Aminoketyl Radicals in Organic Synthesis: Stereoselective Cyclization of 5- and 6-Membered Cyclic Imides to 2-Azabicycles using SmI₂–H₂O

Shicheng Shi^{\dagger} and Michal Szostak*,[†]

[†]Department of Chemistry, Rutgers University, 73 Warren Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102, United States

michal.szostak@rutgers.edu

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Corresponding Author:

Prof. Dr. M. Szostak Department of Chemistry Rutgers University, 73 Warren Street Newark, NJ 07102, United States E-mail: michal.szostak@rutgers.edu

List of Known Compounds/General Methods

All starting materials reported in the manuscript have been previously described in literature or prepared by the method reported previously. Imides were purchased from commercial suppliers or prepared by standard methods.¹⁻⁹ Samarium(II) iodide was prepared by standard methods and titrated prior to use.¹⁰⁻¹⁴ All experiments involving SmI₂ were performed using standard techniques under argon or nitrogen atmosphere unless stated otherwise. All solvents were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received or after purification by passing through activated alumina columns or distillation from Na/benzophenone under nitrogen. All solvents were deoxygenated prior to use. All other chemicals were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received. Reaction glassware was oven-dried at 140 °C for at least 24 h or flame-dried prior to use, allowed to cool under vacuum and purged with argon (three cycles). All products were identified using ¹H NMR, and/or GC-MS analysis and comparison with authentic samples. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on Bruker and Varian spectrometers at 500 and 600 MHz (¹H NMR) and 125 and 150 MHz (¹³C NMR). All shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual CHCl₃ peak (7.27 and 77.2 ppm, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR, respectively). All coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Abbreviations are: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; br s, broad singlet. GC-MS chromatography was performed using Agilent HP6890 GC System and Agilent 5973A inert XL EI/CI MSD using helium as the carrier gas at a flow rate of 1 mL/min and an initial oven temperature of 50 °C. The injector temperature was 250 °C. The detector temperature was 250 °C. For runs with the initial oven temperature of 50 °C, temperature was increased with a 10 °C/min ramp after 50 °C hold for 3 min to a final temperature of 280 °C, then hold at 280 °C for 30 min (splitless mode of injection, total run time of 54.00 min). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on a 7T Bruker Daltonics FT-MS instrument. All flash chromatography was performed using silica gel, 60 Å, 300 mesh. TLC analysis was carried out on glass plates coated with silica gel 60 F254, 0.2 mm thickness. The plates were visualized using a 254 nm ultraviolet lamp or aqueous potassium permanganate solutions. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data are given for all compounds in the Supporting Experimental for characterization purposes. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS data are reported for all new compounds.

List of Known Compounds

The following compounds are known: **SI-1**,¹⁵ **SI-2**,¹⁵ **SI-3**,¹⁶ **SI-4**.¹⁷ All olefins have been prepared following the procedure by Wong.¹⁸ Alkyl substituted derivatives have been prepared following the procedure by Aubé.¹⁹ **1x** and **1y** have been prepared following the procedure by O'Doherty.²⁰ All other substrates have been prepared according to procedures outlined below.

Preparation of Starting Materials



tert-Butyl 1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (SI-1). To a solution of 1methylglutarimide (1.27 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (40 mL), NaHMDS (2.0 M, THF, 10.0 mL, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise at -78 °C. After stirring for 90 min at -78 °C, di*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (2.18 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (5 mL) wad added and the reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 h. The reaction was diluted with NH₄Cl (aq, 5 mL), warmed to room temperature, extracted with EtOAc (3 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (1 x 50 mL), dried and concentrated. Purification by chromatography using EtOAc/hexanes (1/4) afforded the title product. Yield 56% (1.25 g). White solid. R_f (1/4 EtOAc/hexanes) = 0.62. <u>¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 3.56-3.50 (m, 1 H), 3.16 (s, 3 H), 2.74 (ddd, *J* = 17.7, 8.9, 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.64 (ddd, *J* = 12.4, 8.2, 3.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.29-2.20 (m, 1 H), 2.13 (ddt, *J* = 14.0, 9.7, 5.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). <u>¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 171.84, 169.39, 167.92, 83.12, 50.11, 30.34, 28.02, 26.78, 20.81. Spectroscopic data matched literature values.¹⁵



tert-Butyl 1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (SI-2). Prepared according to the procedure described for SI-1 from 1-methylpyrroldine-2,5-dione (1.13 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaHMDS (2.0 M, THF, 10.0 mL, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and *tert*-butyl dicarbonate (2.18 g, 10.0

mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (45 mL) at -78 °C for 2 h. Yield 70 % (1.50 g). Purification by chromatography using EtOAc/hexanes (1/4) afforded the title product. White solid. R_f (1/4 EtOAc/hexanes) = 0.62. <u>¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3)</u> δ 3.66 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.05 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.00 (s, 3 H), 2.85 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.49 (s, 9 H). <u>¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)</u> δ 175.59, 172.81, 166.73, 83.61, 47.66, 32.42, 28.03, 25.46. Spectroscopic data matched literature values.¹⁵



Ethyl 1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (SI-3). Prepared according to the procedure described for **SI-1** from 1-methylpyrroldine-2,5-dione (1.13 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaHMDS (2.0 M, THF, 10.0 mL, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and ethyl chloroformate (1.09 g, 0.95 mL, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (45 mL) at -78 °C for 2 h. Yield 54 % (1.00 g). Colorless oil. R_f (1/4 EtOAc/hexanes) = 0.56. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.76 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.90 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.31, 172.40, 167.63, 62.77, 46.61, 32.36, 25.56, 14.22. Spectroscopic data matched literature values.¹⁶



1-Methyl-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (SI-4). A 50 ml round-bottomed flask was charged with 2-phenylsuccinic anhydride (1.29 g, 7.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1,2-dichloroethane (20 mL), methylamine (aq, 40%, 1.17 mL, 1.0 equiv) at room temperature with vigorous stirring, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, acetyl chloride (1.09 mL, 15.8 mmol, 2.1 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture cooled to room temperature, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL), organic layer was washed with H₂O (1 x 50 mL), NaHCO₃ (1 x 50 mL), brine (1 x 50 mL), dried and concentrated. Purification by chromatography using EtOAc/hexane (1/3)

afforded the title product. Yield 37 % (0.53 g). R_f (1/3 EtOAc/hexanes) = 0.48. Solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 4.03 (dd, J = 9.6, 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.21 (dd, J = 18.4, 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.07 (s, 3 H), 2.84 (dd, J = 18.5, 4.7 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.92, 176.35, 137.20, 129.32, 128.09, 127.50, 46.08, 37.24, 25.33. Spectroscopic data matched literature values.¹⁷

Synthesis of Imides 1a-1y. General alkylation procedure. A previously published procedure was followed.¹⁹ All alkyl halides were purchased from commerical suppliers and used as received or prepared according to the previously published procedures and used without further purification.¹⁸ The following procedure is representative: A 25 mL round-bottomed flask was charged with NaH (60%, 1.1 equiv, typically 1.1 mmol, 0.044 g), THF (typically, 2.0 mL), HMPA (2.0 equiv, typically, 1.1 mmol, 0.2 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, a solution of imide substrate (1.0 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, a solution of alkyl halide (2.0 equiv) in THF (3.0 mL) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 18 h. The reaction mixture cooled to room temperature, diluted with H₂O (2 mL), extracted with Et₂O (1 x 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with water (1 x 10 mL), sodium thiosulfate (1 x 10 mL), and brine (1 x 10 mL), dried and concentrated. Purification by chromatography using EtOAc/hexane (6/1-3/1) afforded the title product. All products were obtained as single olefin isomers. The yields have not been optimized.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxo-3-(4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)pyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (1b). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 82-83 °C. Yield 64 % (0.22 g).

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¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.32-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.12 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.13 (d, *J* = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.95 (s, 3 H), 2.68 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.38-2.25 (m, 1 H), 2.16 (dddd, *J* = 19.2, 13.7, 9.3, 4.4 Hz, 3 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³<u>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 176.12, 175.43, 168.45, 137.24, 131.27, 128.69, 128.42, 127.42, 126.18, 83.47, 55.64, 37.77, 32.99, 28.28, 27.92, 25.42.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{20}H_{25}NO_4Na (M^+ + Na)$ 366.1676, found 366.1687.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3carboxylate (1a).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 93-94 °C. Yield 76 % (1.25 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.24 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.31 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.97 (dt, J = 13.4, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 3.12 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.93 (s, 3 H), 2.68 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.32-2.09 (m, 4 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.18, 175.48, 168.50, 159.11, 130.65, 130.08, 127.30, 126.21, 114.11, 83.43, 55.66, 55.43, 37.71, 33.09, 28.28, 27.92, 25.42.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{27}NO_5Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 396.1781, found 396.1794.



