

Supporting Information

Molecular Iodine-Mediated Formal [2+1+1+1] Cycloaddition Access to Pyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinolins with DMSO as Methylene Source

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Supporting Information

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Experimental Section

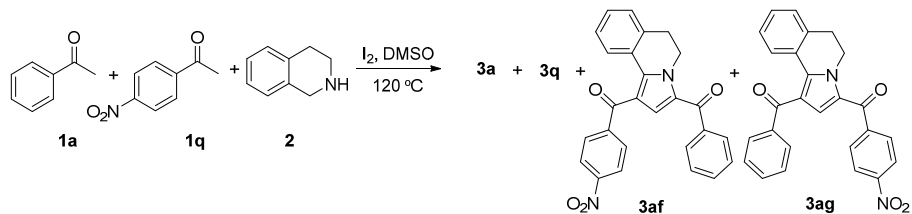
1. General methods

All of the substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh). IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets with absorption in cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR spectra were determined at 25 °C on a Varian Mercury 400 or 600 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts were provided in ppm relative to the internal standard of tetramethylsilane (TMS). ^{13}C spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ on 100/150 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) in ppm. HRMS were obtained on an Apex-Ultra MS equipped with an atmospheric-pressure chemical ionization source. The melting points were determined using XT-4 apparatus and recorded without correction. The X-ray crystal-structures were obtained on a Bruker APEX DUO CCD system.

2. General experimental details

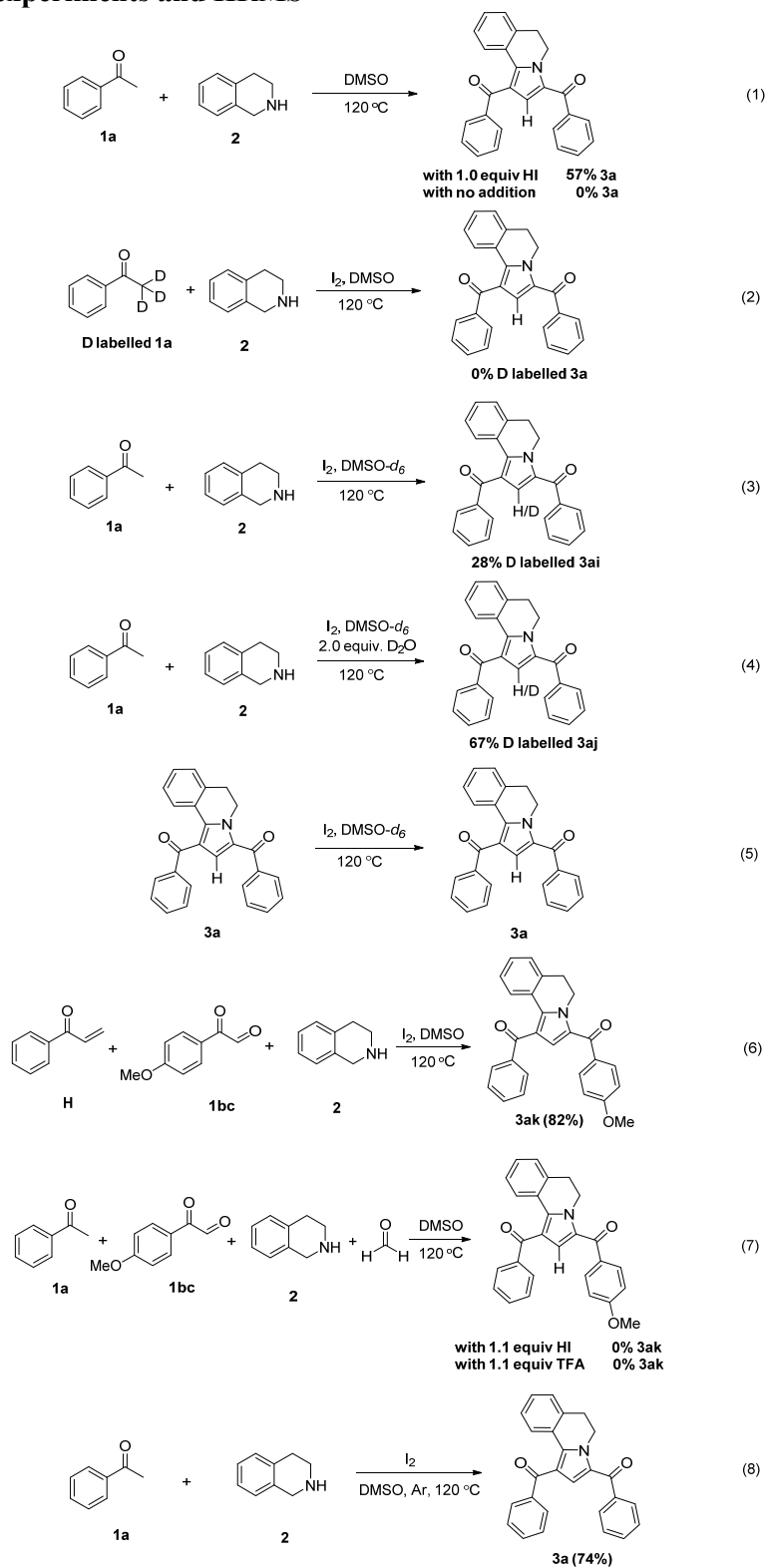
General procedure for the synthesis of desired product (**3a** as an Example). A mixture of acetophenone **1a** (120 mg, 1.0 mmol), 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline **2** (133 mg, 1.0 mmol), and iodine (127 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added to DMSO (5 mL) in sealed tube and stirred at 120 °C for 2.5 h. After the completion of the reaction, 30 mL of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (aq) was then added to the mixture, which was then extracted with EtOAc three times (3×30 mL). The product was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ EtOAc = 8:1) to afford the desired product **3a**.

