

Chart 2

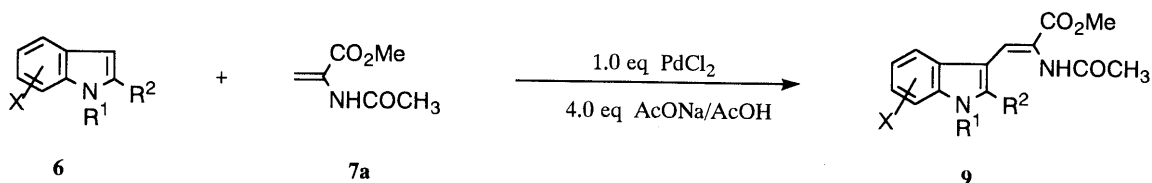


Chart 3

TABLE I. Vinylation of Various Indoles (6a—m) under the Stoichiometric Condition^{a,b}

| Run | Indole (6) | | | Product 9 (%) | Starting material recov. 6 (%) |
|-----|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | R ₁ | R ₂ | X | | |
| 1 | Ts | H | H | 50 (9a) | 35 |
| 2 | Ts | H | 4-Br | 17 (9b) | 62 |
| 3 | Ts | H | 4-Me | 29 (9c) | 51 |
| 4 | Ts | H | 4-CO ₂ Me | 14 (9d) | 67 |
| 5 | Ts | H | 5-NO ₂ | 47 (9e) ^c | 47 |
| 6 | Ts | H | 5-OMe | 53 (9f) ^e | 35 |
| 7 | Ts | H | 5-Br | 51 (9g) ^d | 35 |
| 8 | H | CO ₂ Et | H | 59 (9h) ^d | 8 |
| 9 | H | CO ₂ Et | 4-Br | — (9i) | 65 |
| 10 | H | CO ₂ Et | 5-NO ₂ | 36 (9j) ^e | 21 |
| 11 | H | CO ₂ Et | 5-OMe | 42 (9k) ^e | 13 |
| 12 | H | CO ₂ Et | 5-Br | 49 (9l) ^e | 27 |
| 13 | H | CO ₂ Et | 7-Br | 45 (9m) ^f | 39 |

a) Molar ratio; 6: 7a: PdCl₂: AcONa=1:2:1:4. b) Reaction conditions: 130 °C, 2 h. c) 2.5 eq of 7a was used. d) 1.2 eq of 7a was used. e) 2.0 eq of AcONa was used. f) Reaction conditions: 100 °C, 3 h.

methyl ester (7b) by the use of a stoichiometric amount of PdCl₂ (Chart 2). This reaction might have wide applicability for the synthesis of dehydrotryptophan derivatives having various substituents on the indole ring, because the starting indoles having various substituents are easily prepared by known methods.¹² In the present report, we wish to describe a new synthesis of dehydrotryptophan having various substituents on the indole ring by applying the above palladium-mediated vinylation.

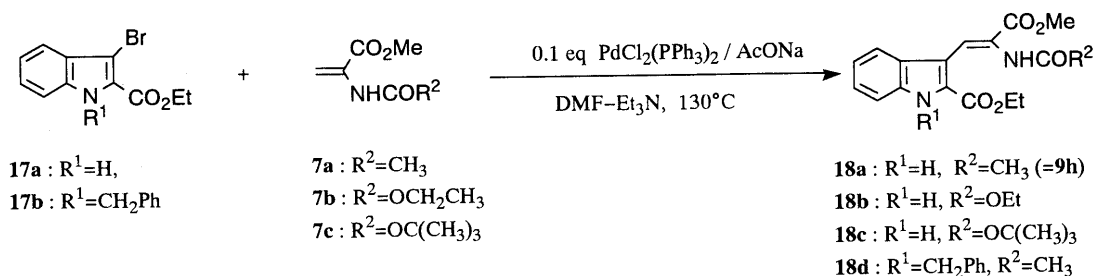
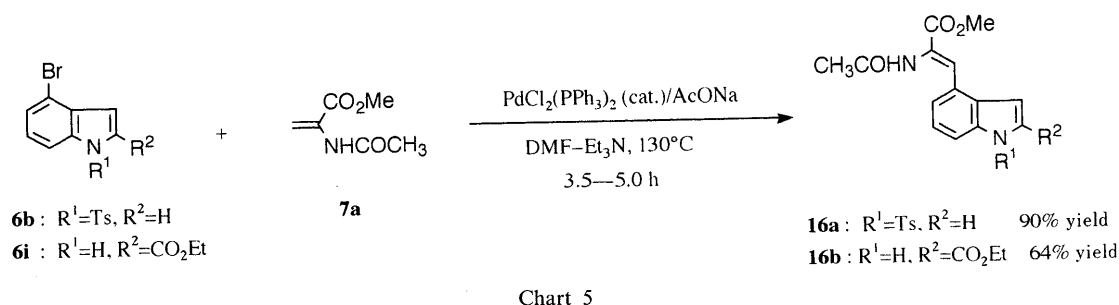
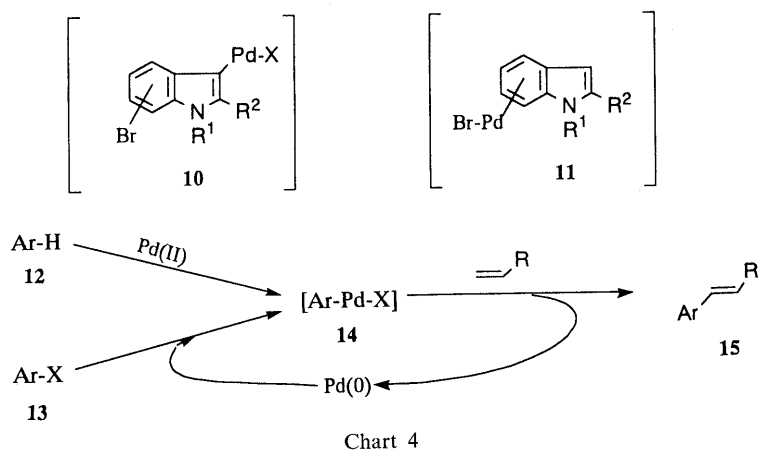
Results and Discussion

