Direct β-Selective Hydrocarboxylation of Styrenes with CO₂ Enabled by Continuous Flow Photoredox Catalysis

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1. General Information

General Procedures

All reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of argon with the exclusion of moisture from reagents and glassware unless otherwise noted. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on 0.2 mm coated Science silica gel (EM 60 F₂₅₄) plates. Visualization was accomplished with UV light (254 nm) and exposure to either ceric ammonium molybdate (CAM), *para*-anisaldehyde, potassium permanganate, or bromocresol green solution followed by heating. Column chromatography was carried out on a Biotage Isolera flash chromatography system using SNAP KP-Sil or Ultra-Sil columns (silica gel, average particle size 50 µm and 25 µm spherical respectively).

Material

Methyl benzoate (99%, Sigma-Aldrich) was used as an internal standard for quantification. Commercially available chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, WI), Alfa Aesar (Ward Hill, MA), Acros Organics (Pittsburgh, PA), or TCI America (Portland, OR). Commercial styrene derivatives containing 4-*tert*-butylcatechol as an inhibitor were purified by passing them through a column of activated basic aluminum oxide. All solvents were degassed by sparging with nitrogen and dried by passage through a column of activated alumna on an SG Water solvent purification system. Distilled water was obtained from an in-house supply.

Instrumentation

Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra and carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (¹³C NMR) spectra were obtained on a Bruker 400 MHz NMR instrument (400 and 101 MHz, respectively). Chemical shifts for proton are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CDCl₃, 7.26 ppm; DMSO, 2.50 ppm; D₂O, 4.79 ppm; C₆D₆, 7.16 ppm). Chemical shifts for carbon are reported in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0.00$ ppm) and are referenced to residual carbon in the NMR solvent (CDCl₃, 77.0 ppm; DMSO, 39.5 ppm). The following designations are used to describe multiplicities: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br (broad). IR spectra were obtained on an Agilent Cary 630 FT-IR spectrometer equipped with an ATR (attenuated total reflectance) accessory. The following designations are used to describe intensities: s (strong), m (medium), w (weak), br (broad). High-resolution mass spectrometry data were acquired in the Department of Chemistry Instrumentation Facility, Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a Bruker Daltonics APEXIV 4.7 Tesla FT-ICR Mass Spectrometer. Gas chromatography (GC) was performed on an Agilent 5870 GC (HP-5 column) with a flame ionization detector. The mass flow controller (C101-DD-1-OV1-PA1-PV2-V3-S3-C10) was purchased from Sierra Instruments (Monterey, CA) and was calibrated for carbon dioxide by the vendor before using.

2. Additional Reaction Optimization Tables

Table S1. Electron donor evaluation.^a

	<i>p</i> -terphenyl (20 mol%), <i>hv</i> reductant (1 equiv)	SCO₂H	CO₂H	
	(1 atm) DMF	+		-
	1a 35–38 °C, t _R = 5 min	2a	За	
entry	reductant	yield $2a^b$	yield $3a^b$	$2a/3a^b$
1	triethylamine	12	4.9	2.4:1
2	N-benzylpiperidine	7.7	6.4	1.2:1
3	N,N-diisopropylethylamine	5	trace	-
4	N,N-diisopropylbenzylamine	0	0	-
5	N,N-dicyclohexylmethylamine	9.5	13.9	0.7:1
6	DIPEA	10	5.9	1.7:1
7	TMEDA	0	0	-
8	DABCO	0	0	-
9	TMP	0	0	-
10	Proton sponge	0	0	-
11	N,N-dimethylaniline	5	trace	-
12	N,N-diethylaniline	3	trace	-
13	triphenylamine	0	0	-
14	2,6-lutidine	0	0	-
15	2,4,6-collidine	0	0	-
16	1,2,5-trimethylpyrrole	0	0	-
17	Hantzsch ester	0	0	-
18	Sodium ascorbate	0	0	-
19	Thiophenol	0	0	-
20	Thioanisole	0	0	-
21	DBU	34	3.2	11:1
22	DBN	23	3.9	5.9:1
23	7-methyl-1,5,7-triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-e	ene 20	1.6	13:1
24	2-tert-Butyl-1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidin	e 0	0	-
25	1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (0.2 equi	v) 4.7	4.3	1.1:1
26	1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (1 equiv	y) 31	29	1.1:1
27	1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (2 equiv	y) 26	32	0.8:1

Table S2. Water equivalent evaluation.^a

	+ c (1	<i>p</i> -terphenyl (20 PMP (2 equiv), H O2 atm) DMF	mol%), <i>h∨</i> ₂O (X equiv)	CO ₂ H	+	CO2H
1	а	35–38 °C, <i>t</i> _R	= 5 min	2a	3a	
	entry	H ₂ O equivalent	yield 2a ^b	yield $3a^b$	2a/3a ^b	
	1	0	26	32	0.8:1	
	2	1	41	25	1.6:1	
	3	2	54	12	4.5:1	
	4	5	67	8.2	8.2:1	
	5	10	75	4.8	16:1	
	6	19	87	3.0	29:1	



