Oxalates as Activating Groups for Alcohols in Visible Light Photoredox Catalysis: Formation of Quaternary Centers by Redox-Neutral Fragment Coupling

Christopher C. Nawrat[†], Christopher R. Jamison[‡], Yuriy Slutskyy[‡],

David W. C. MacMillan^{\dagger *}, and Larry E. Overman[‡]*

[†]Merck Center for Catalysis at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544

[‡]Department of Chemistry, University of California, Irvine, California 92697-2025.

<u>Supporting Information – Table of Contents</u>

Materials and Methods	
Pictures of Photoredox-Catalyzed Reaction Experimental Setup	
Experimental Procedures	
Cyclic Voltammetry Data for <i>tert</i> -Butyl Cesium Oxalate	
Effects of Counterions on the Efficiency of Coupling of Methyl Cyclohex	yl Oxalate Salts
with Benzyl Acrylate	
Experimental Evidence for the Radical–Polar Crossover Mechanism	S80
References	
Spectral Data For Alcohols	
Spectral Data For Hydrogen Alkyloxoacetates	
Spectral Data For Methyl Alkyloxoacetates	
Spectral Data For Cesium Alkyloxoacetates	
Spectral Data For Products in Table 2	S173–S194
Spectral Data For Products in Table 3	
Spectral Data For Products in Table 4	
¹ H NMR Spectrum of <i>trans</i> -Clerodane 70	S237

Materials and Methods:

Unless stated otherwise, reactions were conducted in oven-dried glassware under an atmosphere of nitrogen or argon using anhydrous solvents (either freshly distilled or passed through activated alumina columns). All commercially obtained reagents were used as received. Methyl vinyl ketone, acrolein, methacrylonitrile, methyl methacrylate and cyclopentenone were distilled prior to use. $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6^1$ was prepared according to literature procedures. All alcohols whose synthesis is not described were either obtained from commercial suppliers or prepared using the referenced literature procedures. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with E. Merck silica gel 50 F₂₅₄ pre-coated plates (0.25 mm) or Analtech Uniplate (0.25 mm), and visualized by exposure to UV light (254 nm) and potassium permanganate staining. EMD silica gel 60 (particle size 0.040-0.063 mm) or Fluka (200-400 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 or 600 MHz. Data for ¹H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz) and integration. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 126 MHz. Data for ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in terms of chemical shift. NMR spectra are internally referenced to residual proton solvent signals (note: CDCl₃ referenced at 7.26 for ¹H NMR and 77.16 ppm for ¹³C NMR). IR spectra of oils and solids were recorded on a FT-IR and ATR-FTIR spectrometers, respectively, and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹). High-resolution mass spectra were obtained from the Princeton University and UC Irvine Mass Spectrometry Facilities. Optical rotations were measured with a polarimeter. Kessil KSH150B LED Grow Light 150, Blue was purchased from http://www.amazon.com.

Pictures of Photoredox-Catalyzed Reaction Experimental Setup:



Figure S1. Side view. Box length: 6 inches. Two 34 W Kessil KSH150B Blue LED Grow Light 150 are positioned on both sides.



Figure S2. Top view. Note: a lid is placed on top of the box after LED lamps are turned on.

Experimental Procedures:



Methyl (1-methylcyclohexyl) oxalate (9a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1methylcyclohexan-1-ol (2.3 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and CH₂Cl₂ (DCM) (200 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (3.4 mL, 24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (250 mg, 2 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (2.2 mL, 24 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (85:15 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **9a** as colorless oil (576 mg, 94% yield). R_f 0.45 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.23–2.21 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.49 (m, 10H), 1.32–1.28 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.3, 156.9, 87.0, 53.5, 36.5, 25.3, 25.2, 22.1; IR (thin film): 2936, 1736, 1734, 1200, 1138 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₀H₁₆O₄Na, 223.0946; found, 223.0943.



Cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9): A round-bottom flask was charged with methyl (1-methylcyclohexyl) oxalate **9a** (3.9 g, 19.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (19.5 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (19.5 mL, 19.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was

added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **9** as a colorless solid (6.2 g, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 2.01 (app d, *J*=15.6, 2H), 1.52–1.44 (m, 3H), 1.36–1.33 (m, 7H), 1.26–1.20 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 168.0, 164.0, 79.8, 36.7, 25.8, 25.5, 21.9; IR (thin film): 3441, 2932, 1713, 1635, 1202 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₉H₁₃O₄, 185.0814; found, 185.0816.



One-Pot Procedure for cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9): 1methylcyclohexan-1-ol (2.28 g, 20 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in THF (40 mL, 0.5 M). Triethylamine (2.9 mL, 21 mmol, 1.05 equiv) and DMAP (61 mg, 0.5 mmol, 0.025 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (1.9 mL, 21 mmol, 1.05 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature, then quenched with sat. brine (50 mL). The layers were separated and the organic extracts washed again with 50% sat. brine (50 mL). The organic extracts were then treated with 1 M CsOH (aq) (19 mL, 19 mmol, 0.95 equiv), and the mixture was shaken until the intermediate methyl oxalate was consumed as judged by TLC (<5min). Hexanes (75 mL) were added, and the aqueous phase was collected. The organic extracts were washed with a second portion of water (10 mL), and the combined aqueous phases were concentrated under reduced pressure to give **9** as a colorless solid (6.07 g, 95% yield). Spectral data were consistent with reported data from the 2-step procedure for

preparing **9**, and the material prepared in this way performed as well in the photoredox coupling reaction.



Lithium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9-Li): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-methylcyclohexyl methyl oxalate 9a (200 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.0 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N LiOH (aq) (1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give 9-Li as a colorless solid (190 mg, 99% yield): IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2931, 2862, 1705, 1655, 1409, 1268, 1240, 1107. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 2.02 (app d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.54 – 1.32 (m, 10H), 1.27-1.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.3, 163.4, 79.6, 36.2, 25.3, 25.0, 21.5. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₉H₁₃O₄Li ([M–Li]⁻) 185.0814; found 185.0816.



Sodium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9-Na): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-methylcyclohexyl methyl oxalate **9a** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.0 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N NaOH (aq) (1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then

concentrated under reduced pressure to give **9-Na** as a colorless solid (206 mg, 99% yield): IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2930, 2861, 1733, 1709, 1659, 1659, 1405, 1265, 1218. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 2.02 (app d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.54 – 1.32 (m, 10H), 1.28 – 1.17 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.3, 163.7, 79.6, 36.2, 25.3, 25.0, 21.5. HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calculated for C₉H₁₃O₄Na ([M–Na]⁻) 185.0814; found 185.0807.



Potassium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9-K): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-methylcyclohexyl methyl oxalate **9a** (200 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.0 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N KOH (aq) (1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **9-K** as a colorless solid (221 mg, 99% yield): IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2933, 2863, 1720, 1710, 1642, 1413, 1201, 1145. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 2.02 (app d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 1.54 – 1.31 (m, 10H), 1.27 – 1.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.5, 163.6, 79.3, 36.2, 25.3, 25.0, 21.5. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₉H₁₃O₄K ([M–K]⁻) 185.0814; found 185.0807.



Ethyl 3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanoate (10): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 9 (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and ethyl acrylate (50 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2 hexanes:EtOAc) to give 10 as a yellow oil (87 mg, 88% yield): $R_f = 0.30$ (95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) 2927, 2859, 1738, 1452, 1375, 1302, 1176, 1039. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.12 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.27 – 2.21 (m, 2H), 1.59 – 1.54 (m, 2H), 1.49 – 1.20 (m, 13H), 0.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.9, 60.4, 37.6, 36.8, 32.4, 29.2, 26.6, 24.6, 22.1, 14.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₁₂H₂₂O₂ ([M+Na]⁺) 221.1517; found 221.1523.



11

(1.0 equiv)

9 (1.5 equiv)

Phenyl 3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanoate (11): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 9 (238 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and phenyl acrylate (69 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give 11 as a pale yellow oil (106 mg, 86%): $R_f = 0.57$ (9:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2970, 2924, 2854, 1752, 1370, 1229, 1216, 1196, 1161, 1120 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24 - 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.09 - 7.07 (m, 2H), 2.53 - 2.50 (m, 2H), 1.73 - 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.51 -1.44 (m, 5H), 1.35 – 1.26 (m, 5H), 0.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.24, 150.92, 129.52, 125.83, 121.70, 37.65, 32.57, 29.31, 26.54, 22.11; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{16}H_{23}O_2^+$ ([M+H]⁺) 247.1693; found 247.1692.



4-(1-methylcyclohexyl)butan-2-one (12): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate **(9)** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and methyl vinyl ketone (42 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. Li Cl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **12** as a yellow oil (72 mg, 86% yield). Rf 0.3 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.36 (t, *J*=8.2, 2H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.50 (t, *J*=8.3, 2H), 1.46–1.39 (m, 5H), 1.32–1.29 (m, 1H), 1.25–1.20 (m, 4H), 0.84 (s, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.²



N,*N*-dimethyl-3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanamide (13): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 9 (175 mg, 0.55

mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and *N,N*-dimethylacrylamide (50 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (50:50 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **13** as a yellow oil (81 mg, 82% yield). Spectral data were consistent with previously reported data.²



3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanal (14): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate **(9)** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and acrolein (34 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on

silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **14** as a yellow oil (59 mg, 77% yield). R*f* 0.4 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.79 (t, *J*=2.4, 1H), 2.39 (t, *J*=1.8, 2H), 1.57 (t, *J*=3.6, 2H), 1.48–1.41 (m, 5H), 1.33–1.30 (m, 1H), 1.29–1.21 (m, 4H), 0.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 203.6, 38.9, 37.7, 33.9, 32.4, 30.5, 26.6, 24.7, 22.1; IR (thin film): 2923, 2713, 1730, 1454, 1378 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₀H₁₈ONa, 177.1255; found, 177.1257.



9 (1.1 equiv) (1.0 equiv) 15 Diethyl (2-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethyl)phosphonate (15): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (175)0.55 mmol, 1.1 mg, equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and diethyl vinyl phosphonate (77 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:1 hexanes:acetone) to give 15 as a yellow oil (89 mg, 68% yield). Rf 0.3 (7:3 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄.¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.14–4.04 (m, 4H), 1.71–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.39 (m,

7H), 1.33 (app t, J=7.0, 7H), 1.25–1.19 (m, 4H), 0.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 61.6 (d, $J_{C-P}=6.4$), 37.4, 34.0, 26.6, 24.4, 22.1, 20.7, 19.6, 16.7 (d, $J_{C-P}=6.0$); IR (thin film): 2925, 1456, 1231, 1080, 957 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₃H₂₇O₃PNa, 285.1595; found, 285.1596.