3. Cross-coupling experiment



We investigated the cross-coupling reaction using acetophenone **1a**, 4-NO₂-phenylmethyl ketone **1q** and **2** under the standard conditions, the reaction delivered **3a**, **3q** and another two cross-coupling products **3af** and **3ag**. The structure of **3ag** was further confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (**Figure S4**).

4. Control experiments and HRMS



To gain a deeper understanding on the mechanism, several isotope labeling experiments were performed. Treating D labelled **1a-d₃** with **2** in standard conditions, no deuterated product **3a** was

detected (eq 2). When this reaction was conducted in DMSO-*d*₆, we isolated 28% D labelled **3ai** (eq 3), which was confirmed by ¹H NMR spectra. Then we added 2.0 equiv. D₂O in DMSO-*d*₆ under standard conditions, 67% D labelled **3aj** was isolated (eq 4). **3a** could not transform into D labelled **3a** when heated in DMSO-*d*₆. These results might indicate that the C-H in the pyrrol ring of **3a** is stable, and the H-exchange might be happened during the formation of compound **E**. Furthermore, intermediate **G** was synthesized and could be converted to **3ak** in 82% yield (eq 6). It was reported that α,β-unsaturated carbonyl compound could be obtained from formaldehyde and ketones.¹ However, the reaction of formaldehyde with **1a**, **1bc** and **2** did not result in the formation of **3ak** in the presence of HI or TFA, these results confirmed that DMSO as a source of methylene. We also conducted this reaction under Ar atmosphere, and the corresponding product **3a** could be obtained in 74% yield, indicating that I₂ is the oxidant in the final oxidation process.²

ZKL348: HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄¹³C₂H₂₀NO₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 380.15556, found 380.15549.

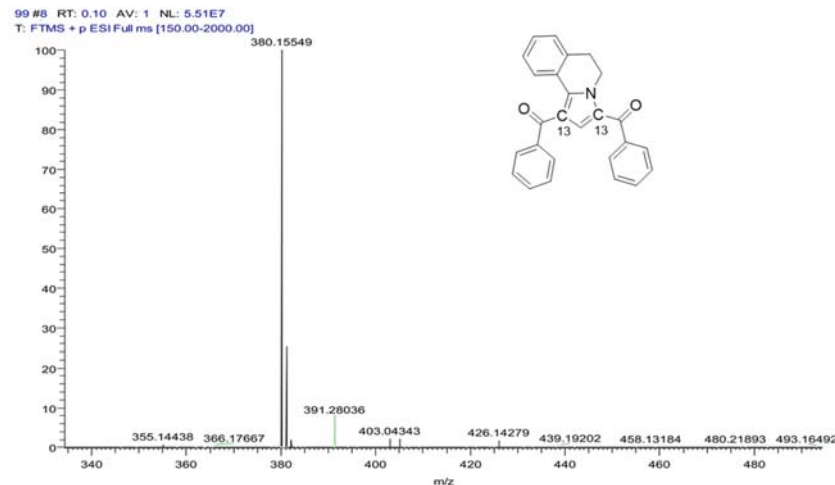


Figure S1. HRMS of **3ah**.

Reference

1. A. Bugarin, K. D. Jones and B. T. Connell, *Chem. Commun.* 2010, **46**, 1715-1717.
2. (a) Q. H. Gao, Z. Fei, Y. P. Zhu, M. Lian, F. C. Jia, M. C. Liu, N. F. She and A. X. Wu, *Tetrahedron* 2013, **69**, 22–28; (b) J. C. Xiang, M. Wang, Y. Cheng and A. X. Wu, *Org. Lett.* 2016, **18**, 24-27

5. The crystallographic data

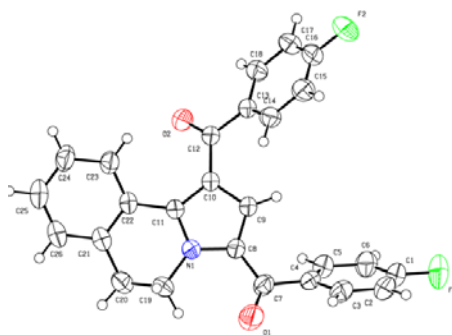


Figure S2. X-ray structural details of **3i**: (CCDC 1545082).