Table S3. Acidic condition evaluation.^a

	→ + ∞	<i>p</i> -terphenyl (2 PMP (2 equiv), aq	0 mol%), <i>hv</i> . HCl (19 equiv)	CO ₂ H	CO ₂ H CO ₂ H
1	(1 atm)	DM 35–38 °C, <i>t</i>	F _R = 5 min	2a	+3a
	entry	aq. HCl	yield $2a^b$	yield $3a^b$	$2a/3a^b$
	1	1 M	68	3.6	19:1
	2	3 M	51	3.0	17:1
	3	5 M	32	2.2	15:1

3. Reaction Setup

General Material Information for Continuous Flow setups

- 1. Harvard Apparatus PHD 2000 syringe pump was purchased from Harvard Apparatus (Holliston, MA).
- 2. Stainless steel syringes were purchased from Harvard Apparatus (Holliston, MA).
- 3. SGE gas-tight syringes were purchased from SGE analytical science (Austin, TX).
- 4. Tefzel[®] tubings and fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) tubings were purchased from IDEX health & science (Oak Harbor, WA).
- 5. PEEKTM T-mixers, Y-mixers and unions were purchased from Upchurch Scientific®
- 6. Super Flangeless fittings (include nuts and ferrules) were purchased from Upchurch Scientific[®]
- 7. Mass flow controller was purchased from Sierra Instruments (Monterey, CA) and was calibrated for carbon dioxide by the vendor before using.
- 8. Cone-shaped frame was machined from aluminum 6061 by Proto Labs (Maple Plain, MN).
- 9. Research Arc Lamp Source, 500W Hg (Xe) arc lamp, and a power supply were purchased from Newport Corporation (Irvine, CA).
- 10. UV Hot Mirror was purchased from Edmund Optics (Barrington, NJ).
- 11. UV filter was purchased from Newport Corporation (Irvine, CA).
- 12. Blackout materials were purchased from Thorlabs (Newton, NJ).

Beeler's continuous flow photochemistry system:

As shown in Figure S1, a Harvard Apparatus PHD2000 syringe pump was used to deliver the reagent solution (syringe 1) and hexanes (syringe 2) from a SGE gas-tight syringe, which was connected to the fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) tubing at a shutoff valve (thru hole 0.03"). The solution phase was mixed with hexanes at a Y-mixer (thru hole 0.3"). The CO₂ gas cylinder was connected to Tefzel[®] tubing (OD 1/8", ID 1/16"), and its stream was metered by a mass flow controller (MFC). The outlet of MFC was connected to FEP tubing (OD 1/16", ID 0.03"). The CO₂ stream was mixed with the solution phase at a T-mixer (thru hole 0.03"), and the combined stream was introduced to a FEP coil reactor (OD 1/16", ID 0.03", volume = 1.5 mL). The tubing reactor was wrapped within the helical grooves around a cone-shaped frame. The cone reactor was cooled by circulating water at room temperature. The cone reactor was irradiated by collimated light beam of 500W Hg(Xe) arc lamp. A UV Hot Mirror and longpass filter were placed between the UV source and the cone reactor. The entire reactor was covered by black cardboard. The final exiting stream was collected into a flask.



Figure S1. Setup of the continuous flow Beeler's photochemistry system: a, The full setup. **b**, Close-up of the reactor.

Photochemistry setup in batch

An oven-dried 50 mL Schlenk flask was charged with the styrene (1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (2.10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), water (20.0 mmol, 19 equiv) and dimethylformamide (7.0 mL). The resulting homogeneous solution was degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. After the mixture was thoroughly degassed, the reaction mixture was transferred to a 50 mL quartz flask and the flask was placed in front of the collimated beam of UV light (Figure S2). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir and the CO_2 gas was bubbled into the reaction mixture while the reaction proceeded. The results are summarized in the Table S4.

Table S4. Reaction in batch.^a

	+ CO ₂ (1 atm)	<i>p</i> -terphenyl (20 mol%), PMP (2 equiv), H ₂ O (19 e DMF, 35–48 °C	hv equiv)	CO ₂ H + CO ₂ H	
	1a		2a	3a	
entry	reaction time (min)	conversion $(\%)^b$	yield 2a $(\%)^b$	Yield 3a $(\%)^b$	2a/3a ^b
1	8	42	9.2	trace	-
2	30	81	22	trace	-
3	60	100	36	0.78	46:1



Figure S2. Setup of the photochemical reaction in batch.

4. Mechanistic studies

Stern-Volmer emission quenching experiments

Emission intensities were recorded on a Horiba Jobin Yvon FluoroLog F13-21 Spectrophotometer. *p*-Terphenyl solutions were excited at $\lambda_{max} = 283$ nm and the emission was measured at 341 nm (emission maximum). In a typical experiment, a 2.5 μ M solution of *p*-terphenyl in DMF was degassed with three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. Then, the appropriate amount of 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine, water, or styrene was added to the solution. After transferring the solution to a 10.0 mm quartz cuvette, the emission of the sample was collected.



Figure S3. *p*-Terphenyl emission quenching by PMP.



Figure S4. *p*-Terphenyl emission quenching by water.