((2-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethyl)sulfonyl)benzene (16): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 9 (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and phenyl vinyl sulfone (84 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (95:5 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **16** as a yellow oil (102 mg, 77% yield). Spectral data were consistent with previously reported data.²



2-methyl-3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanenitrile (17): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2oxoacetate **(9)** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and methacrylonitrile (34 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **17** as a yellow oil (70 mg, 85% yield). Rf 0.45 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.63–2.60 (m, 1H), 1.79 (dd, *J*=13.8, 9.6, 1H), 1.57–1.44 (m, 6H), 1.38–1.25 (m, 10H), 0.99 (s, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.³



with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-

methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (175)mg, 0.55 mmol. 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and methyl 2phenylacrylate⁴ (81 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes: EtOAc) to give 18 as a yellow oil (125 mg, 96% yield). Rf 0.4 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.26 (m, 5H), 3.72 (dd, J=9.0, 3.5, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.34 (dd, J=14.0, 9.0, 1H), 1.65 (dd, J=14.0, 4.0, 1H), 1.50-1.42 (m, 5H), 1.34-1.24 (m, 5H), 0.91 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 175.6, 141.4, 128.8, 128.0, 127.2, 52.2, 47.2, 46.4, 38.0, 37.9, 33.6, 26.5, 24.5, 22.2, 22.1; IR (thin film): 2933, 1735, 1453, 1152, 670 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (m/z) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₈NO₂, 278.2120; found, 278.2122.



Methyl 2-chloro-3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanoate (19): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and

Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and α -chloro methacrylate (51 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **19** as a yellow oil (102 mg, 94% yield). R*f* 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.36–4.34 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.18 (dd, *J*=14.4, 7.8, 1H), 1.90 (dd, *J*=12.7, 5.4, 1H) 1.47–1.44 (m, 6H), 1.29 (t, *J*=5.4, 2H), 1.27–1.24 (m, 2H), 0.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 171.4, 53.7, 53.1, 47.3, 38.0, 37.9, 33.6, 26.3, 24.7, 22.0, 21.0; IR (thin film): 2926, 1742, 1437, 1161, 687 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m*/z) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₁₁H₂₃CINO₂, 236.1417; found, 236.1415.



2-Benzyl-3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanoic acid (20): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **9** (239 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and 2-benzylacrylic acid (81 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging

with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and 1 N HCl (aq) (2 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (94:5:1 hexanes:THF:AcOH) to give **20** as a yellow oil (110 mg, 85% yield): Rf = 0.45 (75:25 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) 2928, 2860, 2671, 1705, 1453, 1419, 1291. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 2.96 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 1.83 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.44 – 1.13 (m, 11H), 0.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.9, 139.0, 129.1, 128.5, 126.6, 43.8, 43.1, 40.9, 37.9, 37.8, 33.2, 26.4, 24.5, 22.02, 21.97. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₇H₂₄O₂ ([M–H]⁻) 259.1698; found 259.1690.



Dimethyl 2-(1-methylcyclohexyl)succinate (21): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and dimethyl fumarate (72 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of

heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **21** as a yellow oil (120 mg, 99% yield). R*f* 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.83–2.76 (m, 2H), 2.47 (d, *J*=14.1, 1H), 1.62–1.57 (m, 1H), 1.52–1.37 (m, 6H), 1.31–1.22 (m, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.²



Diethyl 2-(1-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethyl)malonate (22): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **9** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). DME (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and diethyl ethylidenemalonate (93 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 48 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (97:3 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **22** as a yellow oil (104 mg, 73% yield): Rf = 0.20 (95:5

hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) 2982, 2931, 2858, 1747, 1725, 1463, 1371, 1301, 1151. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.22 – 4.12 (m, 4H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.36 – 2.28 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.16 (m, 16H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 169.9, 61.5, 61.0, 52.4, 42.1, 36.3, 35.94, 35.92, 26.3, 22.02, 21.96, 19.5, 14.2, 11.1. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m*/*z* calculated for C₁₆H₂₈O₄ ([M+Na]⁺) 307.1885; found 307.1894.



Diethyl 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)(phenyl)methyl)malonate (23): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **9** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). DME (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and diethyl benzylidenemalonate (124 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 48 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (95:5 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **23** as a yellow oil (121 mg, 70% yield): R_f = 0.20 (95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2929, 2860, 1759, 1728, 1464, 1299, 1149, 1033, 910. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.12 (m, 5H), 4.27 – 4.14 (m, 2H),

4.00 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.74 – 3.64 (m, 2H), 3.50 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 1.56 – 1.01 (m, 13H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 168.5, 139.7, 127.4, 126.6, 61.8, 61.3, 56.0, 54.6, 37.2, 36.9, 35.9, 26.1, 22.1, 22.0, 19.2, 14.1, 13.5. HRMS (ESI– TOF) m/z calculated for C₂₁H₃₀O₄ ([M+Na]⁺) 369.2042; found 369.2048.



4-(2-(1-methylcyclohexyl)ethyl)furan-2(5H)-one (24). An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (124)0.38 mmol, 1.1 mg, equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (4.0 mg, 0.0035 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (7 mL, 0.05 M) was added, followed by water (63 µL, 3.5 mmol, 10 equiv) and vinyl butenolide⁵ (39 mg, 0.35 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h. Air was blown over the reaction vessel to maintain the temperate at 23 °C. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was redissolved in DCM (9 mL, 0.04 M) and DBU (63 µL, 0.42 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added. The mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 10 min. The reaction was diluted with DCM (10 mL), washed with 2 N ag. HCl (3 x 10 mL). Combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to yield 24 (64 mg, 88%) as a yellow oil. Rf 0.3 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.89 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 2H), 2.40 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 1.57–1.50 (m, 7H), 1.41–1.28 (m, 5H), 0.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.4, 171.7, 115.1, 73.3, 39.6, 37.7, 32.7, 26.5, 24.6, 23.1, 22.1; IR (thin film): 2923, 1778, 1744, 1636, 884 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m*/*z*) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₁₃H₂₄NO₂, 226.1807; found, 226.1803.



trans-5-Methoxy-4-(1-methylcyclohexyl)dihydrofuran-2(*3H*)-one (25): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **9** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). DME (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and γ -methoxy butenolide⁶ (57 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 36 h maintaining ambient temperature via cooling with a flow of air from a fan. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **25** as a yellow oil which was a single diastereomer (77 mg, 73% yield). Spectral data were consistent with previously reported data.²



Benzyl (2S,4S)-2-(tert-butyl)-4-((1-methylcyclohexyl)methyl)-5-oxooxazolidine-3carboxylate (26): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 9 (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl (S)-2-(tertbutyl)-4-methylene-5-oxooxazolidine-3-carboxylate⁷ (145 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (95:5 hexanes:EtOAc) to give 26 as a yellow oil which was a single diastereomer (175 mg, 90% yield): $R_f = 0.30$ (90:10 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); $[\alpha]^{23.4}_{D} + 36.2^{\circ}, \ [\alpha]^{23.4}_{577} + 37.9^{\circ}, \ [\alpha]^{23.4}_{546} + 43.3^{\circ}, \ [\alpha]^{23.4}_{435} + 77.5^{\circ}, \ [\alpha]^{23.4}_{405} + 98.1^{\circ}$ $(c = 1.0, CHCl_3)$. IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) 2930, 2863, 1791, 1711, 1455, 1396, 1318, 1192. ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 7.41 - 7.32 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 5.55 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 5.19 \text{ (d, } J = 11.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 5.13 \text{ (d, } J = 1.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$ 11.9 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (dd, J = 14.3, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (dd, J = 14.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.50 – 1.15 (m, 10H), 0.96 (app s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 155.9, 135.3, 129.1, 128.85, 128.80, 96.2, 68.5, 53.7, 47.8, 38.1, 37.8, 37.0, 33.4, 26.4, 25.1, 24.3, 22.05, 22.04. HRMS (ESI–TOF) m/z calculated for C₂₃H₃₃NO₄ ([M+Na]⁺) 410.2307; found 410.2315. Product stereochemistry was confirmed by a NOESY correlation:





Benzyl 3-(1-methylcyclohexyl)propanoate (27): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate **(9)** (175 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv) The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **27** as a yellow oil (118 mg, 91% yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.32 (m, 5H), 5.12, (s, 2H), 2.34 (t, *J*=6.0, 2H), 1.61 (t, *J*=6.0, 2H), 1.48–1.40 (m, 5H), 1.34–1.30 (m, 1H), 1.27–1.22 (m, 4H), 0.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.6, 136.2, 128.7, 128.4,

128.3, 66.3, 37.6, 36.8, 32.4, 29.1, 26.5, 24.6, 22.1; IR (thin film): 2923, 2850, 1730, 1157, 696 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₄O₂Na, 283.1674; found, 283.16748.



1-Isopropylcyclohexyl methyl oxalate (28a): 1-isopropylcyclohexan-1-ol (380 mg, 2.68 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in DCM (13 mL, 0.2 M). Triethylamine (750 μL, 5.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and DMAP (66 mg, 0.54 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (440 μL, 4.83 mmol, 1.8 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 8 hours at 35 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (40 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (90:10 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **28a** as a colorless oil (576 mg, 94% yield): R_f = 0.40 (90:10 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2938, 2866, 1763, 1733, 1449, 1323, 1200, 1136. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.65 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (app d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.57 (m, 3H), 1.54 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 1.26 – 1.13 (m, 1H), 0.91 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 156.8, 93.4, 53.3, 33.3, 30.0, 25.6, 21.6, 17.4. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₂₀O₄ ([M+Na]⁺) 251.1259; found 251.1251.



