

The Neber Route to Substituted Indoles

Douglass F. Taber* and Weiwei Tian

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

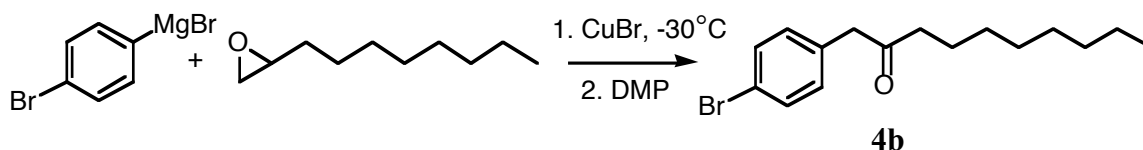
Taberdf@udel.edu

Supporting Information

Contents:

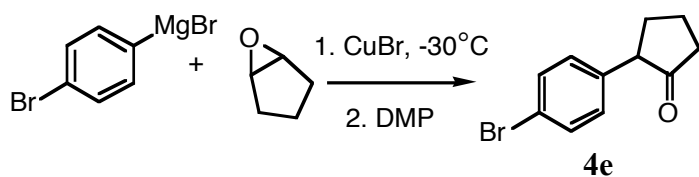
General experimental.....	S2	¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectra	
ketone 4b	S3	ketone 4b	S13
ketone 4e	S4	ketone 4e	S15
azirine 5b	S4	ketone 4c-d₅	S17
azirine 5a	S5	ketone 15	S19
azirine 5d	S5	azirine 5a	S21
azirine 5c	S6	azirine 5b	S23
azirine 12	S6	azirine 5c	S25
ketone 15	S7	azirine 5d	S27
indole 6b	S8	azirine 12	S29
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		indole 17	S45

General. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded as solutions in deuteriochloroform (CDCl_3) unless otherwise indicated, at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively. ^{13}C multiplicities were determined with the aid of a JVERT pulse sequence, differentiating the signals for methyl and methine carbons as "d" from methylene and quaternary carbons as "u". The infrared (IR) spectra were determined as neat oils. R_f values indicated refer to thin layer chromatography (TLC) on 2.5 x 10 cm, 250 μm analytical plates coated with silica gel GF, unless otherwise noted, and developed in the solvent system indicated. All glassware was oven dried and rinsed with dry solvent before use. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium metal/benzophenone ketyl under dry nitrogen. Dichloromethane (CH_2Cl_2) was distilled from calcium hydride under dry nitrogen. Acetonitrile (MeCN) was treated with molecular sieve (4Å). MTBE is methyl *tert*-butyl ether and PE is petroleum ether. All reactions were conducted under N_2 and stirred magnetically.

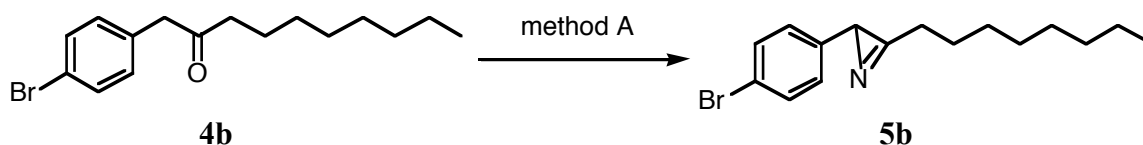


Ketone **4b**: In a round bottom flask, 1,4-dibromobenzene (14.16 g, 0.06 mol), Mg (1.44 g, 0.06 mol), iodine (trace) and 120 mL of THF were combined. The reaction was exothermic, reached reflux after 10 min. Then the reaction mixture was kept at reflux by heating until the Mg disappeared (30 min). After cooling to -30 °C, CuBr (0.75 g, 5.24 mmol) was added. After 3 min, 1, 2-epoxydecane (4.68 g, 0.03 mol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise over 10 min. The cooling bath was removed, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. After quenching with saturated aqueous NH_4Cl (50 mL), the reaction mixture was partitioned between MTBE and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to afford the alcohol (4.23 g) as a white solid: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 9/1) = 0.28.