Empirical formula	$C_{26}H_{17}F_2NO_2$		Absorption coefficient	0.100 mm^{-1}
Formula weight	413.4		F(000)	428
Temperature	273(2) K		Crystal size	$0.22 \times 0.20 \times 0.18 \text{ mm}^3$
Wavelength	0.71073 \AA		Reflections collected	10962
Crystal system	Triclinic,		Independent reflections	6302 [R(int) = 0.0214]
Space group	P-1		Max. and min. transmission	0.9850 and 0.9817
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 8.821(3) \text{ \AA}$	$\alpha = 81.907(5)^\circ$	Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
	$b = 11.239(4) \text{ \AA}$	$\beta = 70.268(5)^\circ$	Data / restraints / parameters	6302 / 0 / 280
	$c = 11.410(4) \text{ \AA}$	$\gamma = 69.729(5)^\circ$	Goodness-of-fit on F^2	0.969
Volume	$998.4(6) \text{ \AA}^3$		Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0538, wR2 = 0.1776
Z	2		R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0735, wR2 = 0.2073
Density (calculated)	1.375 Mg/m^3		Largest diff. peak and hole	0.279 and $-0.314 \text{ e.\AA}^{-3}$

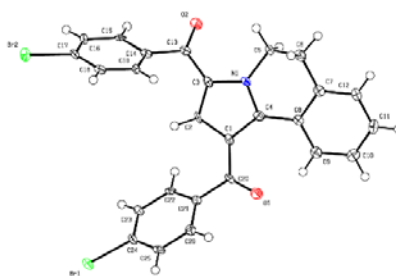


Figure S3. X-ray structural details of **3m**: (CCDC 1842947).

Empirical formula	C ₂₆ H ₁₇ Br ₂ NO ₂		Absorption coefficient	3.826 mm ⁻¹
Formula weight	535.2		F(000)	1064
Temperature	100(1) K		Crystal size	0.13 x 0.12 x 0.11 mm ³
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		Reflections collected	10593
Crystal system	monoclinic		Independent reflections	4967 [R(int) = 0.0555]
Space group	P2 ₁ /c		Max. and min. transmission	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.735(8) Å	α = 90°	2θ range for data collection	4.124 to 58.978°
	b = 22.115(14) Å	β = 107.507(9)°	Data / restraints / parameters	4967 / 0 / 280
	c = 11.575(9) Å	γ = 90°	Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.044
Volume	2132.4(3) Å ³		Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0513, wR2 = 0.0849
Z	4		R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0760, wR2 = 0.0961
Density (calculated)	1.667 Mg/m ³		Largest diff. peak and hole	0.82 and -0.8 e.Å ⁻³

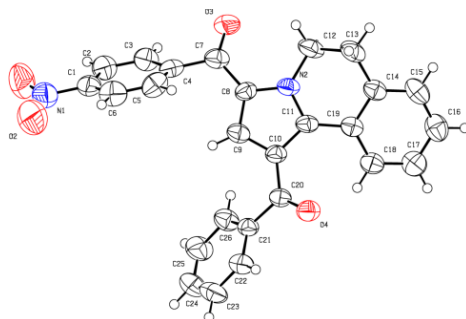
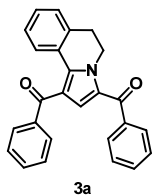


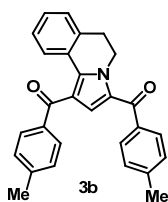
Figure S4. X-ray structural details of **3ag**: (CCDC 1555924).

Empirical formula	$C_{26}H_{18}N_2O_4$		Absorption coefficient	0.093 mm^{-1}
Formula weight	422.42		F(000)	880
Temperature	295(2) K		Crystal size	$0.130 \times 0.100 \times 0.030 \text{ mm}^3$
Wavelength	0.71073 \AA		Reflections collected	10874
Crystal system	Monoclinic		Independent reflections	3543 [R(int) = 0.1139]
Space group	$P2_1/c$		Max. and min. transmission	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 11.821(15) \text{ \AA}$	$\alpha = 90^\circ$	Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
	$b = 9.242(11) \text{ \AA}$	$\beta = 92.57(2)^\circ$	Data / restraints / parameters	3543 / 0 / 290
	$c = 18.97(2) \text{ \AA}$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$	Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.070
Volume	$2071(4) \text{ \AA}^3$		Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0850, wR2 = 0.2373
Z	4		R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1384, wR2 = 0.2872
Density (calculated)	1.355 Mg/m^3		Largest diff. peak and hole	0.337 and $-0.353 \text{ e. \AA}^{-3}$

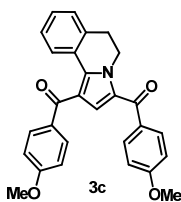
6. Spectroscopic data



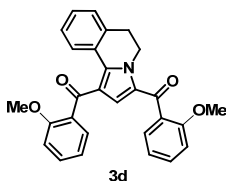
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(phenylmethanone) (**3a**): light yellow solid; 150.8 mg (yield 80%); mp 127-130 °C; IR (KBr): 3717, 3042, 2933, 2847, 1629, 1473, 1426, 1320, 1288, 1271, 1137, 989, 843, 772 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.44 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.73 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 192.2, 186.0, 139.0, 138.6, 134.1, 132.5, 132.0, 129.8, 129.2, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 126.5, 126.2, 120.1, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$: 378.1489; found: 378.1490.



