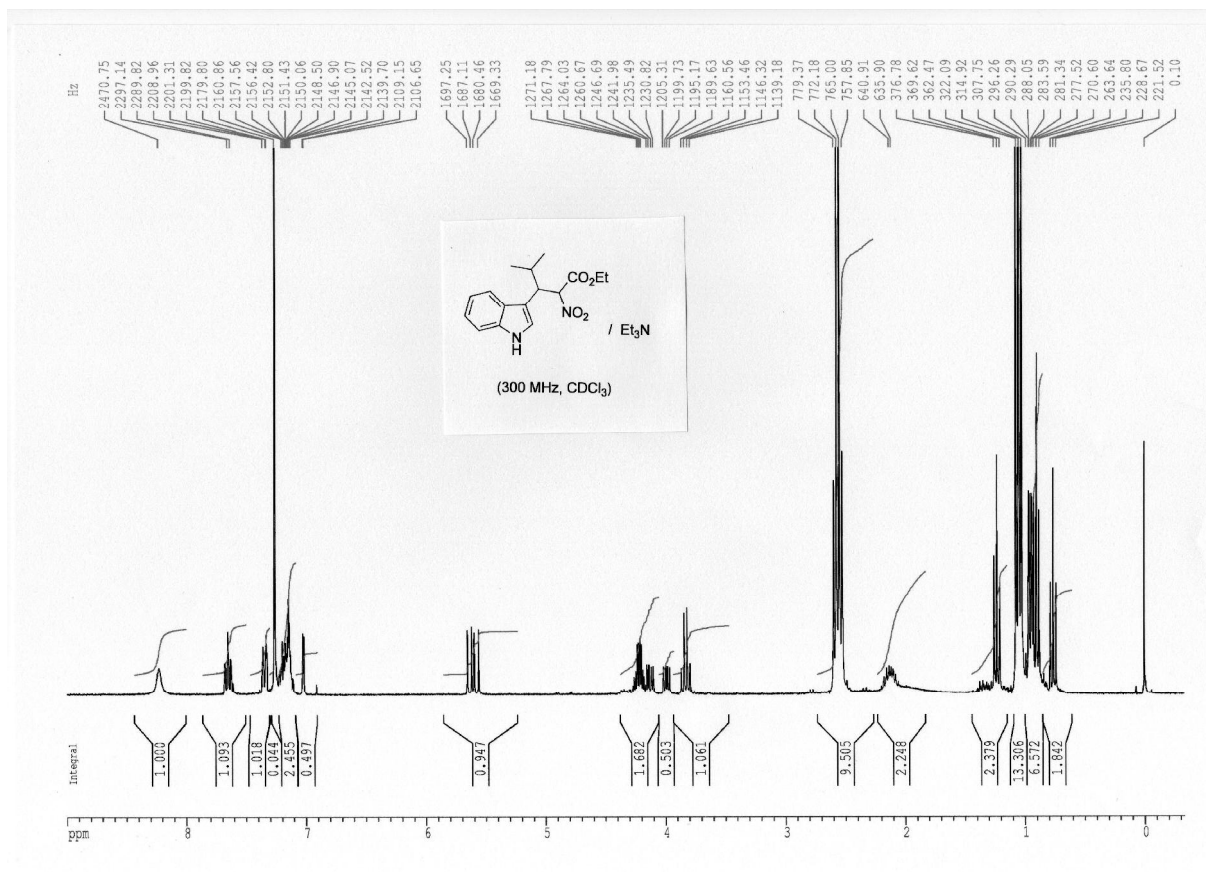
A solution of (2*R**, 3*R**) *tert*-butyl 2-amino-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate¹⁶ (45 mg, 0.15 mmol) was treated in boiling EtOH-HCl for 4h. After evaporation of the solvent the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and extracted with satd aq Na₂CO₃. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to give crude product which was purified by flash chromatography (eluent: CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 97/3) to give **15a** (29 mg, 72 %) identical all respects with the product obtained from **13** by Zn-mediated reduction.

(2*R**, 3*S**) Ethyl 2-amino-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate **15b**

Obtained from (2*R**, 3*S**) *tert*-butyl 2-amino-3-(3-indolyl)-3-(2-propyl)propanoate¹⁶ according to the procedure used for (2*R**, 3*R**) diastereoisomer as a yellowish oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.82 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.02 (m, 6H), 1.90 (sl, 2H), 2.45 (m, 1H), 3.11 (t, 1H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 3.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 3.95 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 8.15 (sl, 1H). IR (KBr): ν 3415, 3362, 2957, 2870, 1722, 1628, 1370, 1150 cm⁻¹. MS (CI): *m/z* 274, 228, 201, 172, 157, 130. HRMS

Treatment of **13** with triethylamine at 0°C

To a solution of **13** (20 mg, 0.064 mmol) in CDCl₃ in an NMR tube was added at 0°C triethylamine (10 µL, 0.13 mmol). After 15 min at 0°C, the enregistered ¹H NMR spectrum evidenced a partial epimerisation of the C-3 carbon:



Copies of ^1H NMR SPECTRA

for Compounds 1 - 22

