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Substituted hydroxylamines as nitrogen transfer reagents: direct synthetic pathways to structurally rich heteroatomic scaffolds

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SUBSTITUTED HYDROXYLAMINES AS NITROGEN TRANSFER REAGENTS: DIRECT SYNTHETIC PATHWAYS TO STRUCTURALLY RICH HETEROATOMIC SCAFFOLDS

by

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A Thesis

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Dedications

To my brothers, from whom all my strength is derived, I will never stop fighting because I have you by my side.

Acknowledgments

I am sincerely grateful for the faculty and staff at Rowan University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry who have created an environment that facilitates both creative and scientific advancement. I am thankful for my parents who have provided me with support and stability throughout my studies.

I would like to thank Joe Lizza for his help with NMR Spectroscopy, Ian Bakanas and Will Neuhaus for their help with troubleshooting and interpreting reaction outcomes, Erica Moscarello for her help with synthesis, and everyone in the GML group, who have become like a family to me.

Finally, I would like to recognize Dr. Gustavo Moura-Letts who has guided me through a very critical point in my scientific career. He has been a role model to me during my time at Rowan University and I am truly grateful to have worked under his supervision.

Abstract

Dylan J. Quinn
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HETEROATOMIC SCAFFOLDS
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Nitrogen is found in virtually all valuable chemical compounds. The abundance of atmospheric nitrogen however, is rendered inaccessible because of the strong N-N triple bond, ultimately preventing its practical utilization in synthetic organic synthesis. The development of powerful nitrogen transfer reagents, such as substituted hydroxylamine derivatives, have played an important role in the introduction of nitrogen into valuable chemical scaffolding.

Herein is reported the methodological development of synthetic nitrogen placement into a range of valuable heteroatomic compounds. This work shows that O-Substituted Hydroxylamine can be used to furnish small heteroatomic compounds, particularly nitriles. Whereas, N-Substituted Hydroxylamine can be employed to access both 3- and 5- membered heterocycles. These works highlight the value of substituted hydroxylamines for their nitrogen transfer capability but also for their ability to afford rapid structural complexity.

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Chapter 1

Nitriles

1.1 Nitrile Discovery

Early works in the GML Research Group highlighted the diastereoselective synthesis of diaziridines from ketones and aldehydes using Hydroxylamine O-Sulfonic Acid (HOSA) as the nitrogen source (Beebe, Dohmeier, & Moura-Letts, 2015). During the optimization for this reaction the researchers discovered a competing pathway that led to nitrile formation. After thorough manipulation and reaction optimization, this alternative pathway was exploited to obtain nitriles in good to excellent yields with high chemoselectivity (Quinn, Haun, & Moura-Letts, 2016).
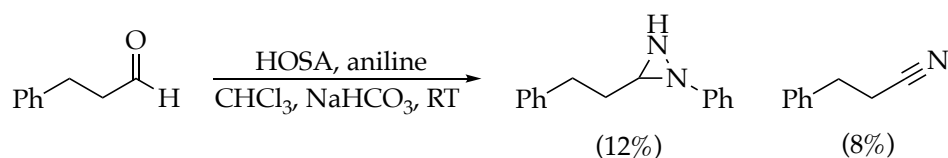
Figure 1. Discovery of Competing Nitrile Pathway

The competition between these pathways is derived from the initial condensation step which allows for a mixture of products (Figure 1). To arrive at the heterocyclic diaziridine, an initial aldehyde-aniline condensation is required. Whereas nitrile formation will require an initial aldehyde-HOSA condensation.

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After optimizing for both reaction pathways, it becomes clear that the reaction media is responsible for propagating the desired chemoselectivity for each respective target (Figure 2).
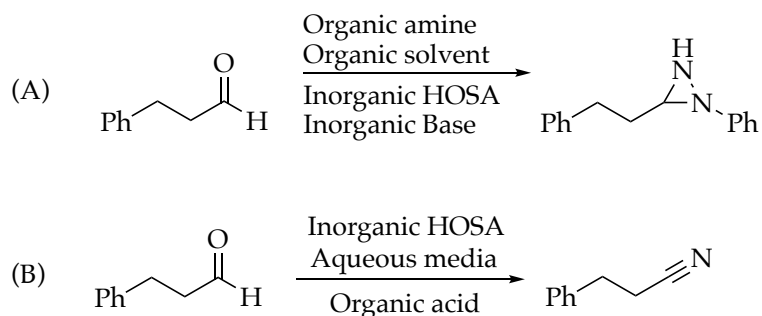
Figure 2. Exploiting Heterogeneous Composition to Control Reaction

By utilizing a polar organic solvent (Figure 2A), diaziridine is obtained in good to excellent yields. This media promotes the aldehyde-aniline condensation by means of a heterogeneous reaction mixture. The inorganic HOSA is slowly introduced into the organic phase by vigorous stirring. The slow addition of HOSA allows for the necessary aldehyde-aniline condensation, prompting diaziridine formation. This also prevents the Aldehyde-HOSA condensation which alternatively leads to nitrile formation. Interestingly, by utilizing an aqueous media, the inverse pathway and concurrent nitrile formation is selectively obtained (Figure 2B).

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1.2 Results and Discussion

Optimization studies investigated a broad range of organic solvents, additives and temperature to determine whether an aqueous media was required for this reaction to proceed accordingly. Interestingly, the reaction yield is increased dramatically by increasing the stoichiometric ratio of hydroxylamine to aldehyde. By increasing the molar ratio to 2:1 hydroxylamine to aldehyde, a modest yield of 45% is obtained (Table 1, Entry 1). Further testing determined that the molar equivalence of hydroxylamine could be lowered, without compromising the percent yield by employing thermal conditions (Table 1, Entry 6).

Despite the broad range of organic solvents that were investigated including several ionic liquids (Table 1, Entry 14-17), the greatest results were obtained in an aqueous environment with water as the solvent (Table 1, Entry 18-22). Mild heating and an exogenous acid (1 molar equivalent, acetic acid) were required to achieve the nitrile in excellent yields (Table 1, Entry 19). With optimal reaction conditions in hand we next sought to explore the scope for this reaction by exploring functional group tolerance of the aldehyde.

Aliphatic aldehydes were converted to the corresponding nitrile in good to excellent yields under the proposed reactions conditions (Table 2, Entry 1-6).

Table 1

Nitrile Synthesis Optimization Studies
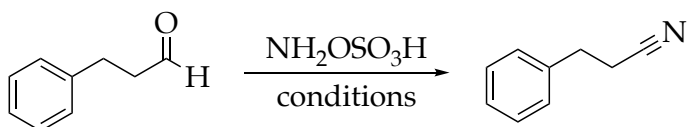
Entry	Stoichiometry[a]	Solvent	Additive[b]	Temperature	Yield[c]
1	1:2	$CHCl_3$	none	rt	45%
2	1:1.5	$CHCl_3$	none	rt	44%
3	1:1.5	H_2O	none	rt	38%
4	1:1.5	ACN	none	rt	25%
5	1:1.5	$CHCl_3$	none	40 ºC	48%
6	1:1.5	$CHCl_3$	none	50 ºC	64%
7	1:1.5	$ClCH_2CH_2Cl$	none	60 ºC	58%
8	1:1.5	$ClCH_2CH_2Cl$	none	80 ºC	60%
9	1:1.5	H_2O	none	50 ºC	58%
10	1:1.5	ACN	none	50 ºC	60%
11	1:1.5	DMSO	none	50 ºC	40%
12	1:1.5	$ClCH_2CH_2Cl$	PTSA	50 ºC	75%
13	1:1.5	$ClCH_2CH_2Cl$	TFA	50 ºC	79%
14	1:1.5	[TMG][LA]	none	50 ºC	53%
15	1:1.5	[TMG][LA]	TFA	50 ºC	84%
16	1:1.5	[TMGPS][TFA]	none	50 ºC	80%
17	1:1.5	[TMGPS][TFA]	H_2O	50 ºC	82%
18	1:1.5	H_2O	TFA	50 ºC	91%
19	1:1.5	H_2O	acetic acid	50 ºC	95%
20	1:1.5	Vinegar	none	50 ºC	94%
21	1:1.25	H_2O	acetic acid	50 ºC	93%
22	1:1.1	H_2O	acetic acid	50 ºC	94%

a. Aldehyde:NH_2OSO_3H. b.1 equiv. of additive. c. Isolated yields.

Alpha-beta unsaturated aldehydes also afforded the respective nitrile in good to excellent yields, however in some cases, traces of unidentified and undesirable side products were detected in the crude proton NMR

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and therefore, required purification by standard silica gel column to isolate the main product (Table 2, Entry 9). Despite this occurrence, both aliphatic and aromatic alpha-beta unsaturated aldehydes provided good to excellent yields of the respective nitrile (Table 2, Entry 7,8,10).

Reactivity of aromatic aldehydes showed similar conversion respective to the simple aldehydes in Table 2. Functionalization from electron withdrawing groups to electron donating groups were tolerated at various locations along the aromatic ring and afforded good to excellent results (Table 3). A small decrease in percent yield was observed with electron withdrawing substituents however, continuous stirring over a period of 16 hrs. compared to the standard 6 hrs. increased the yields for these substrates (Table 3 Entries 14 and 15). Like the aliphatic and alpha-beta unsaturated nitriles, the aromatic nitriles were obtained with high purity and required no purification except for only one substrate (Table 3 Entry 14).

Table 2

Nitrile Synthesis Scope

$$R-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CHO} \xrightarrow[\text{H}_2\text{O, Acetic acid, 50 °C}]{\text{NH}_2\text{OSO}_3\text{H}} R-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CN}$$

Entry [a]	Aldehyde	Nitrile	Yield [b]	Entry [a]	Aldehyde	Nitrile	Yield [b]
-	X-C₆H₄-CHO	X-C₆H₄-CN	-	T3J			97%
T3A	X= Br	X=Br	92%				
T3B	X=Me	X=Me	97%	T3K			85%
T3C	X=OMe	X=OMe	93%				
T3D	X=H	X=H	95%				
T3E	X=Cl	X=Cl	94%	T3L			98%
T3F			91%				
T3G			89%	T3M			91%
T3H			89%	T3N			86%[d]
T3I			93%	T3O			82%[c,d]
				T3P			91%

a. Reaction conditions: Aldehyde (1 mmol), Acetic acid (1 mmol), 1 mL of H_2O and NH_2OSO_3H (1.1 mmol) were mixed and heated to 50 °C for 6h. b. Isolated yields. c. Reaction crude was purified by standard silica gel chromatography. d. Reaction achieved 100% conversion after 16h.

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Table 3

Aromatic Nitrile Synthesis Scope

$$R\text{—}C_6H_4\text{—CHO} \xrightarrow[\text{H}_2\text{O, Acetic acid, 50 °C}]{\text{NH}_2\text{OSO}_3\text{H}} R\text{—}C_6H_4\text{—CN}$$

Entry [a]	Aldehyde	Nitrile	Yield [b]	Entry [a]	Aldehyde	Nitrile	Yield [b]
-	X–C₆H₄–CHO	X–C₆H₄–CN	-	T3J	benzodioxole-CHO	benzodioxole-CN	97%
T3A	X= Br	X=Br	92%				
T3B	X=Me	X=Me	97%	T3K	naphthalene-CHO	naphthalene-CN	85%
T3C	X=OMe	X=OMe	93%				
T3D	X=H	X=H	95%	T3L	HO, OMe, MeO-CHO	HO, OMe, MeO-CN	98%
T3E	X=Cl	X=Cl	94%				
T3F	pyridine-CHO	pyridine-CN	91%	T3M	OH-C₆H₄-CHO	OH-C₆H₄-CN	91%
T3G	Cl,Cl-C₆H₃-CHO	Cl-C₆H₄-CN	89%	T3N	NO₂-C₆H₄-CHO	NO₂-C₆H₄-CN	86%[d]
T3H	Cl-C₆H₄-CHO	Cl-C₆H₄-CN	89%	T3O	O₂N, NO₂-C₆H₃-CHO	O₂N, NO₂-C₆H₃-CN	82%[c,d]
T3I	MeO,OMe-C₆H₃-CHO	MeO,OMe-C₆H₃-CN	93%	T3P	OH-C₆H₄-CHO	OH-C₆H₄-CN	91%

a. Reaction conditions: Aldehyde (1 mmol), Acetic acid (1 mmol), 1 mL of H₂O and NH₂OSO₃H (1.1 mmol) were mixed and heated to 50 °C for 6h. b. Isolated yields. c.Reaction crude was purified by standard silica gel chromatography. d. Reaction achieved 100% conversion after 16h.

1.3 Conclusion

This method provides a robust scope and grants access to the nitrile functional group in good to excellent yields. A convenient route to the nitrile functionality with no need for purification makes this an attractive pathway for synthetic and industrial chemists alike. Classical approaches to the nitrile group including the Sandmeyer reaction use copious amounts of nitrogen by employing cyanide salts and amine starting reagents, losing nitrogen gas in the process. This is undesirable because of the previously mentioned energetic barrier of nitrogen gas resulting from the nitrogen-nitrogen triple bond. This method can strategically incorporate one nitrogen atom into the aldehyde functional group allowing for a direct synthesis of Nitriles.

1.4 Experimental

Reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical, Acros Organics or Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Solvents were obtained from EMD Miliphore DrySol and degassed with nitrogen. Reactions were performed in 4-mL glass vials with magnetic stirring. TLC was performed on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates and visualized under UV light (254 nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate ($KMnO_4$). Silica flash chromatography was performed on E. Merck 230–400 mesh silica gel 60. Automated chromatography was performed on an ISOLERA Prime instrument with 10 g. SNAP silica gel normal phase cartridges using a flow rate of 12.0 mL/min and a gradient of 0–30% EtOAc in Heptanes over 12 column volumes with UV detection at 254 nm. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury II 400 MHz Spectrometer at

24 °C in CDCl$_3$ unless otherwise indicated. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm

relative to solvent signals: CDCl$_3$ (^{1}H, 7.23 ppm; ^{13}C, 77.0 ppm; coupling constants

are expressed in Hz.

1.4.1. General method for the synthesis of nitriles. In a 4-mL reaction

vial, aldehyde (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and HOSA (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) were

dissolved in 3 mL of de-ionized H$_2$O with (1 mmol, 1 equiv) acetic acid. The

solution was stirred at 50 °C for 6 h or until complete conversion, determined by

TLC. The reaction was quenched with aqueous 10% NaHCO$_3$ (1 mL) and the

resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL), dried (Na$_2$SO$_4$), filtered,

and concentrated by rotary evaporation to afford the crude product. The product

was directly characterized unless traces of impurities required purification by

automated silica gel flash chromatography (few examples).

**1.4.2. Synthesis of nitriles from Table 2.**
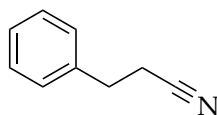
(T2A) DJQ-167-4

3-Phenylpropanenitrile (T2A): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.75mMol) produced nitrile **2a**
(93mg, 95%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.47 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2250
cm^{-1}. ^{1}**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.38-7.29 (m, 5H), 2.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (t,
J= 7.3Hz, 2H). ^{13}**C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl$_3$): 138.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.1, 119.1, 31.4,
19.2 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 132.1 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 130.1 ([M-H]$^-$,100).
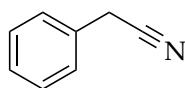

(T2B) DJQ-173-2

2-Phenylacetonitrile (T2B): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.83mMol) produced nitrile **2b**
(89mg, 92%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.48 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2255
cm^{-1}. ^{1}**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.43-7.38 (m, 5H), 3.76 (s, 2H). ^{13}**C-NMR**

(100MHz, CDCl₃) 129.8, 128.9, 127.8, 127.8, 117.8, 23.4 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 118.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 116.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
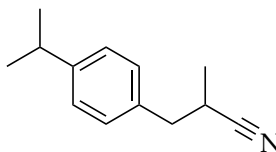

(T2C) DJQ-129-6

3-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (T2C): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.53 mMol) produced nitrile **2c** (93mg, 94%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.68 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2290 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.23 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.91-2.73 (m, 4H), 1.31 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 147.8, 134.1, 128.9, 126.7, 122.7, 39.6, 33.7, 27.6, 23.9, 17.6 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 188.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 186.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
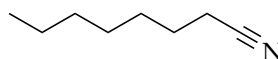

(T2D) DJQ-166-3

Octanenitrile (T2D): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.78 mMol) produced nitrile **2d** (88mg, 90%) as a light-yellow oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.58 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2260 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.33 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (tt, J = 6.8, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.45-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.27 (m, 6H), 0.78 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 119.8, 31.4, 28.6, 28.4, 25.3, 17.1, 14.0 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 126.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 124.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
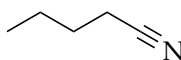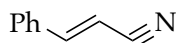

(T2E)

Pentanenitrile (T2E): Aldehyde (100mg, 1.16 mMol) produced nitrile **2e** (85 mg, 88%) as a light-yellow oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.58 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2240 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.28 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (quintet, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (sextet, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 119.7, 26.6, 22.0, 16.7, 13.1 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 84.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 82.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
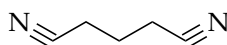

(T2F) DJQ-172-2

Glutaronitrile (T2F): Aldehyde (100mg, 1.03 mMol) produced nitrile **2f** (83 mg, 86%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.71 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2250 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 2.51 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.74 (quintet, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H).

