

Electrochemically Induced Hetero-[4+2]-Cycloaddition Reactions Between 2-Vinylpyrroles and β -Acceptor-Substituted Enamines

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Abstract: Recently, we reported on radical cation cycloaddition reactions between 2-vinylindoles and β -acceptor-substituted enamines, which provide a new pathway to pyrido[1,2-*a*]indoles.^[1] In order to broaden the synthetic scope of this reaction, we have developed hetero-[4+2]-cycloaddition reactions between a number of readily accessible

2-vinylpyrroles, acting as heterodienes, and β -acceptor-substituted enamines. This reaction is induced by electrochemically generated radical cations of either

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the 2-vinylpyrrole diene or the enamine dienophile. These electron-transfer-induced reactions open up a novel route to highly substituted indolizines in moderate yields. We propose a mechanism that explains both the complete regio-control of this cycloaddition as well as the product formation, irrespective of the inducing radical cation species.

Introduction

The synthetic applications of [4+2]-cycloaddition reactions are limited by the demand for reactants of complementary electronic character to ensure that the frontier orbitals can overlap sufficiently. In contrast, electron transfer, as the most simple method for a redox umpolung, permits [4+2] cycloadditions between reactants with similar HOMO energies under mild conditions via electrochemically or photochemically generated radical cations. These radical-cation-initiated reactions have a reaction rate several orders of magnitude greater than the neutral reactions owing to a very low activation barrier. Thus, electron-transfer-induced cycloadditions have proved to be a promising tool for organic synthesis.^[2]

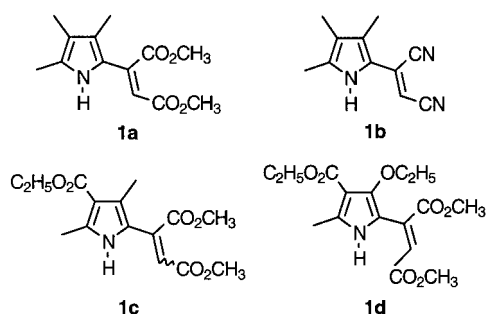
Originally, the application of this methodology was restricted to non-heterosubstituted dienes and dienophiles, for example cyclohexadienes,^[3] 1,3-pentadienes^[4] or styrenes.^[5] Subsequently, heterosubstituted dienophiles were reported by Bauld in radical cation [4+2] cycloadditions by the reaction of butadiene-type dienes and phenylvinyl thioether as a step in the synthesis of (–)- β -selinene^[6] and also by one of us in the very efficient application of indole as a heterodienophile.^[7]

We also demonstrated the ability of electron-transfer-induced cycloadditions to produce carbazole derivatives in good yields from reactions of several cyclohexadienes and styrenes (acting as dienophiles) with acceptor-substituted 2-vinylindoles (acting as heterodienes).^[8] In conventional Diels–Alder reactions, these vinylindoles react only with very electron-deficient dienophiles, and often require drastic conditions.^[9] In the course of these studies aimed at the use of heterosubstituted dienes and dienophiles in radical cation [4+2] cycloadditions, we recently developed a new annellation reaction between β -acceptor-substituted enamines, acting as dienophiles, and 2-vinylindoles to provide a method of synthesising pyrido[1,2-*a*]indoles.^[1] Based on this work, we report here an electrochemically induced hetero-[4+2]-cycloaddition reaction between acceptor-substituted 2-vinylpyrroles and β -acceptor-substituted enamines, which opens up an efficient route to highly substituted indolizines.

Results and Discussion

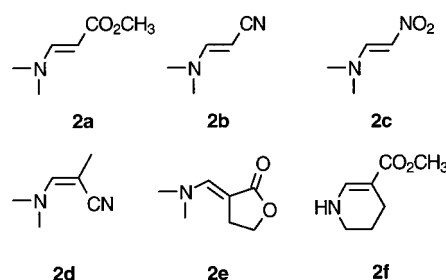
Diacceptor-substituted 2-vinylpyrroles **1** were chosen as suitable heterodienes for the anticipated electron-transfer-induced indolizine syntheses, since they are analogous to the successfully employed 2-vinylindoles.^[1] These compounds, which must be completely substituted at the pyrrole nucleus to avoid polymerisation at the electrode surface,^[10] are readily accessible by addition of dimethyl acetylenedicarboxylate (DMAD) or but-2-ynedinitrile to 2*H*-pyrroles. Mixtures of (*Z*)/(*E*) isomers were obtained from these reactions; however, except for **1c**, only the major isomers shown in Scheme 1 were employed in the single electron transfer (SET) reactions.

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Scheme 1. 2-Vinylpyrroles **1** employed as dienes in electron-transfer-initiated cycloaddition reactions.