Figure S5. *p***-Terphenyl emission quenching by styrene.** (a) At lower concentration of styrene. (b) At higher concentration of styrene. The emission intensities were normalized by subtracting those from styrene fluorescence.

Although *p*-terphenyl fluorescence quenching by styrene was observed in Stern-Volmer experiments, styrene might not be directly oxidized by the excited *p*-terphenyl in the optimized hydrocarboxylation conditions. The oxidation potential $(E_{p/2} = 1.97 \text{ V vs SCE in acetonitrile})^1$ of styrene is much higher than that of PMP $(E_p = 0.73 \text{ V vs SCE in acetonitrile})^2$. We assume aggregations between *p*-terphenyl and styrene might affect the excitation-emission properties.

Table S5. Control experiments.^a

		PMP	erphenyl (20 mol%), <i>hv</i> (2 equiv), H ₂ O (19 equiv)	CO ₂ H	
	1a	(1 atm)	DMF/hexanes (3:1) 35–38 °C, t _R = 8 min	2a	
entry	omitted reagent	conversion ($(\%)^{b}$ yield 2a $(\%)^{b}$	notes	
1	CO_2	88	0	ethylbenzene was detected	
2	<i>p</i> -terphenyl	91	0		
3	PMP	<5	0		
4	light	<5	0		
5	hexanes	100	87	clogged in 20 min	

5. Synthesis of Starting Material

General procedure A for the synthesis of styrenes 1e, S1, and 4b.

To a solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (9.14 g, 25.6 mmol, 1.28 equiv) in THF (50 mL) was slowly added potassium *tert*-butoxide (2.91 g, 26 mmol, 1.30 equiv) at 0 °C. The resulting yellow suspension was stirred for 20 min at 0 °C. A solution of aldehyde (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the suspension and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with water, and the aqueous portion was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography.



5-vinylbenzo[d][1,3]dioxole (1e)

This compound was prepared via general procedure A, using piperonal (3.00 g, 20 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 50 g KP-sil, straight hexanes) to afford **1e** (1.02 g, 6.89 mmol, 34% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.97 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.58 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.0, 147.3, 136.3, 132.1, 121.0, 111.9, 108.1, 105.4, 101.0.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.³



tert-butyl (4-vinylphenyl)carbamate (1f)

To a solution of 4-vinylaniline (795 mg, 6.68 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in H₂O (8 mL) was added di-*tert*butyl dicarbonate (1.60 g, 7.34 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at room temperature. After stirring for 8 h, the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g KP-sil, straight hexanes) to afford **1g** (1.40 g, 6.37 mmol, 95% yield) as a white solid. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3377 (m), 2987 (m), 2938 (w), 1802 (w), 1701 (s), 1611 (w), 1586 (m), 1505 (s), 1459 (m), 1421 (m), 1404 (m), 1366 (m), 1320 (m), 1232 (m), 1156 (s), 1056 (m), 1026 (w), 985 (m), 899 (m), 837 (s), 773 (m), 720 (w). 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 5.65 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.6, 137.9, 136.2, 132.5, 126.8, 118.4, 112.4, 80.6, 28.3. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₃H₁₇NO₂, 218.1187; found, 218.1190.



(4-vinylphenyl)methanol (1h)⁴

To a solution of 4-vinylbenzyl chloride (2.8 mL, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in H₂O (150 mL) was added sodium hydroxide (800 mg, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and tetrabutylammonium bromide (25.8 g, 80 mmol, 4.0 equiv) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to 125 °C and was allowed to stir for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the crude mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 50 g KP-sil, 10–30% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford **1h** (1.54 g, 11.5 mmol, 57% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.4, 137.0, 136.4, 127.2, 126.4, 113.9, 65.1.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁴



tert-butyl 5-vinyl-1H-indole-1-carboxylate (1k)

Step 1 (*Wittig olefination*) 5-vinyl-1*H*-indole (**S1**) was prepared via general procedure A, using 1*H*-indole-5-carbaldehyde (2.90 g, 20 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 50 g KP-sil, 5-20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford **S1** (857 mg, 5.99 mmol, 30% yield) as a yellow solid. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3408 (s, br), 3084 (w), 3050 (w), 3005 (w), 2977 (w), 2922 (w), 1717 (w), 1627 (s), 1510 (w), 1472 (s), 1449 (m), 1416 (s), 1344 (m), 1324 (s), 1287 (m), 1249 (m), 1226 (w), 1154 (w), 1129 (w), 1090 (m), 1066 (m), 990 (s), 884 (s), 809 (s), 766 (m), 723 (s). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (br s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 6.60 – 6.52 (m, 1H), 5.71 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 138.1, 135.8, 128.3, 127.7, 125.8, 119.0, 118.6, 111.5, 110.3, 101.4. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N, 144.0808; found, 144.0809.