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¹³C-NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) 117.7, 21.6, 16.2 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 95.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 93.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

Ph ⌇⌇N

(T2G) DJQ-164-1

Cinnamonitrile (T2G): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.76 mMol) produced nitrile **2g** (83 mg, 89%) as a light-yellow oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.75 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2210 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.41-7.32 (m, 6H), 5.78 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 150.4, 133.3, 131.0, 128.9, 127.2, 118.0, 96.1 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 130.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 128.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

MeO⌇⌇⌇N
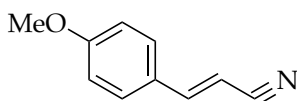
(T2H) DJQ-144-12

(*E*)-3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-acrylonitrile (T2H): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.62 mMol) produced nitrile **2h** (86 mg, 87%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.42 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2215 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.29 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.83 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 162.0, 150.0, 129.0, 126.3, 118.7, 114.5, 93.3, 55.4 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 160.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 158.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

Ph
⌇⌇N
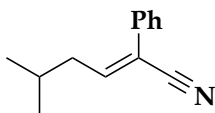
(T2I) DJQ-

(*E*)-5-Methyl-2-phenylhex-2-enenitrile (T2I): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.53 mMol) produced nitrile **2i** (84 mg, 86%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.69 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2205 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.49-7.43 (m, 5H), 6.71 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (dd, J = 7.5, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.75 (m, 1H), (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 6H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 148.9, 136.4, 129.4, 128.8, 125.5, 116.2, 107.5, 37.5, 28.8, 22.4 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 186.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 184.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
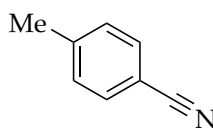
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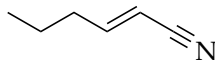
(T2J) DJQ-172-1

(*E*)-Hex-2-enenitrile (T2J): Aldehyde (100mg, 1.02 mMol) produced nitrile **2j** (89 mg, 92%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.66 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2210 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.91 (dt, J = 16.1, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 16.1Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dt, J = 7.3, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (sextet, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.82 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 155.8, 117.4, 99.6, 35.1, 20.8, 13.3 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 96.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 94.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

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### 1.4.3. Synthesis of nitriles from Table 3.
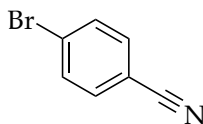
(T3A) DJQ-132

4-Bromobenzonitrile (T3A): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.54 mMol) produced nitrile **3a** (90mg, 92%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.70 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2215 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.62 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 133.4, 132.6, 128.0, 118.0, 111.2 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 182.0 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 180.0 ([M-H]⁻,100).


(T3B) DJQ-147

4-Methylbenzonitrile (T3B): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.83 mMol) produced nitrile **3b** (94mg, 97%) as a clear oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.66 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2210 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.54 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.1Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 143.6, 132.0, 129.8, 119.1, 109.2, 21.8 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 118.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 116.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
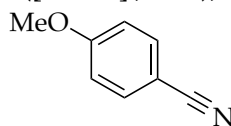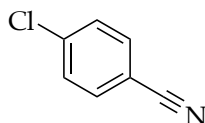

(T3C) DJQ-143-5

4-Methoxybenzonitrile (T3C): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.74mMol) produced nitrile **3c** (94mg, 93%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.44 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2210 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.52 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 162.8, 133.9, 119.2, 114.7, 103.9, 55.5 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 134.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 132.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
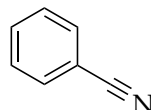

(T3D) DJQ-173

Benzonitrile (T3D): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.94 mMol) produced nitrile **3d** (92mg, 95%) as a clear liquid. **TLC**: R_f 0.68 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2220 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.52-7.32 (m, 5H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 132.3, 131.5, 128.6, 118.3, 111.7 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 104.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 102.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
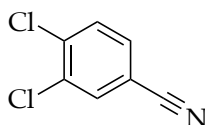
(T3E) DJQ-143-11

4-Chlorobenzonitrile (T3E): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.71 mMol) produced nitrile **3e** (91mg, 94%) as a white solid. **TLC:** R_f 0.75 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2220 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.58 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl$_3$) 139.5, 133.4, 129.7, 118.0, 110.7 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 138.0 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 136.0 ([M-H]$^-$,100).
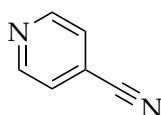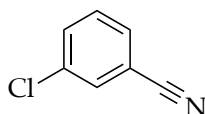

(T3F) DJQ-133A

Isonicotinonitrile (T3F): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.93 mMol) produced nitrile **3f** (88mg, 91%) as a white solid. **TLC:** R_f 0.14 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2225 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 8.53 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl$_3$) 150.7, 125.2, 120.4, 116.3 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 105.1 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 103.1 ([M-H]$^-$,100).


(T3G) DJQ-149

3,4-Dichlorobenzonitrile (T3G): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.57 mMol) produced nitrile **3g** (86mg, 89%) as a white solid. **TLC:** R_f 0.56 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2224 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.63 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl$_3$) 140.0, 137.7, 134.5, 130.2, 127.8, 115.2, 111.8 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 172.0 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 170.0 ([M-H]$^-$,100).


(T3H) DJQ-164-4

3-Chlorobenzonitrile (T3H): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.71 mMol) produced nitrile **3h** (87 mg, 89%) as a white solid. **TLC:** R_f 0.54 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2225 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$): 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 6.9

Hz, 1H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 135.1, 133.1, 131.8, 130.4, 130.2, 117.3, 113.8 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 138.0 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 136.0 ([M-H]⁻,100).
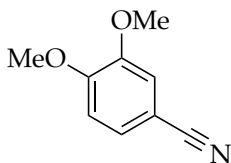

(T3I) DJQ-163-2

3,4-Dimethoxybenzonitrile (T3I): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.60 mMol) produced nitrile **3i** (91 mg, 93%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.29 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2215 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.25 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 152.7, 149.1, 126.4, 119.1, 113.8, 111.1, 103.8, 56.1, 56.0 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 164.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 162.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
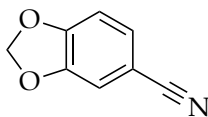

(T3J) DJQ-163-1

Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxole-5-carbonitrile (T3J): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.67 mMol) produced nitrile **3j** (96 mg, 97%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.38 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2210 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.21 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (s, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 151.5, 147.9, 128.1, 118.8, 111.3, 109.0, 104.8, 102.2 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 148.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 146.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
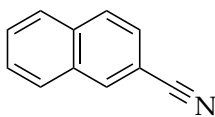
(T3K) DJQ-164-5

4-Naphtonitrile (T3K): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.67 mMol) produced nitrile **3k** (96 mg, 85%) as a tan solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.77 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2205 cm⁻¹. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.19 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H). **¹³C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 133.2, 132.8, 132.5, 132.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.4, 125.0, 124.8, 117.7, 110.0 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 154.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 152.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).
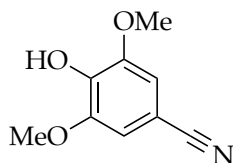
(T3L) DJQ-163-4

**4-Hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxybenzonitrile (T3L):** Aldehyde (100mg, 0.55 mMol) produced nitrile **3l** (96 mg, 98%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.12 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 3450, 2240 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 6.82 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 6H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, $CDCl_3$) 147.1, 139.2, 119.3, 109.1, 102.2, 56.5 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 180.1 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 178.1 ([M-H]$^-$,100).
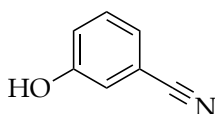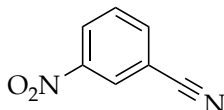

(T3M) DJQ-144-1

3-Hydroxybenzonitirle (T3M): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.82 mMol) produced nitrile **3m** (89mg, 91%) as a yellow solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.27 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 3380, 2260 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 7.34 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H). 7.12 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, $CDCl_3$) 156.2, 130.6, 124.5, 120.7, 118.7, 112.8 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 120.1 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 118.1 ([M-H]$^-$,100).
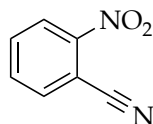
(T3N) DJQ-163-3

2-Nitrobenzonitrile (T3N): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.66mMol) produced nitrile **3n** (84 mg, 86%) as a light yellow solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.53 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2240 cm^{-1}. **^{1}H-NMR** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): 8.33-8.31 (m, 1H), 7.92-7.89 (m, 1H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 2H). **^{13}C-NMR** (100MHz, $CDCl_3$) 135.5, 134.3, 133.7, 125.5, 114.9, 108.0 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 149.1 ([M+H]$^+$, 100); (neg) 147.1 ([M-H]$^-$,100).
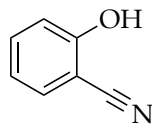

(T3O) DJQ-167-3

3-Nitrobenzonitrile (T3O): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.66 mMol) produced nitrile **3o** (80 mg, 82%) as a light yellow solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.55 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 2235 cm⁻¹. ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dt, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 137.6, 130.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 116.5, 114.1 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 149.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 147.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

(T3P) DJQ-152

2-Hydroxybenzonitrile (T3P): Aldehyde (100mg, 0.82 mMol) produced nitrile **3p** (93mg, 95%) as a white solid. **TLC**: R_f 0.29 (3:1 Heptanes/EtOAc). **IR** (thin film) 3460, 2250 cm⁻¹. ¹**H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.52-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39 (bs, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C-NMR** (100MHz, CDCl₃) 159.4, 135.3, 135.2, 133.3, 120.9, 116.9, 99.3 ppm. **ESI-MS** m/z (re lint): (pos) 120.1 ([M+H]⁺, 100); (neg) 118.1 ([M-H]⁻,100).

16

1.4.4. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR of nitriles

PROTON

DJQ-167-4

T2A

PROTON
DJQ-173-2

T2B

17

T2C

4.00 4.77 10.79

f1 (ppm)

—147.80

~134.12
~128.94
~126.70
—122.67

77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

39.58
33.71
27.56
23.94
17.60

f1 (ppm)

T2D

2.00 2.71 9.88 2.78

f1 (ppm)

—119.82

77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

31.42
28.56
28.37
25.31
22.46
17.06
14.00

f1 (ppm)

18

PROTON
DJQ-172-2

T2F

4.00   2.10

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

—117.69

77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

—29.57

21.60
16.24
16.17

230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10
f1 (ppm)

PROTON
DJQ-164-1

T2G

6.01   1.00

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

—150.35

133.28
131.03
128.91
127.18

—118.02

—96.10

77.33 CDCl3
77.01 CDCl3
76.69 CDCl3

220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

19

DJQ-144-12

T2H

162.00
150.00
129.04
126.30
118.68
114.48
93.31
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3
55.43

PROTON
DJQ-172-1

T2J

155.84
117.43
99.60
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3
35.07
20.76
13.28

20

PROTON
DJQ-132-1
DJQ-132

T3A

PROTON

DJQ-147

T3B

21

PROTON
DJQ-5
DJQ-143-5

T3C

2.00 2.06 3.59

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5
f1 (ppm)

—162.78 —133.90 —119.15 —114.69 —103.88 77.32 CDCl3 / 77.00 CDCl3 / 76.68 CDCl3 —55.48

220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0
f1 (ppm)

PROTON
DJQ-173-1

T3D

3.00 2.11

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

132.28 / 131.52 / 128.60 —118.29 —111.74 77.12 CDCl3 / 76.80 CDCl3 / 76.48 CDCl3

220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

22

PROTON
DJQ-11
DJQ-143-11

T3E

PROTON
DJQ-133A

T3F

23

PROTON
149
DJQ-149

T3G

1.0 0.8 1.0

140.03
137.74
134.54
130.20
127.81
115.17
111.81
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

PROTON
DJQ-164-4

T3H

3.00 1.01

135.08
133.12
131.77
130.39
130.18
117.32
113.81
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

24

T3I

0.99 1.02 1.00

5.98

152.74
149.06
126.36
119.13
113.80
111.13
103.76
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3
56.04
56.00

T3J

1.03 0.92 0.99

1.95

151.45
147.94
128.13
118.82
111.31
109.05
104.82
102.15
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

25

T3K

1.00 0.94 2.17 2.54 1.17

9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

133.18
132.78
132.51
132.20
128.56
128.48
127.44
124.99
124.81
117.73
110.02
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

PROTON
DJQ-163-4

T3L

2.00

7.27

9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

147.09
139.22
119.26
109.08
102.16
77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3
56.50

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

26

PROTON
DJQ-144-1
DJQ-144-1

T3M

0.97 1.10 1.97

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

—156.16

130.59
124.50
120.71
118.71
112.78

77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

PROTON
DJQ-163-3

T3N

1.00 1.18 1.88

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

135.55
134.33
133.71
125.51
114.91
107.95

77.32 CDCl3
77.00 CDCl3
76.68 CDCl3

220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

27

PROTON
DJQ-167-3

T3O

1.97 1.02 1.03

10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

137.57 130.63 127.49 127.43 127.17 116.49 114.06 77.32 CDCl3 77.00 CDCl3 76.68 CDCl3

210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

28

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Chapter 2

Nitrones

These early works in the GML Lab formed the foundation for extensive research in hydroxylamine chemistry. Following interests in small heterocyclic frameworks, with a strong expertise in diaziridine chemistry, the GML group sought to perfect a method for the synthesis of Oxaziridines. Similar in structure, the Oxaziridine differs from a Diaziridine by only one heteroatom (Figure 3). Both strained, three-membered heterocycles are important organic reagents for their ability to transfer heteroatoms both enantioselectively and catalytically (Yoon, Williamson, & Michaelis, 2014).

Figure 3. Heteroatomic Difference: Diaziridine (left) and Oxaziridine (right)

Starting with similar reaction conditions from the established diaziridine chemistry, the pursuit of a novel oxaziridine pathway began. N-substituted hydroxylamines were condensed with simple aldehydes in the presence of various additives and media to screen for the formation of Oxaziridine. Unfortunately, no traces of the desired product were observed. Instead however, the major product obtained from these experiments were determined after characterization to be the 1,3-Dipole, Nitrone.

The Nitrone moiety consists of nitrogen, making four bonds, with a positive charge, bound to a negatively charged oxygen (Figure 4). The N-O dipole allows for a broad range of chemical transformations (Macaluso & Hamer, 1964) and has been a valuable synthetic intermediate to the organic chemistry community.
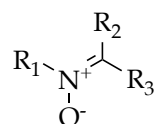
Figure 4. General Structure of the Nitrone Moiety

However, the value of nitrones has not been limited solely to the field of organic chemistry. The utility of these compounds has been multidisciplinary, finding value in many areas including analytical and pharmaceutical chemistry.

2.1 Free Radical Spin Trapping

Outside the realm of organic chemistry, Nitrones are commonly employed as free radical scavengers. The addition of a free radical across the double bond of a nitrone yields an adduct that is detectable by EPR spectroscopy (Figure 5). This method has allowed for the detection of previously elusive intermediates (Halpern, et al., 1993).
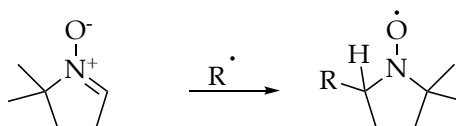
Figure 5. Free Radical, R, Forms a Stable Product with Nitrone

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The most commonly used nitrones for this type of spectroscopy are PBN and DMPO. The latter of which has been shown to increase signal to noise ratio for the respective EPR spectra in comparison to previously developed spin traps (Beziere, et al., 2014). Many derivatives of both cyclic and aromatic nitrones are continuously being synthesized to enhance the free-radical spin trapping technique.

Free radicals are a cornerstone of chemistry and have been used to facilitate powerful chemical transformations. Industrial radical polymerization reactions are employed to manufacture valuable polystyrene commodities. A clear mechanistic understanding of free radicals is actively being pursued by means of nitrone spin traps to contribute value to these growing markets (Chang, Lau, Parker, & Westmoreland, 1996). These efforts seek to optimize reaction yields at the industrial scale by developing a precise mechanistic understanding of free radical reactivity.

2.2 Pharmaceutical Relevance

The detrimental health effects of oxidative stress, caused by harmful free radicals have been consistently confirmed throughout the literature (Lobo, Phatak, & Chandra, 2010). These studies suggest that the damage caused by free radicals are derived from their sporadic reactivity. Nitrones have been proven to react and effectively neutralize free radicals to form a stable, less reactive adduct. This has prompted research efforts targeting nitrones as potential pharmaceutical agents.

Interestingly, researchers have discovered a nitrone-iridium organometallic that demonstrates efficacy comparable to cisplatin for its antitumor properties (Zhao, et al., 2013). The synthesis of this organometallic agent relies on the bidentate coordination of an unactivated aromatic proton and the nitrone oxygen to the iridium metallo center.
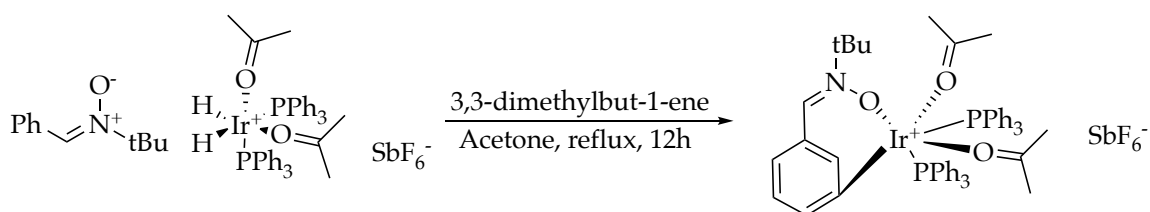
Figure 6. Aromatic CH Activation of Nitrone by Iridium Catalyst

Recognizing the vast applications for nitrones in both manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, the GML group sought to achieve a reaction pathway that could serve as an attractive route to the nitrone moiety compared to methods currently being used in industry.

2.3 Synthesis of Nitrones

The following section considers a few of the most practical transformations as well as some synthetically intriguing routes to the nitrone moiety. To develop a method that would be most applicable to the industrial community we sought to achieve a broad substrate scope without compromising the simplicity of synthesis.

Nitrones are easily obtained from oxaziridine by simple heating. The strained three membered ring along with a labile nitrogen-oxygen bond make this rearrangement possible. This transformation is greatly accelerated by increasing thermal energy and allows for a direct conversion to the nitrone without any additives or work-up.
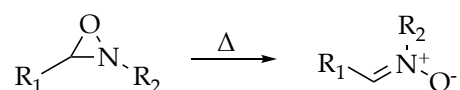
Figure 7. Thermal Oxaziridine Rearrangement to Nitrone

The major drawback to this route however, is the construction of the heterocyclic oxaziridine. The scope of nitrones by this route would be heavily compromised by functional group tolerance of the strained three-membered ring.