The dienophiles **2** (Scheme 2) were prepared by Michael addition of dimethylamine to α,β -acetylenic esters and nitriles (**2a** and **2b**),^[11] treatment of β -bromo methacrylonitrile with



Scheme 2. β -Acceptor-substituted enamines **2** employed as dienophiles in electron-transfer-initiated cycloaddition reactions.

dimethylamine (**2d**),^[12] condensation of γ -butyrolactone with Brederick's reagent^[13] (**2e**) or hydrogenation of the appropriate pyridine (**2f**).^[14]

It has been previously shown that for an efficient radical-cation-induced [4+2] cycloaddition, the oxidation potentials of the diene and dienophile should not differ by much more than 500 mV.^[8] Therefore, the oxidation potentials of the β -acceptor-substituted enamines and the 2-vinylpyrroles were measured by cyclic voltammetry in acetonitrile. At scan rates up to 400 mV s⁻¹, totally irreversible voltammograms were obtained in all cases. This indicates a fast follow-up reaction of the radical cations under these conditions. The linear dependence of the anodic peak current on the square root of the scan rate indicates a diffusion-controlled process. The anodic peak potentials are taken as a relative measure of the redox potentials of the compounds (Table 1). Thus, a hetero-[4+2]-

Table 1. Oxidative ($E_{p,ox}$) peak potentials (V) of the 2-vinylpyrroles (**1**) and the β -acceptor-substituted enamines (**2**).

2-Vinylpyrrole	$E_{p,ox}$ [a]	Enamine	$E_{p,ox}$ [a]
1a	0.61	2a	0.77
1b	0.85	2b	0.86
1c	0.92	2c	1.12
1d	0.79	2d	0.64
		2e	0.68
		2f	0.62

[a] Peak potentials from cyclic voltammograms at 25 to 400 mV s⁻¹ scan rates vs. Ag/AgNO₃; electrolyte: acetonitrile (0.1M LiClO₄).

Table 2. Reactions of 2-vinylpyrroles **1a–d** with enamines **2a–c**.

Diene	Dienophile	Method	Product	Yield
1a	2a	SET - 2H ⁺ , -2e ⁻ - HN(CH ₃) ₂ A	3	8%
			4	49%
1a	2b	A	5	43%
1b	2b	A	6	60%
1c	2b	A	7	47%
1c	2c	A	8	43%
1d	2b	A	9	66%

cycloaddition reaction occurs between two compounds of nearly identical HOMO energies by a redox umpolung of either the diene or the dienophile to the corresponding radical cation. In all cases, the desired indolizines, which have a higher oxidation state than the reactants, were formed under complete regiocontrol in yields of 25 to 66% (Tables 2 and 3). No dimers of the diene or the dienophile were observed.

In cycloadditions with enamines **2a–c**, yields were generally good and were not affected by functional groups on the pyrrole nucleus (Scheme 3). However, subsequent aromatisation of the initially formed dihydroindolizines, with loss of dimethylamine, could not be prevented. This aromatisation occurred almost instantaneously in the reaction with nitroenamine **2c**, whereas the respective cycloadducts formed from cyanoenamine **2b** lost dimethylamine during work-up, and the dihydroindolizine **3a**, which decomposes within several weeks, was isolated. Consequently, the trend towards aromatisation increased with the strength of the acceptor adjacent to the dimethylamino moiety.

If the α' -methyl-substituted enamine **2d** was used, then aromatisation of the cycloadducts was impossible, but the yields were lower than those from the reactions of its α' -

Nicolet 750FT infrared spectrometer. ^1H NMR spectra: Bruker AM400 and AC200; chemical shifts relative to CDCl_3 . ^{13}C NMR spectra including DEPT: Bruker AM400 and AC200. UV/Vis spectra: Beckman DU-64 spectrophotometer. Elemental analysis: Mikroanalytisches Labor Beller, Göttingen. Oxidation potentials: BAS (Bioanalytical System) CV-50W voltammetric analyser; platinum working electrode (1.6 mm diameter), Ag/AgNO_3 reference electrode, electrolyte: acetonitrile (0.1M LiClO_4). Unless otherwise noted, all chemicals were of the highest purity commercially available, and were used without further purification. All the reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography on Merck 60F₂₅₄ (0.2 mm) sheets, which were visualised with ethanolic molybdophosphoric acid, UV light or a solution of *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde in methanol/hydrochloric acid. Preparative flash chromatography was performed on Merck (0.04–0.063 mm) silica gel with positive air pressure. HPLC was performed on a Waters-590 module equipped with a Knauer refractometer, a Eurospher 100-C18 (7 μm) 20×300 mm column and a solvent rate of 20 mL min^{-1} . PE (light petroleum, b.p. 40–60°C), MTBE (methyl *tert*-butyl ether) and other solvents used for chromatography were distilled before use. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from potassium.