Various indoles (6a—m) were allowed to react with *N*-acetyldehydroalanine methyl ester (7a) in the presence of 1.0 eq of PdCl₂ and 4 eq of AcONa in AcOH at 120–130 °C, and the results are summarized in Table I (Chart 3). *N*-*p*-Toluenesulfonyl(tosyl)indole (6a) and ethyl indole-2-carboxylate (6h), which has been utilized as a stable synthetic equivalent of indole itself by our group,¹³ gave the desired products (9a, 9h) in 50% and 59% yields, respectively (runs 1 and 8). It is noteworthy that the protection of indole nitrogen was not necessary in the case of 6h, whereas the protection of nitrogen on indole itself (6, R¹=R²=X=H) was essential in the palladium-

mediated vinylation.¹⁴ Indoles with an electron-withdrawing or -donating group on the C₅- or C₇-positions (6e—g or 6j—m) gave the products (9e—g or 9j—m) in almost the same yields as unsubstituted indoles (6a, 6h) (runs 5—7, 10—13). However, 4-substituted indoles (6b—d, 6i) did not react smoothly, and the products were obtained in low yields or not at all (runs 2—4, 9). Those data show that this reaction was not affected by the electron density of the indole ring but was greatly influenced by steric hindrance.

The selective formation of bromodehydrotryptophan derivatives (6b, g, l, m) is especially interesting, because these results indicated that selective palladation occurred at the C₃-position to form the σ -complex (10) in spite of the presence of a carbon–bromine bond. It is well known¹⁵ that the aryl palladium σ -complex (14) is formed either by direct palladation of an aromatic hydrocarbon (12) with Pd(II) salt or by the oxidative addition of Pd(0) species to an aryl halide (13) (Chart 4). The former process requires a stoichiometric amount of Pd(II) (stoichiometric condition) and the latter, known as Heck arylation,¹⁶ requires a catalytic amount of Pd(0) (catalytic condition).

Since the vinylation under the stoichiometric condition were accomplished as above, we next tried vinylation of



various bromoindoles under catalytic condition [0.1 eq $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ in dimethylformamide (DMF)- Et_3N at 120°C] in order to confirm the formation of the σ -complex (11) by oxidative addition of Pd(0) to the carbon-bromine bond. Vinylation of 4-bromoindoles (6b, 6i) gave the C_4 -vinylated products (16a, 16b) in very good yields (Chart 5). It was interesting that the C_3 -vinylated products (bromodehydrotryptophans, 9b, 9i) were not detected in the case of the catalytic condition. Vinylation of 5- or 7-bromoindoles (6g or 6m) with 7a did not give the C_5 or C_7 -vinylated products but a mixture of starting material and debrominated product (6, X=H), while on vinylation of 3-bromoindole (17a, 17b) with 7a or alkoxy-carbonyldehydroalanine (7b, 7c), the dehydrotryptophans (18a-d) were obtained in good yields (Chart 6, Table II).

Although the reactivities in the vinylation varied irregularly with the position of the bromine on the indole ring and with the reaction conditions (stoichiometric or catalytic), the reacted position was completely differentiated between the stoichiometric and catalytic conditions. The selective vinylation at the C_3 -position of

TABLE II. Vinylation of 3-Bromoindoles (17) under the Catalytic Condition^{a)}

| Run | Indole 17 | Olefin 7 | Reaction time (h) | Product yield (%) |
|-----|-----------|----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 17a | 7a | 5 | 66 (18a) |
| 2 | 17a | 7b | 2.5 | 53 (18b) ^{b)} |
| 3 | 17a | 7c | 5 | 61 (18c) |
| 4 | 17b | 7a | 5 | 53 (18d) |

a) Molar ratio; 17:7: $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$:AcONa=1:2:0.1:2. b) Molar ratio; 17:7: $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$:AcONa=1:1.5:0.05:1.5.

bromoindoles is considered to be synthetically useful, because bromine on an aromatic ring might be easily converted to carbon functionalities by various methods including organotransition metal-catalyzed reactions. We have reported¹⁷⁾ that such chemoselectivity appeared more clearly when vinylation of various bromoindoles or some bromobenzene derivatives was carried out by the use of ethyl acrylate instead of 7 as an olefin; Et_3N and PPh_3 played an important role in the appearance of such chemoselectivity.

