

# SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## 2-Sulfinyl-Oxetanes: Synthesis, Stability and Reactivity

Kate F. Morgan,<sup>a</sup> Robert Doran,<sup>a</sup> Rosemary A. Croft,<sup>a</sup> Ian A. Hollingsworth,<sup>b</sup> and James A. Bull\*<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London SW7 2AZ, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7594 5811.

E-mail: [j.bull@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:j.bull@imperial.ac.uk).

<sup>b</sup> AstraZeneca Mereside, Alderley Park, Cheshire, SK10 4TG, UK.

Table of contents.....	S1
General experimental conditions.....	S2
Synthesis of 1-methyl-4-({2-[(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy}methanesulfinyl)benzene <b>1a</b> .....	S3
Synthesis of 2-(4-chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane <b>2b</b> .....	S5
Synthesis of 2-(oxetan-2-ylsulfinyl)pyridine <b>2c</b> .....	S7
Synthesis of 2-(2-chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane <b>2d</b> .....	S9
Synthesis of 2-(3-chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane <b>2e</b> .....	S11
Synthesis of 2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfinyl]oxetane <b>2f</b> .....	S13
Synthesis of 4-(oxetane-2-sulfinyl)benzotrile <b>2g</b> .....	S15
Synthesis of 2-[[4-(nitrophenyl)sulfonyl]methoxy]ethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate <b>5h</b> .....	S17
Sulfoxide-magnesium exchange on oxetane <b>2e</b> to give <b>6</b> .....	S19
Sulfoxide-magnesium exchange on oxetane <b>2c</b> to give <b>7</b> .....	S19
Formation of sulfonyl oxetanes <b>8d</b> and <b>8g</b> .....	S20
References.....	S21
<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR spectra for novel compounds.....	S22-S60

**General Experimental Conditions:**

All non-aqueous reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere (argon) with oven-dried (160 °C) or flame dried glassware using standard techniques. Anhydrous solvents were obtained by filtration through drying columns (THF, Et<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, PhMe) or obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification (DMF). H<sub>2</sub>O was distilled before use.

Flash column chromatography was performed using 230-400 mesh silica, with the indicated solvent system according to standard techniques. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm), aqueous potassium permanganate stain or PMA (phosphomolybdic acid).

Infrared spectra were recorded using a Perkin-Elmer spectrum 100 FT-IR Spectrometer and the absorbencies were reported in wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>).

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 (400 MHz) or AV 500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Data were reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant in Hz and assignment. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as an internal standard (<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra: CDCl<sub>3</sub>: δ = 7.27 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO: δ = 2.05 ppm, CD<sub>3</sub>OD: δ = 3.31 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO: δ = 2.50 ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra: CDCl<sub>3</sub>: δ = 77.00 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO: δ = 29.84, 206.26 ppm, CD<sub>3</sub>OD: δ = 49.00 ppm, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO: δ = 39.52 ppm) or using chloroform with 1% tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with complete proton decoupling. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million referenced to the standard monofluorobenzene: -113.5 ppm. Assignments of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra were made by the analysis of δ/J values and COSY, HSQC and HMBC experiments as appropriate.

High resolution mass spectrometry were recorded on VG Platform II, Waters Xevo G2-S, VG Autospec or Thermofisher LTQ Orbitrap XL spectrometers. Melting points are uncorrected

**Reagents:** For the preparation of LDA or LiHMDS solutions, diisopropylamine or hexamethyldisilazane were distilled over potassium hydroxide immediately before use. Unless otherwise stated *m*CPBA was washed prior to use: dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with a phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) and dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) then the solvent removed under reduced pressure. All commercially available organometallic solutions were titrated against salicylaldehyde phenylhydrazone.<sup>i</sup> All other commercially available reagents were used without further purification.

**Preparation of a 0.61M solution of LiHMDS:**

A solution of HMDS (1.27 ml, 6.0 mmol) in THF (5.38 mL) was cooled to -78 °C for 10 min then *n*BuLi (2.35 mL, 5.49 mmol, 2.3 M in hexane) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for 30 min then warmed to 0 °C for 30 min prior to immediate use.