Compounds **1a**,^[16] **2a**,^[11] **2d**,^[12] **2e**^[13] and **2f**^[14] were prepared according to literature procedures. Compounds **2b** (Aldrich) and **2c** (Lancaster) were used as supplied.

General procedure: The reaction solution was potentiostatically electrolysed at the potentials given below in an electrochemical cell (undivided) (max. volume 100 mL) under vigorous stirring. Anode: carbon, 20 cm^2 ; cathode: carbon, 20 cm^2 ; reference electrode: Ag/AgNO_3 ; electrolyte: acetonitrile (0.1M LiClO_4); separation of the electrodes: 3 cm. Prior to use, the electrodes were activated by ultrasonic treatment in acetonitrile. In the course of the electrolysis, the current dropped from 20 mA to 2 mA and the reaction solutions darkened slightly. The current consumption is given in Coulombs for each experiment. At the end of the reaction, the electrodes were subjected to ultrasonic treatment: i) 10 min in methanol (60 mL), ii) 5 min in acetonitrile (60 mL). The combined solutions were evaporated under reduced pressure and then treated with brine. The aqueous layer was extracted five times with chloroform and dried over MgSO_4 and the solvent evaporated. Chromatographic separation was performed on silica gel, unless otherwise stated. With the exception of **6**, yields are based on recovered material (90% turnover).

2-(3,4,5-Trimethyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-but-2-enedinitrile (1b): A solution of 2,3,4-trimethyl-1H-pyrrole^[17] (86 mg, 0.79 mmol) and but-2-ynedinitrile^[18] (60 mg, 0.79 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was stirred for 1 h at RT. Evaporation and separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:5) afforded 93 mg of **1b** (63%) and 13 mg of the (*Z*) isomer (9%), which readily isomerises, to give a total yield of 72% of the (*E*) isomer.

(E) Isomer 1b: Bright yellow solid; m.p. 128–129°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 9.13$ (br, 1H, NH), 5.21 (s, 1H, vinyl-H), 2.34 (s, 3H, 4'- CH_3), 2.27 (s, 3H, 5'- CH_3), 1.93 (s, 3H, 3'- CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 134.3$ (s), 130.0 (s), 120.3 (s), 119.8 (s), 119.5 (s), 118.8 (s), 116.4 (s, Ar, C=C), 89.1 (d, C=C), 11.8 (q), 10.8 (q), 8.6 (q, CH_3) cm^{-1} ; IR (film, CCl_4): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 3443$ (m), 30.84 (w) 2923 (w), 2863 (q), 2198 (s), 1533 (vs), 1474 (vs), 1457 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 185 (100, M^+), 170 (50), 158 (39), 143 (20); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3$: 185.0953, found 185.0953; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 402$, 270 nm.

Dimethyl 2-(4-ethoxycarbonyl-3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-but-2-enedioate (1c): A solution of ethyl 2,4-dimethyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate^[19] (150 mg, 0.90 mmol) and DMAD (127 mg, 0.90 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was stirred for 12 h at RT. Evaporation and separation of the reaction mixture by RP-HPLC (methanol/water 7:3) afforded 190 mg of **1c** (68%) as a 1:3 mixture of (*Z*)/(*E*) isomers. Bright yellow solid; m.p. 94°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 11.70$ (br, 0.75H, NH), 8.43 (br, 0.25H, NH), 5.97 (s, 0.75H, vinyl-H), 5.95 (s, 0.25H, vinyl-H), 4.28 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 0.5H, OCH_2), 4.27 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 1.5H, OCH_2), 3.93 (s, 0.75H, OCH_3), 3.86 (s, 2.25H, OCH_3), 3.77 (s, 2.25H, OCH_3), 3.76 (s, 0.75H, OCH_3), 2.53 (s, 2.25H, 5'- CH_3), 2.48 (s, 0.75H, 5'- CH_3), 2.39 (s, 0.75H, 3'- CH_3), 2.29 (s, 2.25H, 3'- CH_3), 1.34 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 168.5$ (s, 0.75C), 168.3 (s, 0.25C), 168.1 (s, 0.75C), 165.8 (s, 0.25C), 165.4 (s, 0.75C), 165.2 (s, 0.25C, C=O), 139.6 (s, 0.25C), 139.2 (s, 0.25C); 138.7 (s, 0.75C), 137.7 (s, 0.75C), 128.2 (s, 0.75C), 126.4 (s, 0.25C), 120.7 (s, 0.25C), 120.6 (s, 0.75C), 114.4 (d, 0.75C), 113.8 (s, 0.25C), 113.0 (s, 0.75C), 115.5 (d, 0.25C, Ar, C=C), 59.3 (t, 1C, OCH_2), 52.9 (q, 0.75C), 52.7 (q, 0.25C), 52.2 (q, 0.75C), 51.6 (q, 0.25C, OCH_3), 14.5 (q,