The Yoon laboratory demonstrated that an oxaziridine isomerization to nitrone is also possible by employing a Lewis acid catalyst. The additive allows for conversion of functionally stabilized oxaziridines at room temperature and promotes a successive dipolar cycloaddition with the in-situ formed nitrone, serving as the necessary dipole (Partridge, Anzovino, & Yoon, 2008).
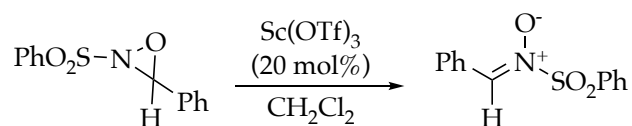
Figure 8. Lewis Acid Catalyzed Oxaziridine Rearrangement by Yoon

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Nitrones are also obtained through the oxidation of a tertiary hydroxylamine (Figure 9). This method is subtle and allows for a nitrone functional group to be introduced into a highly structured molecular scaffold with mild oxidation (Colladon, Scarso, & Strukul, 2008).
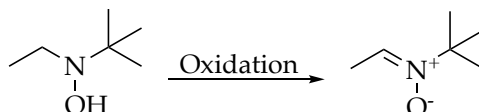
Figure 9. Tertiary Hydroxylamine Oxidation to Nitrone

Though this method may be valuable in many synthetic approaches, it does not generate the type of structural density intended for this work. Previous attempts by the GML group at hydroxylamine synthesis proved tedious and low yielding. To avoid being confined to commercially available hydroxylamine sources we sought a method that would introduce various starting reagents.
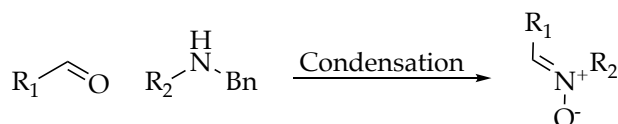
Figure 10. Carbonyl Condensation with N-Benzyl Hydroxylamine

The GML group recognized a hydroxylamine condensation to be the most effective synthetic pathway. R_1 and R_2 may be functionalized by varying both the hydroxylamine and the carbonyl source (Figure 10). In turn, this allows for

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greater functionalization by means of a simple condensation reaction. (Morales, Guijarro, Alonso, Ruano, & Cid, 2016).

2.4 Results and Discussion

With previous experience in hydroxylamine chemistry, the GML group sought to optimize a method for the synthesis of nitrones. In chapter 1, the reaction media played a critical role in HOSA reactivity and therefore a solvent screening was first addressed. After employing an array of solvents, we determined that polar-aprotic solvent allowed for the conversion to the desired product (Table 4). Acetonitrile afforded the best results and was determined to be the most suitable solvent for this reaction.

Next, stoichiometry was explored by manipulating the molar equivalence of the starting reagents. The results of this experiment determined that a stoichiometric excess of inorganic hydroxylamine significantly increased both the rate of the reaction and the desired nitrone formation (Table 4 Entry 8-10).

Table 4

Nitrone Condensation Optimization

$$Ph\diagdown\diagup O \xrightarrow[\text{Solvent, RT, 2hr}]{\text{BnNHOH HCl}} Ph\diagdown\diagup N^+\diagdown Bn$$
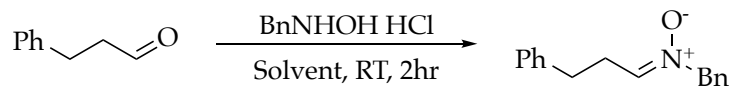
Entry	Solvent	Eq. Hydoxylmine	% Conversion*
1	DCM	1.0	65
2	Chloroform	1.0	59
3	THF	1.0	60
4	Ethyl Ether	1.0	24
5	MeCN	1.0	71
6	Benzene	1.0	15
7	Toluene	1.0	22
8	MeCN	1.5	80
9	MeCN	2.0	92
10	MeCN	3.0	96

*Determined by crude NMR
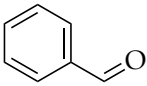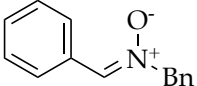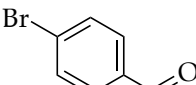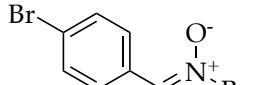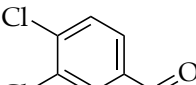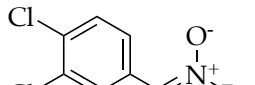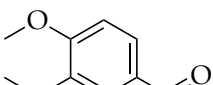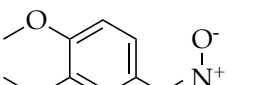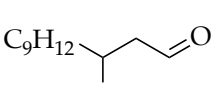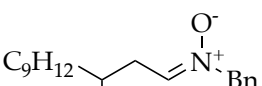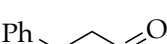
With optimal reaction conditions in hand, the GML Group began to explore the scope of this reaction. The condensation of simple aromatic and aliphatic aldehydes with N-Benzyl Hydroxylamine HCl, afforded the respective nitrones in good to excellent yields. The resulting N-alkyl, aldonitrones boasted a

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white crystalline appearance and were easily isolated with a high purity by means of simple aqueous work-up (See experimental at 2.4).

Table 5

Aldonitrone Scope

Entry	Aldehyde	Aldonitrone	% Yield
T5A			65
T5B			88
T5C			90
T5D			95
T5E			85
T5F			76

Similarly, enals provided the respective alpha-beta unsaturated nitrones upon condensation with hydroxylamine. However, aliphatic enals showed significantly diminished yields (Table 5). The reoccurrence of this trend across multiple aliphatic substrates prompted a re-optimization of reaction conditions with a focus on aliphatic functional groups.

With a polar organic solvent, such as acetonitrile, the organic carbonyl dissolved adequately as expected, however, the inorganic hydroxylamine salt was only slightly miscible. This system slowly introduces the hydroxylamine into the media upon vigorous stirring. However, stoichiometric analysis determined that the reaction equilibria favored a large excess of hydroxylamine to allow for nitrone formation.

Therefore, we employed an aqueous media for aliphatic carbonyl sources, which previously afforded diminished yields. Running the condensation "on water" would ultimately allow for a reversal in reagent introduction. The organic layer composed of starting aldehyde would slowly be introduced into the aqueous hydroxylamine layer upon vigorous stirring by way of its polar head unit.

Employing an aqueous media for aliphatic enals afforded the respective alpha-beta unsaturated nitrones in good to excellent yield (Table 5), ultimately broadening the scope for this reaction. Simple aliphatic-cyclic Ketonitrones were also obtained in good to excellent yields by condensation "on water" (Table 7 – Entry T7A, T7B). Cyclic enones were also tolerated and showed no traces of addition side products. However, substitution at the carbonyl beta carbon of 3-

methyl cyclohexen-2-one (Table 7 – Entry T7D) resulted in significantly lower yields.

The rates of these reactions were observed to be significantly greater than those previously reported with unsaturated or aromatic enals. The difference in reaction media was hypothesized for this rate acceleration. The Ketonitrones showed full conversion by TLC at 1 hour (Table 7) almost twice as fast as the aldonitrones (Table 6) which required up to 2 hours.

Table 6
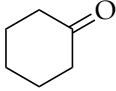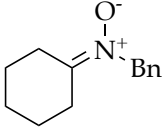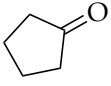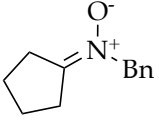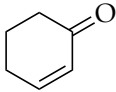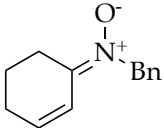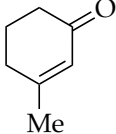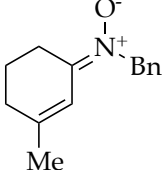
Alpha-Beta Unsaturated Aldonitrone Scope

Entry	Enal	α-β unsaturated aldonitrone	Solvent	% Yield
T6A	Ph⌒⌒O	Ph⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	MeCN	82
T6B	MeOPh⌒⌒O	MeOPh⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	MeCN	95
T6C	Me₂NPh⌒⌒O	Me₂NPh⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	MeCN	56
T6D	Ph⌒(Me)⌒O	Ph⌒(Me)⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	MeCN	62
T6E	Me⌒⌒O	Me⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	H₂O	68
T6F	Me⌒⌒⌒⌒O	Me⌒⌒⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	H₂O	70
T6G	Me⌒⌒⌒O	Me⌒⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	H₂O	85
T6H	C₅H₁₁⌒⌒⌒O	C₅H₁₁⌒⌒⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	H₂O	90
T6I	Me₂C=CH⌒⌒C(Me)=CH⌒O	Me₂C=CH⌒⌒C(Me)=CH⌒N⁺(O⁻)Bn	H₂O	92

Table 7

Ketonitrone Scope

Entry	Ketone	Ketonitrone	% Yield
T7A			92
T7B			90
T7C			84
T7D			60

These results were particularly exciting because they showed a significant rate enhancement of previously unreactive ketones. We hypothesized that increasing electron density to the carbonyl carbon in stabilized the partial positive charge and diminished conversion (Figure 11). However, by employing

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a heterogeneous reaction media, the electron dense, cyclic ketones exhibited excellent reactivity.
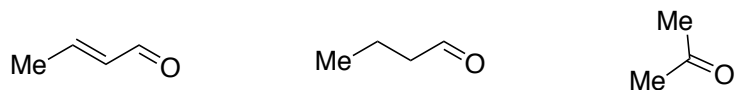
Figure 11. Increasing Carbonyl Carbon Partial Positive Stabilization

To further broaden the scope of this reaction, we next sought to modify the nitrogen protecting group by employing various hydroxylamine sources. N-Benzyl Hydroxylamine afforded the greatest conversion to nitrone (Table 8 T8A).

Table 8

N-Protecting Group Scope

Entry	Hydroxylamine	Nitrone	Solvent	% Conv.[a]
T8A	Bn-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(Bn)+-O⁻	MeCN	82
T8B	tBu-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(tBu)+-O⁻	H₂O	88
T8C	Cy-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(Cy)+-O⁻	H₂O	92
T8D	Ph-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(Ph)+-O⁻	MeCN	80
T8E	Bn-O-C(O)-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(CBz)+-O⁻	MeCN	12
T8F	tBu-O-C(O)-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(Boc)+-O⁻	MeCN	18
T8G	MePh-S(O)(O)-N(H)-OH	Ph ⟶ N(Ts)+-O⁻	-	-

a. Determined by crude proton NMR, not included in the supporting information.

Whereas N-Carbamoyl substituted hydroxylamines exhibited a severe decrease in conversion. More specifically, N-Boc substituted hydroxylamine had an observed conversion as low as 18% by crude proton NMR (Table 8 - T8F). We hypothesized that the hydroxylamine electronics ultimately compromised the desired reaction outcome. If the electron density of the hydroxylamine nitrogen

is directed by the electron withdrawing carbamoyl group, nitrogen's lone pair of electrons and respective nucleophilicity would be compromised (Figure 12).

In this case, the hydroxylamine hydroxyl group is theoretically capable of competing as a nucleophile which could potentiate the formation of undesirable side products. The observation of unidentified side products by crude proton NMR and TLC both suggest that these alternative electronics may be preventing the desired formation of nitrone.
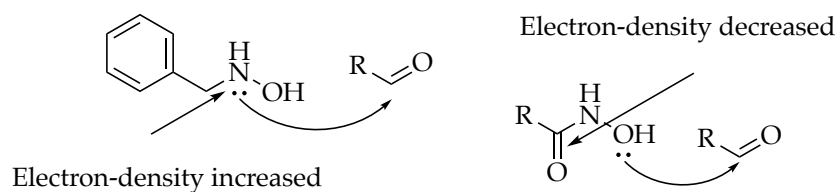
Figure 12. Effects of Hydroxylamine N-Substitution on Nucleophilicity

Though the isolation of N-Carbamoyl Nitrones was initially unsuccessful, there have been reports of their formation "in-situ" during successful dipolar cycloadditions (Ricci, Gioia, Fini, Mazzanti, & Bernardi, 2009). Current research efforts in the GML Lab are focused on exploring new synthetic methods to successfully isolate this elusive class of N-Carbamoyl Nitrone.

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2.5 Conclusion

Aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes were converted to the respective nitrones while exhibiting promising functional group tolerance. Ketonitrones were also afforded by simple manipulation of the reaction media. This type of chemoselectivity governed by the reaction media can prove beneficial to the industrial community where in some cases, an aqueous environment may be favored over traditional organic solvents.

Again, hydroxylamines have proven to facilitate powerful reactions leading to key synthetic intermediates. However, this method has highlighted a need for further research efforts regarding the nucleophilicity of N-Carbamoyl hydroxylamines. Hydroxylamine chemistry has been well established over the years, but small limitations like these, if overcome, could lead to great scientific advancements.

2.6 Experimental

Reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical, Acros Organics or Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Solvents were obtained from EMD Miliphore DrySol and degassed with nitrogen. Reactions were performed in 4-ml glass vials with magnetic stirring. TLC was performed on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates and visualized under UV light (254 nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate ($KMnO_4$). Silica flash chromatography was performed on E. Merck 230–400 mesh silica gel 60. Automated chromatography was performed on an ISOLERA Prime instrument with 10 g. SNAP silica gel normal phase cartridges using a flow rate of 12.0 mL/min and a gradient of 0–

100% EtOAc in Heptanes over 12 column volumes with UV detection at 254 nm. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury II 400 MHz Spectrometer at 24 °C in CDCl₃ unless otherwise indicated. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm relative to solvent signals: CDCl₃ (^{1}H, 7.23 ppm; ^{13}C, 77.0 ppm; coupling constants are expressed in Hz.

2.6.1. General method for the synthesis of nitrones. In a 4-mL reaction vial, carbonyl (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equivalent) and hydroxylamine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equivalent) were dissolved in 3 mL of acetonitrile. The reaction was stirred at RT for 2 hours (aldehyde), 1 hour (ketone) or until complete conversion of starting material was confirmed by TLC. The organic was extracted with diethyl ether, 3-50 mL aliquots. The organic layer was washed with 3-10 mL aliquots of aqueous (10%) sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried with 3-10 mL aliquots of saturated aqueous brine solution (NaCl).   The organic layer was isolated and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated by rotary evaporation to afford the crude product. The product was directly characterized unless traces of impurities required purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography.

2.6.2. Synthesis of nitrones from Table 2.
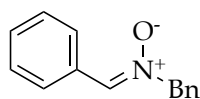
(T2A) DJQ-534

(Z)-N-benzyl-1-phenylmethanimine oxide (T2A) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 Heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2a (**65% yield) as a white solid. ^{1}**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.31 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 7H), 5.04 (s, 2H). ^{13}**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 134.27 , 130.45 , 130.42 , 129.21 , 128.96 , 128.62 , 128.45 , 71.23 .
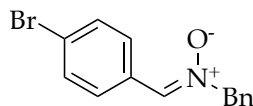
(T2B) DJQ-247

(Z)-N-benzyl-1-(4-bromophenyl) methanimine oxide (T2B) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 Heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2b** (88% yield) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** 400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.17 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 5.04 (s, 2H). **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 133.16 , 131.66 , 129.90 , 129.27 , 129.10 , 129.02 , 71.37 .
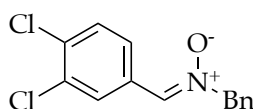
(T2C) DJQ-535

(Z)-N-benzyl-1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl) methanimine oxide (T2C) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2c** (90% yield) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.31 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H). **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 132.83 , 129.71 , 129.27 , 129.23 , 129.17 , 129.01 , 127.37 , 126.65 , 72.17 .
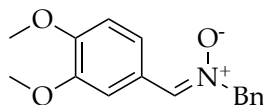
(T2D) DJQ-532

(Z)-N-benzyl-1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) methanimine oxide (T2D) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2d** (95% yield) as a white solid. **^{1}H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.37 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 6H). **^{13}C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.69 , 134.16 , 129.22 , 128.96 , 128.91 , 123.74 , 123.08 , 110.88 , 110.52 , 70.83 , 55.86 .

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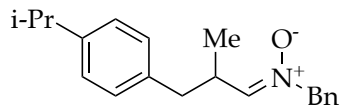
(T2E) DJQ-248

(Z)-N-benzyl-3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-methylpropan-1-imine oxide (T2E) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2e (**85 % yield) as a white solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.45 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.17 – 7.00 (m, 4H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (s, 2H), 3.39 (hept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.24 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 2.2 Hz, 6H), 1.08 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 0.8 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 143.57 , 129.15 , 128.96 , 128.84 , 128.80 , 69.36 , 38.80 , 33.67 , 32.54 , 24.04 , 16.18 .

(T2F) DJQ-539

(Z)-N-benzyl-3-phenylpropan-1-imine oxide (T2F) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **2f (**76% yield) as a white solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.40 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.26 (tt, *J* = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.17 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.62 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.85 – 2.79 (m, 4H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 140.41 , 138.16 , 129.25 , 128.87 , 128.52 , 128.27 , 126.26 , 69.28 , 31.15 , 27.94 .

### 2.6.3. Synthesis of nitrones from Table 3.

(T3A) DJQ-393

(1*Z*,2*E*)-N-benzyl-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3A) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3a (**82% yield) as a white solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.49 – 7.38 (m, 8H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.37 , 136.46 , 129.25 , 129.17 , 128.99 , 128.97 , 128.81 , 127.28 , 118.40 , 69.29 .