Dess-Martin periodinane (6.99 g, 16.5 mmol) was added at 0 °C to the alcohol (4.23 g) in 100 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The reaction was followed by TLC. After disappearance of the alcohol, saturated aqueous $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10 mL) was added. The mixture was then partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to afford the ketone **4b** (3.68 g, 11.8 mmol, 40% yield from the epoxide) as a white solid: mp 35-37 °C; TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 9/1) = 0.60; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 0.87 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.22-1.28 (10H, m), 1.52-1.57 (2H, m), 2.43 (2H, t, J = 7.4 Hz), 3.60 (2H, s), 7.07 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 22.8, 23.9, 29.3, 29.5, 32.0, 42.4, 49.4, 121.2, 133.5, 208.0; d 14.3, 131.3, 131.9; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 2920, 2848, 1708, 1413, 803; LRMS (CI) m/z (rel. intensity) 312 (1), 310 (1), 171 (20), 169 (20), 141 (100), 90 (14); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M+H) 311.1011, obsd 311.1008.



Ketone 4e: The ketone **4e** was prepared following the same procedure of synthesis of the ketone **4b** in 45% overall yield from cyclopentene oxide as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE/ CH_2Cl_2 = 6/2/2) = 0.32; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 1.85-2.30 (4H, m), 2.41-2.49 (2H, m), 3.26 (1H, dd, J = 8.4, 11.6 Hz), 7.06 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (2H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 20.8, 31.5, 38.3, 120.9, 137.4, 217.3; d 54.7, 130.0, 131.7; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 1738, 1488, 1010; LRMS m/z (CI) (rel. intensity) 240 (92), 238 (92), 184 (100), 182 (100), 160 (55), 131 (38); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M) 237.9993, obsd 237.9990.

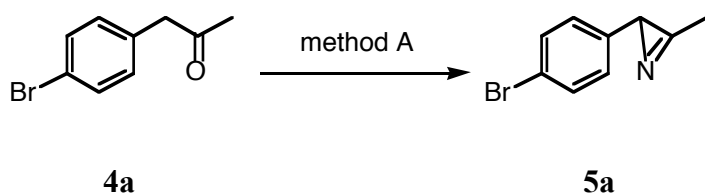


Two procedures are developed for azirine synthesis.

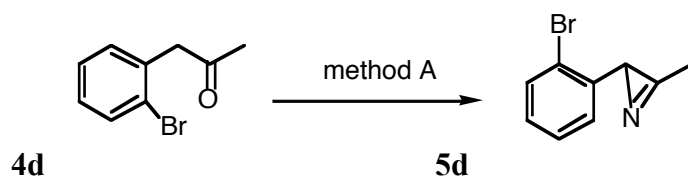
Method A: Azirine **5b**: Methanol (20 mL) and water (1 mL) were added to a mixture of **4b** (0.631 g, 2.03 mmol), $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ (0.212 g, 3.05 mmol) and sodium acetate (0.250 g, 3.05 mmol) in a round bottom flask. After stirring at rt for 4 h, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture was partitioned between MTBE and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4). Concentration led to the crude oxime (0.635 g), which was used directly in the next reaction.

To a solution of the crude oxime (0.635 g) in 35 mL of THF was added triethylamine (296 mg, 2.93 mmol) and methanesulfonyl chloride (332 mg, 2.93 mmol) sequentially at rt. The solution got cloudy after the addition of methanesulfonyl chloride. After 30 min, DBU (890 mg, 5.86 mmol) was added over 1 min. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was passed through a pad of silica gel, washing with MTBE. The mixture was

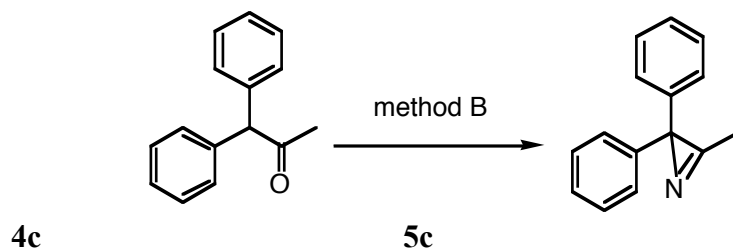
concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was chromatographed to give the azirine **5b** (437 mg, 1.42 mmol, 70% yield from the ketone) as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.69; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.25-1.31 (8H, m), 1.38-1.42 (2H, m), 1.72-1.76 (2H, m), 2.80 (2H, t, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.82 (1H, s), 6.92 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 22.8, 24.5, 27.1, 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 31.9, 120.5, 140.9, 167.5; d 14.2, 33.0, 127.2, 131.4; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 2927, 2855, 1765, 1487, 830; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ 307.0936, obsd 307.0943.