1C), 14.3 (q, 0.25C), 14.0 (q, 0.75C), 12.0 (q, 0.75C), 11.4 (q, 0.25C, CH_3); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 3315$ (brm), 2981 (m), 2952 (m), 1697 (vs), 1592 (s), 1432 (s), 1256 (vs), 1205 (vs), 1092 (vs) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 309 (100, M^+), 278 (14), 264 (6), 249 (22); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6$: 309.1212, found 309.1212; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 360$, 265 nm.

Dimethyl 2-(3-ethoxy-4-ethoxycarbonyl-5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-but-2-enedioate (1d): A solution of ethyl 4-ethoxy-5-methyl-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate^[20] (115 mg, 0.58 mmol) and DMAD (81 mg, 0.58 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was stirred for 3 h at RT. Evaporation and separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:1) afforded 132 mg of (*E*)-**1d** (67%) and 14 mg of the (*Z*) isomer (7%) to give a total yield of 74%.

(E)-1d: Yellow solid; m.p. 72°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 12.14$ (br, 1H, NH), 5.51 (s, 1H, vinyl-H), 4.29 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, COOCH_2), 3.96 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.77 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 2.54 (s, 3H, 5'- CH_3), 1.35 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 3H, $\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 1.32 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 3H, OCH_2CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 169.1$ (s), 168.5 (s), 163.5 (s, C=O), 150.5 (s), 138.7 (s), 137.8 (s), 114.3 (s, Ar), 107.0 (d), 105.8 (s, C=C), 71.8 (t, COOCH_2), 59.5 (t, OCH_2), 52.7 (q), 52.0 (q, OCH_3), 15.2 (q, $\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 15.0 (q, OCH_2CH_3), 14.2 (q, CH_3); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 3205$ (w), 2982 (m), 2951 (m), 1742 (s), 1700 (s), 1567 (s), 1434 (s), 1285 (vs), 1205 (vs), 1084 (vs) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 339 (34, M^+), 265 (16), 233 (100), 121 (21); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$: 339.1318, found 339.1318; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 356$, 247(sh), 217(sh) nm.

(Z)-1d: Bright yellow solid; m.p. 142°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 8.38$ (br, 1H, NH), 6.13 (s, 1H, vinyl-H), 4.29 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, COOCH_2), 4.00 (q, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 2H, OCH_2), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 2.48 (s, 3H, 5'- CH_3), 1.35 (t, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 7.0$ Hz, 6H, $\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, OCH_2CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 167.7$ (s), 166.3 (s), 163.6 (s, C=O), 149.0 (s), 138.6 (s), 137.2 (s), 113.9 (s, Ar), 109.1 (d), 107.4 (s, C=C), 71.3 (t, COOCH_2), 59.8 (t, OCH_2), 52.9 (q), 51.7 (q, OCH_3), 15.3 (q, $\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$), 14.8 (q, OCH_2CH_3), 14.4 (q, CH_3); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 3310$ (m), 2982 (m), 2952 (m), 1742 (vs), 1704 (vs), 1591 (vs), 1433 (vs), 1276 (vs), 1231 (vs), 1196 (vs), 1168 (vs), 1085 (vs) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 339 (31, M^+), 308 (4), 294 (6), 281 (10), 265 (16), 233 (100); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_7$: 339.1318, found 339.1318; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 328$, 260, 208 nm.

Trimethyl 5,6-trans-5-dimethylamino-1,2,3-trimethyl-5,6-dihydroindolizine-6,7,8-tricarboxylate (3) and **trimethyl 1,2,3-trimethylindolizine-6,7,8-tricarboxylate (4):** Following the general procedure above, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1a**, 30 mg, 0.12 mmol) and methyl 3-dimethylaminoacrylate (**2a**, 31 mg, 0.24 mmol) were electrolysed at 500 mV (current consumption 41 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by RP-HPLC (methanol/water 8:2) afforded 20 mg of **3** (49%) and 3 mg of the aromatised product **4** (8%) to give a total yield of 57%.