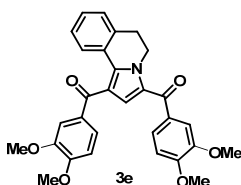
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(*p*-tolylmethanone) (**3b**): Yellow solid; 151.9 mg (yield 75%); mp 138-141 °C; IR (KBr): 3453, 2922, 1627, 1605, 1529, 1478, 1419, 1385, 1266, 1218, 1174, 960, 885, 751, 617 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.81 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 4.70 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 192.1, 185.9, 143.4, 142.7, 138.2, 136.5, 136.1, 134.1, 130.1, 129.5, 129.0, 129.0, 128.6, 127.6, 127.0, 126.7, 125.8, 120.3, 42.8, 29.3, 21.6, 21.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$: 406.1802; found: 406.1788.



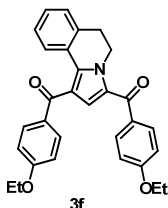
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-methoxyphenyl)methanone) (**3c**): Yellow solid; 152.9 mg (yield 70%); mp 112-114 °C; IR (KBr): 3451, 2922, 1724, 1629, 1550, 1513, 1465, 1384, 1256, 1168, 1129, 762, 616, 566 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.92 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 3H), 4.66 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 191.3, 184.9, 163.2, 162.8, 137.6, 134.0, 132.2, 131.7, 131.6, 131.3, 128.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 126.7, 124.9, 120.2, 113.5, 55.4, 42.8, 29.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z [$\text{M} + \text{H}$] $^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4$: 438.1700; found: 438.1698.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((2-methoxyphenyl)methanone) (**3d**): Yellow oil; 152.7 mg (yield 70%); IR (KBr): 3450, 2932, 1631, 1597, 1523, 1486, 1435, 1281, 1247, 1022, 960, 886, 755, 660 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 4H), 6.85 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.79 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.09 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 190.8, 185.7, 157.4, 156.9, 139.1, 134.4, 132.0, 131.4, 130.0, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.3, 128.0, 127.1, 126.6, 126.6, 126.5, 122.1, 120.0, 119.7, 111.3, 55.5, 55.4, 42.5, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_4$: 438.1700; found: 438.1720.

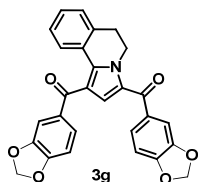


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone) (**3e**): Yellow solid; 186.4 mg (yield 75%); mp 145-147 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr): 3447, 2957, 2924, 2852, 1628, 1595, 1511, 1450, 1266, 1169, 1137, 1023, 768 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.72 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.15 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 191.2, 184.8, 153.0, 152.5, 148.8, 148.7, 137.7, 133.9, 131.7, 131.3, 128.8, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 126.7, 125.1, 124.9, 124.0, 120.1, 111.6, 111.5, 109.7, 109.7, 56.0, 55.9, 55.9, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_6$: 498.1911; found: 498.1914.

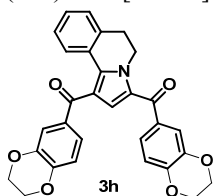


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-ethoxyphenyl)methanone) (**3f**): Light yellow solid; 174.5 mg (yield 75%); mp 135-138 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; IR (KBr): 3443, 2926, 1624, 1600, 1508, 1445, 1394, 1306, 1253, 1168, 1114, 1042, 961, 886, 846, 764 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 3H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 4.66 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.08 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 4H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.43 (q, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 191.3, 184.9, 162.6, 162.2, 137.5, 133.9, 132.2, 131.6, 131.4, 131.1, 128.7,

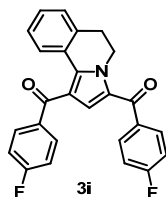
128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 126.9, 126.7, 124.9, 120.2, 113.9, 63.6, 63.6, 42.7, 29.3, 14.6, 14.6; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{30}H_{28}NO_4$: 466.2013; found: 466.2012.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethanone) (**3g**): Yellow solid; 146.5 mg (yield 63%); mp 119-121 °C; IR (KBr): 3444, 2924, 1628, 1600, 1502, 1482, 1446, 1395, 1257, 1164, 1114, 1038, 931, 765 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 4.64 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 190.8, 184.3, 151.5, 151.1, 147.9, 147.7, 137.8, 133.9, 133.3, 133.1, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 126.6, 126.6, 125.4, 124.9, 120.0, 109.4, 109.3, 107.6, 107.6, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{28}H_{20}NO_6$: 466.1285; found: 466.1288.