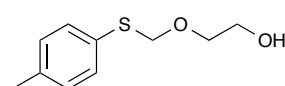
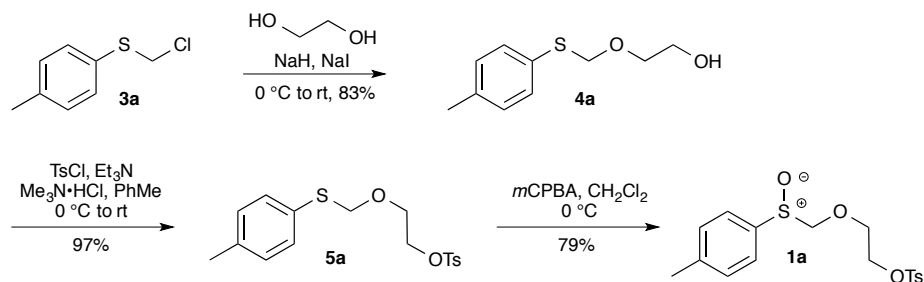
**General Procedure for the preparation of a 1 M solution of LDA:**

A solution of diisopropylamine (0.92 mL, 6.60 mmol) in THF (2.68 mL) was cooled to -78 °C for 10 min then *n*BuLi (2.40 mL, 6.00 mmol, 2.5 M in hexane) was added dropwise. Solution stirred at -78 °C for 1 h prior to use.

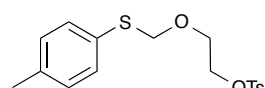
**Compound Handling/Purification/Storage:** All synthetic intermediates were stored under argon at -20 °C for short periods of time. Instability of sulfoxide compounds meant that in some cases appropriate molecular ions (HRMS) could not be obtained.

**Sulfinyl-oxetane diastereoisomers:** The relative configuration of the oxetane diastereoisomers was not assigned. For consistency, diastereoisomers are denoted **A** or **B** based on polarity, with compound **A** eluting first on flash chromatography.

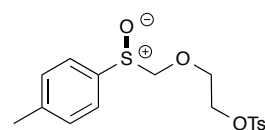
i. B. E. Love and E. G. Jones, *J. Org. Chem.*, 1999, **64**, 3755–3756.

**Synthesis of 1-methyl-4-({2-[(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy}methanesulfinyl)benzene (1a)****2-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfanyl]methoxyethan-1-ol (4a)<sup>1</sup>**

Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 2.57 g, 64.25 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (400 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 15 min. Sodium iodide (9.62 g, 64.18 mmol) was added followed by a solution of chloromethylsulfide **3a** (10.04 g, 58.37 mmol) in ethylene glycol (5 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then warmed to rt for 4 h. Water (300 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4a** (9.60 g, 83%) as a yellow oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.34 (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3449 (OH), 2926, 2872, 1734, 1493, 1461, 1373, 1250, 1052, 1017, 806, 734. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.38 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.13 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.00 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.78–3.72 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.34 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.94 (1 H, s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.2 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.1 (2 × Ar-C), 129.8 (2 × Ar-C), 77.0 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 221.0607; Found: 221.0607 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0 ppm.

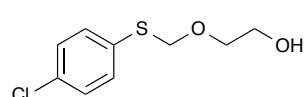
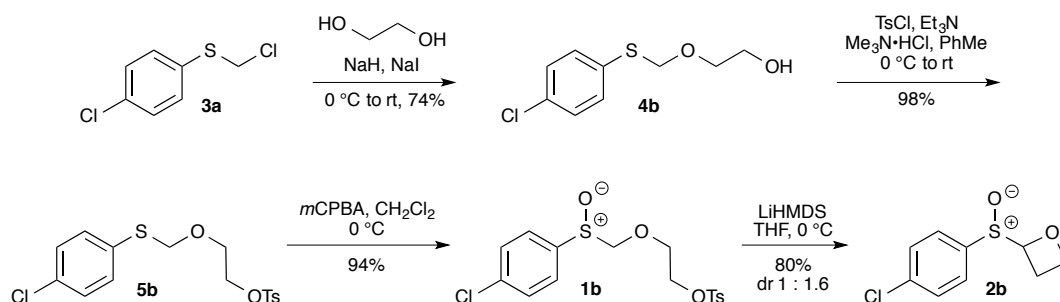
**2-[(4-Methylphenyl)sulfanyl]methoxyethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5a)<sup>1</sup>**