Trimethyl 5,6-trans-5-dimethylamino-1,2,3-trimethyl-5,6-dihydro-indolizine-6,7,8-tricarboxylate (3): Yellow solid; m.p. 107–109°C, decomposition to **4**; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 5.18$ (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 1.0$ Hz, 1H, H5), 4.10 (d, $^3J(\text{H,H}) = 1.0$ Hz, 1H, H6), 3.92 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.64 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 2.17 (s, 9H, 3- CH_3 , NCH_3), 1.95 (s, 3H, 1- CH_3), 1.89 (s, 3H, 2- CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 172.1$ (s), 168.0 (s), 165.9 (s, C=O), 134.8 (s), 132.5 (s), 123.4 (s), 120.6 (s), 119.0 (s), 108.4 (s, Ar, C=C), 71.4 (d, C5), 52.9 (q), 52.4 (q), 52.1 (q, OCH_3), 39.8 (q, NCH_3), 39.2 (d, C6), 9.8 (q), 9.3 (q), 9.0 (q, CH_3); IR (film, CCl_4): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 2993$ (w), 2951 (w), 2924 (w), 1731 (vs), 1438 (s), 1276 (s), 1240 (s), 1222 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 333 (100, $\text{M}^+ - \text{HNMe}_2$), 302 (33), 275 (19), 251 (18), 215 (49), 157 (37), 121 (69); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6\text{N}$: 333.1212, found 333.1212; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 380$, 275 nm.

Trimethyl 1,2,3-trimethylindolizine-6,7,8-tricarboxylate (4): Bright yellow solid; m.p. 134°C; ^1H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 8.25$ (s, 1H, H5), 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 2.42 (s, 3H, 3- CH_3), 2.19 (s, 3H, 1- CH_3), 2.15 (s, 3H, 2- CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): $\delta = 167.1$ (s), 167.0 (s), 166.1 (s, C=O), 126.6 (d), 126.5 (s), 124.4 (s), 122.8 (s), 120.8 (s), 116.5 (s), 113.0 (s), 111.4 (s, Ar), 52.6 (q), 52.5 (q), 52.3 (q, OCH_3), 9.9 (q, q), 9.5 (q, CH_3); IR (film, CCl_4): $\tilde{\nu}_{\text{max}} = 3024$ (w), 2996 (w), 2951 (w), 2925 (w), 1730 (vs), 1439 (s), 1276 (vs), 1240 (s), 1222 (s) cm^{-1} ; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 333 (100, M^+), 302 (30), 286 (21), 215 (42), 157 (43), 69 (50), 57 (88), 55 (87); HR-MS calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_6$: 333.1212, found 333.1212; UV/Vis (MeOH): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 399$, 339, 275 nm.

Dimethyl 6-cyano-1,2,3-trimethylindolizine-7,8-dicarboxylate (5): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1a**, 25 mg, 0.10 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminoacrylonitrile (**2b**, 19 mg, 0.20 mmol) were electrolysed at 500 mV (current consumption 60 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (dichloromethane) afforded 12 mg of the indolizine **5** (43 %). Yellow solid; m.p. 220 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 8.06 (s, 1H, H5), 4.02 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.94 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.43 (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 2.22 (s, 3H, 2-CH₃), 2.19 (s, 3H, 1-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 166.9 (s), 163.7 (s, C=O), 129.7 (d), 129.3 (s), 128.1 (s), 123.1 (s), 122.6 (s), 117.4 (s), 116.6 (s), 110.0 (s), 93.3 (s, Ar, C≡N), 52.9 (q), 52.5 (q, OCH₃), 9.9 (q), 9.5 (q), 9.2 (q, CH₃); IR (film, CCl₄): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2953 (s), 2924 (s), 2227 (s), 1733 (vs), 1705 (s), 1446 (m), 1282 (s), 1221 (vs) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 300 (79, M⁺), 285 (10), 269 (22), 253 (26), 241 (4), 182 (100); HR-MS calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₂O₄: 300.1110, found 300.1110; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 394, 353, 294, 268 nm.

6,7,8-Tricyano-1,2,3-trimethylindolizine (6): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1b**, 29 mg, 0.16 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminoacrylonitrile (**2b**, 31 mg, 0.32 mmol) were electrolysed at 610 mV (current consumption 58 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 2:1) afforded 22 mg of the indolizine **6** (60 %). Bright red solid; m.p. 251 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 8.20 (s, 1H, H5), 2.60 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.30 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 131.4 (s), 130.6 (d), 125.1 (s), 123.6 (s), 118.8 (s), 114.0 (s), 113.8 (s), 113.2 (s), 108.6 (s), 94.3 (s, Ar, C≡N), 10.1 (q), 9.7 (q), 9.5 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 3157 (w), 3072 (m), 2925 (m), 2854 (s), 2232 (s), 2221 (s), 1507 (vs), 1435 (vs), 1393 (s) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 234 (86, M⁺), 233 (100), 219 (25), 207 (7); HR-MS calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₄: 234.0905, found 234.0905; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 463, 354, 271 nm.