48

$$\text{MeOPh} \diagup\!\!\!\diagdown \diagup\!\!\!= N^+\!\!\!-\!Bn \quad (O^-)$$
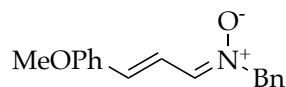
(T3B) DJQ-394

(1Z,2E)-N-benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3A) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3b (**95% yield) as a white solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.49 – 7.38 (m, 6H), 7.33 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.77 (m, 3H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.53 , 138.20 , 136.80 , 129.20 , 128.95 , 128.91 , 128.88 , 128.80 , 116.36 , 114.31 , 69.06 , 55.32 .

(T3C) DJQ-416

(1Z,2E)-N-benzyl-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)prop-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3C) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3c (**56% yield) as an orange solid. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 – 7.36 (m, 6H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 – 6.60 (m, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.97 (s, 6H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 139.33 , 137.49 , 133.40 , 129.16 , 128.89 , 128.86 , 128.73 , 113.90 , 111.98 , 68.72 , 40.15 .
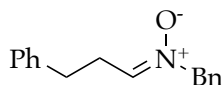

(T3D) DJQ-500

(1Z,2E)-N-benzyl-2-methyl-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3D) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3c (**56% yield) as an orange solid.

(T3E) DJQ-537

(1Z,2E)-N-benzylbut-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3C) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3e (**68% yield) as pale oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.37 (dtt, *J* = 5.2, 3.3, 2.0 Hz, 5H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.4

49

Hz, 1H), 6.81 – 6.70 (m, 1H), 6.20 (dq, *J* = 16.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 1.86 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.21 , 136.08 , 129.17 , 128.89 , 128.83 , 122.35 , 68.90 , 19.01 .
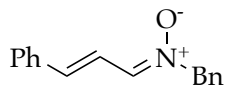
Me ∼∼∼∼N⁺(O⁻)Bn

(T3F) DJQ-421

(1*Z*,2*E*)-*N*-benzylhex-2-en-1-imine oxide (T3F) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3f (**70% yield) as a pale oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.40 (dtd, *J* = 5.6, 2.7, 1.3 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (ddt, *J* = 15.9, 9.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 2H), 2.17 (qd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 1.49 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 143.37 , 136.29 , 129.25 , 128.91 , 128.86 , 121.13 , 68.93 , 35.34 , 21.81 , 13.67 .

Me ∼∼∼∼N⁺(O⁻)Bn

(T3G) DJQ-421

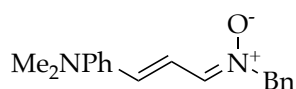**(1*Z*,2*E*,4*E*)-*N*-benzylhexa-2,4-dien-1-imine oxide (T3G)** Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3g (**85% yield) as a white solid.

C₅H₁₁∼∼∼∼N⁺(O⁻)Bn

(T3H) DJQ-586

(1*Z*,2*E*,4*E*)-*N*-benzyldeca-2,4-dien-1-imine oxide (T3H) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3h (**90% yield) as a white solid.

Me ∼∼∼∼N⁺(O⁻)Bn (Me, Me)

(T3I) DJQ-498

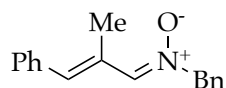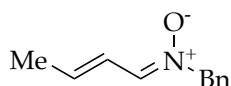**(1Z,2E)-N-benzyl-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-imine oxide (T3I)** Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **3i** (92% yield) as a yellow oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dq, *J* = 10.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (ddtd, *J* = 5.6, 4.3, 2.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.16 (q, *J* = 5.8, 4.2 Hz, 4H), 1.76 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.68 – 1.65 (m, 3H), 1.58 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 149.91 , 133.81 , 133.34 , 129.05 , 128.85 , 128.74 , 123.18 , 115.87 , 69.11 , 40.37 , 26.28 , 25.64 , 17.93 , 17.68 .

2.6.4. Synthesis of nitrones from Table 4.

(T4A) DJQ-553

N-benzylcyclohexanimine oxide (T4A) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 1:1 Heptanes/EtOAc to 0:1 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **4a** (92% yield) as a pale oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.39 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 2.75 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.68 – 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.53 (dddd, *J* = 10.5, 8.1, 4.6, 2.9 Hz, 4H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 150.01, 134.08, 128.77, 128.02, 127.49, 63.76, 30.09, 26.96, 25.62, 24.60.
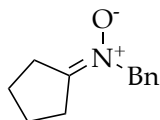
(T4B) DJQ-552

N-benzylcyclopentanimine oxide (T4B) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 1:1 Heptanes/EtOAc to 0:1 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **4b** (90% yield) as a pale oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 2.72 – 2.64 (m, 2H), 2.56 – 2.50 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.74 (m, 4H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 128.76 , 128.25 , 128.11 , 65.25 , 31.17 , 31.11 , 26.34 , 24.53 .

(T4C) DJQ-554

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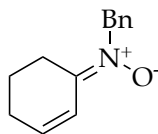
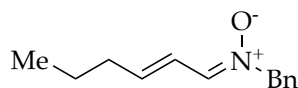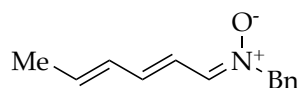**(*E*)-*N*-benzylcyclohex-2-en-1-imine oxide (T4C)** Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 1:1 Heptanes/EtOAc to 0:1 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **4c (**84% yield) as a pale oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.38 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 6.47 (dtd, *J* = 10.3, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.80 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (dt, *J* = 6.2, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.75 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 145.35 , 136.23 , 128.75 , 128.11 , 127.67 , 119.46 , 62.91 , 24.89 , 24.80 , 20.68 .
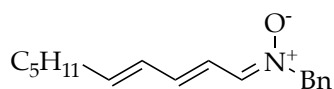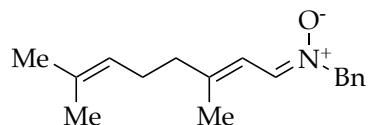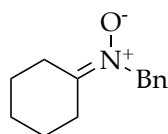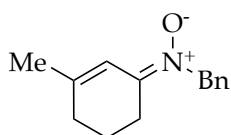

(T4D) DJQ-555

(*E*)-*N*-benzyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-en-1-imine oxide (T4D) Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 1:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 0:1 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) afforded the nitrone **4d (**60% yield) as a pale oil. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 7H), 6.22 (h, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.89 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 147.06 , 146.50 , 134.38 , 128.77 , 128.72 , 127.96 , 127.60 , 127.45 , 116.74 , 115.43 , 63.54 , 62.39 , 26.21 , 24.93 , 24.58 , 24.30 , 21.99 , 20.91 .

2.6.5. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR of nitrones.

acqfil
DJQ-535-P

(T2C) DJQ-535

1.00 1.00 2.00 4.00 1.00 2.00

.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

acqfil
DJQ-535-P

135.8419 133.4603 132.8307 129.7082 129.2742 129.2286 129.1743 129.0121 127.3749 126.6475 72.1729

20 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

acqfil
DJQ-532-P

(T2D) DJQ-532

1.00 2.00 3.00 1.00 1.00 2.00 6.00

.0 11.5 11.0 10.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 -1
f1 (ppm)

acqfil
DJQ-532-P

150.6877 148.4241 134.1570 133.3087 129.2179 128.9568 128.9000 123.7425 123.0792 110.8770 110.5155 70.8297 55.8698

20 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1
f1 (ppm)

54

acqfil
DJQ-248-P

(T2E) DJQ-248

acqfil
DJQ-248-P

acqfil
DJQ-539-P

(T2F) DJQ-539

acqfil
DJQ-539-P

acqfil
DJQ-393-P

(T3A) DJQ-393

acqfil
DJQ-394-P

(T3B) DJQ-394

acqfil
DJQ-394-P

56

(T3C) DJQ-416

(T3E) DJQ-537

acqfil
DJQ-421-A

(T3F) DJQ-421

143.3736
136.2945
133.0213
129.2506
128.8554
121.1294
109.9918
68.9339
35.3366
21.8146
13.6667

acqfil
DJQ_585-P

(T3G) DJQ-585

139.1607
136.4181
135.4133
133.1268
131.7757
129.1582
128.8970
128.8233
119.6399
68.9995
18.6138

58

acqfil
DJQ-571-P

(T3H) DJQ-571

acqfil
DJQ-571-P

141.0637
139.3413
136.4157
133.1347
130.3624
129.1552
128.9030
128.8246
119.7825
69.0094
32.9028
31.7577
29.1008
28.9015
22.6076
14.0641

acqfil
DJQ-498-P

(T3I) DJQ-498

acqfil
DJQ-498-P

149.9091
133.8084
133.3357
132.3123
129.0486
128.7943
123.1778
115.8747
69.1075
40.3727
26.2836
25.6943
17.9314
17.6759

(T4A) DJQ-553

(T4B) DJQ-552

60

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Chapter 3

Nitrone Dipolar Cycloaddition

The dipolar cycloaddition of nitrones with appropriate dipolarphiles is arguably one of the most powerful synthetic transformations for the nitrone moiety (Hashimoto & Maruoka, 2015). In chapter 2, the in-situ formation of carbamoyl nitrones allowed for a successive dipolar cycloaddition to afford the respective N-Carbamoyl Isoxazolidines (Ricci, Gioia, Fini, Mazzanti, & Bernardi, 2009). By recognizing the potential for isoxazolidine cycloadducts to serve as successful therapeutic agents, (Section 3.2) we sought to develop a more general method that would provide novel isoxazolidine scaffolds with key synthetic handles. However, literature reports have highlighted many challenges in the dipolar cycloaddition of nitrones that would first have to be addressed.

3.1 Challenges

First, the electronics of the dipole-dipolarphile pair strongly influence the regioselectivity of the cycloaddition. Asymmetric dipolarphiles with in-proportional electronic guidance allow for a mixture of regioisomeric cycloadducts (Figure 13).

(Mixture of regioisomers)
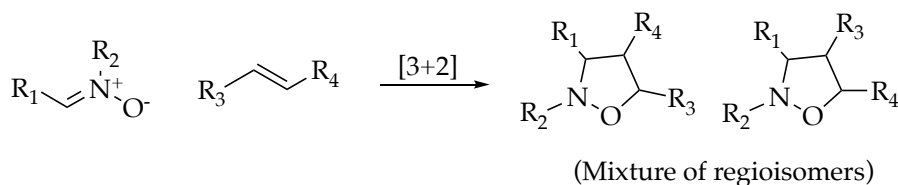
Figure 13. Regiomeric-Excess Created by Dipolarphile

This problem of regiomeric excess can been be controlled by employing an appropriate dipolarphile for the cycloaddition. An electron-deficient dipolarphile, such as an enal, can be paired with a nitrone where R is electron rich (Figure 14) to direct regioselectivity of the product.
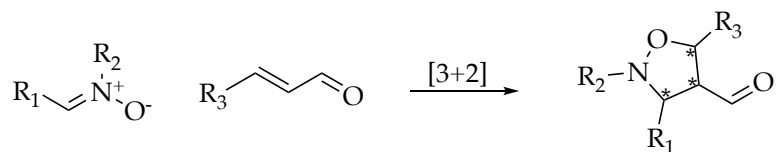
Figure 14. Dipolar Cycloaddition of Nitrone and Enal

The use of Lewis acid catalysis for the nitrone dipolar cycloaddition has been another challenging endeavor for the synthetic community (Gothelf & Jorgensen, 2000). The negatively charged oxygen of a nitrone acts as a strong base and can compete with the dipolarphile for Lewis acid binding. Ultimately, this results in catalyst poisoning and diminished yields.

To address this problem, Jorgenson employed a bi-dentate dipolarphile that outcompetes the nitrone for Lewis acid binding (Figure 15). Nitrones lose binding preference in the presence of dipolarphiles capable of making multiple bonds to the metal catalyst (Gothelf & Jorgensen, 2000).

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(1) (2) (3)

Increasing LA Binding Preference →
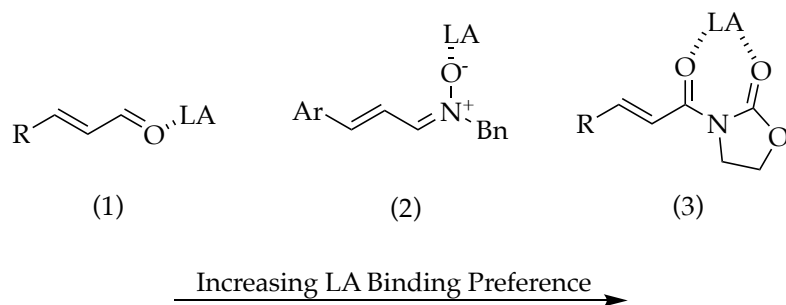
Figure 15. Bidentate Dipolarphile Outcompetes Nitrone for Lewis Acid

The generation of multiple stereocenters (Figure 14) further demonstrates the synthetic utility of this reaction. Stereoselectivity for this dipolar cycloaddition has been an active area of research and has been addressed by some of the leading academic researchers in the field of organic chemistry.
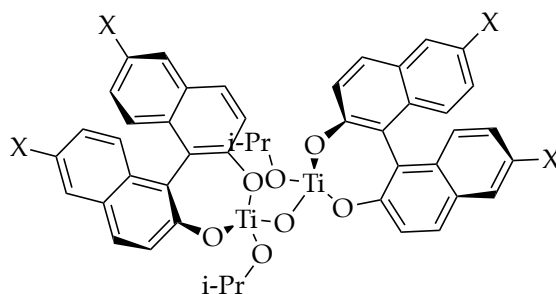
Figure 16. The Design of an Organometallic to Direct Stereoselectivity

The bis-titanium metalorganic compound (Figure 16) designed by Maruoka utilizes both axial chirality and steric repulsions to direct stereoselectivity and preferential binding, respectively. This method prevents nitrones with bulky nitrogen protecting groups from binding to the metal

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catalyst. However, as this method relies heavily on steric interactions, the substrate scope can be significantly limited to a unique set of dipolarphiles, such as acrolein. (Kano, Hashimoto, & Maruoka, 2005)

Recognizing these challenges and understanding the techniques chemists have used to overcome them was a key step in developing a successful synthesis of isoxazolidines. Despite these many obstacles, the demand for continued improvement in the nitrone cycloaddition remains due to the pharmaceutical relevance of the isoxazolidine scaffold.

3.2 Access to Antibacterial Agents

The evolution of antibiotic resistant bacterial strains has resulted in the growing demand for efficacious small molecule antibiotics. Beta lactams have historically exhibited powerful antibacterial properties since the advent of penicillin.
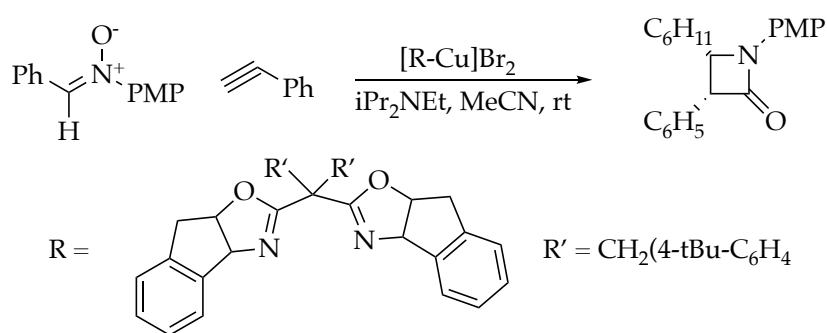
Figure 17. Enantioselective Synthesis of Beta Lactams

An enantioselective synthesis of lactam derivatives utilizing nitrones (Figure 17) has had direct applications to the pharmaceutical industry (Evans, Miller, Lectka, & Matt, 1999). Though lactams have historically served as a cornerstone for bacterial infection treatment, new structural motifs are required to address continued bacterial evolution. One such motif can be accessed directly from the isoxazolidine scaffold.
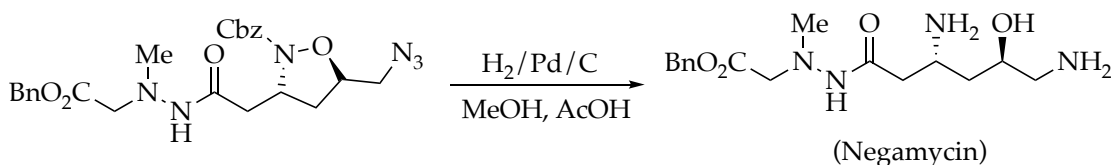
Figure 18. Reductive Cleavage of N-O Bond to Afford Negamycin

The labile nitrogen-oxygen bond of an isoxazolidine may be targeted and easily cleaved under reductive conditions to afford pharmaceutically relevant amino acids (Figure 18). The conformation of the isoxazolidine has been preserved throughout the reaction allowing for a diastereoselective approach to the total synthesis of the natural product, Negamycin (Bates, Khanizeman, Hirao, Tay, & Sae-Lao, 2014). This antibacterial agent boasts several functional groups that can be modified through structure activity relationships to produce novel antibacterial pharmaceuticals.

3.3 Results and Discussion

Acknowledging the pharmaceutical relevance for highly structured isoxazolidines, the GML group sought out to develop a library of 3-Vinyl-4-

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Carbonyl-Isoxazolidines from simple hydroxylamines and conjugated carbonyls. The in-situ formed nitrones had previously been isolated and characterized, serving as a strong reference throughout the development of the method as well as supporting their occurrence as a reaction intermediate.

During initial optimization studies, it was observed that acrolein (Table 9 – B) after condensation with N-Benzylhydroxylamine, underwent a successive dipolar cycloaddition with unreacted acrolein starting material, instead of reacting with the target dipolarphile (Table 9 – A). This led us to hypothesize an optimal enal – dipolarphile pair that would promote a desirable chemoselectivity. The incompatibility of aromatic enals such as cinnamaldehyde to serve as dipolarphiles allowed for a one-pot conversion to the cycloadduct without compromising chemoselectivity.