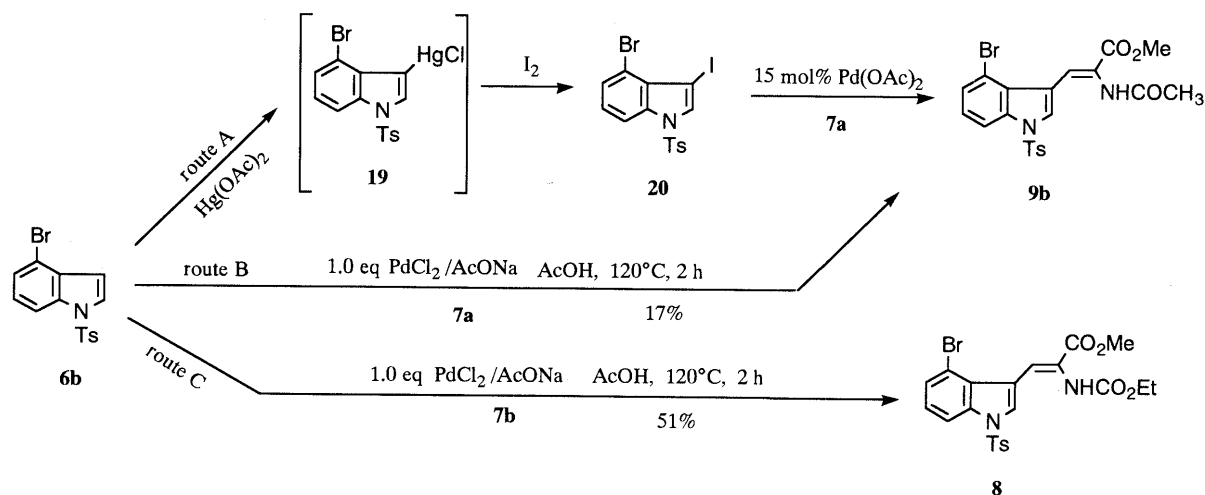


Chart 7

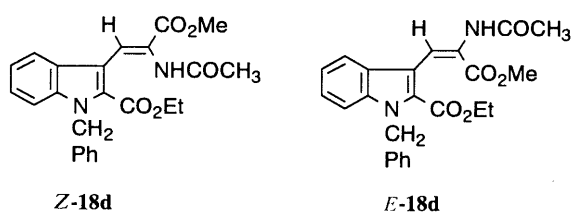


Chart 8

Hegedus¹⁸⁾ reported that the 4-bromodehydrotryptophan (**9b**), used as a key intermediate for the total synthesis of clavicipitic acid (**2**), was prepared from **6b** by a three-step sequence of reactions including a hazardous mercuration-iodination reaction and selective vinylation of the resultant 3-iodo-4-bromoindole (**20**) with **7a** (route A in Chart 7). Although we obtained the same compound (**9b**) in one step from the same starting material (**6b**), the yield was only 17% (route B in Chart 7). The reason for the low yield was considered to be that Pd(II) was consumed by the reaction with **7a** to produce Pd(0). So we tried to change the reactivity of **7a** toward Pd(II) by changing the protecting group on nitrogen from an acetyl group to an ethoxycarbonyl group. The reaction of **7b** with 4-bromoindole (**6b**) smoothly proceeded to give the desired product (**8**) in 51% yield (route C in Chart 7). Our method proved to be greatly superior to the reported method.¹⁸⁾ We are now trying to synthesize optically active indole alkaloids by using this compound as a starting material.

All of the dehydrotryptophans (**8**, **9**, **18**) and C₄-vinyllated products (**16**) were isolated as single geometrical isomers from the present reaction, but a trace amount of the other isomer was sometimes detected in the reaction mixture on thin layer chromatography (TLC). Most of those minor isomers were not isolated in a pure form. However, in the case of the reaction of **17b** with **7a** under the catalytic condition, the minor isomer of **18d** was isolated as a pure form (ca. 2%). The determination of the geometry of those isomers was accomplished by consideration of the ¹³C-NMR coupling constant of ester carbonyl carbon and olefinic hydrogen. It was reported^{8a)} that the *Z*-isomer has a larger coupling constant (ca. 10 Hz) than that of *E*-isomer

(ca. 4 Hz). The coupling constants of both isomers were measured by low-power selective decoupling of the ester methyl protons and amide proton simultaneously to eliminate the effect of these protons. Since the major isomer had a smaller coupling constant (4.4 Hz) than that of the minor isomer (11.7 Hz), the former isomer was concluded to be the *Z*-isomer (**Z-18d**) while the latter was the *E*-isomer (**E-18d**). The coupling constants (4.4–5.1 Hz) observed for some analogous dehydrotryptophans (**8**, **9b**, **18b**) and C₄-vinyllated products (**16a**, **b**) showed all these isomers to have *Z*-configuration. Since asymmetric reduction of *Z*-dehydroamino acids or esters was shown to give better results than that of *E*-isomer,⁹⁾ the present method has an advantage over other known methods for dehydrotryptophan synthesis.