2-Ethyl-7,8-dimethyl 6-cyano-1,3-dimethylindolizine-2,7,8-tricarboxylate (7): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1c**, 30 mg, 0.10 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminoacrylonitrile (**2b**, 19 mg, 0.20 mmol) were electrolysed at 700 mV (current consumption 73 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:1) afforded 14 mg of the indolizine **7** (47 %). Orange solid; m.p. 188–189 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 8.17 (s, 1H, H5), 4.39 (q, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.02 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.95 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.74 (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 2.45 (s, 3H, 1-CH₃), 1.40 (t, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 166.1 (s), 164.6 (s), 163.1 (s, C=O), 131.8 (s), 131.0 (d), 128.7 (s), 123.3 (s), 121.4 (s), 119.3 (s), 116.3 (s), 112.3 (s), 96.4 (s, Ar, C≡N), 60.8 (t, OCH₂), 53.1 (q), 52.8 (q, OCH₃), 14.2 (q, OCH₂CH₃), 11.0 (q), 10.3 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2980 (m), 2955 (m), 2918 (m), 2849 (w), 2231 (m), 1718 (vs), 1543 (m), 1441 (s), 1278 (vs), 1254 (vs), 1201 (vs), 1108 (vs) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 358 (100, M⁺), 343 (12), 331 (62), 309 (59), 278 (17), 240 (36), 220 (20); HR-MS calcd for C₁₈H₁₈N₂O₆: 358.1165, found 358.1165; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 403, 341, 272 nm.

2-Ethyl-7,8-dimethyl 1,3-dimethyl-6-nitroindolizine-2,7,8-tricarboxylate (8): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1c**, 29 mg, 0.09 mmol) and dimethyl(2-nitrovinyl)amine (**2c**, 22 mg, 0.19 mmol) were electrolysed at 800 mV (current consumption 37 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:3) afforded 14 mg of the indolizine **8** (43 %). Orange solid; m.p. 117–119 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 8.64 (s, 1H, H5), 4.40 (q, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 3.99 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.96 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.77 (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, 1-CH₃), 1.41 (t, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 165.3 (s), 164.6 (s), 164.1 (s, C=O), 135.9 (s), 129.8 (s), 127.8 (s), 124.1 (d), 123.0 (s), 122.0 (s), 117.9 (s), 113.6 (s, Ar), 60.8 (t, OCH₂), 53.2 (q, OCH₃), 14.3 (q, OCH₂CH₃), 11.1 (q), 10.6 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2983 (w), 2953 (w), 1741 (vs), 1718 (s), 1536 (s), 1325 (s), 1312 (s), 1263 (vs) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 378 (100, M⁺), 349 (24), 333 (18), 309 (8), 215 (21), 187 (18); HR-MS calcd for C₁₇H₁₈N₂O₈: 378.1063, found 378.1063; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 353, 294, 255 nm.

2-Ethyl-7,8-dimethyl 6-cyano-1-ethoxy-3-methylindolizine-2,7,8-tricarboxylate (9): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1d**, 25 mg, 0.07 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminoacrylonitrile (**2b**, 14 mg, 0.15 mmol) were electrolysed at 550 mV (current consumption 51 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by RP-HPLC (methanol/water 7:3) afforded 16 mg of the indolizine **9** (66 %). Bright yellow solid; m.p. 155–156 °C; ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 8.09 (s, 1H, H5), 4.40 (q, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 2H, COOCH₂), 4.03 (q, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 2H, OCH₂), 4.00 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.93 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.75 (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 1.42 (t, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 3H,

COOCH₂CH₃). 1.40 (t, ³J(H,H) = 7.0 Hz, 3H, OCH₂CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 165.4 (s), 163.2 (s), 162.8 (s, C=O), 142.0 (s), 131.2 (s), 130.2 (d), 127.6 (s), 117.6 (s), 116.2 (s), 113.8 (s), 110.9 (s), 97.3 (s, Ar, C≡N), 72.8 (t, COOCH₂), 60.9 (t, OCH₂), 53.0 (q), 52.8 (q, OCH₃), 15.3 (q, COOCH₂CH₃), 14.3 (q, OCH₂CH₃), 10.8 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2983 (w), 2954 (w), 2931 (w), 2856 (w), 2232 (w), 1748 (s), 1727 (s), 1551 (m), 1460 (m), 1435 (m), 1278 (vs), 1205 (m) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 388 (36, M⁺), 361 (11), 359 (26), 345 (19), 313 (87), 247 (63), 167 (31), 149 (100); HR-MS calcd for C₁₉H₂₀N₂O₇: 388.1271, found 388.1271; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 415, 345, 273; C₁₉H₂₀N₂O₇: calcd C 58.76, H 5.19, N 7.21; found C 58.87, H 5.34, N 7.13 nm.