Step 2 (Boc protection) To a solution of **S1** (330 mg, 2.31 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in acetonitrile (8 mL) were added di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (604 mg, 2.77 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (2.4 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.01 equiv) at room temperature. After stirring overnight, the reaction mixture was quenched with water, and the aqueous portion was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, straight hexanes) to afford **1k** (524 g, 2.16 mmol, 94% yield) as a colorless oil. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2979 (w), 2934 (w), 1730 (s), 1610 (w), 1576 (w), 1537 (w), 1470 (m), 1441 (m), 1367 (s), 1334 (s), 1286 (m), 1253 (m), 1215 (m), 1157 (s), 1128 (s), 1082 (s), 1022 (s), 990 (m), 890 (m), 854 (m), 822 (m), 799 (w), 766 (m), 730 (m). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7

Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 3.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (dd, J = 17.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (dd, J = 10.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.6, 137.1, 134.9, 132.4, 130.8, 126.4, 122.4, 118.8, 115.1, 112.5, 107.4, 83.7, 28.2. HRMS (m/z) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₈NO₂, 244.1332; found, 244.1391.

General procedure B for the synthesis of styrenes 11, 4d, and 4e.

To a solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (7.86 g, 22 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in THF (80 mL) was slowly added *n*-butyllithiurm (2.5 M solution in hexanes, 8.8 mL, 22 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at room temperature. The resulting yellow suspension was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. A solution of aldehyde (20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise to the suspension and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with water, and the aqueous portion was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography.



2-vinylbenzofuran (11)

This compound was prepared via general procedure B in 13.7 mmol scale of starting material, using benzofuran-2-carbaldehyde (2.0 g, 13.7 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g Ultra-sil, straight hexanes) to afford **11** (1.60 g, 11.1 mmol, 81% yield) as a colorless oil. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3057 (w), 1685 (w), 1639 (w), 1613 (w), 1547 (m), 1451 (s), 1418 (w), 1345 (w), 1324 (w), 1283 (m), 1254 (s), 1194 (m), 1174 (m), 1150 (w), 1130 (w), 1108 (w), 1019 (m), 979 (m), 942 (s), 911 (m), 884 (m), 804 (s), 739 (s). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 5.97 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 154.7, 128.8, 125.2, 124.6, 122.8, 120.9, 115.6, 111.0, 104.7. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₉O, 145.0648; found, 145.0662.



(3-methylbut-1-en-2-yl)benzene (4b)

This compound was prepared via general procedure A, using isobutyrophenone (3.0 mL, 20 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g Ultrasil, straight hexanes) to afford **4b** (1.43 g, 9.75 mmol, 49% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 5.26 – 5.21 (m, 1H), 5.15 – 5.11 (m, 1H), 2.93 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.23 – 2.15 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.8, 142.8, 128.1, 127.0, 126.6, 109.9, 32.3, 22.0.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁵

1-methylene-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (4d)

This compound was prepared via general procedure B, using α -tetralone (2.66 mL, 20 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g Ultra-sil, straight hexanes) to afford **4d** (1.44 g, 10.0 mmol, 50% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 5.48 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.55 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.84 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.3, 135.8, 132.2, 127.3, 126.6, 126.3, 125.4, 122.7, 28.3, 23.2, 19.3.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁶



5-methylene-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5*H*-benzo[7]annulene (4e)

This compound was prepared via general procedure B, using 1-benzosuberone (3.0 mL, 20 mmol) as the starting material. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g Ultrasil, straight hexanes) to afford **4e** (1.84 g, 11.6 mmol, 58% yield) as a colorless oil. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3072 (w), 3018 (w), 2921 (m), 2851 (m), 1629 (m), 1569 (w), 1485 (m), 1440 (m), 1347 (w), 1300 (w), 1269 (w), 1205 (w), 1176 (w), 1118 (w), 1089 (w), 1042 (m), 940 (m), 896 (s), 817 (w), 768 (s), 747 (s), 701 (m). 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.09 (m, 1H), 5.17 – 5.11 (m, 1H), 5.05 – 5.00 (m, 1H), 2.86 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.49 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 1.88 (p, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.78 (p, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.8, 144.1, 140.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.1, 126.0, 113.7, 36.5, 36.3, 31.5, 27.4. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₁₅, 159.1168; found, 159.1163.



tert-butyl cinnamylcarbamate (4h)⁷

To a solution of phenylboronic acid (975 mg, 8 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in acetone (25 mL) was added *tert*-butyl *N*-allylcarbamate (2.52 g, 16 mmol, 2.0 equiv), palladium acetate (90 mg, 0.4 mmol, 0.05 equiv), silver acetate (2.67 g, 16 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and potassium hydrogen difluoride (625 mg, 8 mmol, 1.0 equiv) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C and was allowed to stir for 8 h in sealed tube. After cooling to room temperature, the aqueous mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 50 g KP-sil, 5–20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford **4h** (2.71 g, 7.33 mmol, 92% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.51 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (br s, 1H), 3.91 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.8, 136.7, 131.4, 128.6, 127.6, 126.4, 79.5, 42.8, 28.4.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁷

6. Hydrocarboxylation of Styrenes in Continuous Flow General Procedure C for hydrocarboxylation of styrenes

An oven-dried 50 mL Schlenk flask was charged with the appropriate styrene (1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), p-terphenyl (48 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (326 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), water (0.4 mL, 20.0 mmol, 19 equiv) and dimethylformamide (7.0 mL). The resulting homogeneous solution was degassed via three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. After the mixture was thoroughly degassed, the solution was taken up in a SGE gas-tight syringe and connected to a continuous flow photochemistry system (as described in Figure S1). After the flow system is filled by CO₂ (0.41 sccm) and all the air expelled prior to the start of the reaction, Harvard Apparatus PHD2000 syringe pumps were used to pump the reaction mixture and hexanes into the system. Once a steady 1:1 segmented flow of solution and CO₂ was observed, the system was equilibrated for 16 minutes. The product solution was then collected for 73 min (for the consumption of 0.70 mmol styrene reactant). The collected reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was dissolved in ethyl acetate and added water and the pH was adjusted to pH 1 by adding aq. HCl. The aqueous portion was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to afford the desired product.