Next, we addressed the thermal activation of this cycloaddition by screening different temperatures. In doing so we found that increasing the temperature to 80°C afforded the highest percent yield however increasing the temperature past this point began to have a negative effect on the diastereoselectivity of the reaction (Table 9, Entry 7 and 8). Whereas lowering the temperature did not help to improve the diastereoselectivity, however it did drastically diminish conversion to the desired cycloadduct (Table 9, Entry 6).

Table 9

3-Vinyl-4-Carbonyl-Isoxazolidine Reaction Optimization
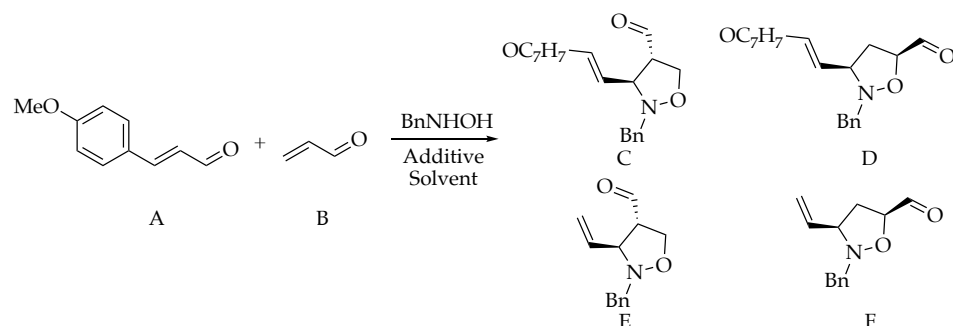
Entry[a]	Enal	Dipolarophile	Additive[e]	Solvent	Time	Temperature	%Yield of C:D:E:F[b]	d.r[c]
1	B	B	none	Acetonitrle	48h	rt	0:0:20:2	8:1
2	B[d]	A	none	Acetonitrle	48h	rt	5:1:10:2	8:1
3	B	A	none	Acetonitrle	48h	rt	8:2:6:2	6:1
4	A	B	none	Acetonitrle	48h	rt	40:4:0:0	10:1
5	A	B	none	Acetonitrle	48h	40 ºC	53:6:0:0	15:1
6	A	B	none	Acetonitrle	16h	60 ºC	64:9:0:0	15:1
7	A	B	none	Acetonitrle	16h	80 ºC	88:4:0:0	15:1
8	A	B	none	Acetonitrle	18h	90 ºC	80:16:0:0	10:1
9	A	B	none	dioxane	16h	80 ºC	80:4:0:0	15:1
10	A	B	none	DCE	16h	80 ºC	73:8:0:0	15:1
11	A	B	none	DMF	16h	80 ºC	64:12:0:0	15:1
12	A	B	$Cu(OTf)_2$	Acetonitrle	6h	rt	64:28:0:0	20:1
13	A	B	$Cu(OAc)_2$	Acetonitrle	6h	rt	35:24:0:0	20:1
14	A	B	AgOTf	Acetonitrle	6h	rt	53:22:0:0	20:1
15	A	B	AuOTf	Acetonitrle	6h	rt	48:20:0:0	15:1
16	A	B	$Fe(OTf)_3$	Acetonitrle	6h	rt	46:32:0:0	15:1

a. Ratio of enal:dipolarophile:hydroxylamine, 1:2:1. b. Isolated yields. c. Ratio for the major isomer, measured by ^{1}H-NMR. d. ratio of enal:dipolarophile is 1:1. e. Lewis acid were added in 20 mol%.

To lower the energetic requirement for this reaction, we investigated several Lewis acid metal catalysts. While a noticeable rate enhancement was observed with the addition of 20 molar percent copper triflate, along with a modest increase in diasteroselectivty, the percent yield of the desired cycloadduct was decreased (Table 9 – Entry 12). It was determined that the small

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increase in diastereoselectivity obtained with the use of Lewis acid metal catalysts, did not make up for the loss in percent yield and that thermal conditions remained the most practical approach.

With optimal reaction conditions in hand, we next sought to explore the scope for this reaction. Due to the reluctance of cinnamaldehyde to proceed as a dipolarphile we employed para-methoxy cinnamaldehyde as the enal for the cycloaddition. This would prevent the occurrence of previously observed, side cycloadditions. Both simple enals and enones served as suitable dipolarphiles. Straight enal alkyl chains showed traces of regioexcess (Table 10 – Entries A – C). However, enal alkyl chain branching, as observed in methacrolein (Table 10 – Entry D) afforded complete regioselectivity. Both cyclic and acyclic ketones demonstrated similar regioselectivity. This regioselectivity unfortunately came at the cost of a small but noticeable decrease in diastereoselectivity (Table 10 – Entry D-G).

We next sought to expand the scope for this reaction by screening alternative dipolarphiles. Acrylonitrile served as a suitable dipolarphile and afforded complete regioselectivity for the 3-Vinyl-4-Carbonyl Isoxazolidine.

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Table 10

Dipolarphile Scope: Aldehydes and Ketones

Entry[1]	Dipolarophile	Product	%Yield of 3,4-VCI[2]	%Yield of 3,5-VCI[2]	d.r.[3]
T10A			88	4	15:1
T10B	C_3H_7		90	2	16:1
T10C			84	4	15:1
T10D			0	91	12:1
T10E			0	90	12:1
T10F			0	92	12:1
T10G			0	73	12:1

1. Ratio of enal:dipolarophile:hydroxylamine, 1:2:1. 2. Isolated yields. 3. Ratio for the major isomer, measured by ^{1}H-NMR.

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Interestingly, diesters showed preferential for the formation of 3-Vinyl-4-Carbonyl Isoxazolidine (Table 11 – D, E) whereas simple esters showed a reversal in regioselectivity with a preference for 3-Vinyl-5-Carbonyl Isoxazolidine (Table 11 – B, C).

Table 11

Dipolarphile Scope: Nitriles and Esters
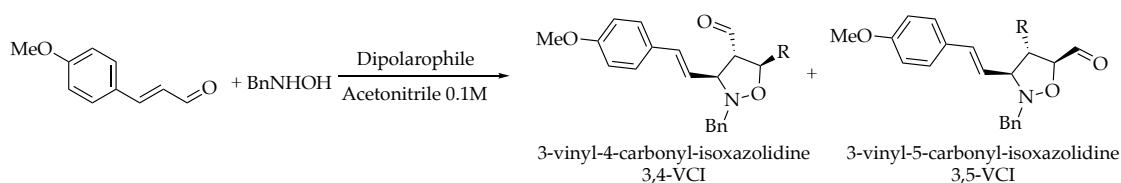
Entry[1]	Dipolarophile	Product	%Yield of 3,4-VCI[2]	%Yield of 3,5-VCI[2]	d.r.[3]
T11A			95	0	15:1
T11B			0	91	16:1
T11C			0	84	15:1
T11D			88	0	18:1
T11E			89	0	18:1

1. Ratio of enal:dipolarophile:hydroxylamine, 1:2:1. 2. Isolated yields. 3. Measured by ^{1}H-NMR.

Table 12

Dipole Scope

Entry[1]	Enal	Product	% of 3,4-VBI[2]	% of 3,7-VBI[2]	d.r.[3]
T12A			0	73	15:1
T12B			0	79	16:1
T12C			0	69	15:1
T12D			0	84	12:1
T12E			0	86	12:1
T12F			0	79	12:1
T12G			0	84	16:1
T12H			0	80	14:1

1. Ratio of enal:dipolarophile:hydroxylamine, 1:2:1. 2. Isolated yields. 3. Measured by ^{1}H-NMR.

3.4 Conclusion

This method for the synthesis of 3,4 and 3,5 Vinyl Isoxazolidines demonstrated the ability for N-Substituted hydroxylamine to rapidly build molecular complexity. Using simple enones and enals with seemingly similar structure, a regioselective and stereochemically rich heterocycle was achieved. Selective condensation onto the enal rather than the dipolarphile was a challenge encountered early in this project that we tackled by employing suitable starting reagents. Further research efforts could consider the hydroxylamine source as another variable in which to broaden the scope for this reaction.

3.5 Experimental

Reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical, Acros Organics or Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Solvents were obtained from EMD Miliphore DrySol and degassed with nitrogen. Reactions were performed in 4-mL glass vials with magnetic stirring. TLC was performed on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates and visualized under UV light (254 nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate (KMnO$_4$). Silica flash chromatography was performed on E. Merck 230–400 mesh silica gel 60. Automated chromatography was performed on a ISOLERA Prime instrument with 10 g. SNAP silica gel normal phase cartridges using a flow rate of 12.0 mL/min and a gradient of 0–20% EtOAc in Heptanes over 12 column volumes with UV detection at 254 nm. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury II 400 MHz Spectrometer at 24 °C in CDCl$_3$ unless otherwise indicated. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm

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relative to solvent signals: CDCl₃ (¹H, 7.23 ppm; ¹³C, 77.0 ppm; coupling constants are expressed in Hz).

3.5.1. General method for the synthesis of vinyl isoxazolidines. In a 4-mL glass vial, 1 mMol enal and 1.1 eq. hydroxylamine were dissolved in 1 mL acetonitrile. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for five minutes after which 3 molar equivalents dipolarphile was added. The reaction was stirred vigorously at 80°C for 16hours. The organic was extracted with 150 mL diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 3-25 mL aliquots of (10%) aqueous sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried with 3-25 mL aliquots of saturated aqueous brine solution (NaCl). The organic layer is finally isolated and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated by rotary evaporation to afford the crude product. The crude product is filtered through silica gel over a gradient of 4:1 Heptanes/EtOAc over 12 column volumes to obtain the respective isoxazolidine in good to excellent yields.

3.5.2. Synthesis of vinyl isoxazolidines from Table 10 and 11.
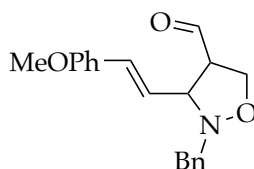
(T7A) EM-141

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidine-4-carbaldehyde (T7A): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7a** (115 mg, 90%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: R_f 0.20 (3:1heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 9.76 (dd, J = 2.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.29 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 15.8, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (dd, J = 8.9, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 – 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 0.6 Hz,

3H), 3.78 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.35 – 3.29 (m, 1H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 198.86, 134.58, 128.81, 128.29, 127.85, 127.71, 127.33, 114.06, 65.49, 61.65, 55.30, 30.89.
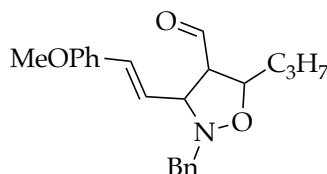
(T7B) DJQ-407

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)-5-propylisoxazolidine-4-carbaldehyde (T7B): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7b** (100 mg, 70%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.38 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 9.75 (dd, J = 2.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.24 (m, 7H), 6.96 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.51 – 4.17 (m, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 3H), 3.77 – 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.01 (ddd, J = 7.8, 5.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (dddd, J = 13.4, 9.7, 7.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (ddt, J = 13.5, 9.6, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 1.47 – 1.30 (m, 2H), 0.93 (td, J = 7.4, 3.1 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 198.89, 133.85, 128.55, 128.16, 127.81, 127.08, 123.69, 114.03, 76.92, 67.75, 55.30, 37.26, 19.16, 13.87.
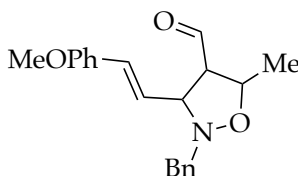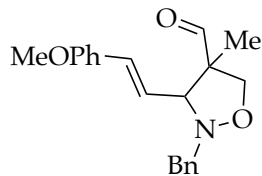

(T7C) DJQ-486

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)-5-methylisoxazolidine-4-carbaldehyde (T7C): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7c** (85 mg, 70%) as a pale oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.31 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 9.76 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.25 (m, 9H), 6.88 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.13 – 6.05 (m, 1H), 4.52 – 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.13 (d, J = 14.2 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 3.75 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 1H), 1.43 (dd, J = 6.2, 1.5 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 198.76, 133.80, 128.56, 128.23, 127.81, 127.15, 123.75, 114.04, 73.10, 68.94, 59.37, 55.30, 20.72.
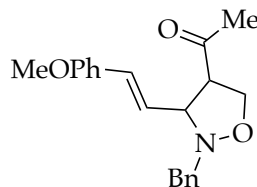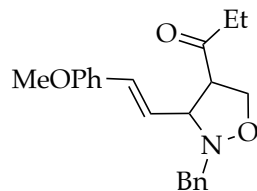
(T7D) DJQ-415

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)-4-methylisoxazolidine-4-carbaldehyde (T7D):
Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7d** (165 mg, 90%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.35 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25 (tt, J = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (ddd, J = 15.8, 8.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 0.6 Hz, 3H), 3.76 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (q, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, J = 12.7, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (dd, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 205.12, 133.59, 128.35, 128.18, 127.72, 127.08, 124.71, 114.02, 69.67, 59.15, 55.30, 44.00, 19.07.
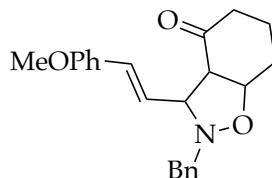

(T7E) DJQ-410

(E)-1-(2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidin-4-yl)ethan-1-one (T7E):
Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7e** (180 mg, 80%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.45 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.39 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (ddd, J = 4.3, 2.5, 1.3 Hz, 4H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 6.92 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.56 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (dd, J = 15.8, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (dd, J = 9.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (q, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (ddd, J = 12.8, 9.4, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (ddd, J = 13.0, 8.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 133.80, 128.91, 128.14, 127.71, 127.21, 124.54, 114.04, 80.49, 69.42, 59.76, 55.30, 39.01, 25.38.
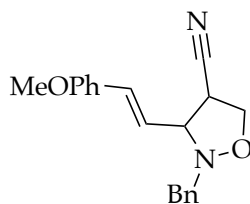

(T7F) DJQ-464

(E)-1-(2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidin-4-yl)propan-1-one (T7F):
Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the

isoxazolidine **7f** (105 mg, 70%) as a pale oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.50 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41 – 7.22 (m, 8H), 6.89 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 3H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (q, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.76 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.65 – 2.56 (m, 1H), 2.47 (ddd, *J* = 11.5, 7.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 0.95 (td, *J* = 7.3, 0.6 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 159.51, 137.57, 133.73, 128.89, 128.10, 127.69, 127.19, 124.59, 114.01, 69.45, 59.76, 55.30, 39.09, 30.54, 7.13.
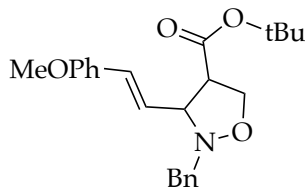

(T7G) DJQ-397

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)hexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T7G): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7g** (110 mg, 65%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.15 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.88 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.10 – 6.01 (m, 1H), 4.57 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88 – 3.79 (m, 5H), 3.00 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dt, *J* = 17.0, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (ddd, *J* = 16.6, 10.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.96 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.79 (m, 1H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 137.48, 133.11, 128.95, 128.20, 127.74, 127.19, 125.05, 113.94, 70.51, 60.81, 55.28, 39.92, 26.47, 19.05.

(T7H) DJQ-462

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidine-4-carbonitrile (T7H): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7h** (80 mg, 90%) as a pale oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.20 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 6.95 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (d, *J* = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 3H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (td, *J* = 8.5, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 136.95, 136.61, 128.74, 128.44, 128.30, 128.22, 127.46, 119.86, 114.09, 69.99, 68.68, 55.33, 38.48.

(T7I) DJQ-463

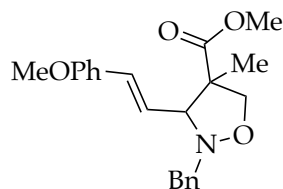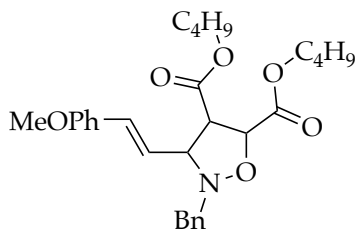**Tert-butyl(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidine-4-carboxylate (T7I):** Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7i** (90 mg, 90%) as a pale oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.56 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dd, J = 8.3, 6.0 Hz, 4H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.56 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (dd, J = 15.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.14 – 4.01 (m, 2H), 3.81 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 3H), 3.67 – 3.59 (m, 1H), 2.57 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.51 (s, 9H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 137.79, 133.31, 128.98, 128.24, 127.67, 127.12, 124.40, 114.02, 75.64, 68.04, 55.29, 40.66, 28.04.
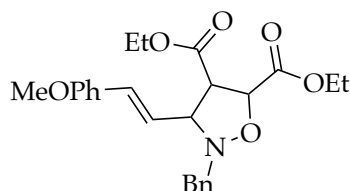

(T7J) LNT-29

Methyl (E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)-4-methylisoxazolidine-4-carboxylate (T7J): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7j** (105 mg, 90%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.50 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.17 (m, 6H), 6.91 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (ddd, J = 15.8, 8.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 – 4.05 (m, 1H), 3.89 – 3.71 (m, 8H), 3.44 (q, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (ddd, J = 12.8, 8.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (ddd, J = 12.9, 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 1H), 1.50 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 159.46, 137.53, 133.50, 128.19, 128.01, 127.69, 126.77, 124.72, 113.99, 81.10, 69.44, 58.71, 55.29, 52.32, 46.07, 23.71.

(T7K) DJQ-488

dibutyl(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (T7K): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the

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isoxazolidine **7k** (120 mg, 90%) as a white solid. **TLC**: Rf 0.62 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 6.91 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (dd, *J* = 15.8, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.21 – 4.14 (m, 2H), 4.12 – 4.02 (m, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 3H), 3.67 – 3.60 (m, 1H), 1.67 – 1.54 (m, 4H), 1.44 – 1.30 (m, 4H), 0.91 (ddd, *J* = 29.9, 7.6, 7.1 Hz, 6H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 137.34, 135.24, 128.99, 128.25, 127.87, 127.27, 122.01, 114.01, 72.19, 65.23, 60.25, 56.97, 55.31, 30.45, 19.07, 13.68.