Dimethyl 6-cyano-5-dimethylamino-1,2,3,6-tetramethyl-5,6-dihydro-indolizine-7,8-dicarboxylate (10): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1a**, 30 mg, 0.12 mmol) and 3-dimethylamino-2-methylacrylonitrile (**2d**, 27 mg, 0.24 mmol) were electrolysed at 500 mV (current consumption 71 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:1) afforded 14 mg of **10** (37 %) as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. Yellow solid; m.p. 92 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 4.58 (s, 0.5H, H5), 4.47 (s, 0.5H, H5), 3.63 (s, 1.5H, OCH₃), 3.55 (s, 1.5H, OCH₃), 3.52 (s, 1.5H, OCH₃), 3.42 (s, 1.5H, OCH₃), 2.26 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.01 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.91 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.90 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 1.83 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.77 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.75 (s, 3H, 2CH₃), 1.74 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.42 (s, 1.5H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 167.2 (s, 0.5C), 167.1 (s, 0.5C), 165.2 (s, 0.5C), 164.6 (s, 0.5C, C=O), 134.8 (s, 0.5C), 133.2 (s, 0.5C), 132.1 (s, 0.5C), 132.0 (s, 0.5C), 124.1 (s, 0.5C), 123.9 (s, 0.5C), 121.7 (s, 0.5C), 120.6 (s, 0.5C), 120.5 (s, 0.5C), 119.9 (s, 0.5C), 119.7 (s, 0.5C); 112.6 (s, 0.5C), 111.7 (s, 0.5C, Ar, C=C, C≡N), 76.8 (d, 0.5C), 76.7 (d, 0.5C, C5), 52.6 (q, 0.5C), 52.5 (q, 0.5C), 52.1 (q, 0.5C), 52.0 (q, 0.5C, OCH₃), 42.1 (q, 1C), 41.8 (q, 1C, NCH₃), 41.6 (s, 0.5C), 39.0 (s, 0.5C, C6), 25.0 (q, 0.5C), 20.7 (q, 0.5C, 6-CH₃), 10.7 (q, 0.5C), 10.5 (q, 0.5C), 9.5 (q, 0.5C), 9.3 (s, 0.5C), 9.1 (q, 1C, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2951 (m), 2924 (m), 2221 (w), 1740 (s), 1707 (s), 1577 (m), 1435 (s), 1269 (vs), 1242 (vs), 1221 (s) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 359 (68, M⁺), 328 (19), 315 (15), 300 (45), 88 (100); HR-MS calcd for C₁₉H₂₅N₃O₄: 359.1845, found 359.1848; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 376 nm.

5-Dimethylamino-1,2,3,6-tetramethyl-6,7,8-tricyano-5,6-dihydro-indolizine (11): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1b**, 30 mg, 0.16 mmol) and 3-dimethylamino-2-methylacrylonitrile (**2d**, 35 mg, 0.32 mmol) were electrolysed at 500 mV (current consumption 56 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:1) afforded 16 mg of **11** (54 %) as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. Yellow solid; m.p. 143 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 4.95 (s, 0.5H, H5), 4.89 (s, 0.5H, H5), 2.36 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.34 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 2.32 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 2.29 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 2.25 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 2.24 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 1.98 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.96 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.84 (s, 1.5H, CH₃), 1.59 (s, 1.5H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 136.8 (s, 0.5C), 135.8 (s, 0.5C), 128.6 (s, 0.5C), 127.5 (s, 0.5C), 122.2 (s, 0.5C), 121.7 (s, 1C), 121.5 (s, 0.5C), 119.9 (s, 0.5C), 119.4 (s, 0.5C), 117.5 (s, 0.5C), 117.0 (s, 0.5C), 115.1 (s, 0.5C), 114.5 (s, 0.5C), 113.2 (s, 1C), 104.0 (s, 0.5C), 101.1 (s, 0.5C, Ar, C=C, C≡N), 76.1 (d, 0.5C), 76.0 (d, 0.5C, C5), 42.5 (s, 0.5C, C6), 41.6 (q, 1C), 41.2 (q, 1C, NCH₃), 39.5 (s, 0.5C, C6), 24.6 (q, 0.5C), 20.7 (q, 0.5C, 6-CH₃), 11.0 (q, 0.5C), 10.7 (q, 0.5C), 10.0 (q, 0.5C), 9.8 (q, 0.5C), 9.0 (q, 1C, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2954 (m), 2924 (m), 2858 (m), 2797 (w), 2235 (m), 2198 (s), 1569 (vs), 1530 (vs), 1475 (vs), 1434 (vs), 1342 (s) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): *m/z* (%) = 293 (100, M⁺), 278 (20), 249 (28), 235 (25), 233 (33), 222 (13), 202 (58); HR-MS calcd for C₁₇H₁₉N₅: 293.1640, found 293.1640; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 426, 266 nm.

