# Ring Expansion of Functionalized Octahydroindoles to Enantiopure cis-Decahydroquinolines 

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Table 1. ${ }^{13}$ C NMR Chemical shifts of octahydroindoles 3-12 ${ }^{a}$

|  | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{9 a}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 a}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 a}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{C 2}$ | 66.2 | 62.9 | 66.2 | 61.7 | 74.9 | 70.8 | 71.0 | 72.5 | 66.1 |
| $\mathbf{C 3}$ | 33.6 | 31.7 | 32.1 | 30.5 | 33.3 | 30.6 | 30.6 | 32.2 | 25.4 |
| $\mathbf{C 3 a}$ | 35.7 | 35.2 | 35.0 | 35.6 | 35.6 | 35.6 | 34.6 | 34.8 | 35.6 |
| $\mathbf{C 4}$ | 24.0 | 23.3 | 24.3 | 22.8 | 24.2 | 22.8 | 23.9 | 22.7 | 22.9 |
| $\mathbf{C 5}$ | 31.0 | 29.9 | 31.0 | 28.9 | 31.0 | 29.2 | 27.5 | 29.3 | 28.9 |
| $\mathbf{C 6}$ | 109.1 | 109.3 | 108.9 | 109.4 | 108.8 | 109.2 | 108.9 | 109.0 | 109.4 |
| $\mathbf{C} 7$ | 37.5 | 31.9 | 37.8 | 30.6 | 38.2 | 30.9 | 38.2 | 38.8 | 30.4 |
| $\mathbf{C 7 a}$ | 62.5 | 59.5 | 63.0 | 59.3 | 63.0 | 59.4 | 62.9 | 63.3 | 58.9 |
| $\mathbf{N C H}$ | 58.8 | 53.4 | 58.8 | 51.7 | 60.0 | 53.4 | 58.9 | 63.2 | 51.4 |
| $\boldsymbol{i p s}$-Ar | 139.1 | 139.0 | 139.2 | 139.3 | 139.2 | 138.5 | 140.0 | 140.0 | 139.4 |
| $\boldsymbol{0}-\mathbf{A r}$ | 129.1 | 128.8 | 128.9 | 128.4 | 129.4 | 128.7 | 129.1 | 128.3 | 128.4 |
| $\boldsymbol{m}-\mathbf{A r}$ | 127.9 | 128.1 | 128.3 | 128.3 | 128.1 | 128.2 | 128.4 | 128.3 | 128.2 |
| $\boldsymbol{p}$-Ar | 126.8 | 126.9 | 127.2 | 127.0 | 127.1 | 127.1 | 127.2 | 127.0 | 127.0 |
| $\mathbf{C - 1}$ | 175.0 | 174.2 | 61.2 | 62.4 | 213.2 | 216.4 | 63.5 | 71.9 | 64.7 |
| $\mathbf{M e}$ | 51.6 | 51.6 | --- | --- | 24.9 | 24.9 | 18.2 | 20.8 | 18.2 |
| OCH |  | 64.3 | 64.3 | 64.1 | 64.3 | 64.0 | 64.3 | 64.0 | 64.1 |
|  | 64.0 | 64.0 | 63.9 | 63.9 | 64.0 | 63.9 | 64.0 | 63.9 | 63.8 |

${ }^{a}$ Values for compounds $\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{5}, \mathbf{9 a}, \mathbf{1 0 a}$ and $\mathbf{1 1 a}$ were assigned on the basis of gHSQC spectra.

 $\begin{array}{ll}4 & \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{Me} \\ 6 & \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH} \\ 8 & \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{COCH}_{3} \\ \text { 11a } \mathrm{R}=(\mathrm{S})-\mathrm{CHOHCH}_{3}\end{array}$

Table 1 (continued). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR Chemical shifts of octahydroindoles 3-12 ${ }^{b}$