General Procedure for Optimization Reactions

For reaction optimization and mechanistic studies (Tables S1–5), the above procedure was followed and the product solution was collected for 5 min. After transferring 0.2 mL of the collected mixture to a 10 mL vial, methanol (0.2 mL) and (trimethylsilyl)diazomethane (2 M in diethyl ether, 0.1 mL, 0.2 mmol, 6.7 equiv) were added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring for 30 min at room temperature, the reaction mixture was quenched with acetic acid solution in water (v/v 1:1), and methyl benzoate was added as an internal standard. Conversion, yield, and mono/di carboxylation selectivity were determined by GC using a HP-5 column (a response factor was calculated using ¹H NMR).

Characterization of Products



Hydrocinnamic acid (2a)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1a** (109 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a hydrocinnamic acid **2a** (91 mg, 0.61 mmol, 87% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 27:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.4, 140.1, 128.5, 128.2, 126.3, 35.6, 30.5.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁸

2-phenylsuccinic acid (3a)

IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2881 (m, br), 2744 (m) 2636 (m, br), 1689 (s), 1600 (w), 1497 (w), 1419 (m), 1319 (m), 1240 (s), 1205 (s), 1070 (w), 1000 (m), 926 (s, br), 849 (m), 767 (m), 726 (s), 699 (s), 671 (m). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 12.34 (s, 1H), 7.37 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 3.89 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 16.9, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 17.1, 5.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 174.0, 172.6, 138.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.1, 46.8, 37.4. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₀H₉O₄, 193.0506; found, 193.0532.



1,2-bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)ethane (S2)

IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2999 (m), 2955 (m), 2920 (s), 2872 (m), 1476 (m), 1374 (m), 1354 (m), 1291 (m), 1253 (m), 1230 (w), 1204 (w), 1172 (m), 1130 (m), 1099 (m), 1024 (m), 976 (w), 949 (w), 919 (w), 873 (w), 780 (w), 716 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O-DCl) δ 3.42 (s, 4H), 1.77 – 1.66 (m, 10H), 1.57 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.34 (s, 12H), 1.27 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O-DCl) δ 67.6, 44.1, 36.7, 29.2, 20.0, 15.0. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₉O₂, 309.3264; found, 309.3250.



methyl 2-(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)acetate (S3)

Compound **S3** was isolated after methylation following the general procedure for optimization reactions with 0.5 mmol scale. The yield was determined to 1.7% by GC analysis after esterification with (trimethylsilyl)diazomethane, using methyl benzoate as an internal standard. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2932 (s), 2873 (w), 1757 (s), 1729 (m), 1461 (m), 1435 (m), 1380 (m), 1361 (m), 1299 (m), 1267 (m), 1235 (m), 1192 (m), 1165 (s), 1135 (m), 1090 (w), 1064 (w), 1032 (w), 1063 (w), 976 (w), 951 (w), 928 (w), 908 (w), 885 (w), 852 (w), 805 (w), 723 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 2H), 1.56 – 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.51 – 1.46 (m, 4H), 1.00 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.8, 54.4, 51.6, 46.5, 40.5, 26.9, 17.6. HRMS (*m/z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₂₃NO₂, 214.1802; found, 214.1810.



3-(*p*-tolyl)propanoic acid (2b)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1b** (124 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2b** (80 mg, 0.49 mmol, 70% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 18:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 7.10 (s, 4H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.0, 137.1, 135.9, 129.2, 128.1, 35.4, 30.2, 21.0.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.⁹



3-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)propanoic acid (2c)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1c** (168 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2c** (80 mg, 0.39 mmol, 55% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 16:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 149.2, 137.1, 127.9, 125.4, 35.3, 34.4, 31.4, 30.0.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁰



3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid (2d)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1d** (128 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2d** (82 mg, 0.45 mmol, 65% yield) as a yellow solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be >40:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CCDl₃) δ 10.15 (br s, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.9, 158.0, 132.3, 129.2, 129.1, 113.9, 113.7, 55.2, 35.9, 29.7.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹¹



3-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)propanoic acid (2e)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1e** (155 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2e** (50 mg, 0.26 mmol, 37% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be >40:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.77 – 6.61 (m, 3H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 2.88 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.5, 147.6, 146.0, 134.0, 121.1, 108.7, 108.3, 100.8, 35.9, 30.3.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹²



3-(4-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)phenyl)propanoic acid (2f)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1f** (230 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2f** (129 mg, 0.48 mmol, 70% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 10:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3328 (w), 2977 (w), 2933 (w), 1706 (s), 1596 (w), 1524 (s), 1454 (w), 1413 (m), 1392 (m), 1368 (m), 1316 (m), 1238 (m), 1180 (s), 1054 (m), 903 (w), 835 (w), 773 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.80 (br s, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (br s, 1H), 2.89 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.0, 153.0, 136.6, 134.9, 128.8, 118.9, 80.6, 35.6, 30.0, 28.3. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₄, 264.1241; found, 264.1256.