Cesium 2-((1-isopropylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (28): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-isopropylcyclohexyl methyl oxalate **28a** (563 mg, 2.47 mmol, 1 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (2.5 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N CsOH (aq) (2.5 mL, 2.5 mmol, 1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **28** as a colorless solid (855 mg, 100% yield): IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2967, 2934, 1707, 1698, 1654, 1368, 1193, 1141, 946. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 2.56 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (app d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (app d, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 1.53 – 1.39 (m, 4H), 1.29 (td, *J* = 12.9, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 1.17-1.06 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.6, 163.7, 84.9, 32.9, 29.7, 25.4, 21.0, 17.1. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₁H₁₇O₄Cs ([M–Cs]⁻) 213.1127; found 213.1129.



Benzyl 3-(1-isopropylcyclohexyl)propanoate (29): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **28** (190 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h

with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **29** as a yellow oil (134 mg, 93% yield): Rf = 0.35 (95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) 2933, 2866, 1729, 1456, 1388, 1216, 1163. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.29 – 2.23 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.65 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.52 – 1.15 (m, 10H), 0.82 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 136.3, 128.7, 128.32, 128.29, 66.3, 36.6, 31.8, 31.2, 28.8, 27.6, 26.5, 21.5, 16.8. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₉H₂₈O₂ ([M+Na]⁺) 311.1987; found 311.1982.



1-(*tert***-Butyl)cyclohexyl methyl oxalate (30a):** A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-(*tert*-butyl)cyclohexan-1-ol (234 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and THF (7.5 mL, 0.2 M) under an atmosphere of argon. The solution was stirred and cooled to -78 °C before a 2.5M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexanes (660 µL, 1.65 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The solution was stirred for 5 min, then methyl chlorooxoacetate (160 µL, 1.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added drop-wise. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour, then warmed to room temperature and quenched with sat. NaHCO₃(aq) (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (40 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (97:3 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **30a** as a colorless oil (331 mg, 91% yield): $R_f = 0.45$ (90:10 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2941, 2870, 1764, 1735, 1450, 1324, 1216, 1122. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.59 – 2.49 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.62 (m, 3H), 1.44 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 1.21-1.09 (m, 1H), 1.00 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.8, 157.6, 97.0, 53.3, 39.5, 30.1, 26.5, 25.1, 22.4. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₂₂O₄ ([M+Na]⁺) 265.1416; found 265.1420.



Cesium 2-((1-(*tert*-butyl)cyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (30): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1-(*tert*-butyl)cyclohexyl methyl oxalate 30a (311 mg, 1.29 mmol, 1 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.3 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N CsOH (aq) (1.3 mL, 1.3 mmol, 1 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give 30 as a colorless solid (467 mg, 100% yield): IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2940, 2872, 1709, 1623, 1612, 1397. 1196, 1127. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 2.34 (app d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.57-1.36 (m, 5H), 1.24 (td, *J* = 13.0, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 1.14-1.04 (m, 1H), 0.91 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 168.1, 164.1, 88.3, 38.8, 29.8, 26.3, 25.0, 21.8. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₉O₄Cs ([M–Cs]⁻) 227.1283; found 227.1273.



Benzyl 3-(1-(tert-butyl)cyclohexyl)propanoate (31): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 30 (198 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et_2O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (98:2 hexanes: EtOAc) to give **31** as a yellow oil (110 mg, 73% yield): $R_f = 0.40$ (95:5 hexanes:ethyl acetate, stained with KMnO4); IR (thin film, cm⁻¹) 2934, 2868, 1734, 1455, 1370, 1294, 1135, 1079. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.46 – 2.39 (m, 2H), 1.86 - 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.63 (app d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (app d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.43-1.24 (m, 6H), 1.09 - 0.99 (m, 1H), 0.86 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.6, 136.3, 128.7, 128.32, 128.31, 66.3, 38.9, 37.3, 31.2, 29.7, 26.7, 26.1, 25.7, 22.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{20}H_{30}O_2$ ([M+Na]⁺) 325.2144; found 325.2133.



Methyl (1-methylcyclopentyl) oxalate (32a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 1methylcyclopentan-1-ol (620 mg, 6.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (62 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (1.0 mL, 7.5 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (76 mg, 0.62 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.7 mL, 7.5 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (9:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **32a** as colorless oil (1.1 g, 94% yield). R_f 0.5 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.22–2.20 (m, 2H), 1.78–1.75 (m, 4H), 1.69–1.64 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.2, 157.2, 94.5, 53.5, 39.0, 24.1, 23.9; IR (thin film): 2958, 1762, 1735, 1151, 789 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₉H₁₈NO₄, 204.1236; found, 204.1233.



Cesium 2-((1-methylcyclopentyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (32): A round-bottom flask was charged with methyl (1-methylcyclopentyl) oxalate (**32a**) (1.0 g, 5.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (5.4 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (5.4 mL, 5.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **32** as a colorless solid (1.6 g, 99% yield). ¹H NMR

(600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 1.98–1.95 (m, 2H), 1.63–1.54 (m, 6H), 1.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.6, 163.6, 87.2, 38.6, 24.3, 23.3; IR (thin film): 3430, 2957, 1723, 1637, 1173 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₈H₁₁O₄, 171.0657; found, 171.0661.



Benzyl 3-(1-methylcyclopentyl)propanoate (33): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1-methylcyclopentyl)oxy)-2oxoacetate (32) (170 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et_2O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **33** as a yellow oil (113 mg, 92%) yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.32 (m, 5H), 5.12, (s, 2H), 2.37 (t, J=4.2, 2H), 1.70–1.59 (m, 6H), 1.40–1.32 (m, 4H), 0.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.5, 136.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 66.4, 41.8, 39.3, 37.1, 31.1, 25.7, 24.6; IR (thin film): 2951, 1733, 1455, 1159, 696 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + NH_4 ⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₆NO₂, 264.1964; found, 264.1967.



tert-Butyl 3-hydroxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (34a): A solution of methyl magnesium bromide (3 M in Et₂O; 10.8 mL, 32.39 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added dropwise to tertbutyl 3-oxopyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5.0 g, 26.99 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C over 5 min. The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature overnight quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (50 mL) and diluted with Et₂O (100 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (3:7 - 1:1 EtOAc:hexanes)to give $34a^8$ as a beige solid (4.02 g, 74%): $R_f = 0.17$ (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3384, 2970, 2908, 1716, 1656, 1417, 1367, 1156, 1144, 1105 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 3:1 mixture of rotamers (major given) δ 3.53 – 3.44 (m, 2H), 3.41 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.27 - 3.20 (m, 1H), 1.92 - 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers (both given) & 154.80, 79.45, 59.13, 58.79, 45.13, 44.65, 39.62, 39.13, 28.67, 25.54; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{10}H_{20}NO_3^+$ ([M+H]⁺) 202.1438; found 202.1436.



1-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl)-3-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl methyl Methyl oxalate (34b): chlorooxoacetate (920 µL, 9.94 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a solution of tert-butyl 3hydroxy-3-methylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate 34a (1.0 g, 4.97 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and pyridine (760 µL, 9.94 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in Et₂O (20 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The organic phase was washed with water (2 x 20 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on a short column of silica gel (1:9 - 1:4)EtOAc:hexanes) to give **34b** as a colorless oil (1.03 g, 71%): $R_f = 0.32$ (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2974, 2907, 2848, 1740, 1715, 1692, 1635, 1397, 1207, 1160, 1125, 1102 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.91 – 3.83 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.50 – $3.41 (m, 3H), 2.49 - 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.04 - 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR$ (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers δ 158.25, 156.79, 156.73, 154.27, 89.48, 88.75, 79.81, 79.66, 55.98, 53.54, 44.24, 43.72, 37.03, 36.59, 28.47, 21.28. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{13}H_{22}NO_6^+$ ([M+H]⁺) 288.1442, found 288.1439.



34b (1.0 equiv)

34

Cesium 2-((1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-3-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (34): CsOH•H₂O (175 mg, 1.04 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to mixed oxalate 34b (300 mg, 1.04 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting colorless solid was triturated with toluene (3 x 5 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to give 34 as a colorless solid that was used without further purification (370 mg, 88%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2975, 2908, 2848, 1716, 1685, 1628, 1403, 1205, 1175, 1102 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 3.81 – 3.71 (m, 1H), 3.40 – 3.32 (m, 3H), 2.38 (dt, *J* = 12.3, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (dt, *J* = 14.2, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H); Mixture of 2 rotamers: ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) δ 164.31, 163.72, 156.32, 55.75, 55.22, 44.26, 43.65, 36.26, 35.77, 27.64, 20.06. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₈NO₆⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 272.1140; found 272.1137.



34 (1.1 equiv) (1.0 equiv) **35** *tert*-Butyl 3-(3-(benzyloxy)-3-oxopropyl)-3-methylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (35): An 8 mLscintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **34** (304 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005

mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 - 9:1)hexanes: EtOAc) to give 35 as a colorless film (126 mg, 72%): $R_f = 0.29$ (19:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2968, 2874, 1736, 1690, 1397, 1364, 1154, 1100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 3.46 – 3.30 (m, 2H), 3.14 – 3.08 (m, 1H), 3.07 - 3.02 (m, 1H), 2.39 - 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.77 - 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.68 - 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H), 1.01 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers δ 173.46, 173.42, 154.75, 154.69, 135.85, 135.82, 128.61, 128.34, 128.31, 79.17, 66.45, 66.41, 57.58, 56.96, 44.81, 44.48, 41.08, 40.21, 37.52, 36.68, 34.29, 34.17, 30.35, 30.30, 28.55, 22.90; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₂₀H₂₉NaNO₄⁺ ([M+Na]⁺) 370.1989; found 370.1992.



(4-Hydroxy-4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (36a): A solution of methyl magnesium bromide (3 M in Et₂O; 4.92 mL, 14.76 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise to 1-

benzoyl-4-piperidone (2.0 g, 9.84 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C over 5 min. The resulting solution was warmed to room temperature over 1 h, stirred for a further 1 hour and then quenched with 1 M hydrochloric acid (50 mL). The resulting aqueous mixture was extracted with Et₂O (4 x 50 mL) and the combined ethereal extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (4:1 – 1:0 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **36a** as a viscous, colorless oil (1.24 g, 58%): R_f= 0.47 (neat EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (film) v_{max} 3323, 2964, 2901, 1601, 1575, 1447, 1257, 1109 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 4.33 – 4.31 (m, 1H), 3.46 – 3.33 (m, 3H), 1.67 – 1.55 (m, 4H), 1.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers δ 170.43, 136.34, 129.62, 128.56, 126.93, 68.18, 44.23, 39.22, 38.64, 38.44, 30.47; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₁₈NO₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 220.1332; found 220.1331.