|  | 12a | 9b | 10b | 11b | 12b | $9 c^{c}$ | $10 \mathbf{c}^{c}$ | $11 c^{c}$ | $12 c^{c}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C2 | 66.5 | 72.1 | 71.6 | 66.7 | 66.4 | 69.1 | 68.8 | 64.4 | 62.9 |
| C3 | 30.3 | 29.7 | 30.4 | 28.2 | 27.1 | 30.1 | 31.0 | 27.7 | 27.4 |
| C3a | 35.3 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 34.6 | 35.0 | 34.4 | 34.6 | 34.8 | 35.2 |
| C4 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 22.8 | 22.8 | 23.3 | 23.2 | 22.9 | 22.8 |
| C5 | 29.0 | 29.5 | 29.9 | 29.7 | 29.0 | 29.8 | 29.7 | 29.1 | 29.0 |
| C6 | 109.4 | 109.2 | 109.1 | 109.5 | 109.4 | 109.2 | 109.1 | 109.5 | 109.5 |
| C7 | 31.2 | 39.2 | 39.1 | 31.0 | 30.9 | 39.1 | 39.3 | 30.2 | 30.6 |
| C7a | 58.8 | 62.5 | 63.7 | 58.9 | 58.3 | 62.2 | 63.8 | 58.2 | 58.4 |
| $\mathbf{N C H}_{2}$ | 53.9 | 61.4 | 61.3 | 52.2 | 52.7 | 60.4 | 61.8 | 52.0 | 52.5 |
| $i p s-A r$ | 139.5 | 140.6 | 140.7 | 139.9 | 139.8 | 139.2 | 141.2 | 139.8 | 140.0 |
| $o$-Ar | 128.2 | 128.3 | 128.6 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 129.4 | 128.2 | 128.1 | 128.1 |
| $m-A r$ | 127.8 | 128.1 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 128.1 | 128.1 | 128.0 | 128.0 | 128.0 |
| $p-\mathrm{Ar}$ | 126.7 | 126.6 | 126.8 | 126.7 | 126.8 | 127.1 | 126.5 | 126.6 | 126.6 |
| C-1' | 71.1 | 63.4 | 60.6 | 60.9 | 59.8 | 71.1 | 75.2 | 70.7 | 72.3 |
| Me | 20.6 | 22.9 | 19.8 | 22.3 | 17.7 | 17.1 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 14.5 |
| $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ | 64.2 | 64.1 | 64.0 | 64.2 | 64.3 | 63.9 | 64.0 | 64.1 | 64.2 |
|  | 63.8 | 63.8 | 63.9 | 63.9 | 63.9 | 63.8 | 63.8 | 63.8 | 63.9 |

${ }^{b}$ Values for compounds $\mathbf{1 2 a}, \mathbf{1 0 b}, \mathbf{1 1 b}, \mathbf{9 c}, \mathbf{1 1} \mathbf{c}$, and $\mathbf{1 2 c}$ were assigned on the basis of gHSQC spectra. ${ }^{c}$ OAc: 170.6 / 170.7 and $21.3 / 21.5$.


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 9b } \quad R=C l\left(1^{\prime} R\right) \\
& \text { 10b } R=C l\left(1^{\prime} S\right) \\
& \text { 9c } \quad R=O A c\left(1^{\prime} R\right) \\
& \text { 10c } R=O A c\left(1^{\prime} S\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



[^0]Table 2. ${ }^{13}$ C NMR Chemical shifts of decahydroquinolines 13-21 ${ }^{a}$

|  | $\mathbf{1 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 4}$ | $\mathbf{1 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 6}^{b}$ | $\mathbf{1 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 9}^{\boldsymbol{c}}$ | $\mathbf{2 1}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{C 2}$ | 52.0 | 50.6 | 57.1 | 56.0 | 53.0 | 51.9 | 53.2 | 55.7 |
| $\mathbf{C 3}$ | 68.1 | 65.4 | 69.7 | 61.4 | 75.5 | 73.2 | 73.1 | 73.6 |
| $\mathbf{C 4}$ | 33.1 | 30.5 | 26.8 | 33.1 | 29.6 | 27.0 | 24.2 | 33.3 |
| $\mathbf{C 4 a}$ | 32.8 | 28.8 | 28.3 | 35.5 | 31.4 | 33.6 | 28.4 | 32.0 |
| $\mathbf{C 5}$ | 26.9 | 26.6 | 26.4 | 26.7 | 26.6 | 25.0 | 26.8 | 26.9 |
| $\mathbf{C 6}$ | 29.9 | 29.8 | 30.2 | 32.4 | 29.7 | 30.2 | 30.0 | 29.9 |
| $\mathbf{C 7}$ | 109.9 | 109.8 | 109.3 | 109.6 | 109.8 | 109.4 | 109.3 | 109.9 |
| $\mathbf{C 8}$ | 27.0 | 25.6 | 33.5 | 28.9 | 28.1 | 34.1 | 34.7 | 27.6 |
| $\mathbf{C 8 a}$ | 57.0 | 57.7 | 56.6 | 56.2 | 55.8 | 56.1 | 56.9 | 56.5 |
| Me | --- | --- | 14.9 | 18.4 | 16.8 | 11.5 | 15.7 | 16.9 |
| NCH | 58.3 | 58.5 | 55.3 | 52.7 | 52.6 | 55.7 | 55.9 | 52.8 |
| Ar | 126.8 | 127.2 | 127.1 | 126.5 | 126.5 | 126.9 | 140.2 | 126.5 |
|  | 128.1 | 128.4 | 128.3 | 127.6 | 127.7 | 128.2 | 128.3 | 127.9 |
|  | 129.5 | 128.7 | 128.5 | 128.1 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 127.9 | 128.1 |
|  | 139.3 | 139.0 | n.0. | 141.1 | 141.2 | 139.8 | 126.6 | 140.6 |
| OCH $\mathbf{2}$ | 64.2 | 64.3 | 63.9 | 64.0 | 64.1 | 64.2 | 64.2 | 64.1 |
|  | 64.1 | 64.1 | 64.2 | 63.7 | 64.0 | 63.9 | 63.9 | 64.0 |
| Other |  |  |  |  | 170.6 | 170.4 | 170.7 |  |