Triethylamine (3.14 mL, 22.34 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (70 mg, 0.75 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4a** (1.50 g, 7.56 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 10 min. A suspension of 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (2.86 g, 15.00 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min then allowed to warm to rt slowly over 40 min and stirred for a further 1 h 20 min. Water (100 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (4 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and brine (50 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5a** (2.52 g, 97%) as a yellow oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.34 (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2984, 2891, 1734, 1596, 1499, 1362, 1237, 1175, 1095, 1011, 915, 807. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.79 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.34–7.30 (4 H, m, 2 × Ts-H + 2 × Tol-H), 7.10 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 × Tol-H), 4.90 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.22–4.18 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.83–3.78 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (3 H, s, Ts-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.33 (3 H, s, Tol-CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.8 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 137.1 (Tol-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.4 (Tol-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.0 (2 × Ar-C), 129.8 (2 × Ar-C), 129.7 (2 × Ar-C), 127.9 (2 × Ar-C), 76.8 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.7 (SCH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.5 (TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (Ts-CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (Tol-CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 370.1141; Found: 370.1134 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 1.9 ppm.

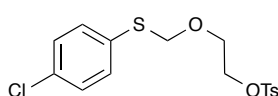
**1-Methyl-4-({2-[(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy}methanesulfinyl)benzene (1a)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 1.18 g, 4.80 mmol) was added to a solution of sulfide **5a** (1.54 g, 4.37 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 3 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (7 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 5% NaOH (3 × 10 mL) and sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (50 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (60% EtOAc/hexane)

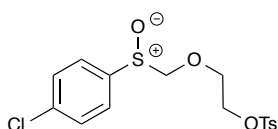
afforded a sample of sulfoxide **1a** as pale yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.30$  (60% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2970, 1599, 1496, 1355, 1189, 1175, 1142, 1096, 1004, 915, 810.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.76 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.48 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 7.36–7.30 (4 H, m, 2  $\times$  Ts-H + 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 4.40 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.6$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.35 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.6$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.21–4.14 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.10–3.95 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 2.43 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.40 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ). This compound rapidly decomposed on isolation on each attempt and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR could not be obtained.

**Synthesis of 2-((4-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl)oxetane (2b)****2-(((4-Chlorophenyl)sulfanyl)methoxy)ethan-1-ol (4b)<sup>1</sup>**

Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 1.56 g, 39.01 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (200 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. Sodium iodide (5.83 g, 38.90 mmol) was added followed by chloromethyl sulfide **3b** (6.26 g, 32.42 mmol) using DMF (5 mL) to aid transfer. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h then warmed to rt for 12 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (200 mL) and the mixture extracted with EtOAc (4 × 75 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4b** (5.27 g, 74%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.31 (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3388 (OH), 2934, 2872, 1481, 1392, 1313, 1095, 1059, 1013, 816, 683. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.40 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.27 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.01 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.80–3.69 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.08 (1 H, s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 133.9 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 133.0 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.6 (2 × Ar-C), 129.1 (2 × Ar-C), 76.4 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNaO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 241.0060; Found: 241.0060 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0 ppm.

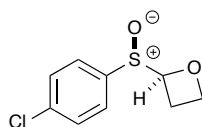
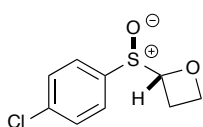
**2-(((4-Chlorophenyl)sulfanyl)methoxy)ethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (5b)<sup>1</sup>**