(T7L) DJQ-489

diethyl(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)isoxazolidine-4,5-dicarboxylate (T7L): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc t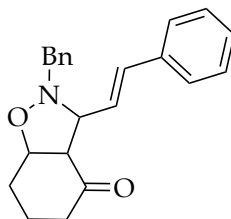o 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **7l** (118 mg, 90%) as a white solid. **TLC:** Rf 0.35 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.33 (dq, *J* = 8.7, 2.3, 1.5 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (tdd, *J* = 15.0, 7.5, 3.7 Hz, 5H), 3.86 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.65 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 135.12, 128.10, 128.08, 127.87, 126.96, 122.64, 114.02, 73.48, 61.59, 61.50, 58.74, 57.28, 55.30, 14.19, 14.12.
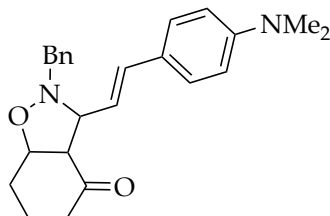
3.5.3. Synthesis of vinyl isoxazolidines from Table 12.

(T8A) DJQ-395

(E)-2-benzyl-3-styrylhexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T8A): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **8a** (165 mg, 92%) as a white solid. **TLC**: Rf 0.25 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.39 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 4.3 Hz,

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1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (ddd, *J* = 16.5, 10.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.93 (dq, *J* = 9.8, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (ddd, *J* = 14.0, 7.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 133.49, 128.99, 128.55, 128.23, 127.82, 127.49, 127.25, 126.54, 76.77, 70.16, 60.75, 60.50, 40.02, 26.42, 19.17.
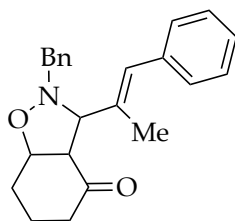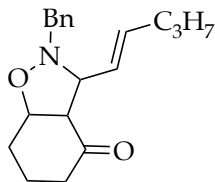

(T8B) DJQ-494

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-(dimethylamino)styryl)hexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T8B): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **8b** (178 mg, 70%) as a red oil. TLC: Rf 0.19 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 7.25 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (ddd, *J* = 15.7, 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 6H), 2.54 – 2.30 (m, 3H), 2.09 – 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.91 – 1.82 (m, 2H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 128.98, 128.17, 127.56, 127.13, 122.53, 112.32, 70.95, 60.91, 60.13, 40.49, 39.81, 26.54, 18.96.
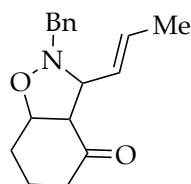

(T8C) DJQ-492

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(1-phenylprop-1-en-2-yl)hexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T8C): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **8c** (105 mg, 72%) as a pale oil. TLC: Rf 0.33 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.42 – 7.20 (m, 10H), 6.94 – 6.53 (m, 1H), 4.57 – 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.25 – 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.93 – 3.63 (m, 2H), 3.48 – 2.92 (m, 1H), 2.53 – 2.02 (m, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.89 – 1.78 (m, 2H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 209.40, 135.35, 132.30, 129.06, 128.99, 128.87, 128.16, 128.01, 127.17, 126.47, 75.19, 60.82, 59.16, 40.29, 26.29, 19.45, 14.86.

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(T8D) DJQ-456

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(pent-1-en-1-yl)hexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T8D): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **8d** (110 mg, 80%) as a yellow oil. **TLC**: Rf 0.42 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **^{1}H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.36 (dd, J = 5.9, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 5.70 (dt, J = 15.3, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.46 – 5.39 (m, 1H), 4.50 (dt, J = 8.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 – 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.31 (ddd, J = 16.7, 10.1, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.01 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.90 – 1.81 (m, 3H), 1.38 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.87 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 135.84, 128.92, 128.16, 127.12, 70.71, 60.66, 39.64, 34.39, 26.56, 22.13, 18.77, 13.59.
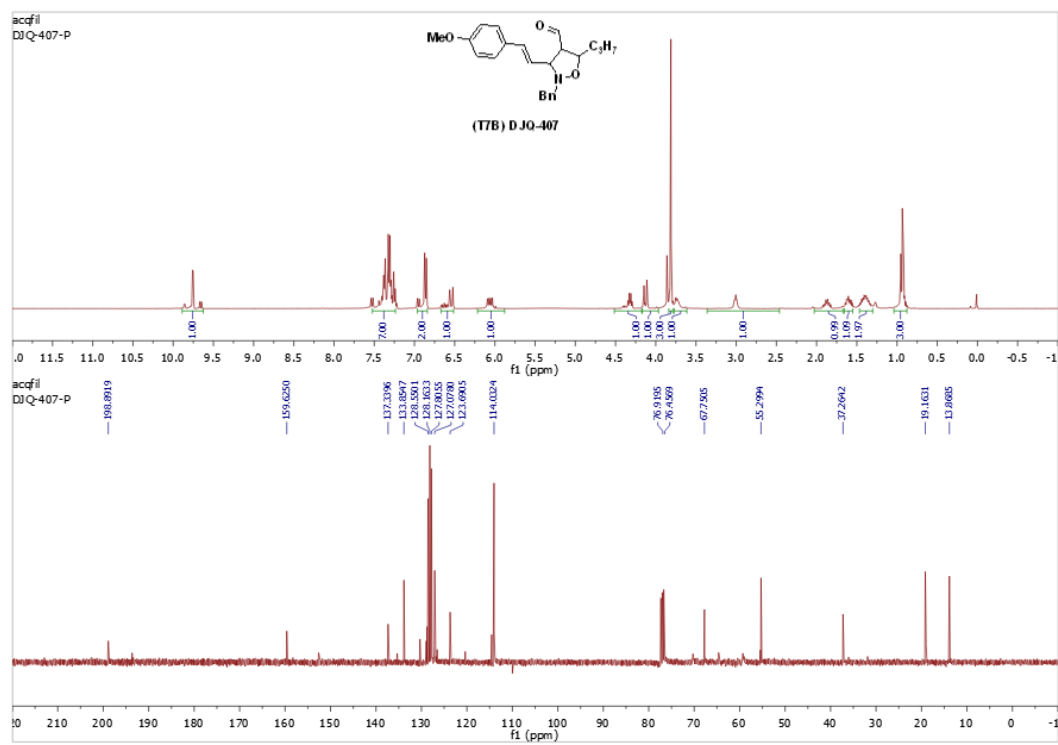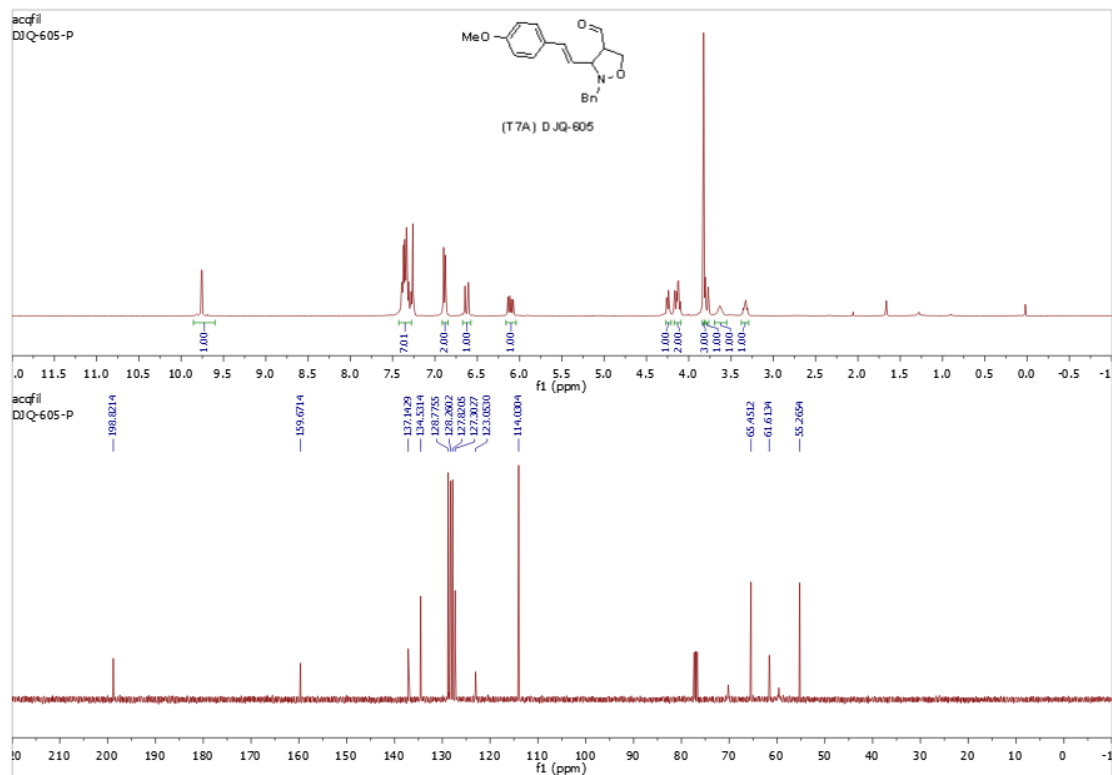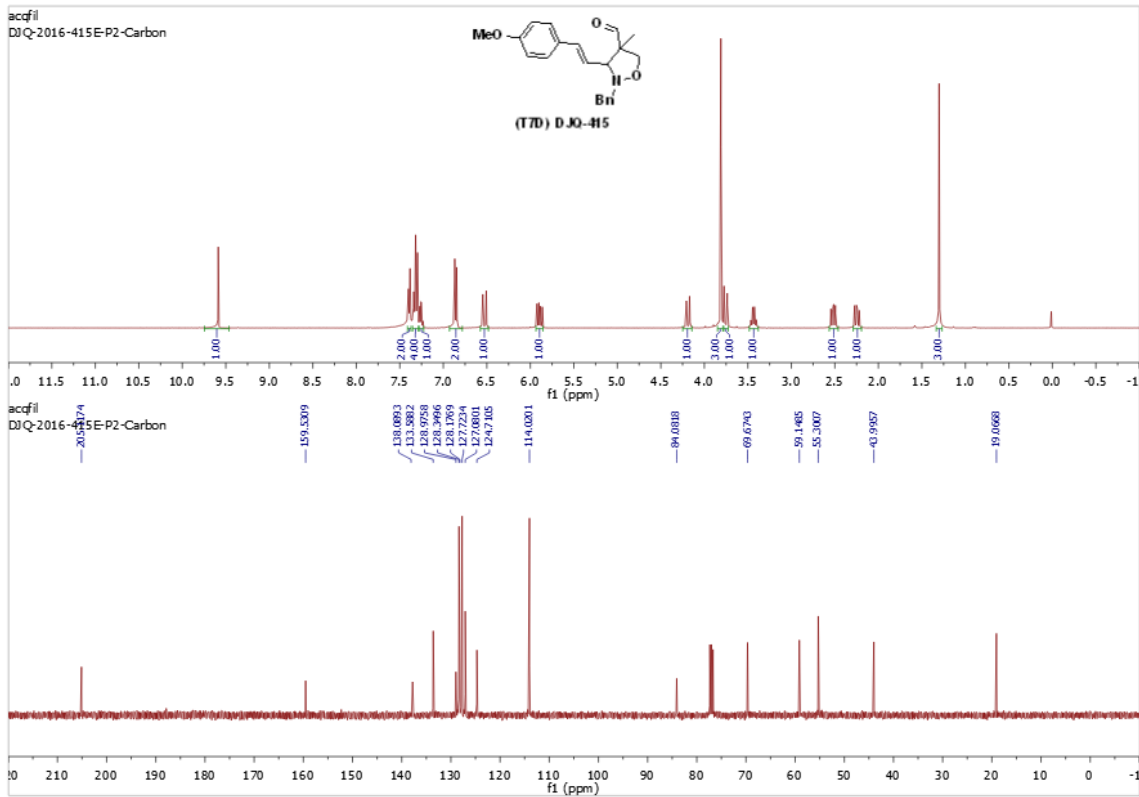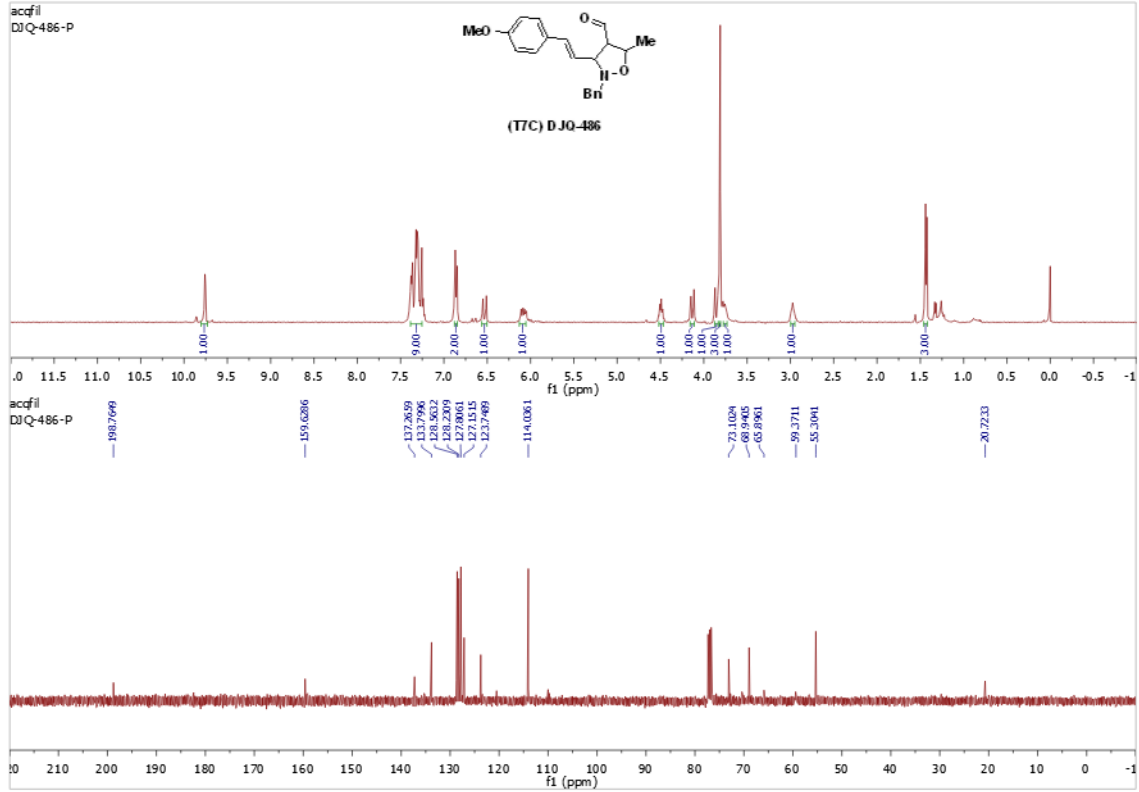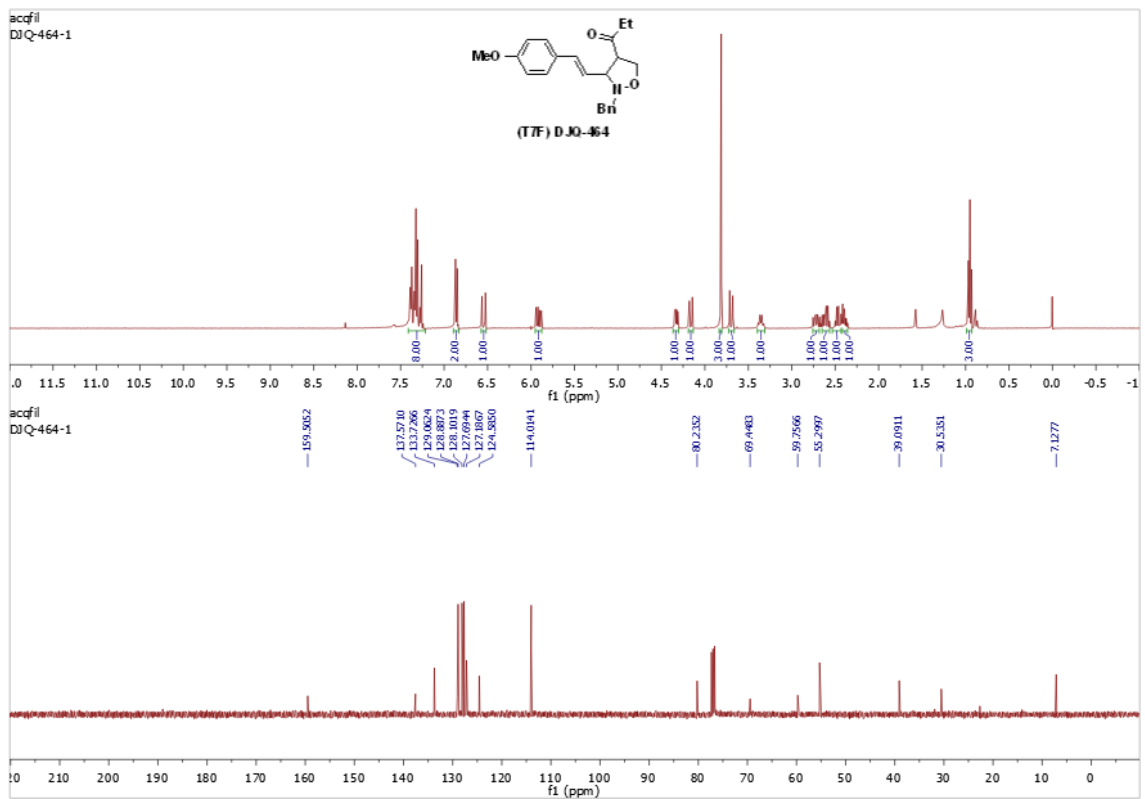

(T8E) DJQ-497

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(prop-1-en-1-yl)hexahydrobenzo[d]isoxazol-4(2H)-one (T8E): Purification by automated silica gel flash chromatography (10 g cartridge, 14 ml/min. 20:1 heptanes/EtOAc to 1:4 heptanes/EtOAc over 12 min) yielded the isoxazolidine **8e** (209 mg, 70%) as a yellow oil. TLC: Rf 0.38 (3:1 heptanes/EtOAc). **^{1}H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 5H), 5.80 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 5.46 (ddq, J = 15.2, 8.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (ddt, J = 11.9, 8.1, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.08 – 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.77 (dd, J = 19.9, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 – 3.41 (m, 1H), 2.90 (q, J = 8.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dt, J = 16.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 – 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.00 (dddd, J = 15.7, 7.7, 3.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.75 (m, 3H), 1.70 (ddd, J = 6.3, 4.3, 1.6 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 130.57, 128.91, 128.86, 128.15, 127.10, 76.35, 70.76, 60.52, 59.90, 39.63, 26.54, 18.73, 17.95.