Experimental

All melting points were determined on a Yanagimoto micro-melting point hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in Nujol mulls (unless otherwise stated) on a Shimadzu IR-400 spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on a Hitachi R-24B spectrometer (¹H-NMR, 60 MHz) (unless otherwise stated) or a JEOL GX-400 spectrometer (¹H-NMR, 400 MHz; ¹³C-NMR, 100 MHz) with tetramethylsilane as an internal reference. Mass spectra were measured with a JEOL JMS-01-SG-2 spectrometer using a direct inlet system. For column chromatography, Kieselgel 60 (70–230 mesh, Merck), and for TLC, Kieselgel GF₂₅₄, were used. The abbreviations used are as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; dd, double doublet; t, triplet; dt, double triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br, broad; dif, diffused; Ar, aromatic.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Dehydroalanine Derivatives (7a–c) According to the reported method¹⁹⁾ for the preparation of *N*-benzyloxycarbonyldehydroalanine methyl ester, a mixture of methyl pyruvate and 2.0 eq of acetamide for **7a** (1.0 eq of ethyl carbamate for **7b** or 0.5 eq of *tert*-butyl carbamate for **7c**) in benzene was refluxed for 2–5 h in the presence of a catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (TsOH, 0.1 eq) and hydroquinone (0.05 eq) with a Dean–Stark apparatus for continuous removal of H₂O. After the reaction was completed, the solution was directly passed through a short dry Al₂O₃ column (benzene–AcOEt or benzene–hexane) without any work-up. Since the obtained dehydroalanines (**7a–c**) were relatively unstable and pure enough (checked by ¹H-NMR) to use for the next step, further purification was not carried out.

N-Acetyldehydroalanine Methyl Ester (**7a**): Yield 61%. Colorless needles, mp 49–51 °C. IR : 3330 (NH), 1695, 1660 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 2.11 (3H, s, NHCOCH₃), 3.83 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 5.87 (1H, d, *J* = 2 Hz, one of CH₂=C), 6.57 (1H, s, one of CH₂=C), 7.8 (1H, br, s, NH). MS *m/z*: 143 (M⁺, 84%), 101 (100%).

N-Ethoxycarbonyldehydroalanine Methyl Ester (**7b**): Yield 39%. Colorless oil. IR (neat): 3400 (NH), 1720 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.28 (3H, t, $J=6$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 3.80 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 4.17 (2H, d, $J=6$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 5.70 (1H, d, $J=2$ Hz, one of $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$), 6.15 (1H, s, one of $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$), 7.08 (1H, br s, NH). MS m/z : 173 (M^+ , 44%), 42 (100%).

tert-Butoxycarbonyldehydroalanine Methyl Ester (**7c**): Yield 68% yield, colorless oil. IR (neat): 3410 (NH), 1720 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.43 [9H, s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$], 3.77 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 5.65 (1H, d, $J=2$ Hz, one of $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$), 6.08 (1H, s, one of $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}$), 6.9 (1H, br s, NH). MS m/z : 201 (M^+ , 1.3%), 57 (100%).

General Procedure for the Vinylation of the Indoles (6) with *N*-Acetyldehydroalanine Methyl Ester (7a) under the Stoichiometric Condition A mixture of an indole (**6**, 0.50 mmol), *N*-acetyldehydroalanine methyl ester (**7a**, 1.0 mmol), PdCl_2 (0.50 mmol), and AcONa (2.0 mmol) in AcOH (2.5 ml) was heated at 130 °C for 2 h in a sealed tube. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H_2O , and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt . The combined organic layer was washed successively with 5% aqueous HCl , saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 , and saturated aqueous NaCl , and dried over MgSO_4 . After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was separated by silica gel column chromatography (benzene or benzene- AcOEt) to give the desired dehydrotryptophan derivative (**9a–m**) and the corresponding starting material. The yields of the products and the recoveries of the starting materials are listed in Table I, and the physical and spectral data are as follows.