Spiro[γ-butyrolactone-2,6'-(7,8-dicarbomethoxy-5-dimethylamino-1,2,3-trimethyl)-5,6-dihydroindolizine (12): Following the general procedure described above, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1a**, 35 mg, 0.14 mmol) and 3-dimethylaminomethylenedihydrofuran-2-one (**2e**, 40 mg, 0.28 mmol) were electrolysed at 420 mV (current consumption 60 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE/PE 1:1) afforded 17 mg of **12** (33 %) as a 1:4 mixture of diastereomers. Yellow oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 4.85 (s, 0.8H, H5), 4.70 (s, 0.2H, H5), 4.57 (m, 0.2H, H4'), 4.52 (m, 0.8H, H4'), 4.42 (m, 0.8H, H4'), 4.34 (m, 0.2H, H4'), 3.90 (s, 2.4H, OCH₃), 3.86 (s, 0.6H, OCH₃), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.02 (m, 0.2H, H3'), 2.63 (m, 1H, H3'), 2.36 (s, 4.8H, NCH₃), 2.27 (s, 1.2H, NCH₃), 2.24 (s, 2.4H, CH₃), 2.18 (s, 0.6H, CH₃), 2.16 (m, 0.8H, H3'), 1.93 (s, 4.8H, CH₃), 1.92 (s, 0.6H, CH₃), 1.91 (s, 0.6H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 174.6 (s), 167.6 (s), 165.5 (s, C=O), 134.0 (s), 131.4 (s), 122.5 (s), 120.7 (s),

119.3 (s), 114.7 (s, Ar, C=C), 73.3 (d, C5), 64.8 (t, OCH₂), 52.6 (q), 52.0 (q, OCH₃), 50.5 (s, C6), 41.4 (q, NCH₃), 34.5 (t, 6-CH₂), 10.6 (q), 9.2 (q), 9.1 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 2951 (m), 2923 (m), 1775 (s), 1739 (vs), 1703 (vs), 1583 (m), 1434 (s), 1280 (vs), 1212 (vs) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 390 (14, M⁺), 331 (32), 229 (15), 169 (56), 43 (100); HR-MS calcd for C₂₀H₂₆N₂O₆: 390.1791, found 390.1790; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 374 nm.

Trimethyl 7,8,9-trimethyl-1,3,4,10a-tetrahydro-2H-pyrrolo[1,2-a][1,8]naphthyridine-4a,5,6-tricarboxylate (13): Following the general procedure, 2-vinylpyrrole (**1a**, 30 mg, 0.12 mmol) and methyl 1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyridine-3-carboxylate (**2f**, 34 mg, 0.24 mmol) were electrolysed at 420 mV (current consumption 96 C). Separation of the reaction mixture by flash chromatography (MTBE) afforded 9 mg of **13** (25%) as an orange oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 5.02 (s, 1H, H10a), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.60 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.07 (m, 1H, H4), 2.99 (m, 1H, H2), 2.75 (m, 1H, H2'), 2.21 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.95 (m, 1H, H4'), 1.88 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.85 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.51 (m, 1H, H3), 1.14 (m, 1H, H3'); ¹³C NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ = 174.3 (s), 168.0 (s), 166.5 (s, C=O), 135.5 (s), 131.0 (s), 124.2 (s), 119.1 (s), 119.0 (s), 112.4 (s; Ar, C=C), 69.0 (d, C10a), 52.8 (q), 52.4 (q), 51.8 (q, OCH₃), 50.8 (s, C4a), 44.8 (t, C2), 30.7 (t, C4), 22.5 (t, C3), 9.5 (q), 9.3 (q), 8.9 (q, CH₃); IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu}_{\max}$ = 3316 (w), 2950 (m), 2861 (w), 1739 (vs), 1709 (vs), 1550 (m), 1434 (s), 1258 (vs), 1221 (vs), 1200 (s) cm⁻¹; MS (70 eV, EI): m/z (%) = 390 (90, M⁺), 359 (19), 331 (100), 299 (61), 251 (40); HR-MS calcd for C₂₀H₂₆N₂O₆: 390.1791, found 390.1797; UV/Vis (MeOH): λ_{\max} = 370, 281 nm.

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