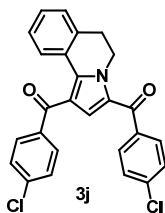


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((2,3-dihydrobenzo[*b*][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)methanone) (**3h**): Yellow oil; 179.9 mg (yield 73%); IR (KBr): 3450, 2923, 1629, 1578, 1502, 1446, 1319, 1288, 1260, 1065, 889, 762 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.75 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.88 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.63 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 4H), 4.76 (s, 2H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.11 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 191.0, 184.5, 147.7, 147.2, 143.1, 143.0, 137.7, 133.9, 132.4, 132.2, 128.8, 128.4, 127.6, 127.3, 126.9, 126.7, 125.0, 124.2, 123.4, 120.0, 119.3, 118.8, 116.8, 64.5, 64.5, 64.0, 64.0, 42.7, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{30}H_{24}NO_6$: 494.1598; found: 494.1625.

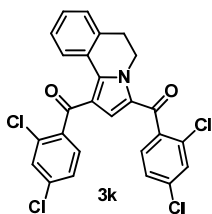


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-fluorophenyl)methanone) (**3i**): Light yellow solid; 169.4 mg (yield 82%); mp 119-121 °C; IR (KBr): 3451, 2950, 2919, 2867, 2839, 1633, 1505, 1458, 1376, 1218, 1154, 1127, 771 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.92 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.13 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.69 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 190.6, 184.4, 166.2, 165.9, 164.5,

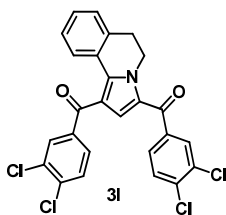
164.2, 138.6, 135.2, 135.2, 134.8, 134.8, 134.1, 132.4, 132.3, 131.7, 131.6, 129.2, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.0, 126.3, 125.6, 119.9, 115.5, 115.3, 42.8, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{18}F_2NO_2$: 414.1300; found: 414.1308.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-chlorophenyl)methanone) (**3j**): Yellow solid; 183.7 mg (yield 79%); mp 147-149 °C; IR (KBr): 3440, 1629, 1587, 1480, 1445, 1398, 1263, 1215, 1193, 1089, 1013, 961, 883, 756, 565, 478 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 2H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 4.69 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 190.8, 184.6, 139.0, 138.9, 138.4, 137.2, 136.9, 134.1, 131.2, 130.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.0, 126.2, 125.8, 119.8, 42.8, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{18}Cl_2NO_2$: 446.0709; found: 446.0702.

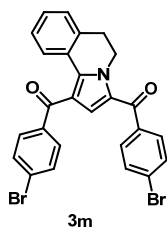


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((2,4-dichlorophenyl)methanone) (**3k**): Brown solid; 158.9 mg (yield 62%); mp 201-203 °C; IR (KBr): 3439, 1727, 1698, 1658, 1649, 1641, 1631, 1612, 1581, 1461, 1452, 1384, 1356, 670, 595 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 8.19 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 4.78 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 188.8, 183.4, 140.8, 137.8, 137.0, 136.8, 136.6, 134.6, 134.6, 132.7, 132.5, 130.6, 130.2, 130.2, 130.1, 128.5, 127.8, 127.5, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 126.0, 121.0, 42.9, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{16}Cl_4NO_2$: 513.9930; found: 513.9902.

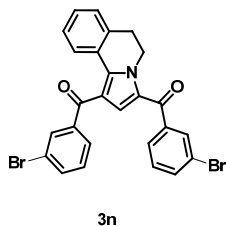


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((3,4-dichlorophenyl)methanone) (**3l**): Yellow solid; 189.8 mg (yield 74%); mp 213-215 °C; IR (KBr): 3449, 1635, 1528, 1447, 1400, 1267, 1027, 967, 910, 778, 763, 670 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s,

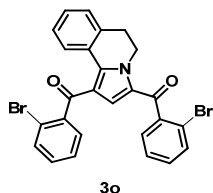
1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.69 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.15 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 189.3, 183.2, 139.5, 138.5, 138.3, 137.2, 136.6, 134.2, 133.0, 132.9, 131.6, 131.1, 130.5, 130.4, 129.7, 128.8, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.8, 127.1, 126.0, 126.0, 119.4, 42.9, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_4\text{NO}_2$: 513.9930; found: 513.9944.