1-Benzoyl-4-methylpiperidin-4-yl methyl oxalate (36b): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (373 μ L, 4.05 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to a solution of (4-hydroxy-4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone **36a** (740 mg, 3.37 mmol, 1.0 equiv), triethylamine (564 μ L, 4.05 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (42 mg, 0.34 mmol, 0.1 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours. Water (50 mL) was added and the

aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 ml), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:1 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **36b** as a sticky white foam (894 mg, 87%): $R_f = 0.42$ (1:4 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3003, 2981, 2940, 2913, 1761, 1628, 1438, 1325, 1261, 1209, 1166, 1139 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 4.44 (broad s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.59 (broad s, 1H), 3.34 (broad s, 1H), 3.24 (broad s, 1H), 2.41 (broad s, 1H), 2.28 (broad s, 1H), 1.77 (broad s, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.63 (broad s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers δ 170.45, 158.53, 156.55, 135.75, 129.78, 128.54, 126.88, 83.81, 53.50, 43.56, 37.96, 36.26, 35.44, 24.77; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₆H₂₀NO₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 306.1336; found 306.1335.



Cesium 2-((1-benzoyl-4-methylpiperidin-4-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (36): CsOH•H₂O (407 mg, 2.42 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to mixed oxalate **36b** (740 mg, 2.42 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting colorless solid was triturated with toluene (3 x 5 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to give **36** as a colorless solid that was used without further purification (952 mg, 93%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2934, 2910, 1714, 1616, 1575, 1438, 1203, 1171, 1138, 966 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.38
(m, 2H), 4.22 - 4.19 (m, 2H), 3.52 - 3.49 (m, 1H), 3.37 - 3.26 (m, 2H), 2.39 - 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.19 - 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.82 - 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.72 - 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) mixture of rotamers δ 172.25, 164.81, 163.91, 134.49, 130.25, 128.73, 126.36, 82.23, 60.91, 44.05, 38.56, 35.39, 34.82, 23.76. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for $C_{15}H_{16}NO_{5}^{-1}$ ([M–Cs]⁻) 290.1034; found 290.1037.



36 (1.1 equiv) (1.0 equiv) 37 Benzyl 3-(1-benzoyl-4-methylpiperidin-4-yl)propanoate (37): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 36 (232 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs.. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 - 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **37** as a colorless film (141 mg, 77%): $R_f = 0.30$ (2:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3027, 2935, 2872, 1735, 1627, 1434, 1370, 1229, 1230, 1216 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42

- 7.29 (m, 10H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.02 (broad s, 1H), 3.44 (broad s, 2H), 3.27 (broad s, 1H), 2.38 –
2.35 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.49 (broad s, 2H), 1.35 – 1.28 (m, 2H), 2.99 (3H, s); ¹³C
NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) mixture of rotamers δ 173.71, 170.30, 136.29, 135.85, 129.47, 128.60,
128.44, 128.34, 128.33, 126.82, 66.42, 43.98, 40.00, 38.30, 37.32, 36.28, 31.53, 28.76, 23.04;
HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₂₃H₂₈NO₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 366.2064; found 366.2066.



Methyl ((15, 3*R***, 6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentaien-1-yl) oxalate (38a): A round-bottom flask was charged with (1***S***,3***R***,6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentalen-1-ol⁹ (280 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (20 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (0.35 mL, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (25 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.22 mL, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (85:15 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 38a** as colorless oil (430 mg, 95% yield). R_f 0.4 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO4. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD-Cl₃): δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.58–2.54 (m, 1H), 2.51–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.12–2.08 (m, 1H), 1.89–1.84 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.70–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.53–1.49 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.34–1.24 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.2, 156.9, 93.6, 53.5, 53.3, 41.6, 36.5, 35.5, 29.0, 28.7, 27.2, 24.0; IR (thin film): 2952, 1766, 1738, 1160, 732 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₁₂H₂₂NO₄, 244.1549; found, 244.1544.



Cesium 2-(((1*S***,3***R***,6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentalen-1-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (38): A roundbottom flask was charged with methyl ((1***S***, 3***R***, 6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentaien-1-yl) oxalate (38a) (390 mg, 1.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.7 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (1.7 mL, 1.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give 38 as a colorless solid (590 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): \delta 2.47–2.37 (m, 2H), 1.88–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.58–1.51 (m, 1H), 1.50–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 3H), 1.36–1.28 (m, 1H), 1.25–1.16 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): \delta 167.0, 163.4, 86.9, 52.7, 40.7, 36.4, 35.2, 28.3, 28.1, 26.6, 24.2; IR (thin film): 2947, 1722, 1635, 1210, 1121 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (***m***/***z***) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₁₁H₁₅O₄, 211.0970; found, 211.0970.**



Benzyl 3-((1*S***,3***R***,6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentalen-1-yl)propanoate (39): An 8 mLscintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-(((1***S***,3***R***,6***R***)-1-methyloctahydropentalen-1-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (38) (190 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 \muL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 \muL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with**

argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **39** as a yellow oil (122 mg, 85% yield). R*f* 0.4 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.34 (m, 5H), 5.12, (s, 2H), 2.49–2.46 (m, 1H), 2.34 (t, *J*=8.0, 2H), 1.96 (q, *J*=8.5, 1H), 1.87–1.79 (m, 2H), 1.65–1.59 (m, 3H), 1.58–1.51 (m, 1H), 1.41–1.32 (m, 3H), 1.28–1.22 (m, 2H), 1.16–1.11 (m, 1H), 0.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.6, 136.3, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 66.4, 53.6, 43.7, 42.9, 38.0, 36.7, 35.2, 31.6, 30.5, 29.4, 28.1, 21.3; IR (thin film): 2944, 2861, 1732, 1653, 1154 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₃₀NO₂, 304.2277; found, 204.2266.



Linalool oxide-derived mixed oxalate (40a): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (1.30 mL, 14.10 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to a solution of linalool oxide (purchased from Aldrich as a mixture of isomers; 2.0 g, 11.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and pyridine (1.41 mL, 14.10 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in Et₂O (50 mL) and the resulting white suspension was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (50 mL) and the organic phase was washed with water (2 x 50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 ml), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:19 – 1:9 EtOAc:hexanes) to give two diastereomers as colorless oils. Eluted first was the

desired *trans* isomer **40a** (973 mg, 30%): $R_f = 0.24$ (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2979, 2881, 1765, 1740, 1327, 1203, 1174, 1147, 1128 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.85 (dd, J = 17.3, 10.7 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (dd, J = 17.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (dd, J = 10.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (dd, J = 7.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.04 – 1.76 (m, 4H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.87, 156.71, 143.62, 111.58, 87.49, 83.92, 83.89, 53.40, 37.02, 26.60, 26.56, 22.37, 21.47. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₂₁O₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 257.1384, found 257.1386 The *trans* stereochemistry was confirmed by an observed NOESY correlation between the vinyl group and the methane:



Eluted second was a fraction containing predominantly the *cis* isomer (40b) (1.04 g, 32% yield): $R_f = 0.21 (19:1 \text{ hexanes:EtOAc}, \text{ stained with KMnO}_4)$ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.99 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.01 – 1.72 (m, 4H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.85, 156.76, 144.03, 111.67, 87.42, 83.79, 83.56, 53.37, 37.69, 26.83, 25.73, 22.48, 21.60; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₂₁O₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 257.1384, found 257.1382. The *cis* stereochemistry was confirmed by an observed NOESY correlation between the methyl and methine groups:





40

40a (1.0 equiv)

trans-Linalool oxide-derived oxalate cesium salt (40): CsOH•H₂O (328 mg, 1.95 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to linalool oxide-derived mixed oxalate 40a (500 mg, 1.95 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for a further 5 min after addition had complete then concentrated to give the 40 as a colorless semi-solid that was not purified further (729 mg, 99%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2977, 1719, 1627, 1385, 1371, 1213, 1121, 1096, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.93 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 1.79 (4H, m), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) δ 165.27, 164.12, 143.16, 142.77, 111.94, 107.80, 86.62, 84.62, 83.91, 67.74, 36.35, 26.08, 25.01, 21.35, 20.00. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₇O₅⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 241.1082; found 241.1079.



trans- Linalool oxide-derived Michael adduct (41): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 40 (281 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with

argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **41** as a pale yellow oil (105 mg, 67%): R_f= 0.51 (24:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2966, 2872, 1734, 1366, 1295, 1150, 1025 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.85 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.96 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 – 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.60 (m, 6H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.47, 144.28, 136.24, 128.67, 128.35, 128.29, 111.07, 85.74, 82.43, 66.29, 37.40, 35.89, 34.21, 29.71, 26.96, 26.43, 22.95, 22.33. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₂₀H₂₉O₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 317.2111; found 317.2111.



Methyl ((1*R*,2*R*,4*S*,8*S*)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1-(2-(pivaloyloxy)ethyl)decahydronaphthalen-2-yl) oxalate (42a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-((1*R*,2*R*,4*S*,8*S*)-2-hydroxy-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyldecahydronaphthalen-1-yl)ethyl pivalate² (340 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (10 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (0.17 mL, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (12 mg, 0.1 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.11

mL, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The homogeneous reaction mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 1 h. Additional triethylamine (140 µL, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and methyl chlorooxalate (90 µL, 1.0 mmol 1.0 equiv) were added. The reaction was warmed to 35 °C and maintained at that temperature for 4 h. The reaction was guenched by slow addition of saturated ag. NH₄Cl (10 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (10 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (9:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 42a as colorless solid (410 mg, 97% yield). R_f 0.4 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. c = 1.00 (MeOH), $[\alpha]^{D}_{22.5} - 2.83$, $[\alpha]^{577}_{22.5} - 3.12$, $[\alpha]^{546}_{22.5} = -3.78, \ [\alpha]^{435}_{22.5} = -6.30, \ [\alpha]^{405}_{22.5} = -7.96; \ ^{1}H \text{ NMR} (600 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3): \delta 4.22 (qd, J=8.0, CDCl_3): \delta 4.2 (qd, J=8.0,$ 1.9, 1H), 4.11 (qd, J=8.0, 1.9, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.83–2.81 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.59 (br s, 2H), 1.49-1.46 (m, 1H), 1.40 (app d, J=13.3, 1H), 1.29 (qd, J=12.5, 3.1, 1H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 1.18 (td, J=13.5, 4.1, 1H), 1.01 (dd, J=14.1, 1.5, 1H), 0.96 (dd, J=11.4, 3.6, 1H), 0.89 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.80 (S, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 178.8, 159.1, 156.2, 92.4, 65.8, 55.8, 55.5, 53.5, 42.0, 39.6, 39.3, 38.9, 33.5, 33.4, 27.5, 25.1, 21.6, 20.1, 18.5, 15.8; IR (thin film): 2935, 1762, 1733, 1721, 1164, 1127 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₂₄H₄₀O₆Na, 447.2722; found, 447.2708.