${ }^{a}$ Values for compounds 13, 17, 18, $\mathbf{1 9}$ and $\mathbf{2 1}$ were assigned on the basis of gHSQC spectra ${ }^{b}$ Values taken from an NMR spectrum of a mixture of $\mathbf{9 b}$ and $\mathbf{1 6}$. ${ }^{c}$ Values taken from an NMR spectrum of a mixture of 11c and 19 .

13

14

$15 \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{H}$
$19 R=A c$

$16 \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Cl}$
$17 R=O A c$
$21 \mathrm{R}=\mathrm{OH}$


18

## Experimental Section

General: All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere with dry, freshly distilled solvents under anhydrous conditions. Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ (silica gel $60 \mathrm{~F}_{254}$ ) or $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\left(\mathrm{ALOX} \mathrm{N} / \mathrm{UV}_{254}\right)$, and the products were located with iodoplatinate spray. Chromatography refers to flash chromatography and was carried out on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ (silica gel 60 , 230-240 mesh ASTM) or $\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ (aluminium oxide 90). Drying of organic extracts was performed over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$. Evaporation of solvent was accomplished with a rotatory evaporator. Chemical shifts of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra are reported in ppm downfield ( $\delta$ ) from $\mathrm{Me}_{4} \mathrm{Si}$. Only noteworthy IR absorptions $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ are listed.

Methyl (2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-6-oxooctahydroindole-2-carboxylate ethylene acetal (3). To a solution of ketone $1(3.28 \mathrm{~g}, 11 \mathrm{mmol})$ in toluene $(350 \mathrm{~mL})$ were added a catalytic amount of TsOH and ethyleneglycol ( $1.84 \mathrm{~mL}, 33 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux temperature for 4 h in a flask incorporating a Dean-Stark apparatus. The cooled solution was diluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and washed with aqueous saturated $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}(100 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic phase was dried and concentrated to give 3.64 g of $\mathbf{3}$ as a yellowish oil, which was used in the next step without further purification. An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, 1 \% \mathrm{MeOH}\right.$ in $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$. $R_{f}=0.37\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, hexane/EtOAc 3:2); $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-41\left(c=0.9, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$, gCOSY) 1.46-1.58 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.85 (m, 5H), 1.87-1.95 (m, 1H), 2.02-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.26 (m, 1H), $2.99(\mathrm{q}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.41(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.1,7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.54\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)$, 3.74-3.92 (m, 6H), 7.18-7.40 (m, 5H, ArH); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, DEPT, gHSQC), see Table 1. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{NO}_{4}$ : C 68.86, H 7.60, N 4.22. Found: C 68.48, H 7.55, N 4.20.

## Methyl (2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-6-oxooctahydroindole-2-carboxylate ethylene acetal (4).