(E)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxo-3-(4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-en-1-

yl)pyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (1c).

tert-Butyl

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 88-89 °C. Yield 45% (0.095 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.54 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.41 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.24 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.13 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.96 (s, 3 H), 2.67 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.36-2.30 (m, 1 H), 2.22-2.12 (m, 3 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

 $\frac{^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{^{12}} \delta 176.02, 175.28, 168.35, 140.73, 131.35, 130.04, 129.28 (q, J^F = 32.2 \text{ Hz}), 126.32, 125.67 (q, J^F = 3.8 \text{ Hz}), 124.34 (q, J^F = 270.1 \text{ Hz}), 83.60, 55.57, 37.89, 32.82, 28.26, 27.92, 25.43.$

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.47.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{24}F_3NO_4Na (M^+ + Na) 434.1550$, found 434.1564.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(4-bromophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3carboxylate (1d).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 87-88 °C. Yield 76% (0.16 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.33 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.19-6.10 (m, 1 H), 3.14 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.97 (s, 3 H), 2.69 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 1 H), 2.22-2.11 (m, 3 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.06, 175.34, 168.38, 136.18, 131.78, 130.11, 129.35, 127.71, 121.13, 83.53, 55.56, 37.79, 32.83, 28.24, 27.91, 25.43.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}BrNO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 444.0781, found 444.0793.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3carboxylate (1e). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 101-103 °C. Yield 46% (0.092 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.24-7.07 (m, 3 H), 6.27 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.17 (dt, J = 15.8, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.13 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.98 (s, 3 H), 2.64 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.35-2.27 (m, 1 H), 2.19-2.09 (m, 3 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.94, 175.25, 168.29, 140.28, 135.24, 131.72, 128.87, 127.20, 124.56, 83.63, 55.53, 37.93, 32.82, 28.16, 27.92, 25.47.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}Cl_2NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 434.0896, found 434.0910.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-1-methyl-3-(4-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-3-en-1-yl)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3carboxylate (1f).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 117-118 °C. Yield 61% (0.18 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.82-7.73 (m, 3 H), 7.65 (s, 1 H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (p, J = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.54 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.25 (dt, J = 15.7, 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.14 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.94 (s, 3 H), 2.71 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.41-2.31 (m, 1 H), 2.27-2.14 (m, 3 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.12, 175.41, 168.45, 134.69, 133.72, 132.95, 131.35, 128.86, 128.31, 128.03, 127.76, 126.35, 125.86, 125.84, 123.51, 83.46, 55.63, 37.74, 32.98, 28.40, 27.91, 25.42.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{24}H_{27}NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 416.1832, found 416.1846.



Ethyl 3-(but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (1g).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 59% (0.10 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 5.75 (ddt, J = 16.7, 10.3, 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.03 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.99 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.22 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.20 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.01 (s, 3 H), 2.65 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.21-1.96 (m, 4 H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.67, 175.18, 169.40, 136.56, 116.09, 62.66, 54.97, 37.81, 33.11, 28.85, 25.48, 14.15.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{12}H_{17}NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 262.1050, found 262.1057.



tert-Butyl 3-(but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (1h).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 45% (0.21 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 5.75 (ddt, J = 16.5, 10.3, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 5.02 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1 H), 4.98 (d, J = 10.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.11 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (s, 3 H), 2.62 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.14-2.07 (m, 2 H), 2.04-1.93 (m, 2 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.06, 175.46, 168.41, 136.80, 115.92, 83.41, 55.67, 37.90, 32.80, 28.88, 27.89, 25.36.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{14}H_{21}NO_4Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 290.1363, found 290.1371.



(*E*)-3-(4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (1i).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. White solid. Mp = 81-82 °C. Yield 60% (0.21 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.46 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2 H), 6.29 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.96 SI-9

(dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.16 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.00 (s, 3 H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.27-2.04 (m, 4 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.18, 175.60, 159.00, 140.61, 130.37, 130.12, 129.01, 127.66, 127.19, 126.37, 126.20, 114.04, 55.36, 51.74, 41.49, 39.30, 28.49, 25.13.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{22}H_{23}NO_3Na(M^+ + Na)$ 372.1570, found 372.1580.



(*E*)-3-(4-(4-Bromophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-3-phenylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (1j). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 40% (0.050 g). ¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.09 (ddd, *J* = 15.9, 8.0, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (d, *J* = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.00 (s, 3 H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 18.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.28-2.15 (m, 3 H), 2.08 (tdd, *J* = 13.3, 12.0, 5.8, 3.6 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.14, 175.55, 140.45, 136.27, 131.75, 129.91, 129.55, 129.11, 127.80, 127.66, 126.23, 121.04, 51.74, 41.63, 39.13, 28.53, 25.21.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}BrNO_2Na(M^+ + Na)$ 420.0570, found 420.0582.



tert-Butyl 1-methyl-2,5-dioxo-3-(4-phenylbut-3-yn-1-yl)pyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (1k). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 34% (0.045 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.39-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.28 (m, 3 H), 3.14 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.98 (s, 3 H), 2.93 (d, J = 18.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.62-2.45 (m, 2 H), 2.32 (dtd, J = 21.9, 14.1, 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.79, 175.40, 168.20, 131.66, 128.40, 128.11, 123.30, 87.75, 83.68, 82.29, 55.60, 37.99, 31.79, 27.90, 25.49, 15.34.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{20}H_{23}NO_4Na (M^+ + Na) 364.1519$, found 364.1530.



tert-Butyl (E)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxo-3-(4-phenylbut-3-en-1-yl)piperidine-3-carboxylate (11).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 55% (0.195 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.33 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.42 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.19 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (ddd, J = 18.1, 5.0, 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.64 (ddd, J = 18.1, 12.7, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.47-2.38 (m, 1 H), 2.27-2.11 (m, 3 H), 2.10-1.96 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.92, 171.66, 169.99, 137.55, 130.80, 129.42, 128.65, 127.23, 126.12, 83.50, 55.17, 34.81, 30.11, 28.35, 27.99, 27.19, 25.89.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{27}NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 380.1832, found 380.1842.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3carboxylate (1m).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 88% (0.51 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.25 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 6.35 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.04 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 3.16 (s, 3 H), 2.75 (dt, J = 18.4, 3.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.69-2.59 (m, 1 H), 2.27-2.21 (m, 1 H), 2.20-2.10 (m, 2 H), 2.09-1.94 (m, 3 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³<u>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 171.96, 171.69, 170.02, 158.98, 130.40, 130.16, 127.23, 127. 23, 114.08, 83.47, 55.43, 55.20, 34.96, 30.12, 28.33, 28.01, 27.20, 25.86. **HRMS** calcd for C₂₂H₂₉NO₅Na (M⁺ + Na) 410.1938, found 410.1950.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxo-3-(4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)piperidine-3-carboxylate (1n).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 42% (0.18 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.53 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.45 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.30 (dt, J = 15.7, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.80-2.72 (m, 1 H), 2.68-2.59 (m, 1 H), 2.52-2.42 (m, 1 H), 2.27-2.12 (m, 3 H), 2.10-1.96 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

 $\frac{{}^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{126.18, 125.49} \delta 171.83, 171.64, 169.92, 141.00, 132.28, 129.46, 128.90 (q, J^F = 32.1 Hz), 126.18, 125.49 (q, J^F = 3.6 Hz), 124.31 (q, J^F = 270.0 Hz), 83.64, 55.11, 34.61, 30.09, 28.38, 27.99, 27.20, 26.02.$

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.44.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{22}H_{26}F_3NO_4Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 448.1706, found 448.1718.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(4-bromophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3carboxylate (10).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 45% (0.090 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.40 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.35 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.18 (dt, J = 15.8, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.16 (s, 3 H), 2.75 (ddd, J = 18.1, 4.9, 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.64 (ddd, J = 18.1, 12.7, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.42 (tt, J = 12.9, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.24 (ddd, J = 13.7, 5.4, 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.21-2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.08-1.95 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.87, 171.65, 169.95, 136.50, 131.73, 130.32, 129.67, 127.67, 120.90, 83.58, 55.13, 34.69, 30.10, 28.34, 28.00, 27.20, 25.96.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}BrNO_4Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 458.0937, found 458.0951.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (1p).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 20% (0.036 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.18-7.17 (m, 3 H), 6.30 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.26-6.19 (m, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.80-2.71 (m, 1 H), 2.71-2.57 (m, 1 H), 2.44 (dd, J = 13.1, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.27-2.09 (m, 3 H), 2.08-1.93 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.79, 171.59, 169.87, 140.61, 135.18, 132.71, 128.44, 126.99, 124.53, 83.66, 55.09, 34.59, 30.09, 28.29, 28.00, 27.21, 26.07.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}Cl_2NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 448.1053, found 448.1066.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(3,4-difluorophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3carboxylate (1q).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 29% (0.057 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.13 (ddd, J = 11.6, 7.6, 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.10-7.03 (m, 1 H), 7.03-6.95 (m, 1 H), 6.32 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.12 (td, J = 15.6, 13.2, 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (ddd, J = 18.2, 5.2, 3.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.63 (ddd, J = 18.2, 12.7, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.42 (ddt, J = 16.9, 12.7, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.26-2.20 (m, 1 H), 2.20-2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.07-1.95 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

 $\frac{{}^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{151.05 (d, J^F = 121.0 \text{ Hz}), 134.84, 130.63 (d, J^F = 1.9 \text{ Hz}), 128.85, 122.22 (q, J^F = 3.5 \text{ Hz}), 117.33 (d, J^F = 17.3 \text{ Hz}), 114.42 (d, J^F = 17.5.0 \text{ Hz}), 83.62, 55.11, 34.70, 30.09, 28.21, 28.06, 27.20, 26.00.$

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -138.16 (d, J = 20.9 Hz), -139.97 (d, J = 20.9 Hz).