Dihydroferulic acid (2g)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1g** (158 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–100% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2g** (53 mg, 0.27 mmol, 38% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 10:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.74 – 6.66 (m, 2H), 5.59 (br s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.89 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.6, 146.4, 144.1, 132.1, 120.8, 114.4, 110.9, 55.8, 35.9, 30.3.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹¹



3-(4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)propanoic acid (2h)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1h** (141 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–100% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2h** (61 mg, 0.34 mmol, 48% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 11:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3371 (m, br), 3031 (w), 2919 (m), 2709 (w), 1690 (s), 1517 (w), 1414 (m), 1343 (w), 1304 (m), 1223 (m), 1111 (w), 1014 (m), 942 (w), 827 (m), 755 (w), 674 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 176.7, 141.3, 140.5, 129.3, 128.3, 65.0, 36.8, 31.7. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₃, 179.0714; found, 179.0716.



3-(3-chlorophenyl)propanoic acid (2i)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1i** (145 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2i** (42 mg, 0.23 mmol, 33% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 15:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3030 (w), 2961 (w), 2930 (w), 1707 (s), 1596 (m), 1572 (m), 1476 (m), 1430 (m), 1283 (w), 1208 (m), 1165 (m), 1080 (m), 1035 (w), 999 (w), 879 (w), 832 (w), 785 (m), 698 (s). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.6, 142.1, 134.3, 129.8, 128.5, 128.5, 126.6, 126.5, 35.1, 30.2. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₉H₈ClO₂, 183.0218; found, 183.0221.



3-(4-fluorophenyl)propanoic acid (2j)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **1j** (128 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford a propanoic acid **2j** (95 mg, 0.57 mmol, 81% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 18:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2928 (w), 1707 (s), 1602 (w), 1509 (s), 1412 (w), 1292 (w), 1219 (s), 1158 (m), 1095 (w), 1016 (w), 934 (w), 830 (s), 765 (w), 727 (w), 700 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.18 (br s, 1H), 7.16 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.02 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 2.93 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.5, 162.7, 160.3, 135.7, 135.7, 129.7, 129.7, 115.4, 115.2, 35.6, 29.8. HRMS (m/z) [M – H][–] calcd for C₉H₈FO₂, 167.0514; found, 167.0522.



3-(1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-5-yl)propanoic acid (2k)

The general procedure C was followed using vinyl indole **1k** (255 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **2k** (115 mg, 0.40 mmol, 57% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 7:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2976 (w), 2932 (w), 1729 (s), 1708 (s), 1582 (w), 1536 (w), 1470 (m), 1443 (m), 1370 (s), 1349 (s), 1297 (m), 1255 (m), 1219 (m), 1161 (s), 1122 (s), 1083 (m), 1041 (w), 1023 (m), 884 (w), 834 (w), 819 (w), 766 (m), 726 (m), 700 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.67 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.5, 149.7, 134.5, 130.9, 126.2, 124.7, 120.3, 115.1, 107.1, 83.6, 35.9, 30.6, 28.2. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₆H₁₈NO₄, 288.1241; found, 288.1235.



3-(benzofuran-2-yl)propanoic acid (2l)

The general procedure C was followed using vinyl benzofuran **11** (151 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **21** (69 mg, 0.36 mmol, 52% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 7:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2931 (w), 1709 (s), 1602 (w), 1587 (w), 1454 (s), 1390 (w), 1251 (s), 1167 (m), 1105 (w), 1009 (w), 944 (w), 881 (w), 806 (w), 758 (s), 700 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.6, 123.5, 122.6, 120.4, 110.8, 102.6, 100.0, 31.6, 23.6. HRMS (*m/z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₁H₉O₃, 189.0557; found, 189.0555.



3-phenylbutanoic acid (5a)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4a** (124 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5a** (72 mg, 0.44 mmol, 63% yield) as a white solid. Exclusive formation of monocarboxylated product was observed by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.90 (br s, 1H), 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 3.28 (dq, *J* = 13.8, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.4, 145.4, 128.5, 126.7, 126.5, 42.5, 36.1, 21.8.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹³



4-methyl-3-phenylpentanoic acid (5b)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4b** (153 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5b** (82 mg, 0.43 mmol, 61% yield) as a white solid. Exclusive formation of monocarboxylated product was observed by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.86 (br s, 1H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 2.88 (ddd, *J* = 9.5, 7.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (dd, *J* = 15.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.80 (m, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.76 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.0, 142.5, 128.2, 128.1, 126.4, 48.4, 38.1, 33.1, 20.5, 20.1.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹³