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9a**): Colorless needles (benzene- AcOEt - EtOH), mp 227–230 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 61.16; H, 4.89; N, 6.79. Found: C, 61.10; H, 4.82; N, 6.80. IR: 3260 (NH), 1720 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 2.05 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.30 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.71 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 7.1–8.0 (9H, m, Ar-H), 8.1 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.6 (1H, br s, NH). MS m/z : 412 (M^+ , 100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-4-bromo-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9b**): Colorless needles (hexane- AcOEt), mp 198–201 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 51.33; H, 3.90; N, 5.70. Found: C, 51.11; H, 3.88; N, 5.67. IR: 3280 (NH), 1720, 1655 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.17 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.34 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.84 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 6.9–8.0 (8H, m, Ar-H), 8.1 (1H, s, C=CH), 8.39 (1H, s, NH). MS m/z : 492 (M^+ + 2, 35%), 490 (M^+ , 32%), 43 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-4-methyl-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9c**): Colorless needles (benzene), mp 171–173 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 61.96; H, 5.20; N, 6.57. Found: C, 62.09; H, 5.23; N, 6.50. IR: 3300 (NH), 1725, 1675 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.11 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.28 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 2.58 (3H, s, $\text{C}_4\text{-CH}_3$), 3.79 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 6.8–7.3, 7.6–7.9 (10H, m \times 2, Ar-H, CH=C, NH). MS m/z : 426 (M^+ , 48%), 229 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-4-methoxycarbonyl-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9d**): Colorless needles (hexane- AcOEt), mp 182–184 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7\text{S}$: C, 58.72; H, 4.71; N, 5.95. Found: C, 58.58; H, 4.82; N, 5.88. IR: 3290 (NH), 1710, 1675 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.08 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.30 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.81, 3.87 (3H \times 2, s \times 2, CO_2CH_3 \times 2), 6.9–8.0 (9H, m, Ar-H, CH=C, NH), 8.1 (1H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $\text{C}_5\text{-H}$). MS m/z : 470 (M^+ , 61%), 241 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-5-nitro-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9e**): Pale brown needles (EtOH - AcOEt), mp 249–252 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7\text{S}$: C, 55.14; H, 4.19; N, 9.19. Found: C, 55.27; H, 4.36; N, 8.73. IR: 3280 (NH), 1730, 1655 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 2.26 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.38 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.92 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 7.30 (2H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $\text{C}_3\text{-H}$), 7.36 (1H, s, $\text{C}_2\text{-H}$), 7.63 (1H, br s, CH=C), 7.82 (2H, d, $J=8$ Hz, $\text{C}_2\text{-H}$), 8.04 (1H, d, $J=9.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 8.23 (1H, dd, $J=9.0, 1.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$), 8.6 (1H, d, $J=1.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$), 9.73 (1H, s, NH). MS m/z : 457 (M^+ , 34%), 260 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-5-methoxy-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9f**): Colorless needles (AcOEt), mp 191–193 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6\text{S}$: C, 59.72; H, 5.01; N, 6.33. Found: C, 59.47; H, 5.03; N, 6.05. IR: 3250 (NH), 1715, 1655 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.14 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.29 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.77, 3.80 (3H \times 2, s \times 2, OCH_3 , CO_2CH_3), 6.8–7.8 (10H, m, Ar-H, CH=C, NH). MS m/z : 442 (M^+ , 51%), 245 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-5-bromo-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9g**): Colorless needles (hexane- AcOEt), mp 217–225 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 51.33; H, 4.00; N, 5.84. Found: C, 51.18; H, 3.92;

N, 5.65. IR: 3250 (NH), 1710, 1660 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 2.19 (3H, s, COCH_3), 2.33 (3H, s, ArCH_3), 3.85 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 7.1–7.8 (10H, m, Ar-H, CH=C, NHCO). MS m/z : 492 (M^+ + 2, 36%), 490 (M^+ , 35%), 293 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9h**): Colorless needles (EtOH - AcOEt), mp 205–206 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 61.81; H, 5.49; N, 8.48. Found: C, 61.65; H, 5.47; N, 8.45. IR: 3310, 3250 (NH), 1710, 1680, 1670 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 1.35 (3H, t, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.81 (3H, s, COCH_3), 3.73 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 4.37 (2H, q, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 7.11, 7.31 (1H \times 2, dt \times 2, $J=8.0, 1.5$ Hz, $\text{C}_5\text{-}, \text{C}_6\text{-H}$), 7.38 (1H, d, $J=8.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 7.50 (1H, d, $J=8.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$), 7.66 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.42 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.21 (1H, br s, indole-NH). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 14.1 (CH_2CH_3), 22.2 (COCH_3), 51.6 (CO_2CH_3), 60.4 (OCH_2CH_3), 112.5, 114.8, 119.9, 121.3, 123.2, 123.8, 124.3, 125.1, 126.0, 135.9 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 160.1 ($\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 164.5 (CO_2CH_3), 168.2 (NHCO). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 9.42 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.73 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 164.5 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J=5.1$ Hz) in the ^{13}C -non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 330 (M^+ , 87%), 288 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-5-nitro-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9j**): Pale yellow needles (EtOH - AcOEt), mp > 300 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_7$: C, 54.40; H, 4.57; N, 11.20. Found: C, 54.02; H, 4.61; N, 10.93. IR: 3290 (NH), 1705, 1675 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 1.36 (3H, t, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.82 (3H, s, COCH_3), 3.76 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 4.41 (2H, q, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 7.62 (1H, s, C=CH), 7.68 (1H, d, $J=9.2$ Hz, $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 8.19 (1H, dd, $J=9.2, 2.2$ Hz, $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$), 8.40 (1H, d, $J=2.2$ Hz, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$), 9.67 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.89 (1H, br s, indole-NH). MS m/z : 375 (M^+ , 44%), 333 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-2-ethoxycarbonyl-5-methoxydehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9k**): Colorless prisms (EtOH - AcOEt), mp 254–256 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$: C, 59.99; H, 5.59; N, 7.77. Found: C, 59.64; H, 5.72; N, 7.56. IR: 3270, 3210 (NH), 1720, 1680 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 1.34 (3H, t, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.83 (3H, s, COCH_3), 3.70, 3.73 (3H \times 2, s \times 2, CO_2CH_3 , OCH_3), 4.35 (2H, q, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 6.79 (1H, d, $J=2.2$ Hz, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$), 6.95 (1H, dd, $J=9.0, 2.2$ Hz, $\text{C}_6\text{-H}$), 7.39 (1H, d, $J=9.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 7.67 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.44 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.13 (1H, br s, indole-NH). MS m/z : 360 (M^+ , 100%), 272 (62%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-5-bromo-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9l**): Pale yellow fine needles (EtOH - AcOEt), mp 254–258 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 49.89; H, 4.19; N, 6.85. Found: C, 49.54; H, 4.26; N, 6.77. IR: 3310, 3250 (NH), 1710, 1690 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ : 1.35 (3H, t, $J=7.1$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.85 (3H, s, COCH_3), 3.74 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 4.38 (2H, q, $J=7.0$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 7.4–7.5 (2H m, $\text{C}_6\text{-}, \text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 7.52 (1H, d, $J=0.9$ Hz, $\text{C}_4\text{-H}$), 7.65 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.51 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.46 (1H, br s, indole-NH). MS m/z : 410 (M^+ + 2, 29%), 408 (M^+ , 29%), 368, 366 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-7-bromo-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (**9m**): Colorless needles (hexane- AcOEt), mp 155–157 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}_5$: C, 49.89; H, 4.19; N, 6.84. Found: C, 49.71; H, 4.25; N, 6.72. IR: 3300 (NH), 1710, 1690, 1660 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3) δ : 1.39 (3H, t, $J=7$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 1.87 (3H, s, COCH_3), 3.80 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 4.38 (2H, q, $J=7$ Hz, OCH_2CH_3), 6.8–7.6 (3H, m, $\text{C}_4\text{-}, \text{C}_5\text{-}, \text{C}_7\text{-H}$), 7.69 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.10 (1H, br s, NH). MS m/z : 410 (M^+ + 2, 89%), 408 (M^+ , 86%), 366 (100%).