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}F_2NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 416.1644, found 416.1655.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-mesitylbut-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (1r). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 51% (0.102 g). ¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 6.85 (s, 2 H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.63 (dt, *J* = 16.0, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.19 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (ddd, *J* = 18.1, 5.2, 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.70-2.61 (m, 1 H), 2.46-2.39 (m, 1 H), 2.26 (s, 3 H), 2.24 (s, 6 H), 2.15-1.99 (m, 3 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). ¹³<u>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 171.96, 171.73, 170.03, 135.97, 135.93, 134.31, 133.97, 128.58, 128.36, 83.51, 55.22, 35.12, 30.11, 28.85, 28.01, 27.20, 25.98, 21.02. **HRMS** calcd for C₂₄H₃₃NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 422.2302, found 422.2346.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(2-fluorophenyl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3carboxylate (1s).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 29% (0.055 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.43-7.38 (m, 1 H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 1 H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.04-6.97 (m, 1 H), 6.56 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.31-6.23 (m, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (ddd, J = 18.1, 5.2, 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.64 (ddd, J = 18.1, 12.6, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.51-2.40 (m, 1 H), 2.29-2.12 (m, 3 H), 2.11-1.97 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H).

 $\frac{{}^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{{}^{5}} \delta 171.90, 171.65, 169.96, 160.10 (d, J^F = 248.7 \text{ Hz}), 132.16 (d, J^F = 4.4 \text{ Hz}), 128.44 (d, J^F = 8.3 \text{ Hz}), 127.23 (d, J^F = 4.0 \text{ Hz}), 125.28 (d, J^F = 12.5 \text{ Hz}), 124.16 (d, J^F = 3.5 \text{ Hz}), 123.25 (d, J^F = 3.9 \text{ Hz}), 115.78 (d, J^F = 22.3 \text{ Hz}), 83.55, 55.17, 34.69, 30.11, 28.77, 28.00, 27.19, 25.93.$

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.74.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}FNO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 398.1738, found 398.1751.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)but-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (1t).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 71% (0.285 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 6.87 (s, 1 H), 6.82-6.64 (m, 2 H), 6.32 (d, J = 15.7, 1 H), 6.01 (dt, J = 13.8, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.93 (s, 2 H), 3.16 (s, 3 H), 2.75 (ddd, J = 18.1, 5.2, 3.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.69-2.59 (m, 1 H), 2.45-2.31 (m, 1 H), 2.27-2.21 (m, 1 H), 2.19-2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.09-1.95 (m, 2 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.91, 171.65, 169.97, 148.08, 146.92, 132.08, 130.34, 127.65, 120.52, 108.36, 105.54, 101.09, 83.48, 55.16, 34.89, 30.10, 28.22, 27.99, 27.18, 25.87.

<u>HRMS</u> calcd for $C_{22}H_{27}NO_6Na(M^+ + Na)$ 424.1730, found 424.1744.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-1-methyl-3-(4-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-3-en-1-yl)-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-

carboxylate (1u).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 44% (0.089 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.77 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 3 H), 7.67 (s, 1 H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 2 H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.33 (dt, *J* = 15.7, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.18 (s, 3 H), 2.77 (ddd, *J* = 18.0, 4.9, 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (ddd, *J* = 18.1, 12.7, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.48 (tt, *J* = 13.6, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.32-2.16 (m, 3 H), 2.10 (ddd, *J* = 13.7, 11.3, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.02 (td, *J* = 13.2, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.92, 171.68, 171.68, 135.02, 133.78, 132.90, 130.91, 129.90, 128.26, 128.00, 127.76, 126.31, 125.74, 125.72, 123.59, 83.53, 55.19, 34.84, 30.12, 28.47, 28.00, 27.20, 25.92.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{25}H_{29}NO_4Na(M^+ + Na)$ 430.1988, found 430.2000.



tert-Butyl 3-(4,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (1v). Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 65% (0.282 g). ¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.21 (td, *J* = 6.5, 3.3 Hz, 3 H), 7.18-7.09 (m, 2 H), 6.06 (td, *J* = 7.2, 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.12 (s, 3 H), 2.68-2.52 (m, 2 H), 2.35-2.24 (m, 1 H), 2.16-2.03 (m, 4 H), 1.78 (td, *J* = 13.6, 13.0,

6.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.36 (s, 9 H).

 $\frac{^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{128.26, 128.25, 127.33, 127.24, 127.18, 83.39, 55.11, 35.00, 29.99, 27.90, 27.18, 25.45, 25.21.}$ HRMS calcd for C₂₇H₃₁NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 456.0145, found 456.0148.



tert-Butyl 1-methyl-2,6-dioxo-3-((3*E*,5*E*)-6-phenylhexa-3,5-dien-1-yl)piperidine-3carboxylate (1w).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Colorless oil. Yield 61% (0.254 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.37 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.73 (dd, J = 15.7, 10.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.46 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.24 (dd, J = 15.1, 10.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.79 (dt, J = 14.6, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (s, 3 H), 2.76-2.71 (m, 1 H), 2.69-2.63 (m, 1 H), 2.37-2.33 (m, 1 H), 2.25-2.21 (m, 1 H), 2.16-2.09 (m, 2 H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.92, 171.64, 169.96, 137.58, 133.86, 131.49, 130.98, 129.05, 128.70, 127.41, 126.34, 83.51, 55.16, 50.15, 34.77, 30.10, 28.00, 27.21, 25.93. HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₂₉NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 406.1989, found 406.1999.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(5-butoxy-5-oxopent-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidine-3-

carboxylate (1x).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Oil. Yield 76% (0.025 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 6.88 (dt, J = 15.6, 6.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.82 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.11 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.10 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (s, 3 H), 2.57 (d, J = 18.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.32-2.24 (m, 1 H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 2 H), 2.06-2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.63-1.57 (m, 2 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 1.38 (dd, J = 15.0, 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.64, 175.02, 168.07, 166.38, 146.40, 122.57, 83.72, 64.39, 55.40, 38.14, 32.03, 30.81, 27.87, 27.28, 25.42, 19.27, 13.82.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{19}H_{29}NO_6Na(M^+ + Na)$ 390.1887, found 390.1897.



tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(5-butoxy-5-oxopent-3-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-2,6-dioxopiperidine-3-carboxylate (1y).

Prepared according to the general alkylation procedure. Oil. Yield 68% (0.065 g).

¹<u>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 6.92 (dt, J = 15.3, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.84 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.11 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2 H), 3.15 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (ddd, J = 18.3, 5.3, 3.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.60 (ddd, J = 18.2, 12.8, 5.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.50-2.39 (m, 1 H), 2.18 (tdd, J = 18.1, 8.5, 4.6 Hz, 2 H), 2.04 (dqd, J = 25.5, 13.7, 4.8 Hz, 2 H), 1.93 (td, J = 13.2, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.62 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H), 1.41-1.34 (m, 2 H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.66, 171.42, 169.66, 166.60, 147.43, 122.09, 83.73, 64.30, 54.90, 33.52, 30.81, 29.98, 27.93, 27.47, 27.15, 26.17, 19.26, 13.82.

<u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{20}H_{31}NO_6Na(M^+ + Na)$ 404.2044, found 404.2052.