Cesium 2-oxo-2-(((1R,2R,4S,8S)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1-(2-(pivaloyloxy) ethyl) decahydronaphthalen-2-yl)oxy)acetate (42): A round-bottom flask was charged with methyl

((1*R*,2*R*,4*S*,8*S*)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1-(2-(pivaloyloxy)ethyl)decahydronaphthalen-2-yl) oxalate (**42a**) (420 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (1.0 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **42** as a colorless solid (540 mg, 99% yield). c = 1.00 (MeOH), $[\alpha]_{22.7}^{D}$ -2.48, $[\alpha]_{577}^{577}$ -2.75, $[\alpha]_{546}^{22.7}$ -3.09, $[\alpha]_{435}^{435}_{22.7}$ -5.15, $[\alpha]_{405}^{400}_{22.7}$ -6.17; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 4.05-4.03 (m, 2H), 2.55-2.52 (m, 1H), 1.70–1.55 (m, 5H), 1.52–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.39–1.32 (m, 2H), 1.30–1.24 (m, 2H), 1.13 (s, 9H), 1.00–0.91 (m, 2H), 0.86 (app s, 4H), 0.76 (app d, *J*=5.1, 5H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 177.4, 167.0, 163.1, 84.9, 65.6, 55.1, 54.3, 41.4, 38.4, 38.3, 38.1, 33.2, 32.8, 27.0, 24.6, 21.3, 20.3, 19.4, 17.9, 15.2; IR (thin film): 2956, 1762, 1718, 1635, 1161, cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₂₃H₃₇O₆, 409.2590; found, 409.2599.



1-yl)ethyl pivalate (43): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-oxo-2-(((1R,2R,4S,8S)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1-(2-(pivaloyloxy) ethyl) decahydro-naphthalen-2-yl)oxy)acetate **(42)** (209 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (3.9 mg, 0.0035 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (3.5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (54 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (54 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging

with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes: Et_2O) to give 43 as a yellow oil (162 mg, 96% yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. c = 1.00 (MeOH), $[\alpha]^{D}_{22.7} + 1.16$, $[\alpha]^{577}_{22.7} + 1.67$, $[\alpha]^{546}_{22.7}$ +1.82, $[\alpha]^{435}_{22.7}$ +3.45, $[\alpha]^{405}_{22.7}$ +4.02; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.33 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.07–4.02 (m, 1H), 3.93–3.88 (m, 1H), 2.32 (t, J=7.7, 2H), 1.81–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.68 (app d, J=12.6, 1H), 1.60–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.38 (m, 3H), 1.33–1.26 (m, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H), 1.14 (td, J=12.9, 3.3, 2H), 0.90–0.88 (m, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.85 (S, 3H), 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.72 (t, J=3.5, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 178.8, 174.5, 136.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 66.5, 66.4, 56.5, 56.1, 42.2, 40.2, 39.3, 39.1, 38.8, 37.4, 33.5, 29.0, 27.5, 25.4, 22.6, 21.8, 19.3, 18.7, 18.5, 16.3, 14.3; IR (thin film): 2921, 1734, 1720, 1252, 1166 cm⁻¹: HRMS-CI (m/z) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₃₁H₅₂NO₄, 502.3896; found, 502.3884.



Cesium 2-oxo-2-(((1*R***,2***R***,4***R***,8***S***)-1,2,4a-trimethyl-5-methylenedecahydronaphthalen-1-yl) oxy)acetate (44): A round-bottom flask was charged with 3° alcohol 69¹⁰ (233 mg, 1.12 mmol,**

1.0 equiv) and THF (4.5 mL, 0.25 M) under an atmosphere of argon. The solution was stirred and cooled to -78 °C before a 2.5 M solution of n-BuLi in hexanes (450 µL, 1.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The solution was stirred for 15 min, then methyl chlorooxoacetate (160 µL, 1.68 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added drop-wise. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at -78 °C, then at cryogenic temperature as the dry ice bath slowly warmed to room temperature (2-3 h). The reaction was diluted with 5 mL of THF, and the organic extracts were washed (2X) with sat. NaHCO₃ (aq) (5 mL), then 1X with 50% sat. brine (5 mL). The organic extracts were then treated with 0.5 M CsOH (aq) (2.1 mL, 1.05 mmol, 0.94 equiv), and the mixture was shaken until the intermediate methyl oxalate was consumed as judged by TLC (<5 min). Hexanes (10 mL) were added, and the aqueous phase was collected. The organic extracts were washed with a second portion of water (5 mL), and the combined aqueous phases were concentrated under reduced pressure to give 44 as a colorless solid (427 mg, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 4.52 (d, J=10.0, 2H), 2.30 (td, J=16.2, 5.8, 1H), 2.05 (app d, J=14.9, 1H), 1.93-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.65 (qd, J=15.7, 3.4, 1H), 1.60-1.49 (m, 6H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 2H), 1.19 (qt, J=15.9, 4.8, 1H, 1.10 (s, 3H), 1.04 (dd, J=14.9, 2.9, 1H), 0.88 (d, J=7.9, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126) MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.6, 163.7, 158.8, 103.6, 83.9, 54.0, 43.2, 39.0, 36.7, 32.3, 27.9, 26.6, 22.8, 22.7, 20.2, 16.5; IR (thin film): 2394, 1670, 1608, 1214, 1160 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M -Cs⁻ calculated for C₁₆H₂₃O₄, 279.1596; found, 279.1590.



1-yl)ethyl pivalate (45): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-oxo-2-(((1R,2R,4R,8S)-1,2,4a-trimethyl-5methylenedecahydronaphthalen-1-yl)oxy)acetate (44) (137 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (3.9 mg, 0.0035 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (3.5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (63 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (54 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 45 as a yellow oil (113 mg, 91% yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.33 (m, 5H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 2.31–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.16-2.09 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.47 (m, 1H), 1.46–1.42 (m, 1H), 1.37–1.31 (m, 1H), 1.29–1.24 (m, 1H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.96 (dd, J=14.8, 2.7, 1H), 0.88–0.83 (m, 2H), 0.81 (d, J=6.8, 3H), 0.77 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.4, 160.6, 136.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 102.8, 66.4, 49.0, 40.2, 39.2, 37.4, 37.0, 33.2, 32.9, 28.8, 28.5, 27.6, 21.8, 21.0, 18.1, 16.2; IR (thin film): 2924, 1734, 1456, 1158, 889 cm⁻¹; HRMS-

CI (m/z) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₂₄H₃₈NO₂, 372.2903; found, 372.2893. Product stereochemistry was confirmed by a NOESY correlation:



Estrone-derived mixed oxalate (46a): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (514 µL, 4.19 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to a solution of the known sterol² (1.05 g, 3.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv), triethylamine (424 µL, 4.19 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (43 mg, 0.35 mmol, 0.1 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 hours. Water (50 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 ml), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:9 – 1:4 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **46a** as a sticky white foam (1.01 g, 75%): R_f = 0.49 (9:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2989, 2942, 2877, 2841, 2808, 1757, 1738, 1323, 1205, 1171, 1144, 1037 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.92 – 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.37 – 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.25 – 1.16 (m, 3H), 1.92 – 1.88 (s, 2H), 1.79 – 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.62 (dt, *J* = 12.7, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.56 (3H, s), 1.54 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.37 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR

(126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.07, 157.50, 157.04, 137.87, 132.34, 126.33, 113.81, 111.51, 95.04, 55.23, 53.28, 48.24, 47.07, 43.69, 39.26, 36.28, 32.02, 29.81, 27.48, 26.17, 23.27, 21.21, 14.33; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₂₃H₃₁O₅⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 387.2166, found 387.2164.



Estrone-derived oxalate cesium salt (46): CsOH+H₂O (367 mg, 2.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to estrone-derived mixed oxalate 46a (867 mg, 2.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for a further 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated to give 46 as an off-white solid that was dried *in vacuo* but not purified further (1.13 g, 99%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2977, 2939, 2867, 1705, 1610, 1227, 1209, 1148, 1039 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 2.7Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.84 – 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.32 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.15 – 2.12 (m, 1H), 2.01 (t, *J* = 7.7Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.74 (dt, *J* = 12.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (dq, *J* = 13.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (td, *J* = 12.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.39 – 1.27 (m, 5H), 0.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) δ 167.43, 163.59, 157.03, 137.39, 132.05, 126.18, 113.42, 111.48, 88.77, 54.86, 47.72, 46.41, 43.14, 39.78, 39.00, 36.60, 31.88, 29.31, 27.04, 26.00, 22.94, 21.40, 14.01; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m*/*z* calculated for C₂₂H₂₇O₅⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 371.1864; found 371.1863.



Estrone-derived Michael adduct (47): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 46 (378 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 - 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give 47 as an off-white solid (190 mg, 85%): $R_f = 0.45$ (12:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2933, 2869, 1733, 1608, 1298, 1279, 1254, 1235, 1154, 1037 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.80 – 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.33 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.20 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.79 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.33(m, 9H), 1.31 – 1.21 (m, 2H), 1.18 – 1.09 (m, 1H), 0.77 (s, 3H), 0.66 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.54, 157.28, 137.98, 135.98, 132.85, 128.47, 128.17, 128.12, 126.16, 113.66, 111.27, 66.16, 55.09, 49.26, 45.82, 45.33, 43.63, 39.41, 33.17, 31.68, 31.60, 30.52, 29.86, 28.06, 26.24, 24.56, 20.38, 16.07; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for $C_{30}H_{39}O_3^+$ ([M+H]⁺) 447.2894; found 447.2895. The configuration at the newly

formed stereocenter was determined by NOESY experiments where a strong interaction between the two methyl groups was observed:¹¹



Menthone-derived mixed oxalate (48a): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (1.08 mL, 11.74 mmol, 2 equiv) was added to a solution of the known alcohol¹² (4:1 mixture of diastereomers; major shown; 1.00 g, 5.87 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and pyridine (0.95 mL, 11.74 mmol, 2 equiv) in Et₂O (50 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The organic phase was washed with water (2 x 50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 mL), dried MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:24 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **48a** as a colorless oil (4:1 mixture of diastereomers; 1.23 g, 83%): R_f = 0.51 (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2954, 2871, 1765, 1738, 1201, 1172, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.76 (dt, *J* = 14.4, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.60 – 1.45 (m, 4H), 1.08 (ddd, *J* = 11.7, 4.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H) 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.97, 156.47, 89.24, 53.24, 52.55, 43.82, 34.82, 28.03, 26.09, 24.22, 23.82, 21.99, 17.57. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₄H₂₅O₄⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 257.1747; found 257.1746.