81

3.5.4. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR of vinyl isoxazolidines

(T7A) DJQ-605

(T7B) DJQ-407

acqfil
DJQ-486-P

(T7C) DJQ-486

acqfil
DJQ-486-P

acqfil
DJQ-2016-415E-P2-Carbon

(T7D) DJQ-415

acqfil
DJQ-2016-415E-P2-Carbon

83

acqfil
DJQ-410-4

(T7E) DJQ-410

acqfil
DJQ-410-4

acqfil
DJQ-464-1

(T7F) DJQ-464

acqfil
DJQ-464-1

84

(T7G) DJQ-397

(T7H) DJQ-462

85

(T7I) DJQ-463

(T7J) LNT-29

86

acqfil
DJQ-488-P

(T7K) DJQ-488

acqfil
DJQ-488-P

acqfil
DJQ-489-P

(T7L) DJQ-489

acqfil
DJQ-489-P

(T8A) DJQ-395

(T8B) DJQ-494

(T8C) DJQ-492

acqfil
DJQ-492

(T8D) DJQ-456

acqfil
DJQ-456-2-9-11

acqfil
DJQ-497-P

(T8E) DJQ-497

acqfil
DJQ-497-P

acqfil
DJQ-596-P

(T8F) DJQ-596

acqfil
DJQ-596-P

90

(T8G) DJQ-595

Chapter 4

Nitrone Photoisomerization

In Chapter 2, the thermal isomerization of an Oxaziridine was highlighted as a possible synthetic route to the Nitrone moiety. Interestingly, the reverse reaction is also possible via a photochemical isomerization from the nitrone to the isoelectronic oxaziridine isomer (Spence, Taylor, & Buchardt, 1970). Though this method (Figure 19) was developed as early as the 1950s, it has been largely over shadowed throughout the years by a much more favorable reaction pathway.
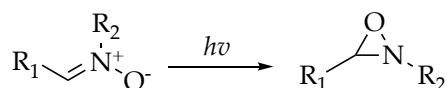
Figure 19. Nitrone Photoisomerization to Oxaziridine

4.1 A Method Overlooked

Imine oxidation is a preferred pathway to the oxaziridine moiety because of the superior heteroatom transfer of the afforded electron-deficient oxaziridines. This class of oxaziridine is not readily accessible through the condensation-photoisomerization pathway by means of a nitrone. In chapter 2, N-Electron deficient nitrones were described as too unstable to isolate and only formed in-situ (Ricci, Gioia, Fini, Mazzanti, & Bernardi, 2009). This implies that the photorearrangement of nitrones to oxaziridines is unfortunately limited to N-alkyl oxaziridines because the respective N-alkyl nitrones are readily accessible.

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Davis oxaziridine, obtained through the imine oxidation of a camphor-derived carbonyl has been applied to novel chemical transformations. The Holton-Taxol Total Synthesis utilizes this oxaziridine (Figure 20) for selective hydroxylation onto a highly functionalized taxane framework (Holton, et al., 1994). The N-Sulfonyl Oxaziridine moiety is found throughout the literature time and time again being utilized in similarly powerful transformations.
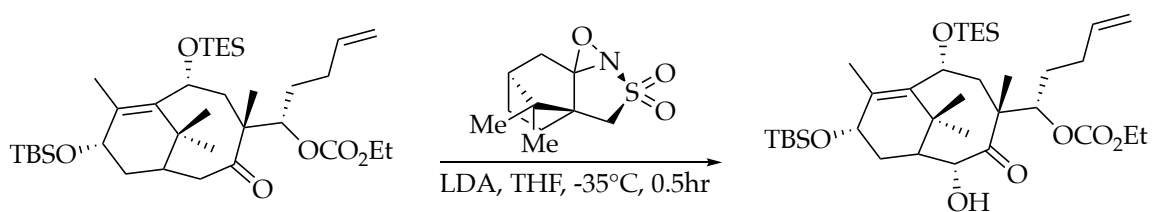
Figure 20. Hydroxylation at C2 in the Holton-Taxol Synthesis

Unfortunately, the respective N-Sulfonyl Nitrone has not been isolated and therefore photochemical isomerization from this vantage point would be inaccessible. Despite the clear synthetic utility of N-Sulfonyl oxaziridines the recent literature, highlighted in the next section, demonstrates a growing demand for the synthesis of novel, N-alkyl oxaziridines.

4.2 Heteroatom Transfer

Researchers from Rice University have recently discovered that camphor-derived, N-alkyl oxaziridines rapidly oxidize aryl metals to the respective phenol (Figure 21). This method is drastically more efficient than previous methods for aryl oxidation which often requires harsh reaction conditions (Kurti, et al., 2016)**.**
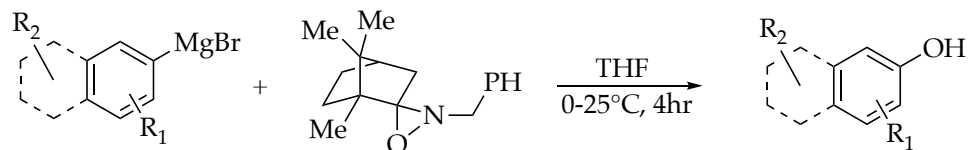
Figure 21. A Mild Aryl Metal Oxidation by N-Alkyl Oxaziridine

These results indicate a new demand for N-alkyl oxaziridines to be employed as valuable heteroatom transfer reagents. To meet these demands the GML group sought to revisit the classical photoisomerization of nitrones to oxaziridines and determine both optimal and practical reaction conditions that would afford novel oxaziridines for further investigation of their heteroatom transfer capabilities.

4.3 Results and Discussion

With a structurally rich library of nitrones, the GML Group sought out to begin photoisomerization to form the respective N-alkyl oxaziridines. Cinnamaldehyde derived nitrone was used for these optimization studies and provided the respective oxaziridine in good to excellent yields under visible light (Table 13). These results were surprising because previous reports of nitrone photoisomerization required UV irradiation to promote similar reactions. (Spence, Taylor, & Buchardt, 1970). The continued development of a more practical reaction methodology was pursued to arrive at optimal conditions readily available to any common synthetic organic research lab. Optimization studies began with a quartz reaction vessel possessing a UV cutoff of 160 nM, allowing for sufficient light to reach the target reagent.

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Table 13

Photorearrangement Optimization
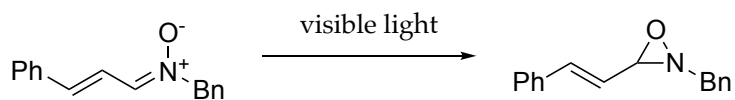
Entry	Solvent (UV Cutoff)	Concentration	Vessel (UV Cutoff)	Time	% Yield
574-1	Acetone (340 nM)	0.01 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	35
574-2	Benzene (295 nM)	0.01 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	40
574-3	Ethyl Ether (255 nM)	0.01 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	31
574-4	Heptanes (230 nM)	0.01 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	10
574-5	Benzene (295 nM)	0.05 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	20
574-6	Benzene (295 nM)	0.10 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	22
574-7	Benzene (295 nM)	0.50 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	28
574-8	Benzene (295 nM)	1.00 M	quartz (160 nM)	2hr	25
574-9	Benzene (295 nM)	0.01 M	borosiliate (275 nm)	18hr	66
574-10	Benzene (295 nM)	0.03 M	borosilicate (275 nm)	18hr	98
574-11	Benzene (295 nM)	0.05 M	borosilicate (275 nm)	18hr	72

95

Various organic solvents were screened to determine the appropriate media for this reaction, Benzene afforded a significant 40% yield of the desired oxaziridine product (Table-13, Entry 574-2).

As the beer-lambert law suggests that concentration plays a pivotal role in the absorption of light, different concentrations of the starting reagent in Benzene were tested. In agreement with this law, the results for these tests indicated a significant effect on the yield at differing concentrations (Table 13, Entry 574-9 - 574-11). 0.03 M, a relatively dilute concentration, provided the most desirable conversion to the oxaziridine product. At 0.01 M and 0.05 M, slightly less and slightly more concentrated, the reaction conversion was decreased. These results indicated that optimal absorbance for the cinnamaldehyde derived nitrone under the specified reaction conditions were obtained nearing 0.03 M.

Some organic chemists shy away from photochemical reactions because of the intricate reaction set up. As the quartz reaction vessel employed in these experiments would only hold about 4 mL of solution, the GML Lab sought to obtain similar results with a more common type of lab glassware. A simple borosilicate, Pyrex round bottom (250 mL), common to all organic research labs, was employed to allow for the scale-up of this reaction. Satisfyingly, similar results were obtained, albeit with longer reaction times (18 hr.), at a 1 mmol scale. These results indicated that after optimization, the photoisomerization could proceed with a simple reaction set up that was much more familiar in comparison to more intricate photochemical reaction set ups.

With optimal reaction conditions in hand, the GML group sought to develop a library of structurally diverse vinyl oxaziridines. Aromatic nitrones exhibited modest conversions to the desired oxaziridine whereas aliphatic nitrones showed significantly diminished yields (Table 14, Entry T10F).

Table 14

Oxaziridine Scope

Entry	Nitrone	Oxaziridine	% Yield
T14A			44
T14B			44
T14C			64
T14D			40
T14E			35
T14F			14

Per the Woodward-Fieser Rules, compounds with increasing conjugation allow for a greater wavelength of maximum absorption. In agreement with these rules, the results for increasingly conjugated nitrones showed a drastic increase in conversion to the respective oxaziridine products.

Cinnamaldehyde-derived nitrones exhibited a remarkable conversion of greater than 95% to the desired oxaziridine. These reactions allowed for direct conversion with no need for work-up, purification or the addition of any additives (Table 15). Aliphatic-unsaturated compounds such as hexenal and dodecadienal also exhibited good to excellent yields indicating that aliphatic oxaziridines could be obtained if the conjugation for absorption was available.

Table 15

Alpha-Beta Unsaturated Oxaziridine Scope
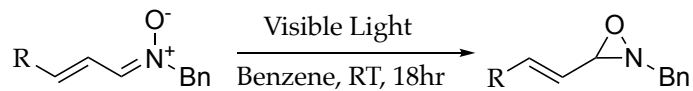
Entry	Nitrone	Oxaziridine	% Yield
T15A			95
T15B			95
T15C			92
T15D			40
T15E		R - $CH_3(CH_2)_5CH_2$	98
T15F			78

4.4 Conclusion

These results indicate a simple method for the direct conversion of nitrones to oxaziridine, under simple visible light irradiation and the use of common lab glassware. Cinnamaldehyde derived nitrone allowed for many functional group modifications and proceeded to the respective vinyl oxaziridines in excellent yields. Current research in the GML lab is exploring the use of photocatalysis to improve the yields for aromatic and saturated oxaziridines which previously showed diminished yields. This method avoids the use of harmful UV radiation by applying substrates with applicable absorption, the use of photocatalysis can further broaden the scope of this reaction to arrive at valuable synthetic intermediates.

Each method developed herein has utilized substituted hydroxylamines to successfully obtain heteroatomic scaffolds and build structural complexity. Hydroxylamines remain a powerful tool in the synthetic toolbox of organic chemists allowing for a convenient route for the introduction of nitrogen into heteroatomic organic frameworks.

4.5 Experimental

Reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical, Acros Organics or Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. Solvents were obtained from EMD Miliphore DrySol and degassed with nitrogen. Reactions were performed in 4-mL glass vials. TLC was performed on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates and visualized under UV light (254 nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate ($KMnO_4$). Silica flash chromatography was performed on E. Merck

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230–400 mesh silica gel 60. Automated chromatography was performed on a ISOLERA Prime instrument with 10 g. SNAP silica gel normal phase cartridges using a flow rate of 12.0 mL/min and a gradient of 0–30% EtOAc in Heptanes over 12 column volumes with UV detection at 254 nm. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury II 400 MHz Spectrometer at 24 °C in CDCl$_3$ unless otherwise indicated. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm relative to solvent signals: CDCl$_3$ (^{1}H, 7.23 ppm; ^{13}C, 77.0 ppm); coupling constants are expressed in Hz.

4.5.1. General method for the synthesis of vinyl oxaziridines. 1mMol of nitrone is dissolved in 30mL of de-gassed Benzene to a 0.03M solution. Solution delivered to a 50mL round bottom flask (borosilicate) UV cutoff approximately 300nM. Nitrone solution is irradiated under a 105 Watt Compact Fluorescent Lamp (Limo Studio Full Spectrum Light) for 6 hours. After irradiation, the solvent is reduced by rotary evaporation to afford the respective oxaziridine. Filtration by silica gel with 20% EtOAc in Heptanes over 12 column volumes provided the desired oxaziridine in good to excellent yields.

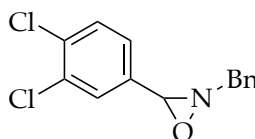### 4.5.2. Synthesis of vinyl oxaziridines from Table 10.
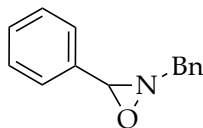
(T10A) DJQ-534-2

2-benzyl-3-phenyl-1,2-oxaziridine (T10A): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **10a** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.54 – 7.27 (m, 10H), 4.70 (s, 1H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 130.09, 128.85, 128.63, 128.47, 127.90, 127.65, 80.29, 65.84.
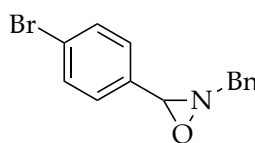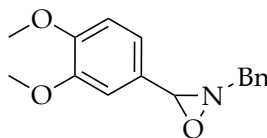

(T10B) DJQ-538

2-benzyl-3-(4-bromophenyl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T10B): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **10b** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.31 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 131.70, 129.31, 128.82, 128.68, 128.00, 124.37, 79.53, 65.76.
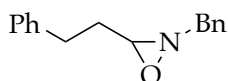

(T10C) DJQ-535

2-benzyl-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T10C): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **10c** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.45 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 5.13 (s, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 134.85 , 129.35 , 129.08 , 128.67 , 128.11 , 127.59 , 65.87 .

(T10D) DJQ-534

2-benzyl-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T10D): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **10d** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-

d) δ 7.43 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.06 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.93 (m, 2H), 3.87 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 0.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 149.35 , 135.46 , 128.86 , 127.88 , 126.92 , 121.13 , 110.53 , 109.34 , 80.43 , 65.78 , 55.91 .
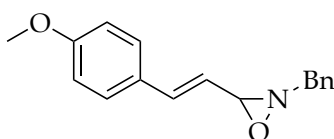

(T10F) DJQ-539

2-benzyl-3-phenethyl-1,2-oxaziridine (T10F): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **10f** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.46 – 7.01 (m, 10H), 4.81 – 3.34 (m, 3H), 3.38 – 1.62 (m, 4H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 129.50, 129.02 , 128.64 , 128.53 , 128.46 , 128.36 , 128.35 , 128.29 , 127.34 , 127.27 , 126.20 , 125.80 , 99.41 , 65.50 , 62.27 , 60.72 , 45.91 , 33.07 , 32.85 , 30.03 .

4.5.3. Synthesis of vinyl oxaziridines from Table 11.
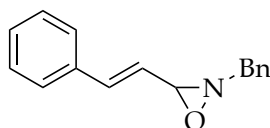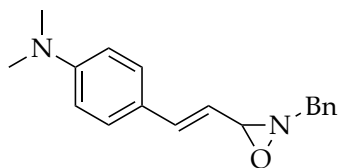

(T11A) DJQ-515E

(E)-2-benzyl-3-styryl-1,2-oxaziridine (T11A): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **11a** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.43 – 7.30 (m, 10H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (ddd, *J* = 16.2, 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.57 , 128.87 , 128.80 , 128.71 , 128.65 , 127.92 , 126.93 , 124.29 , 81.01 , 65.54 .
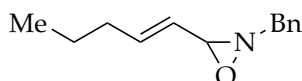

(T11B) DJQ-520

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(4-methoxystyryl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T11B): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **11b** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.53 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 5.84 (ddd, *J* = 16.1, 7.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz,

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1H), 3.89 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 – 3.80 (m, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 138.12 , 128.82 , 128.65 , 128.33 , 128.11 , 127.89 , 121.87 , 114.12 , 81.36 , 65.54 , 55.30
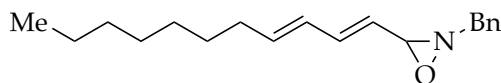

(T11C) DJQ-528

(E)-4-(2-(2-benzyl-1,2-oxaziridin-3-yl)vinyl)-N,N-dimethylaniline (T11C): After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **11c** **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 7.31 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.67 – 6.64 (m, 2H), 5.73 (ddd, J = 16.3, 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 6H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, cdcl₃) δ 150.79, 138.80, 135.62, 128.78, 128.60, 128.32, 128.14, 127.79, 119.15, 112.01, 81.94, 65.54, 40.27.
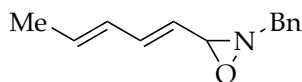

(T11D) DJQ-518-3

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(pent-1-en-1-yl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T11D) After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine **11d** **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 6.18 (dtd, J = 15.7, 6.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (ddq, J = 15.7, 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (dd, J = 7.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, J = 13.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, J = 13.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (tdd, J = 6.5, 5.5, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (qd, J = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 0.94 – 0.89 (m, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 141.52 , 128.76 , 128.58 , 127.79 , 125.84 , 81.09 , 65.47 , 34.32 , 21.65 , 13.62 .