 Operating as above, from ketone $2(1.03 \mathrm{~g}, 3.6 \mathrm{mmol})$, acetal $\mathbf{4}$ was obtained $(1.12 \mathrm{~g})$ as yellowish crystals and used in the next step without further purification. An analytical sample was obtained by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, 1 \% \mathrm{MeOH}\right.$ in $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): R_{f}=0.24\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, hexane/EtOAc 3:2); mp 64-66 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-53\left(c \quad 0.4, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ 1.44-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.79-1.94 (m, 3H), 2.12(dt, $J=12.9,10.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.46-2.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.37(\mathrm{dt}, J=10.5,5.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.50(\mathrm{dd}, J=$ $10.2,3.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.55\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 3.74(\mathrm{~d}, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.81(\mathrm{~d}, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 3.83-3.96 (m, 4H), 7.18-7.40 (m, 5H, ArH). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, DEPT), see Table 1. Anal. calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{NO}_{4}$ : C 68.86, H 7.60, N 4.22. Found: C 68.56, H 7.85, N 4.24.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-hydroxymethyl-6-oxooctahydroindole ethylene acetal (5). Ester 3 ( $603 \mathrm{mg}, 1.82 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was dissolved in THF $\left(9 \mathrm{~mL}\right.$ ) and then cooled to $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{LiBH}_{4}(2 \mathrm{M}$ in THF, $2.8 \mathrm{~mL}, 5.46 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was slowly added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h . The reaction was quenched by adding $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the organic layer was dried and concentrated to give a residue, which was purified by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, 1 \% \mathrm{MeOH}\right.$ in $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$ to afford $441 \mathrm{mg}\left(80 \%\right.$ from 1) of 5 as a colourless oil: $R_{f}=0.31\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right) ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-15(c$ $0.2, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}$ ) 1.49 (dddd, $J=12.0,5.0,5.0,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 5eq), 1.65 ( $\mathrm{m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5$ and H-7), 1.75 ( $\mathrm{m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ and $\mathrm{H}-4$ ), 1.85 (dd, $J=12.4,7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ ), 2.20 (m, 1H, H-3a), 2.40 (brs, 1H, OH), 2.98 (dddd, $J=8.0,7.5,5.4,1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 3.02 (q, $J=$ $7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}$ ), 3.33 (dd, $J=11.0,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}$ ), 3.42 (dd, $J=11.0,3.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}$ ), 3.69-3.88 (m, 6H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{NCH}_{2}$ ), 7.26-7.32 (m, 5H, ArH); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 100 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 1. HRFABMS calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{26} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 304.1906\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 304.1913.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-hydroxymethyl-6-oxooctahydroindole ethylene acetal (6). Operating as above from ester $4(627 \mathrm{mg}, 1.89 \mathrm{mmol})$, alcohol $6(464 \mathrm{mg}, 81 \%$ from 2) was obtained after chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, 1 \% \mathrm{MeOH}\right.$ in $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$, as white crystals: $R_{f}=0.40\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right)$; mp $72-74{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-72$ (c 0.25, $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 MHz , COSY, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 1.46(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.52(\mathrm{dq}, J=12.5,2.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{eq}), 1.63(\mathrm{dm}, J=12.0$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{eq}), 1.64(\mathrm{td}, J=10.0,3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{ax}), 1.78(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{ax}), 1.80(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \beta)$, $1.83(\mathrm{dd}, J=12.0,5.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{eq}), 2.05(\mathrm{q}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \alpha), 2.30(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 2.99$ (dt, $J=10.0,3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.24(\mathrm{ddd}, J=12.0,5.5,5.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.38(\mathrm{dm} J=10.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}$ ), $3.55\left(\mathrm{dd}, J=10.8,3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH}\right), 3.64$ and $3.71(2 \mathrm{~d}, J=13.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each,
$\mathrm{NCH}_{2}$ ), 3.77-3.93 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), 7.26-7.32 (m, $\left.5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, DEPT), see Table 1. Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{25} \mathrm{NO}_{3}$ : C 71.26, H 8.31, N 4.62. Found: C 71.05, H 8.20, N 4.57.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-2-Acetyl-1-benzyloctahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (7). To a solution of ester $3(2.45 \mathrm{~g}, 7.4 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF ( 140 mL ) cooled to $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added $\mathrm{Me}(\mathrm{MeO}) \mathrm{NH} . \mathrm{HCl}(1.82 \mathrm{~g}$, $18.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5 \mathrm{eq})$ and then over 30 min was added a solution of $i-\mathrm{PrMgCl}$ in $\mathrm{THF}(18.5 \mathrm{~mL}, 2.0$ $\mathrm{M}, 5$ equiv) maintaining the temperature at $-10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The mixture was stirred for 40 min and quenched with saturated aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ solution $(50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was dried and concentrated to afford 2.65 g of the corresponding Weinreb amide as a yellow oil, which was used without purification: $R_{f}=0.21\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 96: 4\right)$. To a solution of the aforementioned Weinreb amide ( $2.65 \mathrm{~g}, 7.4 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in THF $(95 \mathrm{~mL})$ cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added dropwise MeMgBr in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(6.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 3 \mathrm{M}, 19.24 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.6 \mathrm{eq})$. The reaction mixture was stirred at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h and quenched with saturated aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ solution ( 50 mL ). The organic layer was dried and concentrated to give ketone $7(2.32 \mathrm{~g})$ as an oil, which was used without further purification. $R_{f}=$ $0.52\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $1.53(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.61-1.85(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H})$, $2.02(\mathrm{dt}, J=12.3,7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.04\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 3.02(\mathrm{q}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 7a), $3.29(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.3,7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.63$ and $3.83\left(2 \mathrm{~d}, J=13.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right.$ each, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right), 3.75-$ $3.95\left(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right), 7.20-7.35(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}),{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $50 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, DEPT), see Table 1.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-2-Acetyl-1-benzyloctahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (8). The above procedure was applied to ester $4(1.12 \mathrm{~g})$ to afford the corresponding Weinreb amide $(1.30 \mathrm{~g}): R_{f}=$ $0.16\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right)$. The Weinreb amide was treated with MeMgBr in $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 3.12 mL , $3 \mathrm{M}, 9.36 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.6 \mathrm{eq})$ and operating as in the formation of ketone $7,1.21 \mathrm{~g}$ of ketone $\mathbf{8}$ was isolated, which was used without further purification. $R_{f}=0.49\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $1.40(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{ax}), 1.50-1.70(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.75-1.90(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H})$, $2.07\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 2.16(\mathrm{dt}, J=13.5,11.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.50(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 3.36(\mathrm{ddd}, J=11.4,5.7,5.7$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.35$ (dd, $J=11.0,1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.57$ and 3.71 ( $2 \mathrm{~d}, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right)$, 3.75-3.94 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), 7.20-7.35 (m, 5H, Ar); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $50 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, DEPT), see Table 1.