Azirine 5a: The azirine **5a** was prepared following method A in 78% yield as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.36; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.48 (3H, s), 2.81 (1H, s), 6.91 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.38 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 120.5, 140.4, 164.2; d 12.8, 32.8, 127.2, 131.3; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3443, 2987, 1777, 1484, 830; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M+H) 207.9762, obsd 207.9764.

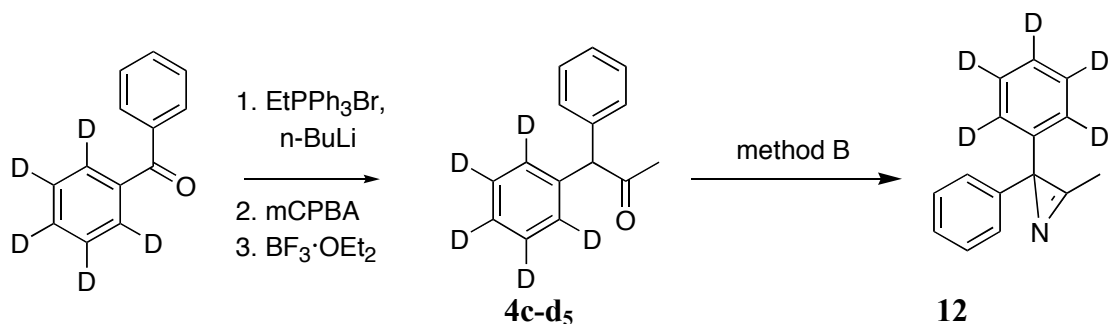


Azirine 5d: The azirine **5d** was prepared following method A in 78% yield as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.48; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) δ 2.52 (3H, s), 3.23 (3H, s), 6.71 (1H, dd, J = 2.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.07 (1H, dt, J = 1.6, 7.6 Hz), 7.21 (1H, m), 7.52 (1H, dd, J = 0.8, 8.9 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 123.5, 140.0, 165.4; d 13.2, 32.9, 125.9, 127.4, 128.2, 132.8; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 2984, 1774, 1470, 1027, 757; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M+H) 207.9762, obsd 207.9752.



Method B: Azirine **5c**¹: The crude oxime was prepared by the same procedure described in method A.

The crude oxime (89 mg, 0.40 mmol) was suspended in 2 mL of MeCN. While stirring, a mixture of DIAD (0.258 g, 1.20 mmol) and tri-*n*-butylphosphine (0.243 g, 1.20 mmol) in MeCN (1 mL) was added over 5 min at rt. After 2 h, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel, washing with MTBE. The organic solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to yield the azirine **5c** (75 mg, 0.36 mmol, 91% yield from the ketone) as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.43; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.56 (3H, s), 7.19-7.32 (10H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 42.9, 142.0, 167.6; d 13.0, 127.1, 128.1, 128.5.

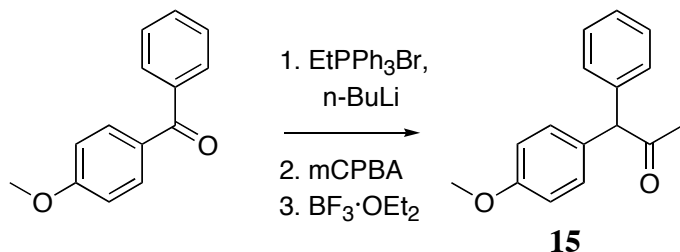


Azirine 12: To a THF (5 mL) solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (0.81 g, 2.19 mmol) was added a 1.92 M hexane solution of *n*-butyllithium (1.14 mL, 2.19 mmol) at 0 °C. After 1 h, a solution of benzophenone-2,3,4,5,6- d_5 (0.205 g, 1.09 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The mixture was then partitioned between CH_2Cl_2 and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to afford the alkene (0.207 g) as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.78.

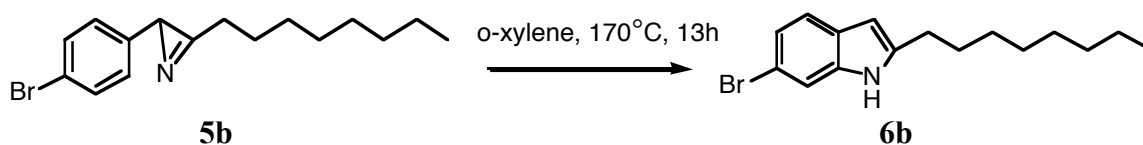
The alkene (0.207 g) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL). NaHCO_3 (0.218 g, 2.6 mmol) and mCPBA (77% purity, 0.466 g, 2.08 mmol) were added sequentially at 0 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After disappearance of the starting material on TLC, the reaction mixture was partitioned between MTBE and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to afford the epoxide (0.168 g) as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.63.