Vinylation of 4-Bromo-1-tosylindole (6b) with 7a under the Catalytic Condition A mixture of *N*-tosyl-4-bromoindole (**6b**, 88 mg, 0.25 mmol), *N*-acetyldehydroalanine methyl ester (**7a**, 91 mg, 0.64 mmol), PdCl_2 - $(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (16 mg, 0.023 mmol), and AcONa (82 mg, 0.98 mmol) in Et_3N (0.8 ml)-DMF (0.4 ml) was heated at 120 °C for 2 h in a sealed tube. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H_2O and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt . The combined organic layer was washed successively with 10% aqueous HCl , saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 , and saturated aqueous NaCl , and dried over MgSO_4 . After evaporation of the solvent, the residue (147 mg) was separated by silica gel column chromatography (benzene: AcOEt = 10 : 1) to give methyl 2-(1-tosylindole-4-yl)acetamidoacrylate (**16a**) as a pale yellow solid (93 mg, 90% yield), which was recrystallized from benzene to give colorless needles, mp 171–173 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{S}$: C, 61.15; H, 4.89; N, 6.79. Found: C, 61.45; H, 4.98; N, 6.62. IR: 3260 (NH), 1720, 1660 (C=O) cm^{-1} . $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 400 MHz) δ : 1.91 (3H, s, NHCOCH_3), 2.31 (3H, s, Ar- CH_3), 3.73 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 6.89

(1H, d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, C₃-H), 7.28–7.42, 7.82–7.87 (3H × 2, m × 2, C₂-H, C₆-H, SO₂C₆H₄CH₃), 7.53 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, C₅-H), 7.92 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, C₇-H), 9.48 (1H, s, NHCO). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 20.9, 22.2 (CO₂CH₃, Ar-CH₃), 52.0 (CO₂CH₃), 107.5, 113.5, 123.5, 124.6, 126.2, 126.6, 126.7, 127.4, 128.3, 129.9, 130.2, 134.28, 134.29, 145.5 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 165.3 (CO₂CH₃), 169.3 (NHCOCH₃). MS m/z : 412 (M⁺, 76%), 155 (100%). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 9.48 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.73 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 165.3 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J = 5.1$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum.