Menthone-derived cesium oxalate (48): CsOH•H₂O (1.05 g, 6.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to mixed oxalate **48a** (1.60 g, 6.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting colorless solid was triturated with toluene (3 x 10 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to give **48** as a colorless solid that was used without further purification (1.56 g, 91%): IR (film) v_{max} 2952, 2868, 1711, 1629, 1153, 1190, 1153 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 2.56 – 2.56 (m, 1H), 2.22 – 2.14 (m, 1H), 1.76 – 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.53 – 1.37 (m, 4H), 1.14 – 1.11 (m, 1H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) δ 166.71, 165.60, 88.47, 88.46, 51.79, 43.84, 39.96, 34.31, 30.41, 27.67, 25.93, 25.54, 23.77, 22.90, 21.36, 20.19, 17.08. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₂₁O₄⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 241.1445; found 241.1446.



Menthone-derived Michael adduct (49): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 48 (206 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1

equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes: EtOAc) to give 49 as a pale yellow oil (142 mg, 90%): R_f= 0.59 (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2951, 2923, 2866, 1735, 1455, 1157 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.33 – 2.26 (m, 2H), 1.95 - 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.79 - 1.59 (m, 3H), 1.53 - 1.43 (m, 2H), 1.31 - 1.21 (m, 2H), 1.11 - 0.92 (m, 2H), 0.90 - 0.87 (7H, m), 0.81 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.66, 136.24, 128.68, 128.36, 128.31, 66.32, 48.88, 48.01, 37.40, 35.91, 28.91, 28.25, 25.32, 24.90, 23.11, 21.90, 20.58, 18.64. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated for C₂₁H₃₃O₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 317.2475; found 317.2475. Product stereochemistry was confirmed by a NOESY correlation:





tert-Butyl methyl oxalate (50a): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (2.98 mL, 32.38 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to a solution of *tert*-butanol (2.56 mL, 26.98 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and pyridine (3.24 mL, 32.38 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in Et₂O (100 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The organic phase was washed with water (2 x 50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on a short column of silica gel (1:19 – 1:9 Et₂O:hexanes) to give **50a** as a colorless oil (4.26 g, 98%): $R_f = 0.41$ (10:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 1981, 1760, 1737, 1371, 1327, 1211, 1137 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.14, 156.88, 85.15, 53.40, 27.84. Data match those previously reported.¹³



Cesium 2-(*tert*-butoxy)-2-oxoacetate (50): CsOH•H₂O (1.05 g, 6.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (10 mL) was added to *tert*-butyl methyl oxalate 50a (1.00 g, 6.24 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (20 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting colorless solid was dried *in vacuo* to give 50 that was used without further purification (1.73 g, 99%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2975, 1721, 1634, 1364, 1222, 1148, 1033 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.50 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR

(126 MHz, D₂O) δ 165.39, 164.12, 84.23, 27.04. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₆H₉O₄⁻⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 145.0506; found 145.0506.



Benzyl 4,4-dimethylpentanoate (51): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with tert-butyl cesium oxalate 50 (153 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes: EtOAc) to give 51 as a pale yellow oil (84 mg, 76%): $R_f = 0.48$ (19:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3035, 2955, 2867, 1734, 1138 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 5.03 (s, 2H), 2.26 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 1.50 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 0.81 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.29, 136.08, 128.57, 128.25, 128.20, 66.21, 38.53, 30.14, 29.03; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z calculated

for $C_{14}H_{20}NaO_2^+$ ([M+Na]⁺) 243.1356; found 243.1355. Data match those previously reported in the literature.¹⁴



4-((*tert***-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl ethyl oxalate (52a):** A round-bottom flask was charged with 4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-ol (2.4 g, 11 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (110 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (0.35 mL, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (25 mg, 0.62 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of ethyl chlorooxoacetate (1.5 mL, 13 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (9:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **52a** as colorless oil (3.0 g, 86% yield). R_f 0.55 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.32 (q, *J*=7.2, 2H), 3.76 (t, *J*=6.6, 2H), 2.11 (t, *J*=6.6, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H), 1.36 (t, *J*=7.2, 3H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.07 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.7, 157.2, 86.5, 63.0, 59.1, 43.1, 26.4, 26.1, 18.4, 14.1; IR (thin film): 2930, 1764, 1739, 1186, 834 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + H]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₃₁O₅Si, 319.1941; found, 319.1933.



Cesium 2-((4-((*tert***-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (52):** A round-bottom flask was charged with 4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl ethyl

oxalate (**52a**) (1.6 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (5.0 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (5.0 mL, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **52** as a colorless solid (2.1 g, 96% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 3.65 (t, *J*=7.2, 2H), 1.94 (t, *J*=6.6, 2H), 1.37 (s, 6H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.03 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.4, 163.4, 79.4, 58.7, 42.6, 26.5, 25.8, 17.8, -5.3; IR (thin film): 2930, 1722, 1633, 1207, 770 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₁₃H₂₅O₅Si, 289.1471; found, 289.1464.



Benzyl 6-((*tert***-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4,4-dimethylhexanoate (53):** An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (52) (233 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy)]₂(dtbbpy)PF₆ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 μ L, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **53** as a yellow oil (167 mg,915% yield). R*f* 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with

KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.35 (m, 5H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 3.66 (t, *J*=7.5, 2H), 2.35 (t, *J*=8.5, 2H), 1.60 (t, *J*=6.0, 2H), 1.47 (t, *J*=7.0, 2H), 0.89 (s, 15H), 0.05 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.4, 136.3, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 66.4, 60.1, 44.1, 37.1, 32.1, 29.8, 27.3, 26.2, 18.5, -5.1; IR (thin film): 2955, 2928, 1737, 1091, 834 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + H]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₃₇O₃Si, 365.2512; found, 365.2515.



4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl methyl oxalate (54a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-ol (1.9 g, 8.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (83 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (1.4 mL, 9.9 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (100 mg, 0.83 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.9 mL, 9.9 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (100 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (4:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **54a** as colorless oil (2.4 g, 95% yield). R_f 0.4 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25 (d, *J*=10.2, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J*=10.2, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.58 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 2.19 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.3, 159.1, 156.9, 130.5, 129.4, 114.0, 86.4, 72.9, 66.0, 55.5, 53.5, 39.9, 26.4; IR (thin film): 1762, 1738, 1512, 1203, 1131 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₆H₂₂O₆Na, 333.1314; found, 333.1326.



Cesium 2-((4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (54): A roundbottom flask was charged with methyl 4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl methyl oxalate (**54a**) (2.3 g, 7.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (7.4 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (7.4 mL, 7.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **54** as a colorless solid (2.7 g, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.23 (d, *J*=10.2, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J*=10.2, 2H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.48 (t, *J*=8.4, 2H), 2.01 (t, *J*=8.4, 2H), 1.38 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.4, 163.4, 158.6, 130.5, 129.1, 113.6, 79.4, 71.6, 65.6, 55.0, 39.6, 26.4; IR (thin film): 1720, 1634, 1513, 1243, 1139 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₁₅H₁₉O₆, 295.1182; found, 295.1183.



Benzyl 6-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-4,4-dimethylhexanoate (55): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((4-((4-methoxybenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate **(54)** (236 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with

the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **55** as a yellow oil (140 mg, 76% yield). R*f* 0.4 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.34 (m, 5H), 7.26 (d, *J*=8.4, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J*=7.8, 2H), 5.12, (s, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.51 (t, *J*=6.6, 2H), 2.35 (t, *J*=7.8, 2H), 1.61 (t, *J*=8.4, 2H), 1.58–1.56 (m, 2H), 0.91 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 159.3, 136.2, 130.8, 129.4, 128.8, 128.4, 114.0, 72.9, 67.1, 66.4, 55.5, 40.9, 37.1, 32.1, 29.8, 27.3; IR (thin film): 2955, 1733, 1512, 1245, 1033 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m*/*z*) [M + NH₄]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₃₄NO₄, 388.2488; found, 388.2482.



2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetic acid (56a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-methyl-4-phenylbutan-2-ol (10.4 g, 63.4 mmol 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of Et₂O (320 mL, 0.2 M). The solution was cooled to 0 °C. Next, oxalyl chloride (11 mL, 127 mmol, 2 equiv) was added dropwise. The homogeneous reaction mixture was warmed to 23 °C and maintained at that temperature for 18 h. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by slow addition of H₂O (200 mL). The resulting mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel with Et₂O (100 mL). The resulting biphasic mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 mL) and the organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated under

reduced pressure to yield **56a** (14.8 g, 99%) as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.32–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 3H), 2.17 (t, *J*=5.4, 2H), 2.17 (t, *J*=4.8, 2H), 1.65 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.5, 157.1, 141.4, 128.7, 128.5, 126.3, 88.7, 42.3, 30.4, 25.9; IR (thin film): 3215, 2983, 1766, 1722, 1195 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M - H]⁻ calculated for C₁₃H₁₅O₄, 235.0970; found, 235.0962.



Cesium 2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (56): A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetic acid (**56a**) (1.8 g, 7.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (7.5 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (7.5 mL, 7.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **56** as a colorless solid (2.7 g, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.28–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.15 (m, 3H), 2.58 (t, *J*=8.4, 2H), 1.99 (t, *J*=8.4, 2H), 1.41 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.5, 163.5, 142.2, 128.3, 128.2, 125.6, 79.9, 42.1, 29.5, 26.1; IR (thin film): 1717, 1635, 1369, 1198, 1120 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₁₃H₁₅O₄, 235.0970; found, 235.0979.