Reductive Cyclization of 5- and 6-Membered Cyclic Imides using SmI₂-H₂O

General procedure for the reductive cyclization of cyclic imides using SmI₂-H₂O. An ovendried vial containing a stir bar was charged with a cyclic imide substrate (neat, 1 equiv), placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. THF (typically, 2.0 mL) and water (typically, 600 equiv) were added, followed by a rapid injection of samarium(II) iodide (0.1 M, THF solution, typically 3 equiv) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic burgundy-red color of the $SmI_2(H_2O)_n$ complex (n > 5 with respect to SmI₂), and the reaction mixture was stirred for the indicated time (typically, 15 min). The excess of Sm(II) was oxidized by bubbling air through the reaction mixture, and the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (0.1 N, 20 mL),. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL), organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, C_6D_6 or CD₃C(O)CD₃) and/or GC-MS (neat) to determine product distribution and diastereoselectivity from the crude reaction mixture. Unless stated otherwise, the crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel or crystallization, concentrated under reduced pressure and stored neat or as a solution in acetone. Unless indicated otherwise, in all examples reported in the manuscript the observed cyclization/reduction selectivity was >95:5 (>78:22 in three examples as indicated below). Unless indicated otherwise, in all examples reported in the manuscript the observed diastereoselectivity was >95:5 with respect to all three stereocenters (analysis of crude reaction mixtures; 60:40-75:25 in two examples reacting via 'olefin-first' mechanism). All compounds have been prepared as racemates. Note that reactions involving samarium(II) can typically be followed by visual observation of the color changes of the respective reaction mixtures. In the case of Sm(II)/H₂O complexes, the color changes from Sm^{II} (burgundy red) to Sm^{III} (white: oxidized, solvated; then yellow: fully oxidized, characteristic of SmI₂X).

Representative procedure for the reductive cyclization of cyclic imides using SmI_2-H_2O . Scheme 1. An oven-dried 250 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. The flask was charged with 1a (neat, 1.00 g, 2.68 mmol, 1.0 equiv), THF (25 mL), and H₂O (19.3 mL, 400 equiv). Samarium(II) iodide (53.6 mL, 2.0 equiv, THF solution, 0.10 M) was added with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic burgundy-red color of the SmI₂(H₂O)_n complex (n > 5 with respect to SmI₂) The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. The excess of SmI₂ was oxidized by bubbling air through the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (100 mL) and HCl (50 mL, 1.0 *N*). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 x 100 mL), organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. Analysis of the crude reaction mixture showed >98% conversion, >98:2 cyclization/reduction selectivity, >98:2 diastereoselectivity. Purification by recrystallization afforded **2a** in 93% yield (2.49 mmol, 0.935 g). Characterization data are included in the section below.

Cyclization of 5-Membered Imides 1a-1k using SmI₂ (Scheme 1).

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6a-hydroxy-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2a) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1a** (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.30 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 3.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (1.08 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 93% yield (35.0 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 149-151 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃C(O)CD₃) δ 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 5.05 (s, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 3.13-3.05 (m, 2 H), 2.85 (s, 3 H), 2.47 (tdd, *J* = 11.8, 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.43-2.32 (m, 2 H), 2.18 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.60 (dtt, *J* = 12.8, 6.9, 3.8 Hz, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H), 1.32 (qd, *J* = 11.6, 7.3 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃C(O)CD₃) δ 172.96, 171.83, 158.02, 133.05, 129.42, 113.56, 100.70, 80.58, 57.48, 54.41, 53.33, 40.62, 34.49, 34.06, 27.62, 27.13, 26.81. HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₉NO₅Na (M⁺ + Na) 398.1938, found 398.1950.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6-benzyl-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2b) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1b** (0.10 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.30 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 3.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (1.08 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 94% yield (32.4 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 134-135 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 4.07 (s, 1 H), 3.15 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 4 H), 2.42-2.26 (m, 3 H), 2.18 (td, *J* = 12.7, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.74-1.67 (m, 1 H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 1 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 1.26 (tq, *J* = 12.1, 6.2 Hz, 1 H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.13, 173.17, 140.42, 128.84, 128.63, 126.36, 100.25, 83.19, 56.79, 54.03, 42.47, 36.20, 34.15, 28.14, 27.89, 27.55. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₇NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 368.1832, found 368.1842.

tert-Butyl (3aR,6R,6aR)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxo-6-(4-

(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)hexahydrocyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3a(1H)-carboxylate (2c) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1c** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 93% yield (19.2 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 160-162 °C. Dr >95:5.

Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 4.22 (s, 1 H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.02-2.88 (m, 4 H), 2.45-2.30 (m, 3 H), 2.19 (td, *J* = 12.7, 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.71 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 5.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.60-1.54 (m, 1 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 1.26 (dq, *J* = 11.5, 5.8 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.99, 173.23, 144.57, 129.13, 128.80 (q, *J*^{*F*} = 32.2 Hz), 125.57 (q, *J*^{*F*} = 3.6 Hz), 124.36 (q, *J*^{*F*} = 271.6 Hz), 100.11, 83.28, 56.66, 53.67, 42.35, 36.04, 34.10, 28.11, 27.89, 27.40. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.38. HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₆F₃NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 436.1706, found 436.1715.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6-(4-bromobenzyl)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2d) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1d** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 75% yield (16.0 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 179-180 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ${}^{1}H NMR (500 MHz, CD_{3}C(O)CD_{3}) \delta$ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 5.11 (s, 1 H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.85 (s, 3 H), 2.53-2.36 (m, 3 H), 2.19 (d, *J* = 17.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.63-1.56 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 1 H). ${}^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CD_{3}C(O)CD_{3}) \delta$ 174.00, 172.74, 141.72, 132.17, 131.70, 120.11, 101.64, 81.63, 58.39, 53.85, 41.53, 35.74, 35.04, 28.44, 28.13, 27.79. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₆BrNO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 446.0937, found 446.0938.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6-(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2e) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1e** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 90% yield (18.7 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 189-190 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (s, 1 H), 7.06 (s, 2 H), 4.19 (s, 1 H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.94 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.93 (s, 3 H), 2.37 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.33-2.12 (m, 3 H), 1.73 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.62 (dt, *J* = 11.6, 5.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 1.23 (dq, *J* = 12.1, 5.8 Hz, 1 H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.89, 173.06, 143.69, 134.95, 127.20, 126.60, 99.87, 83.25, 56.46, 53.43, 42.23, 35.58, 33.97, 28.00, 27.73, 27.25. HRMS calcd for C₂₀H₂₅Cl₂NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 436.1053, found 436.1068.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-6-(naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2f) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1f** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 93% yield (18.3 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 193-195 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84-7.74 (m,

3 H), 7.61 (s, 1 H), 7.45 (p, J = 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.14 (s, 1 H), 3.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.01 (s, 3 H), 2.70 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.56-2.43 (m, 2 H), 2.41 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 (td, J = 12.7, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.71 (dd, J = 13.4, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 1 H), 1.49 (s, 9 H), 1.36-1.25 (m, 1 H). 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.99, 173.14, 137.77, 133.54, 132.12, 128.14, 127.63, 127.45, 127.17, 127.00, 126.10, 125.43, 100.19, 83.08, 56.68, 53.83, 42.32, 36.21, 34.01, 28.00, 27.83, 27.48. HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₉NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 418.1989, found 418.2002.

Ethyl (3a*R*,6*S*,6a*R*)-6a-hydroxy-1,6-dimethyl-2-oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)carboxylate (2g) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1g** (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 8.0 equiv, 8.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (2.16 mL, 1200 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 55% yield (13.3 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity = 92:8. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.56 (s, 1 H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.89 (s, 3 H), 2.41 (dt, *J* = 12.7, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 17.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.21 (tt, *J* = 12.8, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.86 (dtd, *J* = 12.6, 6.4, 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (ddd, *J* = 12.7, 5.7, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 1 H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H), 1.06 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3 H). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.67, 172.93, 101.03, 62.02, 56.58, 46.21, 42.42, 34.23, 30.75, 27.74, 14.66, 14.28. HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₉NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 264.1206, found 264.1227.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6*S*,6a*R*)-6a-hydroxy-1,6-dimethyl-2-oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2h) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1h** (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 8.0 equiv, 8.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (2.16 mL, 1200 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 77% yield (20.7 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity = 91:9. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. <u>**1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3)**</u> δ 3.88 (s, 1 H), 2.95 (d, *J* = 17.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.91 (s, 3 H), 2.39-2.33 (m, 2 H), 2.23 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 6.6 Hz, 1 H), 1.86 (dtd, *J* = 12.3, 6.2, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (ddd, *J* = 13.0, 5.9, 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.50 (s, 9 H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1 H), 1.07 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H). <u>**13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)**</u> δ 174.06, 173.01, 100.89, 83.03, 56.87, 46.31, 42.59, 34.25, 30.65, 28.14, 27.62, 14.73. <u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for C₁₄H₂₃NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 292.1519, found 292.1527.