(T11E) DJQ-571-2

2-benzyl-3-((1E,3E)-undeca-1,3-dien-1-yl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T11E) After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine, **11e** **1H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.41 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 6.58 (dd, J = 15.5, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.13 – 6.05 (m, 1H), 5.86 (dt, J = 14.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.32 (dd, J = 15.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (qd, J = 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 1.44 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.30 (s, 8H), 0.90 (td, J = 6.7, 4.1 Hz, 3H). **13C NMR** (101 MHz,
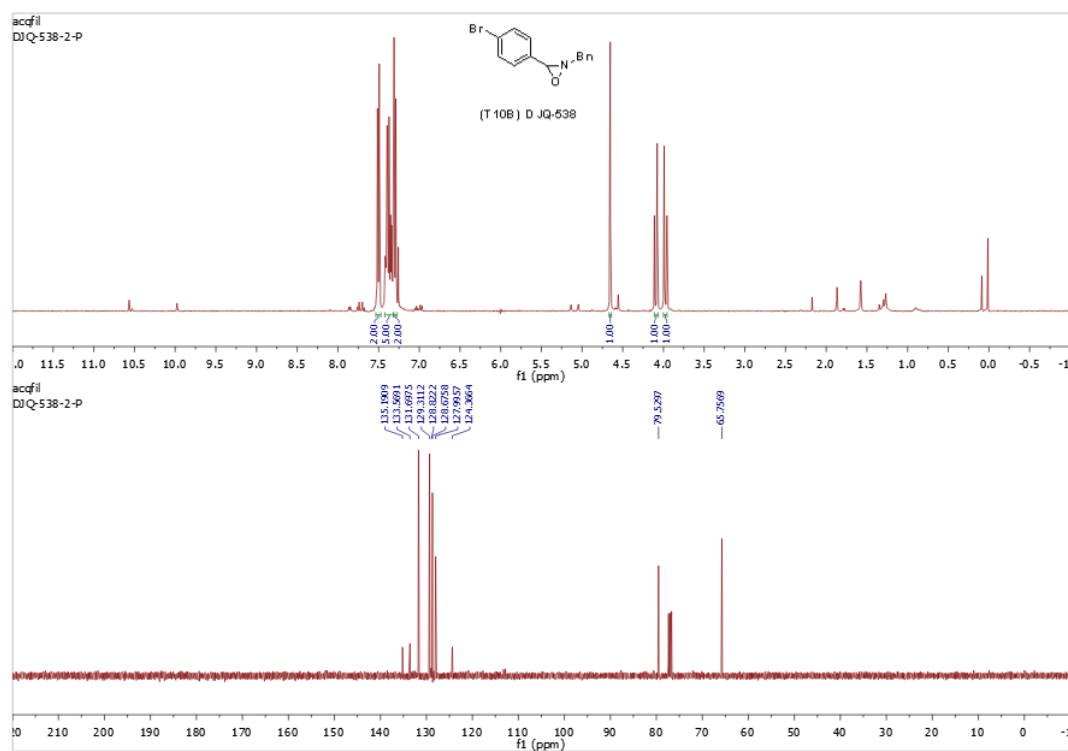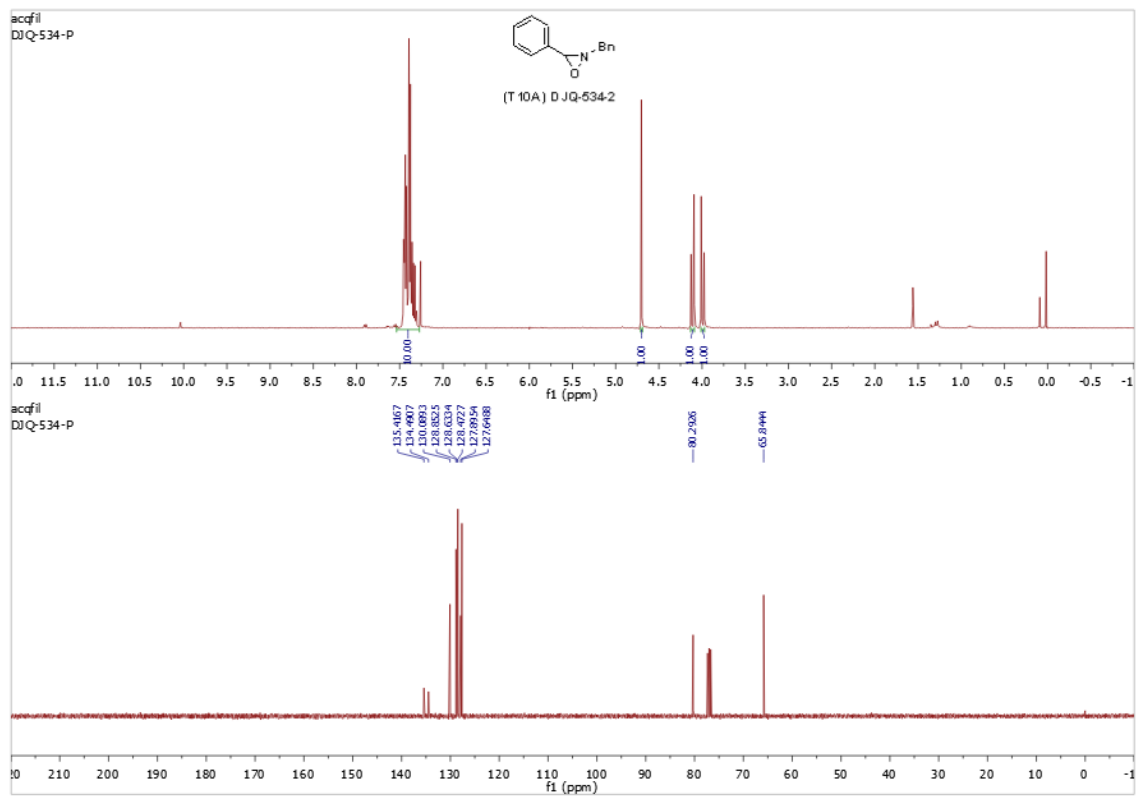
Chloroform-*d*) δ 139.16 , 139.08 , 128.79 , 128.60 , 127.83 , 124.83 , 80.96 , 65.53 , 32.64 , 31.79 , 29.12 , 28.97 , 22.64 , 14.09 .
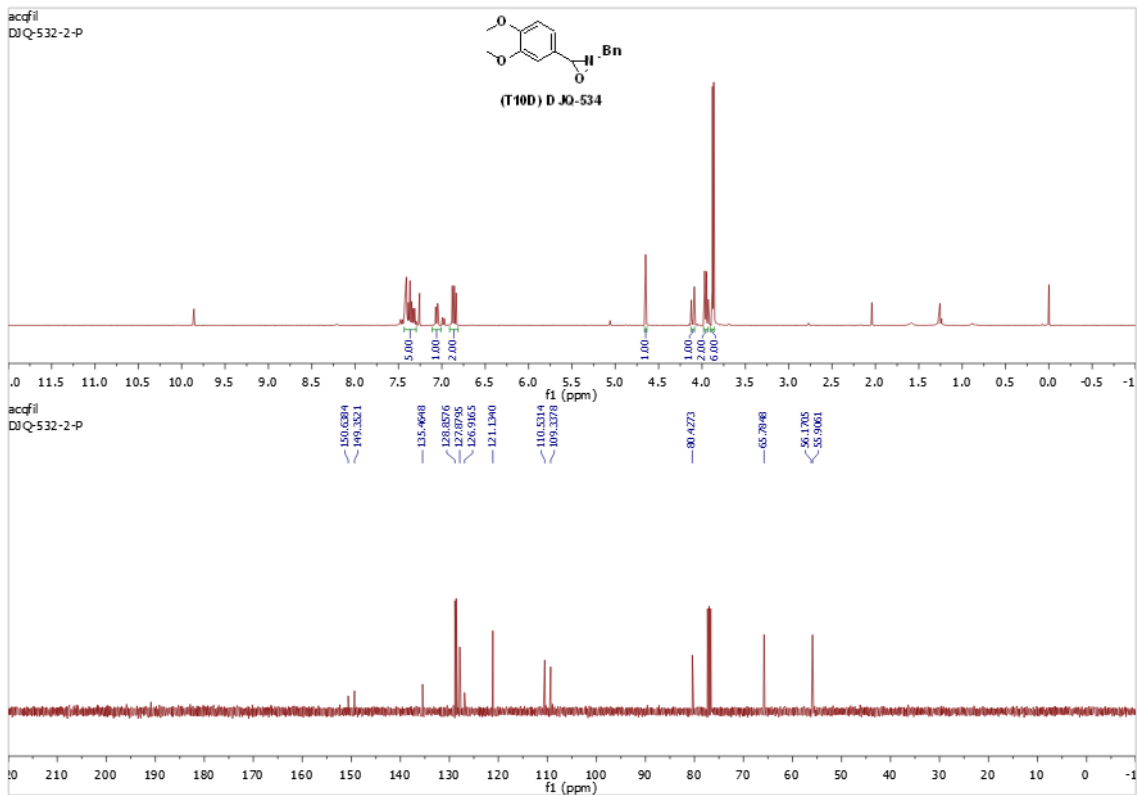
Me $\diagup\!\!\diagup\!\!\diagdown\!\!\diagup\!\!\diagdown$ N—Bn
$\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad$ O

(T11F) DJQ-585-2

(E)-2-benzyl-3-(prop-1-en-1-yl)-1,2-oxaziridine (T11F) After irradiation, reducing the solvent afforded the oxaziridine, **11F ^{1}H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.42 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 6.58 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (ddq, *J* = 15.6, 10.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dq, *J* = 15.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.45 – 5.25 (m, 1H), 4.22 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 1.83 – 1.78 (m, 3H). [13]**C NMR** (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 138.92 , 133.56 , 130.02 , 128.78 , 128.60 , 127.83 , 124.70 , 80.93 , 65.51 , 18.21 .

4.5.4. ^{1}H NMR and ^{13}C NMR of vinyl oxaziridines.

(T 10A) DJQ-534-2

(T 10B) DJQ-538

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acqfil
DJQ-535-2-P

(T10C) DJQ-535

acqfil
DJQ-535-2-P

136.0918
134.8983
130.9866
129.3467
129.0789
128.6729
128.1097
127.5923

76.6677

65.8743

acqfil
DJQ-532-2-P

(T10D) DJQ-534

acqfil
DJQ-532-2-P

150.6384
149.3521
135.4648
128.8576
127.8795
126.9165
121.1340
110.5314
109.3378

80.4273

65.7848

56.1705
55.9061

(T10E) RAR-1-2

(T 10F) DJQ-539

(T11A) DJQ-515E

(T11B) DJQ-520

acqfil
DJQ-528-18

(T11C) DJQ-528

acqfil
DJQ-528-18

150.7892
138.7959
135.6235
130.4855
128.7819
128.9997
128.5963
128.1400
128.2007
127.7922
123.5266
119.1457
112.0119
81.9386
65.5368
40.2710

acqfil
DJQ-518-3-P

(T11D) DJQ-518-3

acqfil
DJQ-518-3-P

141.5214
135.5837
128.7609
128.5759
127.7892
125.8276
81.0908
65.4670
34.3187
21.6490
13.6171

110

(T11E) DJQ-571-2

(T11F) DJQ-585-2

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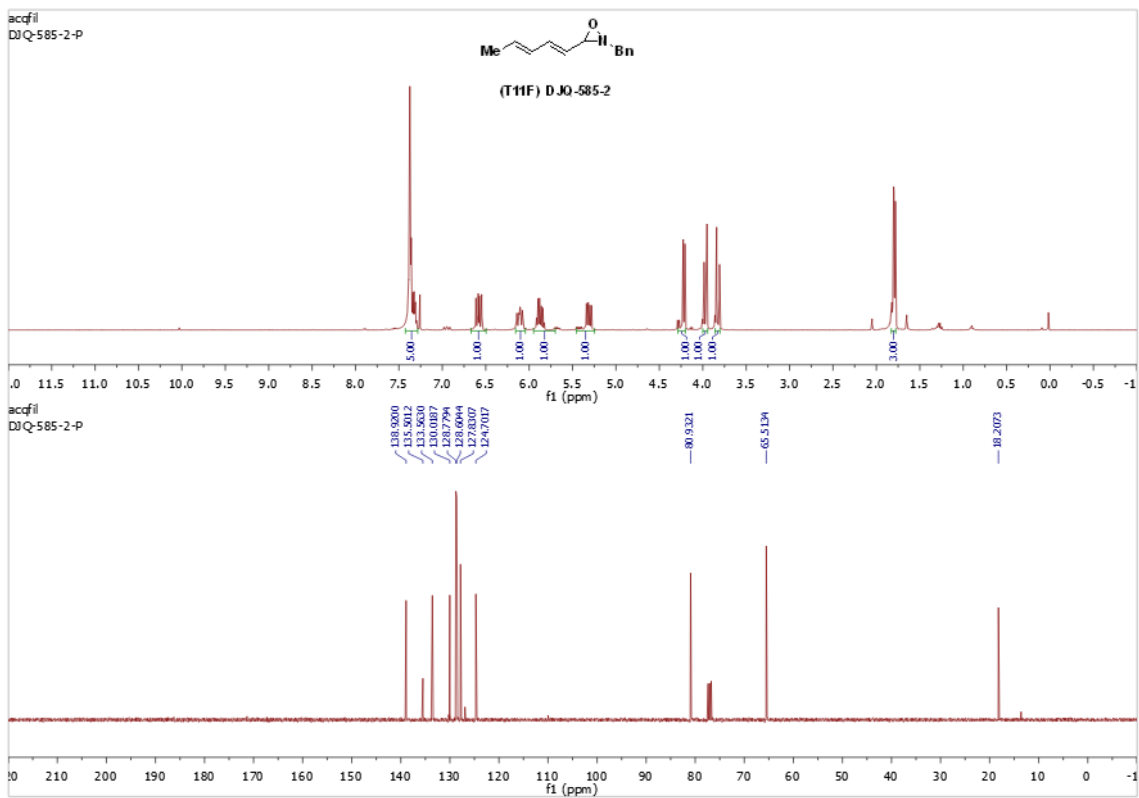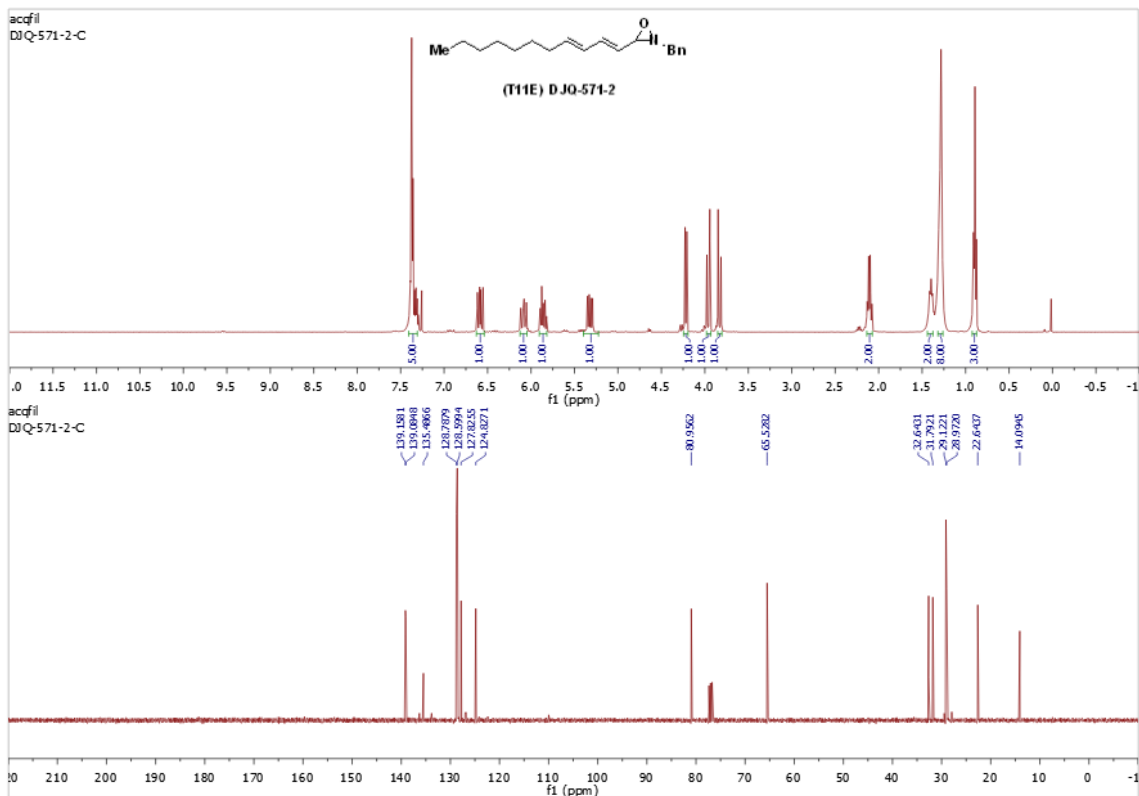Beebe, A. W., Dohmeier, E. F., & Moura-Letts, G. (2015). Diastereoselective Synthesis of Substituted Diaziridines from Simple Ketones and Aldehydes. *Chemical Communications*, 13511-13514.

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