Reduction of ketone 7. To a solution of amino ketone $7(2.29 \mathrm{~g}, 7.25 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}(85 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $-20{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added $\mathrm{NaBH}_{4}(571 \mathrm{mg}, 14.5 \mathrm{mmol})$ in small portions. The resulting mixture was maintained at this temperature for 6 h . Then, water ( 25 mL ) was added and the mixture was extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $3 \times 50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The organic extracts were washed with brine, dried, and concentrated. Purification of the residue by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, hexane to hexane/EtOAc 1:1) provided $1.05 \mathrm{~g}(46 \%)$ of alcohol 9 a as a colourless oil and $862 \mathrm{mg}(37 \%)$ of alcohol 10a as a colorless oil, after two succesive purifications. Overall yield for three steps $(\mathbf{3} \rightarrow \mathbf{9 a}+\mathbf{1 0 a})$ : 83\%; 1.2:1 ratio of alcohols $\mathbf{9 a}: \mathbf{1 0 a}$.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'R)-(1-hydroxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (9a): $R_{f}=0.30\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right) ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-41\left(c 1.3, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, $g$ COSY $) 1.09\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.43-1.81(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3, \mathrm{H}-4, \mathrm{H}-5$, and H-7), $2.20(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 3a), 2.80 (ddd, $J=9.3,6.9,3.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 3.02 (q, $J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}$ ), 3.66-3.85 (m, 7H, H$1^{\prime}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}$, and $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), $7.26-7.32(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gHSQC}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 318.2069\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 318.2070.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'S)-(1-hydroxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (10a): $R_{f}=0.30\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 95: 5\right) ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-32\left(c 0.8, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}\right) 1.16\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.50(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5$ and $\mathrm{H}-7), 1.60(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ and $\mathrm{H}-5), 1.63(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.77$ (m, 2H, H-4), 1.88 (ddd, $J=12.0,8.0,7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 3), 2.34 (m, 1H, H-3a), 2.82 (q, $J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 2.97 (dt, $J=12.0,6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.54$ (quint, $J=6.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1$ '), 3.74-3.86 (m, $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}$ ), 7.20-7.40 (m, 5H, ArH); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 318.2069\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 318.2074.

Reduction of ketone 8. The above procedure was followed using ketone $\mathbf{8}(1.06 \mathrm{~g}, 3.36 \mathrm{mmol})$. Purification by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, hexane to hexane-EtOAc 1:1) afforded $622 \mathrm{mg}(54 \%)$ of alcohol 11a as a white solid and then $365 \mathrm{mg}(32 \%)$ of alcohol 12a as a white solid. Overall yield for three steps $(\mathbf{4} \rightarrow \mathbf{1 1 a}+\mathbf{1 2 a})$ : 86\%; 1.7:1 ratio of alcohols 11a and 12a. (11a): $R_{f}=0.22\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 98: 2\right) ; \mathrm{mp} 73-75{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-100\left(c 0.7, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}$ ) 1.13 (d, $J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ), $1.41(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.50$ $(\mathrm{dm}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.60-1.68(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.73-1.90(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 2.21(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 2.76(\mathrm{dq}, J=$ $10.0,2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.21$ (ddd, $J=12.0,5.5,5.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.61$ and 3.77 ( $2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 1 H each, $\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}$ ), 3.78-3.93 (m, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{H}-1$ '), 7.20-7.40 (m, $\left.5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (100 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 318.2069\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 318.2074.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'R)-(1-hydroxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (12a): $R_{f}=0.11\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{MeOH} 98: 2\right) ; \mathrm{mp} 91-93{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-36\left(\mathrm{c} 1.0, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, g \mathrm{COSY}$ ) $1.22\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right.$ ), $1.43(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.50-$ 1.75 (m, 4H, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-7), 1.80 (m, 2H, H-4 and H-5), 2.15 (m, 1H, H-3), $2.32(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 3a), 2.88 (ddd, $J=9.8,4.8,2.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 3.22 (ddd, $J=11.0,5.4,5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.69$ (m, $\left.1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1 \mathrm{l}^{\prime}\right), 3.73-3.92\left(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2}\right.$ and $\left.\mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right), 3.96(\mathrm{br} \mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OH}), 7.20-7.40(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC ), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 318.2069\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 318.2063 .