(3a*S*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6a-Hydroxy-6-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methyl-3aphenylhexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrol-2(1*H*)-one (2i) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1i** (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 8.0 equiv, 8.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (2.16 mL, 1200 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 92% yield (32.5 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 142-144 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. $\frac{1 \text{H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3)}}{1 \text{ H NMR (500 MHz, 2 H)}} \delta$ 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.09-3.03 (m, 1 H), 2.96 (s, 3 H), 2.90 (d, *J* = 18.0 Hz, 1 H),

2.71 (d, J = 18.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.47-2.34 (m, 2 H), 2.33-2.25 (m, 1 H), 1.94-1.73 (m, 3 H), 1.48 (dp, J = 17.3, 6.2, 5.7 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.95, 158.15, 142.20, 132.38, 129.73, 129.46, 127.82, 126.53, 113.99, 100.85, 56.26, 55.38, 54.31, 46.00, 35.73, 34.10, 28.56, 27.71. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₂H₂₅NO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 374.1727, found 374.1738.

(3a*S*,6*R*,6a*R*)-6-(4-Bromobenzyl)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-3aphenylhexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrol-2(1*H*)-one (2j) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1j** (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 8.0 equiv, 8.0 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (2.16 mL, 1200 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 89% yield (35.5 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 137-139 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. <u>¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃C(O)CD₃)</u> δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.39-7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1 H), 4.22 (s, 1 H), 3.16 (dd, *J* = 12.4, 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.91 (s, 3 H), 2.75 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.60 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.49 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.54 (ddt, *J* = 18.4, 11.6, 6.7 Hz, 1 H). <u>¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CD₃C(O)CD₃)</u> δ 173.87, 144.61, 141.67, 132.14, 131.80, 128.87, 128.12, 127.20, 120.07, 101.31, 55.89, 54.92, 46.13, 36.42, 36.32, 28.25, 27.75. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₁H₂₂BrNO₂Na (M⁺ + Na) 422.0726, found 422.0732.

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6a*R*)-6-((*E*)-benzylidene)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (2k) (Scheme 1)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1k** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 65% yield (11.2 mg). Colorless oil. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity = 75:25. *E/Z* >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ${}^{1}{\rm H}$ <u>NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.44-7.37 (m, 4 H), 7.28 (m, 1 H), 6.78 (s, 1 H), 3.70 (s, 1 H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.94-2.87 (m, 1 H), 2.80 (s, 3 H), 2.66-2.58 (m, 1 H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (ddd, *J* = 14.4, 9.0, 5.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.86-1.78 (m, 1 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ${}^{13}{\rm C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)} \delta$ 172.95, 172.53, 140.62, 136.50, 129.05, 128.59, 127.58, 125.89, 98.76, 82.87, 55.25, 39.59, 34.39, 28.10, 27.63, 24.49. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₀H₂₅NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 366.1676, found 366.1684.

Cyclization of 6-Membered Imides 11-1w using SmI₂ (Scheme 2).

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-benzyl-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2l) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **11** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 86% yield (15.5 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

7.36 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2 H) 5.57 (s, 1 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 2.78 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.47 (dd, J = 7.3, 4.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.40-2.35 (m, 2 H), 2.29-2.23 (m, 2 H), 2.08-2.05 (m, 2 H), 1.94-1.82 (m, 3 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-benzyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta [*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2**I'') using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 3 H), 3.74 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.52 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.28 (s, 3 H), 2.53 (ddt, J = 17.7, 14.8, 9.3 Hz, 3 H), 2.39 (ddd, J = 12.9, 6.5, 4.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.28 (dd, J = 12.9, 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 2.14 (dd, J = 15.5, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.80-1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.95, 170.43, 138.92, 137.58, 128.58, 128.26, 126.31, 121.76, 81.27, 57.19, 34.75, 34.21, 34.12, 31.40, 30.44, 28.08. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₁H₂₇NO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 364.1883, found 364.1894.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-7-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2m) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1m** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 85% yield (16.5 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 5.54 (s, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.75 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.56-2.47 (m, 2 H), 2.32 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.23-2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.92-1.81 (m, 3 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2m**'') using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.10 (d, *J* =

8.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.66 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.45 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.27 (s, 3 H), 2.54 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.0 Hz, 3 H), 2.42-2.33 (m, 1 H), 2.30-2.22 (m, 1 H), 2.13 (dd, J = 15.1, 9.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.73 (tt, J = 18.9, 9.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.06, 170.53, 158.23, 137.36, 130.93, 129.27, 122.37, 114.09, 81.34, 57.29, 55.42, 34.32, 34.21, 34.15, 33.96, 31.51, 30.55, 28.17. HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₉NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 394.1989, found 394.1998.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxo-7-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl) octahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2n) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1n** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 86% yield (18.5 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. Mp = 185-187 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 5.60 (s, 1 H), 3.04 (s, 3 H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 3.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.63-2.51 (m, 2 H), 2.36-2.22 (m, 3 H), 2.20-1.99 (m, 3 H), 1.90 (tdd, *J* = 21.1, 9.1, 4.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.46, 169.46, 144.17, 129.15 (q, *J^F* = 32.7 Hz), 129.09, 125.60 (q, *J^F* = 3.7 Hz), 124.35 (q, *J^F* = 272.2 Hz), 96.20, 83.30, 54.91, 50.12, 40.03, 33.30, 29.11, 28.08, 28.04, 26.91, 26.83. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.40. HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₈F₃NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 450.1863, found 450.1872.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-(4-bromobenzyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2o) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 10 (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 76% yield (16.7 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 5.57 (s, 1 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (d, J = 11.6Hz, 1 H), 2.59-2.52 (m, 2 H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 3 H), 2.07-2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.95-1.85 (m, 3 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to tert-butyl 7-(4bromobenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (20") using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H **NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.41 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.68 (d, J = 16.2Hz, 1 H), 3.46 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.25 (s, 3 H), 2.52 (dt, J = 17.2, 9.8 Hz, 3 H), 2.43-2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.27 (dd, J = 12.4, 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.11 (dd, J = 15.2, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.73 (dt, J = 21.9, 9.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.86, 170.44, 138.07, 138.04, 131.76, 130.09, 120.86, 120.23, 81.49, 57.30, 34.32, 34.23, 34.17, 34.14, 31.41, 30.49, 28.18. **HRMS** calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}BrNO_3Na (M^+ + Na) 442.0988$, found 442.0999.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2p) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1p (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et_2O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 71% yield (15.2 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (s, 1 H), 7.03 (s, 2 H), 5.58 (s, 1 H), 3.03 (s, 3 H), 2.77 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.52 (dd, J =17.6, 5.2 Hz, 2 H), 2.35-2.16 (m, 3 H), 2.27 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1 H) 2.10-2.04 (m, 1 H), 2.03-1.90 (m, 2 H), 1.88-1.82 (m, 1 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to tert-butyl 7-(3,5-dichlorobenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4aHcyclopenta[b] pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2p") using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 (s, 1 H), 7.08 (s, 2 H), 3.73 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.46 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.25 (s, 3 H), 2.59-2.48 (m, 3 H), 2.39(ddd, J = 13.3, 6.6, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.31 (dd, J = 13.1, 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.12 (dd, J = 15.5, 9.1 Hz, 1 H),1.80-1.71 (m, 2 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.77, 170.40, 142.57, 138.98, 135.33, 126.87, 126.81, 119.40, 81.72, 57.32, 34.45, 34.34, 34.18, 34.14, 31.42, 30.46, 28.21. **HRMS** calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}Cl_2NO_3Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 432.1104, found 432.1115.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-(3,4-difluorobenzyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2q) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1q** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 87% yield (17.2 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.05 (dtd, *J* = 10.6, 8.2, 2.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.99-6.91 (m, 1 H), 6.89-6.79 (m, 1 H), 5.57 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.77 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.57-2.46 (m, 2 H), 2.37-2.16 (m, 4 H), 2.10-1.98

(m, 2 H), 1.94-1.81 (m, 2 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-(3,4-difluorobenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2q''**) using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. <u>¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.08 (q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 1 H), 6.92 (s, 1 H), 3.71 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.25 (s, 3 H), 2.52 (tt, *J* = 9.9, 5.4 Hz, 3 H), 2.40 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 6.8, 3.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.28 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.12 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 (dddd, *J* = 15.8, 13.0, 8.1, 5.0 Hz, 2 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 173.81, 171.43, 151.10 (d, *J^F* = 192.0 Hz), 148.80 (dd, *J^F* = 178.2, 12.6 Hz), 138.40, 136.02 (d, *J^F* = 4.3 Hz), 124.13 (q, *J^F* = 3.8 Hz), 120.33, 117.42 (d, *J^F* = 17.1 Hz), 117.16 (d, *J^F* = 17.3 Hz), 81.64, 57.33, 34.18, 34.17, 34.16, 34.06, 31.39, 30.46, 28.17. **¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ -137.63 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), -141.32 (d, *J* = 21.4 Hz). **HRMS** calcd for C₂₁H₂₅F₂NO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 400.1695, found 400.1704.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxo-7-(2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl)octahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2r) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1r** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 62% yield (12.4 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity = 78:22. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.82 (s, 2 H), 5.52 (s, 1 H), 3.09 (s, 3 H), 2.66-2.59 (m, 2 H), 2.56-2.51 (m, 2 H), 2.38-2.34 (m, 1 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 2.23 (s, 6 H), 2.15-2.10 (m, 2 H), 1.86 (ddt, *J* = 10.7, 6.8, 3.3 Hz, 2 H), 1.72 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 4.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 1-methyl-2-oxo-7-(2,4,6-trimethylbenzyl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*] pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2r''**) using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. White solid. Mp = 87-89 °C. <u>¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 6.82 (s, 2 H),