The epoxide (0.168 g) was dissolved in Et_2O (10 mL). $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.2 mL) was added at rt. After 1 min, the reaction mixture was partitioned between MTBE and, sequentially, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and brine. The combined organic extract was dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to afford the ketone **4c-d₅** (102 mg, 0.474 mmol, 43% yield from benzophenone-2,3,4,5,6-d₅) as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.45; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.26 (3H, s), 5.14 (1H, s), 7.24-7.36 (5H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 138.5, 206.7; d 30.3, 65.2, 127.5, 128.9, 129.2. IR (film, cm^{-1}) 1712, 1352, 1154, 746; LRMS (CI) m/z (rel. intensity) 216 (61), 139 (27), 172 (100), 156 (23); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{D}_5\text{O}$ (MH) 216.1437, obsd 216.1431.

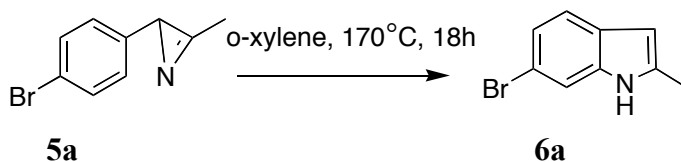
The azirine **12** was prepared following method B in 73% yield from the ketone **4c-d₅** as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.46; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.57 (3H, s), 7.20-7.33 (5H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 42.9, 142.0, 167.6; d 13.1, 127.2, 128.1, 128.5; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3026, 2271, 1764, 1493, 764; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{D}_5\text{N}$ 212.1362, obsd 212.1356.



Ketone **15**²: The ketone **15** was prepared following the same procedure described in the synthesis of the ketone **4c-d**₅ in 17% overall yield from 4-methoxybenzophenone as a colorless oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.36; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.22 (3H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 5.06 (1H, s), 6.86 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.14 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.19-7.34 (5H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 130.5, 138.8, 158.9, 207.0; d 30.1, 55.4, 64.4, 114.3, 127.3, 128.9, 129.1, 130.2.

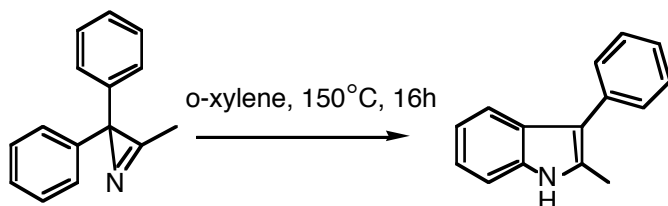


Indole **6b**: In a thick-wall tube, **5b** (120 mg, 0.390 mmol) and 2 mL of o-xylene were combined. The tube was then sealed and heated to 170 °C for 13 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was chromatographed to yield the indole **6b** (103 mg, 0.334 mmol, 86% yield) as a white solid: mp 82-83 °C; TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 95/5) = 0.32; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): 0.85-0.89 (3H, m), 1.27-1.38 (10H, m), 1.70-1.77 (2H, m), 2.77 (2H, t, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.20-6.21 (1H, m), 7.08 (1H, dd, J = 1.6, 8.4 Hz), 7.37 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.47 (1H, m); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ u 23.4, 28.8, 30.0, 30.1, 30.1, 30.2, 32.7, 114.0, 129.0, 138.3, 142.5; d 14.4, 99.9, 114.2, 121.7, 122.7; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3394, 2924, 1638, 809; LRMS (CI) m/z (rel. intensity) 309 (26), 307 (26), 280 (56), 278 (56), 266 (50), 264 (50), 252 (44), 254 (44), 224 (57), 210 (98), 184 (93), 130 (100), 89 (128); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ 307.0936, obsd 307.0932.