Vinylation of Ethyl 4-Bromoindole-2-carboxylate (6i) with *N*-Acetyldehydroalanine Methyl Ester (7a) under the Catalytic Condition A mixture of ethyl 4-bromoindole-2-carboxylate (**6i**, 137 mg, 0.51 mmol), *N*-acetyldehydroalanine methyl ester (**7a**, 145 mg, 1.0 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (26 mg, 0.037 mmol), and AcONa (87 mg, 1.1 mmol) in Et₃N (0.5 ml)–DMF (0.5 ml) was heated at 130 °C for 3.5 h in a sealed tube. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H₂O, and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic layer was washed successively with 10% aqueous HCl, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue (191 mg) was triturated with benzene to give pure methyl 2-(2-ethoxycarbonylindole-4-yl)acetamidoacrylate (**16b**) as a pale yellow solid (105 mg, 62%), which was recrystallized from AcOEt–EtOH to give colorless needles, mp 229–232 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₅: C, 61.81; H, 5.49; N, 8.48. Found: C, 61.55; H, 5.49; N, 8.46. IR: 3340 (NH), 1710, 1650 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ : 1.35 (3H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.96 (3H, s, NHCOCH₃), 3.74 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 4.36 (2H, q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 7.21 (1H, br s, C₃-H), 7.33 (1H, t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, C₆-H), 7.45 (1H, s, C=CH), 7.47, 7.49 (1H × 2, d × 2, $J = 7.7$ × 2, C₅-, C₇-H), 9.65 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.1 (1H, s, indole-H). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 14.2 (CH₂CH₃), 22.3 (COCH₃), 52.0 (CO₂CH₃), 60.5 (OCH₂CH₃), 106.0, 113.6, 121.0, 124.5, 126.3, 126.6, 127.1, 127.4, 127.8, 137.4 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 161.1 (CO₂CH₂CH₃), 165.5 (CO₂CH₃), 169.3 (NHCOCH₃). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 9.65 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.74 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 161.1 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J = 5.1$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 330 (M⁺, 60%), 288 (100%).

General Procedure for the Vinylation of Ethyl 3-Bromoindole-2-carboxylates (17a, b) with Dehydroalanine Methyl Esters (7a–c) under the Catalytic Condition A mixture of ethyl 3-bromoindole (17a or b), *N*-acetyl- or *N*-alkoxycarbonyldehydroalanine methyl ester (7a–c, 2.0 eq), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (0.1 eq), and AcONa (4.0 eq) in Et₃N–DMF (2:1) in a sealed tube was heated at 130 °C for the time indicated in Table II. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H₂O, and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic layer was washed successively with 5% aqueous HCl, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was washed with benzene to give the pure *N*-acetyldehydrotryptophan methyl ester (**18a**) or separated by silica gel column chromatography (benzene or benzene–AcOEt) to give the *N*-alkoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan methyl ester (**18b–d**). The yields are listed in Table II and physical and spectral data are given below.

(*Z*)-*N*-Ethoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (18b) Pale yellow prisms (benzene), mp 170–172 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀N₂O₆: C, 59.99; H, 5.59; N, 7.77. Found: C, 60.23; H, 5.61; N, 7.87. IR: 3320, 3270 (NH), 1730, 1690 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 1.07, 1.36 (3H × 2, t × 2, $J = 7.0$, 7.0 Hz, OCH₂CH₃ × 2), 3.77 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 3.97, 4.37 (2H × 2, q × 2, $J = 7.0$, 7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃ × 2), 7.07, 7.29 (1H × 2, t × 2, $J = 8$ Hz × 2, C₅-, C₆-H), 7.51, 7.54 (1H × 2, d × 2, $J = 8.0$ Hz × 2, C₄-, C₇-H), 7.78 (1H, s, C=CH), 8.56 (1H, s, NHCO), 12.0 (1H, br s, indole-NH). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 14.1, 14.4 (CH₂CH₃ × 2), 52.0 (CO₂CH₃), 60.2, 60.7 (OCH₂CH₃ × 2), 112.9, 115.5, 120.5, 122.2, 124.5, 124.7, 124.9, 125.8, 125.9, 136.6 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 154.4, 161.0 (CO₂CH₂CH₃ × 2), 165.5 (CO₂CH₃). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 8.56 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.77 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 165.5 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J = 5.1$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 360 (M⁺, 100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Meth-

yl Ester (**18c**): Pale yellow prisms (benzene), mp 168–171 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₂O₆: C, 61.84; H, 6.23; N, 7.21. Found: C, 61.62; H, 6.29; N, 7.19. IR: 3380 (NH), 1690, 1680 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.28 [9H, s, C(CH₃)₃], 1.40 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 4.37 (2H, q, $J = 7.0$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 6.46 (1H, s, NHCO), 6.9–7.7 (4H, m, Ar-H), 7.75 (1H, s, C=CH), 9.59 (1H, br s, indole-NH). MS m/z : 388 (M⁺, 35%), 288 (100%).

(*Z*)-*N*-Acetyl-1-benzyl-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (18d) Colorless needles (AcOEt–EtOH), mp 180–183 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₅: C, 68.56; H, 5.75; N, 6.66. Found: C, 68.49; H, 5.69; N, 6.64. IR: 3310, (NH), 1720, 1670, 1650 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.30 (3H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.89 (3H, s, COCH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 4.31 (2H, q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.80 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 6.7–7.4 (8H, m, Ar-H), 7.14 (1H, s, NHCO), 7.56 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, C₄-H), 7.77 (1H, s, C=CH). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 14.0 (CH₂CH₃), 23.0 (NHCOCH₃), 48.2 (NCH₂Ph), 52.4 (CO₂CH₃), 61.0 (OCH₂CH₃), 110.7, 116.6, 121.1, 121.6, 123.4, 123.7, 125.3, 125.6, 125.9, 126.8, 128.0, 137.1, and 138.1 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 160.9 (CO₂CH₂CH₃), 164.6 (CO₂CH₃), 167.8 (NHCOCH₃). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 7.14 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.87 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 164.6 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J = 4.4$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 420 (M⁺, 73%), 91 (100%).