3.64 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.52 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.38 (s, 3 H), 2.54-2.40 (m, 2 H), 2.34-2.26 (m, 3 H), 2.25 (s, 3 H), 2.21 (s, 6 H), 1.83 (dd, J = 14.0, 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.70 (dt, J = 13.4, 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.53 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.12, 171.03, 136.62, 136.46, 135.80, 132.60, 129.08, 124.13, 81.25, 57.22, 35.27, 34.06, 31.89, 31.64, 30.76, 28.69, 28.15, 20.97, 20.26. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₄H₃₃NO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 406.2353, found 406.2363.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-(2-fluorobenzyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2s) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1s (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 67% yield (12.7 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21-7.16 (m, 1 H), 7.14 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.04-6.96 (m, 1 H), 5.55 (s, 1 H), 3.05 (s, 3 H), 2.76 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.61-2.48 (m, 2 H), 2.41-2.21 (m, 4 H), 2.08 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.91-1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to tert-butyl 7-(2-fluorobenzyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1.2.3.4.5.6hexahydro-4aH-cyclopenta[b]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2s'') using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.03 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.69 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.56 (d, J =16.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.27 (s, 3 H), 2.58-2.47 (m, 3 H), 2.38 (ddd, J = 13.3, 6.7, 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.28 (ddd, J = 13.1, 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.14 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.80-1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.45 (s, 9 H). ¹³C **NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 173.96, 170.53, 162.20 (d, $J^F = 246.0$ Hz), 138.06, 130.03 (d, $J^F = 246.0$ Hz) 4.5 Hz), 128.20 (d, $J^F = 7.9$ Hz), 125.95 (d, $J^F = 16.0$ Hz), 124.23 (d, $J^F = 3.6$ Hz), 120.51, 115.38 (d, $J^F = 21.4$ Hz), 81.43, 57.35, 34.15, 34.10, 31.44, 30.52, 28.17, 28.02, 27.99. ¹⁹F NMR (470)

<u>MHz, CDCl₃</u>) δ -117.42. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₁H₂₆FNO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 382.1789, found 382.1798.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxooctahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2t) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1t (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 70% yield (14.1 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.71 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.62 (s, 1 H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.91 (s, 2 H), 5.54 (s, 1 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (dd, J = 13.7, 3.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.51 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 2 H), 2.35-2.20 (m, 3 H), 2.15 (t, J) = 13.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.08-2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.92-1.80 (m, 2 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-1methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2t'') using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 **MHz, CDCl₃**) δ 6.74 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.68 (s, 1 H), 6.65 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.93 (s, 2 H), 3.65 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.43 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.27 (s, 3 H), 2.60-2.47 (m, 3 H), 2.38 (ddd, J)J = 13.2, 6.7, 4.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.31-2.25 (m, 1 H), 2.14 (dd, J = 15.6, 9.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.78-1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.03, 170.53, 148.05, 146.17, 137.63, 132.77, 121.94, 121.14, 108.78, 108.41, 101.08, 81.48, 57.32, 34.50, 34.27, 34.23, 34.16, 31.50, 30.54, 28.20. **HRMS** calcd for $C_{22}H_{27}NO_5Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 408.1781, found 408.1791.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-7-(naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2u) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1u (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 71% yield (14.6 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (dd, J = 14.4, 8.0 Hz, 3 H), 7.57 (s, 1 H), 7.44 (dq, J = 14.7, 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 1 H), 5.60 (s, 1 H), 3.10 (s, 3 H), 2.99 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.75-2.66 (m, 1 H), 2.59-2.53 (m, 1 H), 2.41 (t, J = 12.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.35 (td, J = 12.5, 6.1 Hz, 1 H), 2.31-2.22 (m, 2 H), 2.11 (tt, J = 9.5, 5.9 Hz, 2 H), 1.90-1.83 (m, 2 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to tert-butyl 1-methyl-7-(naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2u**'') using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86-7.74 (m, 3 H), 7.63 (s, 1 H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.88 (d, J =16.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.70 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.33 (s, 3 H), 2.63-2.50 (m, 3 H), 2.44-2.36 (m, 1 H), 2.35-2.27 (m, 1 H), 2.18 (dd, J = 15.2, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.84-1.70 (m, 2 H), 1.49 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) & 173.92, 170.46, 137.72, 136.49, 133.62, 132.19, 128.24, 127.68, 127.45, 126.88, 126.44, 126.19, 125.52, 121.81, 81.27, 57.23, 35.02, 34.36, 34.12, 34.06, 31.45, 30.49, 28.11. <u>**HRMS**</u> calcd for $C_{25}H_{29}NO_3Na$ (M⁺ + Na) 414.2040, found 414.2044.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7-benzhydryl-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2v) (Scheme 2)



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According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1v** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 98% yield (21.3 mg). Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. Colorless solid. Mp = 195-196 °C. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry of the major diastereoisomer determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹<u>H</u> <u>NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 5 H), 7.12 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 5.52 (s, 1 H), 3.75 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.36 (q, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.60 (d, *J* = 17.3 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (dt, *J* = 18.9, 10.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 (q, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.08-1.98 (m, 3 H), 2.03 (s, 3 H), 1.70-1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.54-1.48 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.42, 168.88, 144.73, 144.36, 128.94, 128.76, 128.35, 127.95, 126.54, 126.47, 96.16, 83.12, 56.94, 55.18, 52.68, 32.45, 29.11, 28.90, 28.07, 27.42, 24.71. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₇H₃₃NO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 458.2302, found 458.2312.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxo-7-((*E*)-3-phenylprop-1-en-1yl)octahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2w) (Scheme 2)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1w** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and H₂O (0.54 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 94% yield (18.1 mg). Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29-7.26 (m, 2 H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 5.61 (dt, *J* = 14.3, 6.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.48 (s, 1 H), 5.29 (dd, *J* = 15.1, 8.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.87 (s, 3 H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.32-2.23 (m, 2 H), 2.23-2.19 (m, 1 H), 2.16 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.98-1.93 (m, 2 H), 1.85-1.78 (m, 1 H), 1.71-1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl (*E*)-1-methyl-2-oxo-7-(3-phenylprop-1-en-1-

yl)-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2w''**) using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, <u>CDCl₃</u>) δ 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.74 (dt, *J* = 14.3, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 3.28 (s, 3 H), 2.65-2.57 (m, 1 H), 2.53-2.43 (m, 3 H), 2.39-2.29 (m, 2 H), 1.76-1.67 (m, 2 H), 1.41 (s, 9 H). ¹³C <u>NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)</u> δ 173.72, 170.45, 140.09, 137.38, 131.41, 128.78, 128.66, 126.40, 125.02, 121.34, 81.45, 57.17, 39.78, 35.86, 33.85, 31.55, 30.99, 30.39, 28.10. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₃H₂₉NO₃Na (M⁺ + Na) 390.2040, found 390.2050.

Cyclization of Cyclic Imides 1x-1y using Activated Acceptors (Equation 2).

tert-Butyl (3a*R*,6a*R*)-6-(2-butoxy-2-oxoethyl)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]pyrrole-3a(1*H*)-carboxylate (1x)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1**x (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and *t*-BuOH (24 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 2 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 91% yield (16.8 mg). Dr = 75:25 (2 diastereoisomers). Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry of the major diastereoisomer determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. Stereochemistry of the minor diastereoisomer not assigned. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) (Major diastereoisomer) δ 4.82 (s, 1 H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2 H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.82 (s, 3 H), 2.65-2.59 (m, 2 H), 2.52-2.39 (m, 2 H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.96-1.85 (m, 3 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.37 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H). (Minor diastereoisomer) δ 4.48 (s, 1 H), 4.12 (m, 2 H), 2.86 (s, 3 H), 2.76-2.71 (m, 2 H), 2.52-2.39 (m, 2 H), 2.34-2.31 (m, 2 H), 2.17-2.08 (m, 2 H), 1.97-1.93 (m, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3 H). (Major diastereoisomer) δ 4.74.18, 173.76, 172.76, 100.48, 82.60, 65.28, 57.13,
47.49, 41.73, 34.69, 34.56, 30.68, 28.77, 28.12, 27.45, 19.22, 13.77. (Minor diastereoisomer) δ 174.39, 171.12, 169.53, 89.05, 81.87, 65.35, 56.31, 49.72, 40.09, 36.03, 29.83, 28.11, 27.99, 27.88, 26.00, 19.21, 13.79. HRMS calcd for C₁₉H₃₁NO₆Na (M⁺ + Na) 392.2044, found 392.2054.