3,3-diphenylpropanoic acid (5c)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4c** (189 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5c** (101 mg, 0.45 mmol, 64% yield) as a white solid. Exclusive formation of monocarboxylated product was observed by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.20 (m, 10H), 4.58 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.1, 143.2, 128.6, 127.6, 126.6, 46.6, 40.2.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁴



2-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)acetic acid (5d)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4d** (151 mg, 1.05 mmol) and the crude mixture was collected for 63 min (0.6 mmol scale). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5d** (75 mg, 0.40 mmol, 67% yield) as a white solid. Exclusive formation of monocarboxylated product was observed by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3060 (w), 3017 (w), 2930 (m), 2863 (w), 1704 (s), 1602 (w), 1491 (m), 1451 (m), 1409 (m), 1338 (w), 1296 (m), 1240 (w), 1205 (w), 1173 (w), 1074 (w), 939 (w), 761 (m). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 – 7.06 (m, 5H), 3.37 (dq, *J* = 9.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.84 – 2.74 (m, 3H), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.03 – 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.71 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.5, 138.9, 137.1, 129.3, 128.2, 126.1, 125.9, 41.7, 34.3, 29.5, 28.1, 19.5. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₂H₁₃O₂, 189.0921; found, 189.0919.



2-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5*H*-benzo[7]annulen-5-yl)acetic acid (5e)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4e** (166 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5e** (79 mg, 0.39 mmol, 56% yield) as a white solid. Exclusive formation of monocarboxylated product was observed by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3063 (w), 3020 (w), 2919 (m), 2852 (m), 1702 (s), 1490 (m), 1445 (m), 1410 (m), 1283 (m), 1216 (m), 1134 (w), 939 (m), 756 (m), 679 (w). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.45 (br s, 1H), 7.20 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 3.55 – 3.42 (m, 1H), 3.02 – 2.71 (m, 4H), 1.97 – 1.67 (m, 4H), 1.65 – 1.50 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.1, 143.6, 142.5, 129.8, 126.3, 126.2, 40.2, 38.4, 36.0, 33.4, 29.1, 27.7. HRMS (*m/z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₂, 203.1078; found, 203.1081.

2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoic acid (5f)

The general procedure C was followed using *trans*- β -methylstyrene **4f** (124 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5f** (53 mg, 0.29 mmol, 42% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be >40:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.22 (br s, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 – 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.3, 139.0, 129.0, 128.4, 126.4, 41.2, 39.3, 16.5.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁵



2-benzyl-3-hydroxypropanoic acid (5g)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4g** (141 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5g** (64 mg, 0.35 mmol, 50% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 10:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 3.74 – 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.67 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.06 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 2.87 – 2.75 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.3, 138.2, 128.9, 128.6, 126.7, 61.9, 48.7, 34.0.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁶



2-benzyl-3-((tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanoic acid (5h)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4h** (245 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5h** (105 mg, 0.38 mmol, 54% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be >40:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 2979 (w), 2933 (w), 1706 (s), 1508 (m), 1454 (m), 1393 (m), 1367 (m), 1243 (s), 1162 (s), 1090 (w), 1045 (m), 959 (w), 913 (w), 857 (w), 735 (s), 699 (s). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.15 (br s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.53 (br s, 0.5H), 5.00 (br s, 0.5H), 3.59 – 2.52 (m, 5H), 1.41 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.1, 177.9, 157.7, 155.9, 138.1, 128.8, 128.5, 126.6, 81.2, 79.7, 47.4, 47.2, 42.0, 41.3, 35.6, 28.3, 28.3. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₅H₂₀NO₄, 278.1398; found, 278.1422.



2-methyl-3-phenylpropanoic acid (5i)

The general procedure C was followed using $cis-\beta$ -methylstyrene **4i** (124 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in

hexanes) to afford an acid **5i** (75 mg, 0.46 mmol, 66% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be >40:1 by ¹H NMR analysis.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are in agreement with **5f.**



2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene-2-carboxylic acid (5j)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4j** (122 mg, 1.05 mmol) and the the crude mixture was collected for 55 min (0.5 mmol scale). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5j** (46 mg, 0.28 mmol, 57% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 14:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3069 (w), 2921 (w), 2855 (w), 2756 (w), 1695 (s), 1485 (w), 1430 (m), 1350 (w), 1325 (w), 1269 (m), 1237 (m), 1187 (w), 1100 (w), 1025 (w), 1010 (w), 923 (m), 746 (s), 693 (m). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.30 (br s, 1H), 7.25 – 7.13 (m, 4H), 3.44 – 3.18 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.0, 141.4, 126.6, 124.3, 43.4, 36.1. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₀H₉O₂, 161.0608; found, 161.0614.



1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-carboxylic acid (5k)

The general procedure C was followed using styrene **4k** (137 mg, 1.05 mmol). The residue was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 10 g KP-sil, 2–70% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford an acid **5k** (66 mg, 0.38 mmol, 54% yield) as a white solid. The selectivity of mono/di carboxylation was determined to be 17:1 by ¹H NMR analysis. IR (neat, cm⁻¹) 3019 (w), 2927 (w), 1699 (s), 1494 (m), 1452 (m), 1418 (m), 1292 (m), 1262 (m), 1229 (m), 1199 (m), 1111 (w), 1060 (w), 1038 (w), 947 (m), 839 (w), 816 (w), 741 (s), 699 (m). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (br s, 1H), 7.16 – 7.06 (m, 4H), 3.14 – 2.97 (m, 2H), 2.97 – 2.74 (m, 3H), 2.31 – 2.20 (m, 1H), 1.96 – 1.84 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.4, 135.6, 134.6, 129.1, 128.9, 126.0, 125.9, 39.7, 31.3, 28.4, 25.6. HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M – H][–] calcd for C₁₁H₁₁O₂, 175.0765; found, 175.0771.