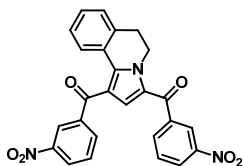
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-bromophenyl)methanone) (**3m**): Yellow solid; 213.2 mg (yield 80%); mp 148-149 °C; IR (KBr): 3446, 2924, 1630, 1584, 1479, 1445, 1384, 1262, 1214, 1191, 1172, 1011, 882, 753, 563 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.69 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 190.9, 184.8, 139.0, 137.7, 137.4, 134.2, 131.6, 131.6, 131.3, 130.7, 129.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.1, 127.1, 126.3, 125.9, 119.8, 42.9, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}_2$: 533.9699; found: 533.9704.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((3-bromophenyl)methanone) (**3n**): Yellow solid; 221.2 mg (yield 83%); mp 139-140 °C; IR (KBr): 3441, 1650, 1619, 1555, 1529, 1444, 1249, 1211, 1186, 1143, 967, 890, 772, 746, 710 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 4.70 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 190.3, 184.3, 140.8, 140.5, 139.3, 135.4, 134.9, 134.2, 132.7, 132.1, 129.9, 129.9, 129.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.7, 127.7, 127.1, 126.4, 126.2, 122.6, 122.5, 119.7, 42.8, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{18}\text{Br}_2\text{NO}_2$: 533.9699; found: 533.9688.

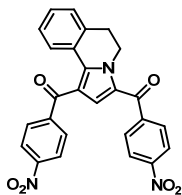


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((2-bromophenyl)methanone) (**3o**): Brown solid; 186.5 mg (yield 70%); mp 136-137 °C; IR (KBr): 3450, 2926, 1642, 1586, 1429, 1384, 1221, 1027, 960, 886, 743, 638 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 4.80 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 190.6, 185.4, 141.4, 140.6, 140.5, 134.6, 134.5, 133.3, 133.3, 131.2, 131.1, 129.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 127.4, 127.0, 126.9, 126.2, 120.9, 119.9, 119.9, 42.8, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₈Br₂NO₂: 533.9699; found: 533.9679.



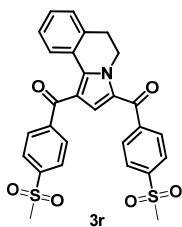
3p

(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((3-nitrophenyl)methanone) (**3p**): Orange solid; 179.8 mg (yield 77%); mp 142-144 °C; IR (KBr): 3444, 1633, 1529, 1478, 1446, 1349, 1256, 1213, 1192, 762, 720 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.76 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.0, 183.1, 148.0, 147.9, 140.2, 140.0, 135.3, 134.8, 134.4, 130.0, 129.7, 128.0, 127.9, 127.1, 126.9, 126.5, 125.8, 124.6, 124.0, 119.3, 43.0, 29.0; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₈N₃O₆: 468.1190; found: 468.1182.



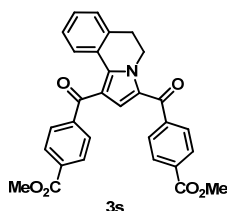
3q

(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-nitrophenyl)methanone) (**3q**): Orange solid; 184.5 mg (yield 79%); mp 218-221 °C; IR (KBr): 3444, 2923, 1634, 1524, 1445, 1384, 1348, 1216, 1191, 1129, 1041, 846, 771, 563 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.76 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.6, 183.7, 149.8, 149.5, 144.0, 143.6, 140.2, 134.4, 130.4, 130.0, 129.9, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.0, 126.5, 125.7, 123.5, 119.6, 43.0, 29.0; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₈N₃O₆: 468.1190; found: 468.1207.

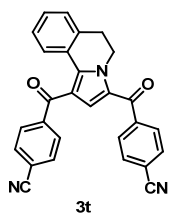


3r

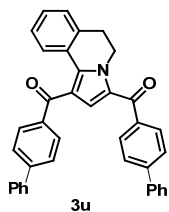
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)methanone) (**3r**): Yellow solid; 183.9 mg (yield 69%); mp 160-161 °C; IR (KBr): 3440, 1636, 1523, 1445, 1397, 1301, 1153, 958, 888, 855, 779, 752, 707 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.06-7.99 (m, 6H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.74 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 190.1, 184.0, 143.5, 143.4, 143.1, 143.0, 140.0, 134.3, 130.4, 129.9, 129.8, 128.2, 127.8, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 126.3, 125.8, 119.6, 44.2, 42.9, 29.0; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₂₃NO₆S₂: 534.1040; found: 534.1056.



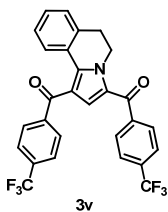
dimethyl 4,4'-(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-dicarbonyl)dibenzoate (**3s**): Yellow solid; 192.3 mg (yield 78%); mp 166-167 °C; IR (KBr): 3431, 2951, 1720, 1658, 1625, 1485, 1442, 1400, 1279, 1210, 1195, 1103, 1016, 960, 887, 778, 732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.74 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 191.0, 185.1, 166.1, 142.6, 142.2, 139.5, 134.2, 133.3, 132.8, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 127.0, 126.7, 126.1, 119.9, 52.3, 42.8, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₀H₂₄NO₆: 494.1598; found: 494.1622.