Conversion of alcohols 9a-12a to their corresponding chlorides 9b-12b.
Compounds $\mathbf{9 b} \mathbf{- 1 2 b}$ were prepared according to the following procedure: to a solution of alcohol (9a-12a, $50 \mathrm{mg}, 0.16 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was added $\mathrm{MsCl}(0.014 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.18 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.1$ equiv), followed by $E t_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ( $0.09 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.64 \mathrm{mmol}, 4.0$ equiv). After 4 h at reflux, the reaction mixture was poured into an aqueous 2.5 M NaOH solution ( 1 mL ). After extraction with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(3 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$, the organic phase was dried and concentrated to afford compounds $\mathbf{9 b} \mathbf{- 1 2 b}$, which were used without further purification.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'R)-(1-chloroethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (9b). This compound was obtained together with the expanded chloride $\mathbf{1 6} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ $1.53\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.40-2.10(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.85-3.00(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.80-4.00(\mathrm{~m}$,
$7 \mathrm{H})$, 7.20-7.40 (m, 5 H ); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27}{ }^{35} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} 336.1730\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 336.1731.
(2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'S)-(1-chloroethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (10b): yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}$ ) $1.49\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.55-1.65(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}$, H-5 and H-7), 1.70-1.80 (m, 3H, H-3, H-4), 1.88 (ddd, $J=12.0,8.0,7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 2.94(\mathrm{dt}, J=10.5,6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.15(\mathrm{dt}, J=9.2,6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.73$ and 3.87 (2d, $J$ $=13.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right), 3.70-3.84\left(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right), 3.95\left(\mathrm{dq}, J=11.5,6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1^{\prime}\right)$, 7.20-7.38 (m, 5H, ArH); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 1). HRFABMS calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27}{ }^{35} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3} 336.1730\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 336.1727.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'S)-(1-chloroethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (11b): white solid; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, g \mathrm{COSY}$ ) $1.39(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8$ $\left.\mathrm{Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$ 1.50-1.65 (m, 4H, H-3 and H-4), 1.75-1.95 (m, 3H, H-7eq and H-5), $2.42(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 3a), 2.96 (dt, $J=10.0,3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 3.23 (ddd, $J=11.6,5.6,5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.72$ and 3.84 ( $2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\mathrm{NCH}_{2}$ ), 3.78-3.90 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), $4.05\left(\mathrm{qd}, J=6.8,3.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1^{\prime}\right)$, 7.20-7.40 (m, 5H, ArH); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, g \mathrm{HSQC}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27}{ }^{35} \mathrm{ClNO}_{3}$ 336.1730 (MH ${ }^{+}$), found 336.1741.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'R)-(1-chloroethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (12b): yellow oil; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 1.48\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.40-2.05(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 3.20(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.6-4.0(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.20-7.35(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$, see Table 1.

## Ring expansion of chlorides 9b-12b

Method $\boldsymbol{A}$. A solution of the appropriate chloride derivative $\mathbf{9 b - 1 2 b}(0.16 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF ( 1 mL ) was treated with AgOAc ( $0.48 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) at reflux for 4 h . The reaction mixture was filtered through a bed of Celite and diluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The organic layer was washed with saturated $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}(10 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried and concentrated to afford the corresponding mixture of acetates $\mathbf{9 c - 1 2 c}$ and 17-20. (See Table 1 in the main paper for results in each series and below for the NMR data of formed acetates).