7. Deuterium labeling experiments

Hydrocarboxylation of styrene (1a) using D₂O:

General procedure C was followed using styrene (109 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (69 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (326 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), D₂O (0.4 mL, 20 mmol, 19 equiv), DMF (7 mL), and hexanes (2.3 mL). The isolated product **2aa-d**₁ was obtained 67%, with >95% deuterium incorporation at the α -position of the hydrocarboxylated product. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23 (m, 3H), 2.96 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H).

Figure S6. (a) Stacked NMR plots of 2a (black) and 2aa- d_1 (red). (b) superimposed spectra (δ 3.30 – 2.30 ppm)





Synthesis of S4



2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-(methyl-d3)piperidine (S4)¹⁷

To a solution of tetramethylpiperidine (2.53 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise *n*-butyllithium (2.5 M in hexanes, 7.2 mL, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) at -78 °C. After the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 20 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to -78 °C and iodomethane-*d*3 (1.24 mL, 20 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added dropwise. After the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 2 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with water, and the aqueous portion was extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography (Biotage 25 g Ultrasil, 10–40% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford **S4** (1.01 g, 6.38 mmol, 43% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Benzene-*d*₆) δ 1.43 (s, 6H), 1.02 (s, 12H). HRMS (*m*/*z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₉D₃N, 159.1935; found, 159.1925.

The ¹H NMR spectra are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹⁷

Hydrocarboxylation of styrene (1a) using PMP- d_3 (S4) and H₂O:

General procedure C was followed using styrene (109 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (69 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine- d_3 **S4** (332 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), H₂O (0.4 mL, 20 mmol, 19 equiv), DMF (7 mL), and hexanes (2.3 mL). The isolated product **2ab**- d_1 was obtained 87%, with <1% deuterium incorporation at the α -position of the hydrocarboxylated product.

Figure S7. (a) Stacked NMR plots of 2a (black) and 2ab- d_1 (red). (b) superimposed spectra (δ 3.30 – 2.30 ppm)

(a)



Hydrocarboxylation of styrene (1a) using PMP- d_3 (S4) in dry DMF:

General procedure C was followed using styrene (109 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (69 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine- d_3 S4 (332 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), DMF (7 mL, dried by five cycles of freeze-pump-thaw over molecular sieve 4A, water content: 144 ppm, determined by Karl-Fischer titration), and hexanes (2.3 mL). The isolated product **2ac**-*d*₁ was obtained 26%, with 78% deuterium incorporation at the α -position of the hydrocarboxylated product.

Figure S8. (a) Stacked NMR plots of 2a (black) and 2ac-*d*₁ (red). (b) superimposed spectra (δ 3.30 – 2.30 ppm)



Hydrocarboxylation of styrene (1a) using PMP- d_3 (S4) in dry DMF- d_7 :

General procedure C was followed using styrene (109 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (69 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine- d_3 **S4** (332 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), DMF- d_7 (7 mL, dried by five cycles of freeze-pump-thaw over molecular sieve 4A, water content: 107 ppm, determined by Karl-Fischer titration), and hexanes (2.3 mL). The isolated product **2ad**- d_1 was obtained 25%, with 78% deuterium incorporation at the α -position of the hydrocarboxylated product.

Figure S9. (a) Stacked NMR plots of 2a (black) and 2ad- d_1 (red). (b) superimposed spectra (δ 3.30 – 2.30 ppm)



Hydrocarboxylation of styrene- $\alpha_{\beta}\beta_{\beta}-d_{\beta}$ using PMP- d_{β} (S4) in dry DMF:

General procedure C was followed using styrene- α , β , β - d_3 (\geq 98 atom % D, 109 mg, 1.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-terphenyl (69 mg, 0.21 mmol, 20 mol%), 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine- d_3 **S4** (332 mg, 2.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv), DMF (7 mL, dried by five cycles of freeze-pump-thaw over molecular sieve 4A, water content: 170 ppm, determined by Karl-Fischer titration), and hexanes (2.3 mL). The isolated product **2ae-** d_4 was obtained 25%, with 78% deuterium incorporation at the α -position of the hydrocarboxylated product.

Figure S10. (a) Stacked NMR plots of 2a (black) and 2ae- d_4 (red). (b) superimposed spectra (δ 10.5 – -0.5 ppm)



8. Proposed mechanisms.

Figure S11. (a) Proposed mechanism with details, (b) alternative mechanism for substrates 1g and 4c.

(a) Proposed mechanism with details



(b) Alternative mechanism of substrates 1g and 4c.



9. References

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210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)











S38

























S50







S53













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S60











210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl (ppm)