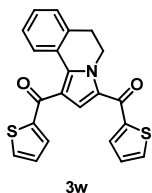
4,4'-(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-dicarbonyl)dibenzonitrile (**3t**): Yellow solid; 172.9 mg (yield 81%); mp 220-221 °C; IR (KBr): 2228, 1659, 1633, 1524, 1486, 1429, 1392, 1261, 1208, 1172, 961, 887, 859, 760 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 4.73 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 189.9, 183.9, 142.3, 141.9, 139.9, 134.3, 132.1, 129.9, 129.8, 129.4, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 126.2, 125.7, 119.5, 117.8, 115.7, 115.3, 42.9, 29.0; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₁₈N₃O₂: 428.1394; found: 428.1415.



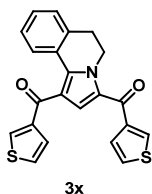
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethanone) (**3u**): Yellow solid; 211.7 mg (yield 80%); mp 123-124 °C; IR (KBr): 3443, 2852, 1629, 1480, 1445, 1384, 1264, 1217, 1186, 1128, 1040, 1013, 961, 886, 854, 748, 695, 563 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.73 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 191.8, 185.6, 145.3, 144.8, 139.8, 139.8, 138.6, 137.7, 137.3, 134.2, 130.5, 129.9, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 127.7, 127.2, 127.2, 127.0, 127.0, 126.6, 125.9, 120.2, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₈H₂₈NO₂: 530.2115; found: 530.2118.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone) (**3v**): Yellow solid; 205.2 mg (yield 80%); mp 120-121 °C; IR (KBr): 3442, 1656, 1636, 1524, 1448, 1406, 1330, 1170, 1125, 1066, 887, 852, 766 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.74 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 190.7, 184.7, 142.0, 141.6, 139.7, 134.3, 134.1, 133.8, 133.6, 133.4, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.2, 126.1, 125.4, 124.5, 122.7, 119.8, 43.0, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₁₈F₆NO₂: 514.1236; found: 514.1259.

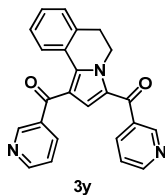


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(thiophen-2-ylmethanone) (**3w**): Yellow solid; 161.4 mg (yield 83%); mp 211-212 °C; IR (KBr): 3445, 2952, 2922, 1629, 1446, 1413, 1383, 1265, 1215, 1190, 1130, 1047, 757, 562 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 2H), 4.63 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 183.8, 177.0, 145.3, 144.3, 137.9, 134.1, 134.0, 133.8, 132.9, 132.7, 129.1, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.6, 127.1, 126.7, 123.6, 120.2, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): *m/z* [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₁₆NO₂S₂: 390.0617; found: 390.0617.



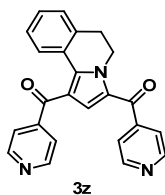
3x

(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(thiophen-3-ylmethanone) (**3x**): Brown solid; 160.9 mg (yield 83%); mp 173-174 °C; IR (KBr): 3441, 3104, 1614, 1511, 1450, 1415, 1259, 1227, 1164, 975, 857, 747, 726 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.97 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.66 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.12 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 185.6, 179.3, 143.0, 142.2, 137.9, 134.1, 133.7, 131.9, 129.1, 129.1, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 127.6, 127.0, 126.6, 126.2, 124.2, 121.0, 42.8, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$: 390.0617; found: 390.0626.



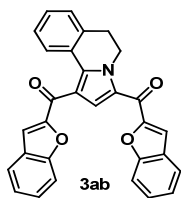
3y

(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(pyridin-3-ylmethanone) (**3y**): Brown solid; 136.5 mg (yield 72%); mp 108-110 °C; IR (KBr): 3442, 1621, 1582, 1525, 1444, 1266, 1214, 1193, 959, 884, 735, 701 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 9.02 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.76 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 4.74 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 189.8, 183.7, 152.9, 152.5, 150.7, 150.7, 149.8, 149.7, 139.7, 136.9, 136.4, 134.6, 134.3, 134.1, 129.7, 128.3, 127.9, 127.7, 127.0, 126.5, 125.9, 123.4, 123.4, 119.7, 42.9, 29.0; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$: 380.1394; found: 380.1410.

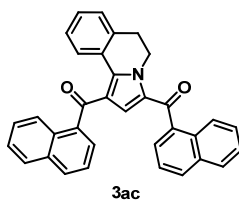


3z

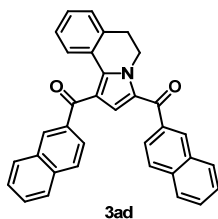
(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(pyridin-4-ylmethanone) (**3z**): Yellow solid; 145.9 mg (yield 77%); mp 188-189 °C; IR (KBr): 1622, 1525, 1445, 1406, 1324, 1266, 1195, 966, 889, 650 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.77 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.75 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 4.76 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 190.2, 184.2, 150.5, 150.4, 145.5, 145.1, 140.4, 134.4, 130.1, 128.2, 128.0, 127.8, 127.1, 126.9, 125.8, 122.6, 122.3, 119.5, 43.0, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$: 380.1394; found: 380.1408.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(benzofuran-3-ylmethanone) (**3ab**): Yellow solid; 194.2 mg (yield 85%); mp 171-173 °C; IR (KBr): 3441, 1650, 1616, 1552, 1443, 1398, 1273, 1159, 1141, 853, 836, 757, 744 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.74 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.14 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 180.0, 173.0, 155.9, 155.6, 153.3, 153.2, 139.4, 134.3, 129.5, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.1, 127.1, 127.0, 126.4, 125.0, 123.9, 123.3, 123.0, 119.8, 115.7, 114.2, 112.4, 112.3, 43.0, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_4$: 458.1387; found: 458.1399.