Indole **6a**: The indole **6a** was prepared following the procedure of synthesis of indole **6b** except that the sealed tube was heated to 170 °C for 18 h. The indole **6a** was isolated in 88% yield as a white solid: mp 123-124 °C; TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 80/20) = 0.31; ^1H

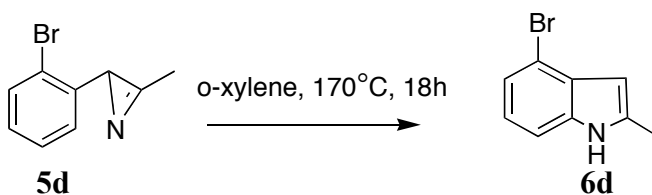
NMR (400 MHz) 2.39 (3H, d, $J = 0.8$ Hz), 6.16-6.18 (1H, m), 7.15 (1H, dd, $J = 2.0, 8.4$ Hz), 7.34-7.36 (2H, m), 7.73 (1H, bs); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 114.4, 128.1, 136.1, 137.0; d 13.9, 100.7, 113.3, 121.0, 123.0; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3401, 1638, 1387, 809; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_8\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ 208.9840, obsd 208.9841.



5c

6c

Indole **6c**³: The indole **6c** was prepared following the procedure of synthesis of indole **6b** except that the sealed tube was heated to 150 °C for 16 h. The indole **6c** was isolated in 89% yield as a white solid: mp 57-59 °C; TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.30; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6) 2.52 (3H, s), 7.02-7.12 (2H, m), 7.26-7.63 (7H, m), 10.20 (1H, bs); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ u 114.4, 128.7, 132.9, 136.8, 136.9; d 12.6, 111.5, 119.0, 120.3, 121.8, 126.3, 129.4, 130.0.

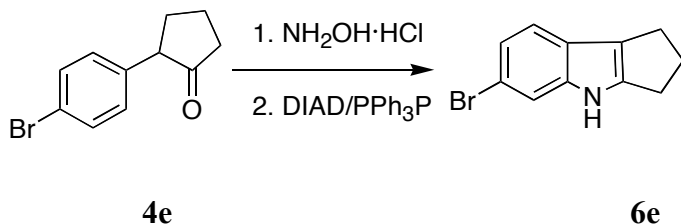


5d

6d

Indole **6d**: The indole **6d** was prepared following the procedure of synthesis of indole **6a**. The indole **6d** was isolated in 84% yield as pale-red oil: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 9/1) = 0.26; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ 2.45 (3H, d, $J = 0.4$ Hz), 6.20 (1H, t, $J = 0.8$ Hz), 6.94 (1H, t, $J = 7.8$ Hz), 7.16 (1H, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.31 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 10.33 (1H, bs); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ u 113.5, 130.6, 137.7, 137.8; d 13.6, 100.6, 110.8,

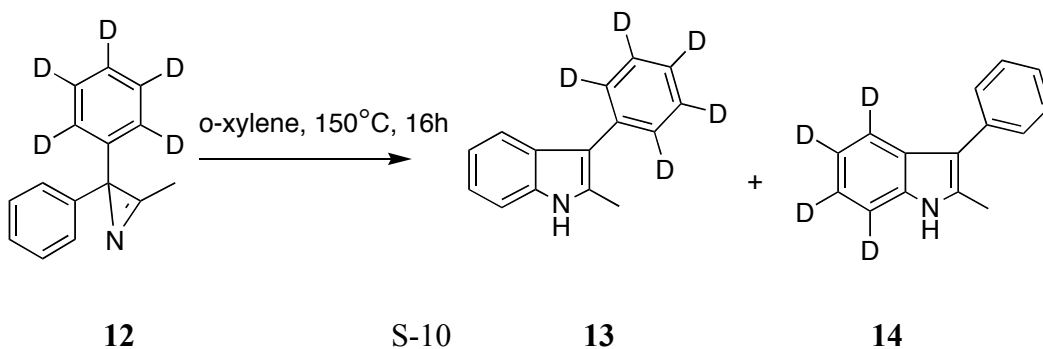
122.2, 122.6; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3405, 1551, 1430, 1178, 762; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_9\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M+H) 207.9762, obsd 207.9763.