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7a*R*)-7-(2-butoxy-2-oxoethyl)-7a-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-oxooctahydro-4a*H*cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2y)



According to the general procedure, the reaction of **1y** (0.05 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and *t*-BuOH (24 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 2 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HC1 (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 87% yield (16.7 mg). Dr = 60:40 (2 diastereoisomers). Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Stereochemistry of the major diastereoisomer determined by 2 D NMR experiments and confirmed by an X-ray analysis of a derivative. Stereochemistry of the minor diastereoisomer not assigned. The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-(2-butoxy-2-oxoethyl)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (**2y**''). Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (**500 MHz, CDCl₃**) δ 4.10 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H), 3.35 (s, 1 H), 3.31 (s, 3 H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.65 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.50 (dp, *J* = 18.0, 6.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.39-2.26 (m, 2 H), 1.78-1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 3 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H), 1.40-1.34 (m, 2 H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.61, 170.59, 170.42, 138.97, 116.01, 81.40, 64.99, 57.10, 35.22, 34.65, 34.35, 34.15, 31.31, 30.78, 30.41, 28.08, 19.26, 13.82. C₂₀H₃₁NO₅Na (M⁺ + Na) 388.2094, found 388.2103.

Effect of Additives/Selected Optimization Studies²¹⁻³⁴

To determine the effect of reaction conditions on the reductive cyclization of aminoketyl radicals using Sm(II), **1a** was selected as a model test substrate. (1) According to literature precedents,²¹⁻²³ five-membered cyclic substrates should be less reactive towards Sm(II) due to less efficient pseudoanomeric stabilization of the radical anion. (2) Furthermore, hemiaminal intermediates bearing α -carbonyl groups resulting from the reductive cyclization of imides are well-known to show higher stability relative to other tetrahedral intermediates,^{24,25} which should facilitate determining the effect of reaction conditions on the properties of aminoketyl radicals.²⁶⁻³⁴

Table SI-1. Effect of Additives on the Reductive Cyclization of 5-Membered Imides using SmI₂.^a



entry	SmI_2	additive	additive	time ^b	conv. ^{c,d}	yield ^c	cyclization
	(equiv)		(equiv)		(%)	(%)	/reduction ^c
1	3	-	-	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	-	-
2	3	MeOH	4/1 v/v	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	87	>95:5
3	3	HO(CH ₂) ₂ OH	18	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	95	93:7
4	3	H_2O	25	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	97	70:30
5	3	H_2O	600	15 min	>95 (<5 SM)	94	>95:5
6	3	t-BuOH	24	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	78	>95:5
7	3	Et ₃ N-H ₂ O	12-18	5 min	63 (37 SM)	54	74:26
8	3	Et ₃ N-MeOH	12-18	1 h	>95 (<5 SM)	68	87:13
9	3	LiCl	36	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	89	88:12
10	3	HMPA	12	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	-	-
11	3	HMPA-t-BuOH	12-24	2 h	>95 (<5 SM)	-	-

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz). ^{*d*}Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM). The remaining starting material is shown in parentheses.

Selectivity Studies³⁵⁻³⁸

<u>General Procedure</u>. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. A solution of two substrates (each 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) was added followed by H₂O (0.18 mL, 200 equiv) and samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, 0.10 M) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic burgundy-red color of the SmI₂(H₂O)_n complex (n > 5 with respect to SmI₂). The reaction mixture was stirred until decolorization to white had occurred. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (1 *N*, 30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Table SI-2. Selectivity Study in the Reductive Cyclization of Cyclic Imides using SmI_2 – Directing Group and Ring Size Selectivity.^{*a*}

O N Sub	CO ₂ t-Bu R CO ₂ t-Bu CO ₂ t-Bu	R ₁ R ₂ Sm I Ne Strate II	H_2-H_2O HF, RT Me I-	$ \begin{array}{c} \text{CO}_2 t - \text{Bu} \\ \text{OH} & + 0 \\ \text{OH} & - R \end{array} $ cycl	R ₁ N OH H OH Me II-cycl
Entry	Substrate I	Substrate II	conv. ^{b,c}	conv. ^{b,c}	$k_{\rm I}/k_{\rm II}$
1	$CO_2t-Bu R$	$\begin{array}{c} Ph \\ O \\ N \\ Me \\ 1i, R = 4-MeO-C_6H_4 \end{array}$	21	<2	>20:1
2	$O = \begin{bmatrix} CO_2 t - Bu \\ O \\ M \\ Me \end{bmatrix} R$ 1a , R = 4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	$O = \frac{CO_2 t-Bu}{Me} R$ $O = \frac{V}{Me}$ $Im, R = 4-MeO-C_6H_4$	<2	27	<20:1

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and/or GC/MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM). Conditions: SmI₂ (1 equiv), H₂O (200 equiv), THF, room temperature, 10 s to 1 min.

Table SI-3. Selectivity Study in the Reductive Cyclization of Cyclic Imides using SmI_2 – Electronic Effects of the Radical Acceptor.^{*a*}



^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and/or GC/MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM). Conditions: SmI₂ (1 equiv), H₂O (200 equiv), THF, room temperature, 10 s to 1 min.

Additional Selectivity Studies

<u>General Procedure</u>. An oven-dried vial containing a stir bar was placed under a positive pressure of argon, and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under high vacuum. A solution of two substrates (each 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) was added followed by H₂O (0.18 mL, 200 equiv) and samarium(II) iodide (THF solution, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv, 0.10 M) with vigorous stirring, which resulted in the formation of a characteristic burgundy-red color of the SmI₂(H₂O)_n complex (n > 5 with respect to SmI₂). The reaction mixture was stirred until decolorization to white had occurred. The reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (1 *N*, 30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Table SI-4. Selectivity Study in the Reductive Cyclization/Reduction of Cyclic Imides and Cyclic Esters using SmI₂–H₂O.^a

O N Me Subs	R ₁ R ₂ + ((1:1 ratio) trate I	O ↓ O n-C ₅ H ₁₁ T⊢ Substrate II	IF, RT O N IF, IT, RT O I IF, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT, IT	$R_1 \qquad 0$ $H \qquad +$ $OH \qquad R_2$ ycl I	H OH <i>n</i> -C₅H ₁₁ I-red
entry	Substrate I	Substrate II	conv. ^{b,c} (I-cycl , %)	conv. ^{b,c} (II-red , %)	$k_{\rm I}/k_{\rm II}$
1	$O = \begin{bmatrix} CO_2 t - Bu \\ O \\ N \\ Me \\ 1a, R = 4 - MeO - C_6 H_4 \end{bmatrix}$	0 0 0 <i>n</i> -C ₅ H ₁₁	40	<2	>20:1
2	$CO_2t-Bu R$ $O N O$ Me $1m, R = 4-MeO-C_6H_4$	0 0 <i>n</i> -C ₅ H ₁₁	33	<2	>20:1

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and/or GC/MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM).

Deuterium Incorporation Studies⁴¹

<u>*General Procedure.*</u> According to the general procedure, a cyclic imide (0.05 mmol) was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (3-8 equiv), and D₂O (600-1200 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) for the indicated time at room temperature. After the standard work-up as described above, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (1 *N*, 30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and ESI-MS to obtain deuterium incorporation. The obtained results are consistent with anions being generated and protonated by H₂O in a series of electron transfer steps and with the formation of a well-defined Sm(II) complex. Characterization data for all new compounds are given in the section below.

Table SI-5. Determination of D^1 Incorporation in the Reductive Cyclization of 5- and 6-Membered Cyclic Imides using SmI₂- D_2O .^{*a*}

		O N Me	u R	Sml ₂ –D ₂ O THF, RT	→ O= N		₃u ∙R	
entry	n	R	SmI ₂ (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^b	conv. ^c (%)	yield ^c (%)	D ^{1 c} (%)
1	1	Н	8	1200	2 h	>98	76	>98
2	1	4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	3	600	15 min	>98	84	>98
3	2	4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	3	600	1 min	>98	81	>98

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ESI-MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM).