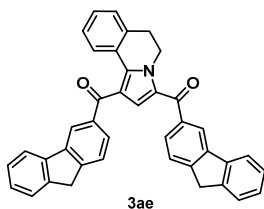


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(naphthalen-1-ylmethanone) (**3ac**): Yellow solid; 174.1 mg (yield 73%); mp 122-123 °C; IR (KBr): 3446, 2924, 2852, 1626, 1445, 1384, 1273, 1215, 1183, 1128, 1040, 760, 568, 477 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.89-8.84 (m, 4H), 7.81 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.52 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 4.77 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 192.3, 186.0, 138.6, 136.2, 135.9, 135.3, 135.0, 134.1, 132.2, 132.1, 131.8, 130.6, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 127.0, 126.6, 126.6, 126.3, 125.4, 125.3, 120.3, 42.9, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$: 478.1802; found: 478.1805.

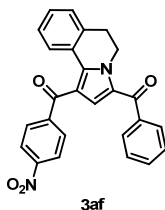


(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis(naphthalen-2-ylmethanone) (**3ad**): Yellow solid; 164.6 mg (yield 69%); mp 118-119 °C; IR (KBr): 3443, 2924, 1630, 1480, 1384, 1274, 1219, 1183, 1127, 1042, 1015, 892, 773, 693, 569 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.43 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 4.90 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.21 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 193.0, 187.4, 139.9, 136.8,

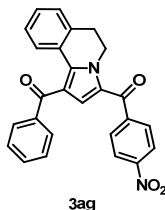
136.7, 134.5, 133.7, 133.6, 131.9, 131.1, 130.9, 130.7, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 127.0, 127.0, 126.5, 126.3, 126.3, 125.6, 125.6, 125.3, 124.1, 122.2, 42.9, 29.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{34}H_{24}NO_2$: 478.1802; found: 478.1800.



(5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinoline-1,3-diyl)bis((9*H*-fluoren-3-yl)methanone) (**3ae**): Yellow solid; 143.8 mg (yield 52%); mp 253-254 °C; IR (KBr): 3441, 1637, 1623, 1605, 1446, 1433, 1423, 1387, 1264, 1150, 761, 749 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 8.13 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.76 (m, 5H), 7.56 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.74 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H), 3.18 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 192.5, 186.1, 146.1, 145.6, 144.4, 144.2, 143.1, 143.0, 140.5, 138.2, 137.4, 137.0, 134.1, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.0, 127.0, 126.7, 126.6, 126.1, 125.8, 125.2, 125.1, 120.8, 120.7, 120.5, 119.4, 42.9, 36.9, 36.8, 29.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{27}NO_2$: 554.2115; found: 554.2136.

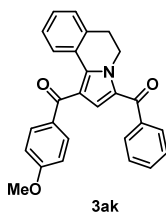


(3-benzoyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinolin-1-yl)(4-nitrophenyl)methanone (**3af**): 77.1 mg (yield 18%); mp 192-193 °C; IR (KBr): 1638, 1517, 1477, 1345, 1261, 1194, 1017, 959, 845, 735, 716 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 8.26 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 4.72 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.16 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ (ppm) 189.9, 186.1, 149.8, 144.1, 139.4, 138.8, 134.4, 132.3, 130.5, 129.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 126.2, 126.0, 123.5, 119.2, 43.0, 29.2; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{18}N_2O_4Na$: 445.1159; found: 445.1160.



(1-benzoyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinolin-3-yl)(4-nitrophenyl)methanone (**3ag**): 80 mg (yield 19%); mp 165-166 °C; IR (KBr): 1598, 1504, 1447, 1319, 1215, 1023, 948, 879, 777, 736,

714 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.29 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.8$, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 4.2$, 2H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 4.76 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.17 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 191.9, 183.7, 149.5, 144.5, 139.7, 138.4, 134.2, 132.9, 129.9, 129.8, 129.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 126.1, 123.5, 120.8, 42.9, 29.1; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$: 423.1339; found: 423.1357.



(3-benzoyl-5,6-dihydropyrrolo[2,1-*a*]isoquinolin-1-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (**3ak**): ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.91 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.85 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.93-6.91 (m, 2H), 4.66 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.13 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 192.3, 184.9, 162.9, 138.8, 138.2, 134.1, 132.5, 131.6, 131.6, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 126.9, 126.7, 125.3, 120.0, 113.5, 55.4, 42.8, 29.3; HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$: 430.1414; found: 430.1417.

7. Appendix: spectral copies of ^1H NMR, and ^{13}C NMR