- From $\mathbf{9 b}$, a mixture of acetates $\mathbf{9 c}$ and $\mathbf{1 7}$ was obtained ( $80 \%$ overall yield) in a 1:1.3 ratio according to the NMR spectrum. Purification and separation of the compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} ; 9: 1\right)$.
- From 10b, a mixture of acetates $\mathbf{1 0 c}$ and $\mathbf{1 8}$ was obtained ( $70 \%$ overall yield) in a 2.9:1 ratio according to the NMR spectrum. Purification and separation of the compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} ; 9: 1\right)$.
- From 11b, a non-separable mixture of acetates $11 \mathbf{c}$ and 19 was obtained ( $80 \%$ overall yield) in a 5.7:1 ratio according to the NMR spectrum and GC-MS analysis. Purification of the mixture of compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$.
- From 12b, a non-separable mixture of acetates $\mathbf{1 2 c}$ and $\mathbf{2 0}$ was formed ( $60 \%$ overall yield) in a 13:1 ratio according to the NMR spectrum. Purification of the mixture of compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$.


## Ring expansion of alcohols 9a-12a

Method B. A solution of the appropriate alcohol derivative 9a-12a ( 0.16 mmol ) in THF ( 1 mL ) was treated with MsCl ( $0.19 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ equiv) and $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}$ ( $0.64 \mathrm{mmol}, 4$ equiv) under an argon atmosphere at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . AgOAc ( $0.48 \mathrm{mmol}, 3$ equiv) was added and the resulting mixture was warmed to rt over a period of 1 h . The reaction mixture was filtered through a bed of Celite and diluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ solution (10 $\mathrm{mL})$, dried and concentrated to afford the corresponding mixture of acetates.

From 9a. A mixture of acetates $\mathbf{9 c}$ and $\mathbf{1 7}$ was obtained in a 1:2.2 ratio according the NMR spectrum in $78 \%$ yield. Purification and separation of the compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$. For analytical data of $\mathbf{9 c}$ and $\mathbf{1 7}$, see the main text and Tables 1 and 2.

From 10a. A mixture of acetates $\mathbf{1 0 c}$ and $\mathbf{1 8}$ was obtained in a 1.1:1 ratio according the NMR spectrum in $66 \%$ yield. Purification and separation of the compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$.

## (2S,3aS,7aS)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'S)-(1-acetoxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (10c):

 Colourless oil. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.26\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right) .[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-57\left(c 0.2, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;$ IR $1732 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ${ }_{3}$, gCOSY) $1.21\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.50(\mathrm{t}, J=11.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5)$, $1.50-1.80(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 1.90(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OAc}), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}), 2.85(\mathrm{dt}, J=11.0,6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a})$, $3.00(\mathrm{dt}, J=10.0,7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.70$ and $3.94\left(2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}\right.$ each, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right), 3.74-3.86$ (m, 4H, OCH 2 ), 4.91 (quint, $J=6.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1$ '), $7.20-7.35(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 100 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NO}_{4} 360.2175\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 360.2163 .(2R,3R,4aS,8aS)-3-Acetoxy-1-benzyl-2-methyl-7-oxodecahydroquinoline ethylene acetal (18): Colourless oil. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.58\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right) .[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}-24\left(c 1.0, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;$ IR $1733 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ${ }_{3}$, gCOSY) $1.10\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.48(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5), 1.52(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, H-4), 1.59 (m, 2H, H-6), 1.72 (t, $J=12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{ax}), 1.80$ (m, 1H, H-5), 1.87 (brt, $J=13.0$ Hz, 1H, H-4ax), 1.94 (dm, $J=12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{eq}), 2.00$ (s, 3H, OAc), 2.08 (m, 1H, H-4a), 3.00 (dt, $J=12.8,4.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{a}), 3.20(\mathrm{q}, J=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2) ; 3.78$ and $3.84(2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}$ ), 3.86-3.95 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), 4.99 (ddd, $J=12.0,5.6,4.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ ), 7.20-7.35 (m, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 2 HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NO}_{4}$ $360.2175\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 360.2171 .

From 11a. 11c and 19 were obtained in a 2.2:1 ratio according the NMR spectrum in $76 \%$ yield as a unseparable mixture. Purification of the mixture of compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'S)-(1-acetoxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (11c): Colourless oil. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.31\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}\right) 1.23(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.35(\mathrm{t}, J=12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.45-2.05(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 2.07(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OAc}), 2.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-$ 3a), 2.89 (dt, $J=10.0,2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2), 3.08$ (dt, $J=12.0,6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}), 3.52$ and 3.88 (2d, $J$ $=13.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2}\right), 3.80-4.00\left(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right), 5.14(\mathrm{qd}, J=6.4,2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1$ '), 7.157.35 (m, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gHSQC}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NO}_{4} 360.2175\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 360.2158 .
( $2 R, 3 R, 4 \mathrm{a} R, 8 \mathrm{aR}$ )-3-Acetoxy-1-benzyl-2-methyl-7-oxodecahydroquinoline ethylene acetal (19): Colourless oil. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.31\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) 1.04(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ), 1.45-2.05 (m, 8H), $2.07(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OAc}), 2.34(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{a}), 2.89(\mathrm{qd}, J=7.2,1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}-2 \mathrm{ax}), 3.09(\mathrm{dt}, J=11.5,4.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{a}), 3.68-3.80\left(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right.$ and $\left.\mathrm{OCH}_{2}\right), 4.82(\mathrm{q}, J=$ $2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{eq})$, 7.15-7.30 (m, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$, see Table 2. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NO}_{4} 360.2175\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 360.2158 .