Kinetic Isotope Effect^{34,41-45}

<u>*General Procedure.*</u> According to the general procedure, a cyclic imide (0.05 mmol) was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (3-8 equiv), and H₂O/D₂O (1:1, 600-1200 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL) for the indicated time at room temperature. After the standard work-up as described above, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (1 N, 30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and ESI-MS to obtain deuterium incorporation. The obtained results are consistent with proton transfer not being involved in the rate determining step. The effect of deuterium likely results from a secondary kinetic isotope effect due to differential coordination of D₂O/H₂O to Sm(II).

Table SI-6. Determination of Kinetic Isotope Effect in the Reductive Cyclization of 5- or 6-Membered Imides using SmI_2-D_2O .^a

		O N Me	R g	SmI ₂ -D ₂ O/H THF, RT	2 ⁰		R	
entry	n	R	SmI ₂ (equiv)	H ₂ O (equiv)	time ^a	conv. ^b (%)	yield ^b (%)	$k_{ m H}/k_{ m D}$
1	1	4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	3	600	15 min	>98	83	1.49±0.1
2	2	4-MeO-C ₆ H ₄	3	600	1 min	>98	85	1.54±0.1
3	1	Н	8	1200	2 h	>98	76	1.10±0.1

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI_2 freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ESI-MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM).

Characterization Data for Deuterium Incorporation/Detailed Procedures for KIE Study

tert-Butyl (3aR,6R,6aR)-6a-hydroxy-6-((4-methoxyphenyl)methyl-d)-1-methyl-2oxohexahydrocyclopenta[b]pyrrole-3a(1H)-carboxylate (2a- D^{I}). According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1a (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.30 mmol, 3 equiv, 3.0 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O (1.08 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et_2O/HCl (1.0 N) the title compound in 83% yield. Recrystallization from CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes. White solid. D^{1} incorporation >98%. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Dr = 50:50 (benzylic position). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (mixture of D^{1} diastereoisomers) 7.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 4.08 (s, 1 H), 3.78 (s, 3 H), 3.07 (s, 1 H), 2.96 (s, 3 H), 3.07 (s, 1 H), 2.96 (s, 3 H), 3.07 (s, 1 H),H), 2.95 (d, J = 17.5 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.30 (dd, J = 11.0, 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.17 (dd, J = 12.5, 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.74-1.58 (m, 3 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 1.24 (dt, J = 12.4, 6.3 Hz, 1 H).NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.08, 173.21, 158.18, 132.40, 129.70, 114.01, 100.28, 83.12, 56.86, 55.39, 54.11, 42.43, 34.13, 28.12, 27.56, 27.88, 27.55. HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₈DNO₅Na $(M^+ + Na)$ 399.2001, found 399.2008. Kinetic isotope effect was determined by reacting 1a (0.05) mmol), SmI₂ (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O/H₂O (1:1, 0.54 mL, 600 equiv) for 15 min, followed by standard work-up to give the title compound with 40.1% D^{1} incorporation as determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ESI-MS analysis ($k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = 1.49\pm0.1$).

tert-Butyl (4a*R*,7*R*,7a*R*)-7a-hydroxy-7-((4-methoxyphenyl)methyl-*d*)-1-methyl-2oxooctahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2m- D^{I}). According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1m (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.30 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 3.0 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O (1.08 mL, 600 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 15 min afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 85% yield. D^{I} incorporation >98%. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity >95:5. Dr = 50:50 (benzylic position). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 H), 5.54 (s, 1 H), 3.77 (s, 3 H), 3.02 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (s, 0.5 H), 2.51 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.34 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 0.5 H), 2.28-2.14 (m, 2 H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.92-1.81 (m, 3 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). The title compound has been fully characterized after dehydration to *tert*-butyl 7-((4-methoxyphenyl)methyl-*d*)-1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-4a*H*-cyclopenta[*b*]pyridine-4a-carboxylate (2m''- D^{1}) using TsOH (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) at room temperature for 3 h. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.79 (s, 3 H), 3.63 (s, 0.5 H), 3.43 SI-44 (s, 0.5 H), 3.27 (s, 3 H), 2.52 (pd, J = 10.1, 3.2 Hz, 3 H), 2.43-2.33 (m, 1 H), 2.27 (dd, J = 12.5, 8.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.13 (dd, J = 15.1, 9.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.73 (dq, J = 16.9, 9.4 Hz, 2 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H). ¹³C <u>NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)</u> δ 174.08, 170.55, 158.25, 137.36, 130.91, 129.29, 122.33, 114.10, 81.36, 57.30, 55.43, 34.31, 34.23, 34.15, 34.11, 31.52, 30.56, 28.18. <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₂₂H₂₈DNO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 395.2052, found 395.2062. Kinetic isotope effect was determined by reacting **1m** (0.05 mmol), SmI₂ (0.15 mmol, 3.0 equiv, 1.5 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O/H₂O (1:1, 0.54 mL, 600 equiv) for 1 min, followed by standard work-up to give the title compound with 39.1% D^{1} incorporation as determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ESI-MS ($k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D} = 1.54\pm0.1$).

tert-Butyl

(3aR,6S,6aR)-6a-hydroxy-1-methyl-6-(methyl-d)-2-

oxohexahydrocyclopenta[*b*]**pyrrole-3a**(1*H*)**-carboxylate** (2**h**-*D^{<i>I*})**.** According to the general procedure, the reaction of 1**h** (0.1 mmol), samarium(II) iodide (0.80 mmol, 8 equiv, 8.0 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O (2.16 mL, 1200 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL) for 1 h afforded after work-up with Et₂O/HCl (1.0 *N*) the title compound in 76% yield. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. White solid. *D^I* incorporation >98%. Dr >95:5. Cyclization/reduction selectivity = 91:9. <u>1H-MMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3)</u> δ 3.85 (s, 1 H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 17.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.88 (s, 3 H), 2.37-2.27 (m, 2 H), 2.20 (dq, *J* = 12.9, 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 1.83 (dtd, *J* = 12.1, 6.1, 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.74-1.69 (m, 1 H), 1.48 (s, 9 H), 1.30-1.26 (m, 1 H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2 H). <u>1³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3)</u> δ 174.05, 173.01, 100.89, 83.02, 56.87, 46.22, 42.58, 34.26, 30.61, 28.13, 27.61, 14.29 (t, *J* = 19.5 Hz). <u>HRMS</u> calcd for C₁₄H₂₂DNO₄Na (M⁺ + Na) 293.1582, found 293.1592. Kinetic isotope effect was determined by reacting **1h** (0.05 mmol), SmI₂ (0.4 mmol, 8.0 equiv, 4.0 mL, 0.10 M) and D₂O/H₂O (1:1, 1.08 mL, 1200 equiv) for 2, followed by standard work-up to give the title compound with 47.6% *D^I* incorporation as determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and ESI-MS analysis (*k*_H/*k*_D = 1.10±0.1).

Control Experiments⁴⁶⁻⁵⁵

<u>*General Procedure.*</u> According to the general procedure, a cyclic imide (0.05 mmol) was reacted with samarium(II) iodide (8 equiv), and H₂O (1200 equiv) in THF for 2 h at room temperature. After the standard work-up, the reaction mixture was diluted with Et₂O (30 mL) and HCl (1 N, 30 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The sample was analyzed by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) and GC-MS to obtain conversion and yield using internal standard and comparison with authentic samples.

Table SI-7. Effect of Concentration of SmI₂ on the Rate of the Reduction of Aminoketyl Radicals Derived from Cyclic Imides.^a

	O N Me 1h	t-Bu	Sml ₂ -H ₂ O THF, RT		CO ₂ t-Bu + DH Me	O N Me B	t-Bu
entry	H ₂ O	time ^b	conv. ^c	$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}^c$	[SmL]	[H ₂ O]	rate ^d
	(equiv)	(h)	(%)	А. D	[biiii2]		$(10^7 \text{ x } \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1})$
1	1200	2	>98	75:25	0.072	5.38	0.1065
2	1200	2	>98	76:24	0.066	4.93	0.1101
3	1200	2	>98	75:25	0.056	4.24	0.1369
4	1200	2	>98	64:36	0.040	2.98	0.3234

^{*a*}All reactions carried out using standard Schlenk techniques. In all entries, SmI₂ freshly prepared from Sm metal and ICH₂CH₂I was used. ^{*b*}Quenched with air after the indicated time. ^{*c*}Determined by ¹H NMR (500 MHz) and/or GC/MS. Conversion to desired product is shown. Conversion = (100–SM). ^{*d*}Approximation calculated using the rate constant for cyclization of the 5-hexenyl radical: $k_{SmI2} = (red/cycl) \times k_{5-exo} \times [SmI_2]^{-1}$; ($k_{5-exo} = ca. 2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 25 °C). ^{46,47}

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