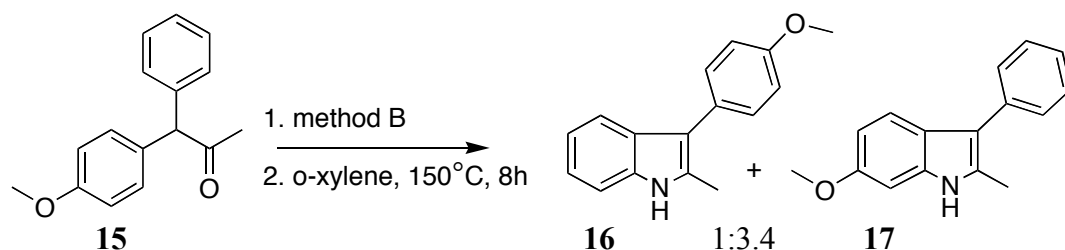
Indole 6e: The crude oxime was prepared by the same procedure described in method A of the azirine synthesis.

The indole **6e** was prepared by a modified method B of the azirine synthesis:

To a solution of the crude oxime (54 mg, 0.213 mmol) in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , a mixture of DIAD (137 mg, 0.64 mmol), triphenylphosphine (167 mg, 0.64 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) were added in 10 min at the refluxing temperature of CH_2Cl_2 . The reaction was monitored by TLC. After disappearance of the starting material (about 40 min), the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, then filtered through a short pad of silica gel, washing with MTBE. The organic solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed to yield the indole **6e** (19 mg, 0.081 mmol, 41% yield from the ketone **4e**) as a white solid: mp 190-200 °C (decomposed); TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 6/4) = 0.64; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, benzene- d_6): 2.18-2.22 (2H, m), 2.28-2.32 (2H, m), 2.57-2.62 (2H, m), 6.26 (1H, bs), 7.17 (1H, s), 7.24 (1H, t, $J = 0.8$ Hz), 7.28-7.31 (1H, dd, $J = 1.6, 8.4$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, benzene- d_6) δ u 24.8, 26.1, 29.1, 114.5, 120.0, 124.5, 142.5, 144.5; d 114.9, 120.3, 123.3; IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3403, 1423, 1364, 803; LRMS (CI) m/z (rel. intensity) 237 (97), 235 (100), 208 (12), 155 (37), 154 (37), 128 (14); HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}^{79}\text{Br}$ (M) 234.9997, obsd 234.9992.



Indoles **13** and **14**: The indoles **13** and **14** were isolated as a 1.10:1.00 mixture (81% yield from the azirine **12**) following the procedure of synthesis of indole **6c**. The ratio was determined by integrating peaks at 7.08-7.18 ppm (indole), 7.43-7.52 ppm (phenyl) and 7.67 ppm (indole), then corrected for the same integrals of the indole **6c**: TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 8/2) = 0.30; ^1H NMR (400 MHz) 2.44 (6H, s), 7.08-7.18 (2H, m), 7.25-7.31 (2H, m), 7.43-7.47 (2H, m), 7.49-7.52 (2H, m), 7.67 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.80 (2H, bs); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) δ u 114.6, 128.0, 131.6, 135.4, 135.6; d 12.7, 110.5, 119.0, 120.1, 121.7, 126.0, 128.7, 129.6.



Indoles **16**⁴ and **17**⁵: The azirine was prepared following method B except that the azirine was not purified after concentration, but was used crude in the next reaction.

The indoles **16** and **17** were prepared following the procedure of synthesis of indole **6c** except that the sealed tube was heated to 150 °C for 8 h. The isolated yield for indole **16** was 11% from the ketone **15** and the isolated yield for **17** was 35% from the ketone **15**. The ratio was determined by integrating the singlets at 3.79 and 3.84 ppm in the crude product.

For the indole **16** (yellow oil): TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 6/4) = 0.48; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6) 2.48 (3H, s), 3.84 (3H, s), 6.98-7.08 (4H, m), 7.33-7.35 (1H, m), 7.42 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 10.13 (1H, bs); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, acetone- d_6) δ u 114.1, 128.9, 129.1, 132.4, 136.8, 158.8; d 12.5, 55.6, 111.5, 114.9, 119.0, 120.1, 121.7, 131.2.

For the indole **17** (white solid): mp 155-156 °C; TLC R_f (PE/MTBE = 6/4) = 0.37; ^1H

NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆) 2.47 (3H, s), 3.79 (3H, s), 6.71 (1H, dd, J = 2.4, 4.8 Hz), 6.91 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz), 7.23-7.28 (1H, m), 7.42-7.52 (5H, m), 10.02 (1H, bs); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-d₆) δ u 114.2, 123.0, 131.4, 137.1, 137.5, 157.0; d 12.6, 55.8, 95.3, 109.9, 119.6, 126.2, 129.4, 129.9;

References

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