Synthesis of (*Z*)-*N*-Ethoxycarbonyl-4-bromo-1-tosyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (8) A mixture of *N*-tosyl-4-bromoindole (**6**, 356 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-ethoxycarbonyldehydroalanine methyl ester (**7b**, 439 mg, 2.5 mmol), PdCl₂ (183 mg, 1.0 mmol), and AcONa (335 mg, 4.1 mmol) in AcOH (2.5 ml) was heated at 120 °C for 2 h in a sealed tube. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H₂O, and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic layer was washed successively with 10% aqueous HCl, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and saturated aqueous NaCl and dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was separated by silica gel column chromatography (benzene:AcOEt = 20:1) to give **8** as a pale yellow solid (270 mg, 51% yield), which was recrystallized from benzene to give colorless needles, mp 171–173 °C. *Anal.* Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁BrN₂O₅S: C, 50.68; H, 4.06; N, 5.37. Found: C, 50.90; H, 4.09; N, 5.32. IR: 3240 (NH), 1730, 1690 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ : 1.22 (3H, t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, NHCO₂CH₂CH₃), 2.33 (3H, s, Ar-CH₃), 3.78 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 4.11 (2H, q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 7.31 (1H, t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, C₆-H), 7.41 (2H, d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, C₃-H), 7.54 (1H, d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, C₅- or C₇-H), 7.88 (2H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, C₂-H), 8.00 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, C₅- or C₇-H), 8.20, 8.35 (1H × 2, s × 2, C₂-H, CH=C), 8.99 (1H, s, NHCO). ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 14.4 (CH₂CH₃), 21.0 (Ar-CH₃), 52.3 (CO₂CH₃), 60.6 (OCH₂), 112.8, 113.5, 114.8, 123.0, 125.8, 126.5, 126.9, 128.2, 128.68, 128.72, 130.4, 133.5, 135.0, 146.3 (Ar-C, vinylic-C), 154.5 (NHCO₂CH₂), 165.2 (CO₂CH₃). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 8.99 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.78 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon at 165.2 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J = 5.1$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 522 (M⁺ + 2, 66%), 520 (M⁺, 60%), 91 (100%).

Isolation of (*E*)-*N*-Acetyl-1-benzyl-2-ethoxycarbonyldehydrotryptophan Methyl Ester (*E*-18d) A mixture of ethyl *N*-benzyl-3-bromoindole-2-carboxylate (**17b**, 354 mg, 0.99 mmol), *N*-acetyldehydroalanine methyl ester (**7a**, 274 mg, 1.92 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (70 mg, 0.1 mmol), and AcONa (162 mg, 1.98 mmol) in Et₃N (1.0 ml)–DMF (0.5 ml) was heated at 130 °C for 5 h in a sealed tube. Then the reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and filtered through a Celite pad. The Celite pad was thoroughly washed with AcOEt and H₂O, and the separated aqueous layer was extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic layer was washed successively with 10% aqueous HCl, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and saturated aqueous NaCl, and dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (benzene:AcOEt = 10:1). The first fraction gave the title compound (**18**) as a yellow solid (26 mg, 6%), which was recrystallized from benzene to give colorless needles, mp 122–125 °C. IR: 3320, (NH), 1720, 1680 (C=O) cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 1.27 (3H, t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 2.18 (3H, s, COCH₃), 3.33 (3H, s, CO₂CH₃), 4.26 (2H, q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.80 (2H, s, CH₂Ph), 6.9–7.3 (8H, m, Ar-H), 7.50 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, C₄-H), 7.81 (1H, s, NHCO), 8.42 (1H, s, C=CH). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 14.0 (CH₂CH₃), 24.6 (NHCOCH₃), 47.9 (NCH₂Ph), 51.9 (CO₂CH₃), 60.6 (OCH₂CH₃), 110.2, 119.0, 119.1, 120.4, 120.7, 124.3, 124.8, 125.5, 125.6, 125.7, 126.5, 127.9, 137.7, 137.9 (Ar-C,

vinyl-C), 161.3 (CO₂CH₂CH₃), 164.8 (CO₂CH₃), 167.8 (NHCOCH₃). Low-power selective double irradiation of the amide proton at 7.81 ppm and the ester methyl at 3.33 ppm changed the signal of the ester carbon 164.8 ppm from multiplet to doublet ($J=11.7$ Hz) in the ¹³C-non-decoupling spectrum. MS m/z : 420 (M⁺, 63%), 91 (100%). High-resolution-MS Found: 420.1721, Calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N₂O₅: 420.1686. The second fraction gave the *Z*-isomer (**18d**) as a pale yellow solid (221 mg, 53%).

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