Benzyl 4,4-dimethyl-6-phenylhexanoate (57): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((2-methyl-4-phenylbutan-2yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (56) (167 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with E_{t_2O} (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **57** as a yellow oil (113 mg, 93% yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes: acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38–7.34 (m, 5H), 7.30–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 3H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.57 (t, J=5.0, 2H), 2.37 (t, J=8.0, 2H), 1.67 (t, J=8.5, 2H), 1.51 (t, J=5.0, 2H), 0.96 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): 8 174.4, 143.3, 136.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.46, 128.4, 125.8, 66.5, 44.2, 36.5, 32.9, 32.9, 30.8, 29.8, 26.9; IR (thin film): 2955, 1733, 1258, 1151, 656 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for $C_{21}H_{26}O_2Na$, 333.1830; found, 333.1838.



Methyl (2-methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)butan-2-yl) oxalate (58a): A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)butan-2-ol(120 mg, 0.73 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (7.5 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (0.12 mL, 0.88 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (9 mg, 0.073 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by drop-wise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.08 mL, 0.88 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (aq) (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (20 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH) to give **58a** as colorless oil (150 mg, 83% yield). R_f 0.3 (19:1 CH₂Cl₂:MeOH); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.45 (s, 2H), 7.49 (br s, *J*=6.6, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J*=4.8, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.70–2.67 (m, 2H), 2.15–2.12 (m, 2H), 1.60 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.2, 157.1, 150.3, 148.0, 137.1, 136.2, 123.8, 86.7, 53.7, 42.4, 27.7, 26.1; IR (thin film): 3406, 2954, 1764, 1740, 1201 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₃H₁₇NO₄Na, 274.1055; found, 274.1048.



Cesium 2-((2-methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)butan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (58): A round-bottom flask was charged with methyl (2-methyl-4-(pyridin-3-yl)butan-2-yl) oxalate (**58a**) (190 mg, 0.74 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (0.75 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (0.75 mL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred

vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **58** as a beige solid (270 mg, 99% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.41 (d, *J*=1.8, 1H), 8.38 (dd, *J*=4.8, 1.2, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J*=7.8, 1H), 7.29 (dd, *J*=7.8, 4.8, 1H), 2.50 (t, *J*=1.8, 2H), 2.00 (t, *J*=4.8, 2H), 1.42 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.6, 163.4, 149.5, 147.1, 137.6, 135.6, 123.5, 79.7, 41.6, 26.6, 26.1; IR (thin film): 3430, 2974, 1739, 1721, 1189 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₁₂H₁₄NO₄, 236.0923; found, 236.0922.



Benzyl 4,4-dimethyl-6-(pyridin-3-yl)hexanoate (59): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((2-methyl-4-(pyridin-3yl)butan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (58) (120)0.55 1.1 equiv) mg, mmol. and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (1:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 59 as a vellow oil (76 mg, 70% yield). Rf 0.4 (1:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.50 (d, J=5.5, 2H), 7.55 (d, J=7.5, 1H), 7.45–7.28 (m, 5H), 7.27 (dd, J=8.0, 5.0, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 2.63 (t, J=5, 2H), 2.43 (t, J=8.5, 2H), 1.75 (t, J=6.0, 2H), 1.56 (t, J=6.0, 2H), 1 J=8.5, 2H), 1.03, (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 150.0, 147.4, 138.4, 136.1,

135.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 123.5, 66.5, 43.9, 36.4, 32.9, 29.8, 28.0, 26.8; IR (thin film): 3430, 2960, 1739, 1569, 1233, 1090 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (m/z) [M + H]⁺ calculated for C₂₀H₂₆NO₂, 312.1964; found, 312.1953.



1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-2-ol (60a): A solution of methyl phenylacetate (1.75 mL, 11.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (50 mL) was added dropwise to a 0 °C solution of methyl magnesium bromide (3 M in Et₂O; 11.0 mL, 33.29 mmol, 3 equiv) over 20 min. After addition had completed, the resulting yellow solution was warmed to rt, stirred for 6 hours, quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (50 mL) and diluted with Et₂O (50 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (3:7 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **60a** as a colorless oil (1.78 g, 89%): R_f = 0.21 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) ν_{max} 3351, 2970, 2908, 2847, 1715, 1632, 1211, 1181, 1051 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 2H), 1.23 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.32, 131.40, 129.80, 113.62, 70.76, 55.24, 48.82, 29.08; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₁H₁₇O₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 181.1223; found 181.1224.



1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-2-yl methyl oxalate (60b): Methyl chlorooxoacetate (1.02 mL, 11.05 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to a solution of 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-2-ol **60a** (1.77 g, 9.21 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and pyridine (1.11 mL, 11.05 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in Et₂O (100 mL) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. The organic phase was washed with water (2 x 50 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on a short column of silica gel (1:9 EtOAc:hexanes) to give **60b** as a colorless oil (2.08 g, 85%): R_f = 0.34 (9:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2907, 2847, 1716, 1632, 1210, 1199, 1051 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.04 (s, 2H), 1.52 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.85, 158.49, 156.73, 313.58, 128.33, 113.51, 55.21, 53.33, 45.79, 25.28; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₁H₁₇O₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 267.1227, found 267.1230.



Cesium 2-((1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-methylpropan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (60): CsOH•H₂O (315 mg, 1.88 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added to mixed oxalate **60b** (500 mg, 1.88 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) dropwise over 5 min. The resulting solution was stirred for 5 min after addition had completed then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **60** as a

colorless solid that was used without further purification (522 mg, 98%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2907, 2847, 1715, 1632, 1210, 1188, 1051 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.94 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.08 (s, 2H), 1.45 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.14, 164.27, 157.51, 131.72, 129.72, 113.59, 85.78, 55.26, 43.88, 25.10. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₁₅O₅⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 251.0925; found 251.0925.



Benzyl 5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4,4-dimethylpentanoate (61): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **60** (211 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 – 9:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **61** as a colorless film (116 mg, 71%): R_f = 0.67 (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3005, 2970, 2954, 1736, 1510, 1368, 1230, 1216 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 5H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3.79), 2.45 (s, 2H),

2.39 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 0.84 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.15, 157.90, 136.05, 131.43, 130.79, 128.58, 128.22, 113.16, 66.25, 55.22, 47.38, 36.50, 33.88, 29.81, 26.27; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₂₇O₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 327.1955, found 327.1956.



4-(1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-2-yl)-2-methylbutan-2-yl methyl oxalate (62a): A round-bottom flask was charged with tert-butyl 2-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbutyl)-1H-indole-1carboxylate² (930 mg, 3.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DCM (31 mL, 0.1M). Triethylamine (0.51 mL, 3.7 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and DMAP (37 mg, 0.31 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added followed by dropwise addition of methyl chlorooxoacetate (0.34 mL, 3.7 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for 1 hour at 23 °C, then guenched with sat. NH₄Cl (ag) (100 mL). The agueous phase was extracted with DCM (100 mL), and the organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (85:15 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 62a as colorless oil (2.4 g, 95% yield). R_f 0.3 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.13 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J=7.5, 1H), 7.38 (br s, 1H), 7.32 (t, J=7.5, 1H), 7.25 (d, J=7.5, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.28 (t, J=8.5, 2H), 2.25 (t, J=8.5, 2H), 1.68–1.66 (app d, 15H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.1, 156.9, 150.0, 135.8, 130.6, 124.6, 122.6, 122.4, 120.4, 119.1, 115.5, 86.9, 83.6, 53.5, 40.4, 28.4, 25.8, 19.5; IR (thin film): 1754, 1733, 1721, 1451, 1117 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₂₇NO₆Na, 412.1736; found, 412.1748.



Cesium 2-((4-(1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-1H-indol-2-yl)-2-methylbutan-2-yl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate

(62): A round-bottom flask was charged with 4-(1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-1*H*-indol-2-yl)-2methylbutan-2-yl methyl oxalate (62a) (1.0 g, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) followed by the addition of THF (2.6 mL, 1 M). To this solution, 1 N aq. CsOH (2.6 mL, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added drop-wise. The mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min at room temperature, then concentrated under reduced pressure to give 62 as a colorless solid (1.1 g, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.04 (d, *J*=9.6, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J*=9.0, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J*=9.0, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J*=9.0, 1H), 2.67 (t, *J*=10.2, 2H), 2.09 (t, *J*=10.8, 2H), 1.61 (s, 9H), 1.45 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.7, 163.5, 149.1, 134.9, 130.2, 124.3, 122.4, 122.0, 120.9, 119.4, 114.7, 83.4, 79.8, 39.4, 27.7, 26.1, 18.7; IR (thin film): 2986, 1754, 1722, 1206, 1152, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M – Cs]⁻ calculated for C₂₀H₂₄NO₆, 374.1604; found, 374.1608.





5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **62** as a yellow oil (85 mg, 54% yield). *Rf* 0.2 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.13 (br s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J*=8.0, 1H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 7H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 1H), 5.13, (s, 2H), 2.64 (t, *J*=8.5, 2H), 2.38 (t, *J*=8.0, 2H), 1.71 (t, *J*=8.5, 2H), 1.68 (s, 9H), 1.61 (t, *J*=9.0, 2H), 1.00 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.3, 150.0, 136.2, 130.8, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 124.4, 122.5, 122.1, 121.8, 119.0, 115.5, 83.4, 66.5, 41.4, 36.5, 32.8, 29.8, 28.5, 26.8, 19.7; IR (thin film): 2955, 1727, 1452, 1368, 1153 cm⁻¹; HRMS-CI (*m/z*) [M – Boc + H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₂₈NO₂, 350.2120; found, 350.2129.



Isomenthol-derived alkyl hydrogen oxalate (64a): (+)-Isomenthol (2.0 g, 12.80 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in Et_2O (100 mL) was added dropwise over 20 min. to a 0 °C solution of oxalyl chloride (2.17 mL, 25.60 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in Et_2O . The resulting pale yellow solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2 hours then concentrated under reduced pressure. Unreacted oxalyl chloride was removed *in*

vacuo and the resulting yellow oil was redissolved in Et₂O (50 mL) and carefully treated with water (50 mL). The biphasic reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 1 hour and the layers were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL) and the combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (2 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give **64a** as a colorless oil that was used without further purification (2.36 g, 81%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2956, 2872, 1751, 1732, 1185, 1138 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (br. s, 1H), 5.23 – 5.19 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.80 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.68 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.60 – 1.45 (m, 4H), 1.30 – 1.21 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 6.8, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.99, 157.77, 77.25, 45.43, 35.34, 29.65, 27.44, 26.24, 20.78, 20.57, 20.31, 18.86; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₂₁O₄⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 229.1434; found 229.1435.