From 12a. Acetate 12c and traces of $\mathbf{2 0}$ were formed in a 13:1 ratio, according the NMR spectrum and GC-MS analysis, in $40 \%$ yield as a unseparable mixture. Purification of the mixture of compounds was performed by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{EtOAc} 9: 1\right)$.
(2S,3aR,7aR)-1-Benzyl-2-[(1'R)-(1-acetoxyethyl)]octahydroindol-6-one ethylene acetal (12c): White Solid. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.31\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{gCOSY}\right) 1.24(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.37(\mathrm{t}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{ax}), 1.49(\mathrm{dm}, J=12.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{eq}), 1.60-1.70(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}-5$ and $\mathrm{H}-4$ ), 1.75 (m, 1H, H-3), 1.80-1.90 (m, 2H, H-3 and H-7eq), 1.96 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.28 (m, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{a}$ ), 3.05 (ddd, $J=8.8,6.4,2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ ), 3.15 (ddd, $J=11.2,5.6,5.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-7 \mathrm{a}$ ), 3.69 and 3.88 ( $2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ each, $\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}$ ), 3.73-3.90 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), 4.95 (quint, $J=6.4$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-1$ '), $7.20-7.35(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ), see Table 1. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NO}_{4} 360.2175\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 360.2163 .

Ring expansion of octahydroindole 9a using silver trifluoroacetate. A solution of alcohol 9a $(62 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(1.4 \mathrm{~mL})$ was treated with $\mathrm{MsCl}(0.019 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.24 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ equiv) and $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}\left(0.11 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 4\right.$ equiv) under argon atmosphere at $-20{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $1 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{Ag}$ was added ( $221 \mathrm{mg}, 1 \mathrm{mmol}, 5$ equiv) and the resulting mixture was warmed to room temperature over a period of 1 h . The mixture was treated with $2.5 \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{NaOH}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ and stirred for 3 h . The reaction mixture was filtered through a bed of Celite and diluted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$. The organic layer was dried and concentrated to afford a mixture of $\mathbf{9 a}$ and $\mathbf{2 1}$, which was purified by chromatography $\left(\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right.$, hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to give $16 \mathrm{mg}(26 \%)$ of 9a and $36 \mathrm{mg}(58 \%)$ of ( $2 S, 3 R, 4 \mathrm{aS}, 8 \mathrm{aS}$ )-1-Benzyl-3-hydroxy-2-methyl-7-oxodecahydroquinoline ethylene acetal (21): Colourless oil. $R_{\mathrm{f}}=0.10\left(\mathrm{Al}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}\right.$, Hexane/EtOAc 8:2). $[\alpha]_{\mathrm{D}}{ }^{20}+1.5\left(c 0.6, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) ;{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{COSY}$ ) $1.17(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ S13
$6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ), 1.43-1.49 (m, 2H, H-5 and H-6), 1.55-1.74 (m, 5H, H-4, H-5, H-6, and H-8eq), $1.88(\mathrm{t}, J=12.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{ax}), 2.04(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{a}), 2.57(\mathrm{dq}, J=9.0,6.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2 \mathrm{ax}), 2.93$ (dt, $J=12.6,4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-8 \mathrm{a}), 3.36(\mathrm{td}, J=9.0,7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{ax}), 3.57$ and $3.90(2 \mathrm{~d}, J=14.4$ Hz each, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{Ar}\right)$, 3.79-3.94 (m, 4H, $\mathrm{OCH}_{2}$ ), 7.18-7.35 (m, $5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, gHSQC), see Table 2. HRFABMS: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{NO}_{3} 318.2069\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}\right)$, found 318.2064.



































12a


 pulse sequence: s2pul


















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alse sequence: s2pul

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[^0]:    12a $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{OH}\left(1^{\prime} R\right)$
    11b $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Cl}(1$ 'S)
    12b $\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{Cl}(1$ 'R)
    11c $R=O A c(1 ' S)$
    12c $R=O A c(1 ' R)$