Isomenthol-derived cesium oxalate (64): Cs_2CO_3 (928 mg, 2.85 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added dropwise to acid **64a** (1.30 g, 5.69 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (10 mL). The resulting solution was stirred for 10 min then concentrated under reduced pressure to give **64** as a white powder that was washed with toluene (2 x 5 mL) and dried *in vacuo* (1.93 g, 94%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2958, 2932, 2869, 1716, 1223, 1644, 1368, 1383, 1198 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 4.42 (br. s, 1H), 4.23 (dp, *J* = 13.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.15 – 1.03 (m, 3H), 3.98 – 3.89 (m, 3H), 3.82 – 3.76 (m, 1H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.38 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H),
3.29 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) δ 164.60, 74.89, 45.72, 35.47, 29.46, 27.32, 25.92, 19.99, 19.78, 19.01, 17.67. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₂H₁₉O₄⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 227.1289; found 227.1291.



Isomenthol-derived Michael adduct (65): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate 64 (270 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give 65 and 66, both obtained as pale vellow oils. Eluted first was 65 (79 mg, 51%): $R_f = 0.35$ (24:1 hexanes: EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2953, 2925, 2869, 1735, 1455, 1161 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.40 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.75 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.66 – 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.40 (m, 3H), 1.35 – 1.19 (m, 3H), 0.95 – 0.90 (m, 1H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.82 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.14, 136.22,

128.66, 128.36, 128.29, 66.23, 45.52, 35.74, 33.68, 32.32, 30.91, 28.35, 27.14, 26.62, 21.67, 20.95, 20.75, 18.78; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for $C_{21}H_{33}O_2^+$ ([M+H]⁺) 317.2475; found 317.2475. Product stereochemistry was confirmed by NOESY correlation:



Eluted second was the **isomenthol alkoxylcarbonyl radical adduct (66)** (50 mg, 29%): $R_f = 0.30$ (24:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 2955, 2927, 2871, 1730, 1212, 1154, 1140 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 5H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 5.09 – 5.06 (m, 1H), 2.72 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.68 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 1.91 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.61 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.56 (m, 3H), 1.35 – 1.26 (m, 2H), 0.94 (app. t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 0.86 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.20, 171.56, 135.79, 128.57, 128.27, 128.22, 72.23, 66.52, 45.59, 35.67, 29.89, 29.58, 29.33, 27.52, 26.25, 20.90, 20.82, 20.56, 19.08. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₂₁H₃₁O₄⁺ ([M+H]₊) 347.2217; found 347.2213.



Cesium 2-oxo-2-(1-phenylethoxy)acetate (67): 1-phenylethanol (7.9 mL, 65.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in Et_2O (100 mL) was added dropwise over 20 min to a 0 °C solution of oxalyl chloride (11.08 mL, 131 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in Et_2O (300 mL). The resulting pale yellow solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2 hours then concentrated under reduced pressure. Unreacted oxalyl chloride was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting yellow oil was redissolved in Et_2O (100 mL) and carefully treated with water (100 mL). The biphasic reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 1

hour and the layers were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give the crude acid as a colorless oil that was redissolved in THF (200 mL). Cs₂CO₃ (10.67 g, 32.75 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in water (50 mL) was added dropwise and the resulting solution was stirred for 10 min then concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting white solid was triturated with toluene (3 x 50 mL) to give **67** as a white powder that was dried *in vacuo* but not purified further (19.36 g, 90%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 3035, 2992, 1719, 1634, 1602, 1371, 1192, 1050 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.47 – 1.37 (m, 5H), 5.90 – 5.86 (m, 1 H), 1.60 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, D₂O) δ 173.47, 163.85, 141.07, 128.84, 128.33, 125.89, 75.11, 21.33. HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₀H₉O₄⁻⁻ ([M–Cs]⁻) 193.0506; found 193.0506.



Benzyl 4-phenylpentanoate (68): An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium oxalate **67** (244 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy)]_2(dtbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1 M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and benzyl acrylate (77 µL, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 25 mL). The

combined ethereal extracts were washed with water (3 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:EtOAc) to give **68** as a pale yellow oil (89 mg, 57%): R_f = 0.61 (24:1 hexanes:EtOAc, stained with KMnO₄); IR (ATR) v_{max} 3029, 2960, 1735, 1454, 1157 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 12.4, 1H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.67 (1H, m), 2.30 – 2.19 (m, 2H), 2.00 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.49, 146.18, 136.02, 128.55, 128.46, 128.22, 128.20, 127.03, 126.21, 66.14, 39.41, 33.17, 32.55, 22.17; HRMS (ESI–TOF) *m/z* calculated for C₁₈H₂₁O₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺) 269.1536; found 269.1537.





mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (19:1 hexanes:Et₂O) to give **70** as a yellow oil (89 mg, 98% yield). R*f* 0.3 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. R*f* 0.3 (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc); visualized with KMnO₄. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.83 (s, 1H), 4.73 (s, 2H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 2.28 (qd, *J*=16.8, 7.2, 2H), 2.16–2.10 (m, 2H), 1.95–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.65–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.55–1.48 (m, 5H), 1.45–1.39 (m, 1H), 1.31–1.20 (m, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J*=7.8, 3H), 0.80 (s, 3H). Spectral data match those previously reported.¹⁰

Cyclic Voltammetry Data for *tert*-Butyl Cesium Oxalate:



Effects of Counterions on the Efficiency of Coupling of Methyl Cyclohexyl Oxalate Salts with Benzyl Acrylate:



Yield based on 1H NMR analysis of crude reaction mixture with 1,2-dibromo-4,5-(methylenedioxy)benzene as internal standard

Experimental Evidence for the Radical-Polar Crossover Mechanism:



5-(1-methylcyclohexyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carbonitrile: An 8 mL-scintillation vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with cesium 2-((1methylcyclohexyl)oxy)-2-oxoacetate (9) (175)0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and mg, $Ir[dF(CF_3)ppy]_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (5.6 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.01 equiv). A 3:1 mixture of DME:DMF (5 mL, 0.1M) was added, followed by water (90 µL, 5.0 mmol, 10 equiv) and 2-cyanocyclopent-2en-1-vl benzoate¹⁵ (107 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was degassed by sparging with argon for 15 min and the vial was sealed and irradiated (2 x 34 W blue LED lamps) for 24 h with the reaction temperature rising to 40 °C because of heat given off from the LEDs. The reaction mixture was diluted with sat. LiCl (aq) (25 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL). The combined ethereal extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (93:7 hexanes:Et₂O) to give 5-(1-methylcyclohexyl)cyclopent-1-ene-1-carbonitrile as a yellow oil (47 mg, 50% yield). Rf 0.5 (9:1 hexanes:acetone); visualized with KMnO₄. Spectral data match those previously reported.¹⁵

References:

- 1. Lowry, M. S.; Hudson, W. R.; Pascal, R. A. Jr.; Bernhard, S. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2004, 126, 14129–14135.
- 2. Lackner, G. L.; Quasdorf, K. W.; Overman L. E. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 15342-15345.
- 3. Pratsch, G.; Lackner, G. L.; Overman. L. E. J. Org. Chem. 2015, 80, 6025-6036.
- 4. Felpin, F.–X.; Miqueu, K.; Sotiropoulos, J.–M.; Fouquet, E.; Ibarguren, O.; Laudien, J. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 5191–5204.
- 5. Cheval, N. P.; Dikova, A.; Blanc, A.; Weibel, J. -M.; Pale, P. Chem. Eur. J. 2013, 19, 8765-8768.
- 6. Feringa, B. L.; De Lange, B. Tetrahedron 1988, 44, 7213-7222.
- 7. Hargrave, J. D.; Bish, G.; Köhn, G. K.; Frost, C. G. Org. Biomol. Chem. 2010, 8, 5120–5125.
- 8. Lunniss, C. J.; Palmer, J. T.; Pitt, G. R. W.; Axford, L. C.; Davies, D.; Benzothiazole Derivatives as Antibacterial Agents and their Preparation. WO Patent 2,013,138,860, Sep 26, 2013.
- Brown, H. C.; Jagt, D. L. V.; Rothberg, I. Hammer, W. J.; Kawakami, J. H. J. Org. Chem.
 1985, 50, 2179–2188.
- 10. Müller, D. S.; Untiedt, N. L.; Dieskau, A. P.; Lackner, G. L. Overman, L. E. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 660–663.
- 11. Utilizing DFT calculations, the distance between hydrogen atoms on the 17α -methyl and the angular 18-methyl (steroid numbering) was found to be 4.3 Å. As a result, no NOE signal would be observed. In contrast, the distance between hydrogen atoms on the 17β -methyl and the angular 18-methyl was found to be 1.7 Å, leading to the observed NOE signal.

12. Ishmuratov, G. Y.; Yakovleva, M. P.; Zaripova, G. V.; Botsman, L. P.; Muslukhov, R. R.; Tolstikov, G. A. *Chem. Nat. Compd.* **2004**, *40*, 548 – 551.

13. Cox, J. R; Wang, P. S. H. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1, 2001, 2022.

14. Kawamorita, S; Yamazaki, K.; Ohmiya, H.; Iwai, T.; Sawamura, M. Adv. Synth. Catal. 2012, 354, 3440 – 3444.

15. Lackner. G. L.; Quasdorf, K. W.; Pratsch, G.; Overman, L. E. J. Org. Chem. 2015, 80, 6012–6024.





















YS-II-152







S95





S97





















S106




















YS-II-199







YS-II-259



YS-III-54

z







































YS-II-243










































YS-II-202





978'T -

- 1'888 - 5'073 - 5'054

-5.500

648°8 494°8 184°8 564°8 964°8

658'5 <u>–</u>

1H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 500 MHz) O ocs

0

PMBO









YS-II-195













968.8 -

-



YS-II-251




































































YS-II-254A
















































YS-II-141