Triethylamine (6.19 mL, 44.04 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (141 mg, 1.48 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4b** (3.24 g, 14.82 mmol) in toluene (40 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 20 min. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (5.65 g, 29.64 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min then at rt for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (200 mL) and the mixture extracted with EtOAc (3 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (100 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5b** (5.39 g, 98%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.24 (20% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2920, 1601, 1482, 1358, 1180, 1095, 1093, 1017, 922, 820, 776, 668, 559. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.38–7.31 (4 H, m, 2 × Ts-H + 2 × Ar-H), 7.26–7.20 (2 H, m, 2 × Ar-H), 4.92 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.23–4.19 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.84–3.80 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 133.7 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 133.0 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.8 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.7 (2 × Ar-C), 129.8 (2 × Ts-C), 129.0 (2 × Ar-C), 127.9 (2 × Ts-C), 76.3 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.6 (SCH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.6 (TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ESI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 390.0595; Found: 390.0595 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0 ppm.

**2-(((4-Chlorophenyl)sulfinyl)methoxy)ethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (1b)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (1.11 g, 6.43 mmol) was added slowly to a solution of sulfide **5b** (2.00 g, 5.36 mmol) in dichloromethane (50 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then warmed to rt for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (80 mL) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (80 mL) then extracted with dichloromethane (4 × 40 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (80 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane) afforded sulfoxide **1b** (1.95 g, 94%) as a colourless

oil.  $R_f = 0.19$  (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3060, 2954, 2932, 1597, 1475, 1452, 1391, 1353, 1244, 1174, 1086, 1010, 909, 815, 772, 740.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.76 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ts-H}$ ), 7.54 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ar-H}$ ), 7.49 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ar-H}$ ), 7.33 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ts-H}$ ), 4.45 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.38 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.5$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.18–4.16 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.10–3.89 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 2.44 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  145.1 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 138.9 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 137.6 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.5 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.9 ( $2 \times \text{Ts-C}$ ), 129.5 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 127.8 ( $2 \times \text{Ts-C}$ ), 125.8 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 91.7 ( $\text{SCH}_2\text{O}$ ), 71.0 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ), 68.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ), 21.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  Calculated for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}^{35}\text{ClO}_5\text{S}_2^+$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ : 389.0279; Found: Accurate mass could not be found due to compound degradation.

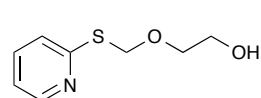
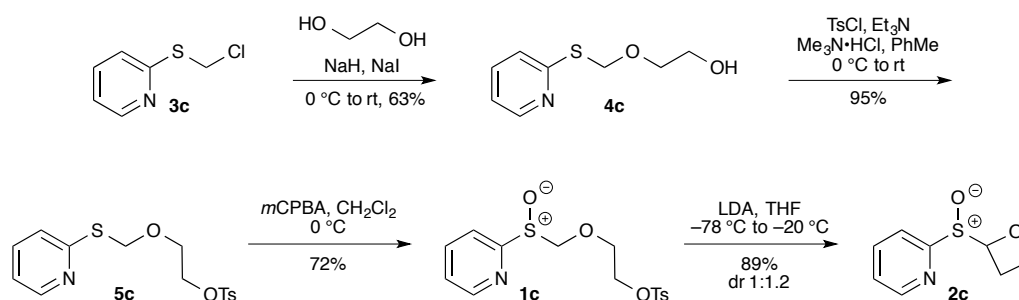


### 2-((4-Chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane (2b)

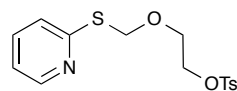
A solution of LiHMDS (1 M in THF, 0.16 mL, 0.16 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1b** (50 mg, 0.13 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (10 mL) and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $5 \times 6$  mL). The combined organics were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane) afforded the oxetane as a mixture of two diastereoisomers **2b-A** (10 mg, 36%) followed by **2b-B** (12 mg, 44%) both as colourless oils.

**Minor Diastereoisomer 2b-A:**  $R_f = 0.30$  (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3079, 2965, 2897, 1574, 1475, 1391, 1256, 1235, 1176, 1090, 1079, 1052, 975, 931, 913, 822, 741, 702.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54–7.49 (4 H, m,  $4 \times \text{Ar-H}$ ), 5.26 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.6, 5.2$  Hz, OCHS), 4.80 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 6.8, 5.4$  Hz, OCHH), 4.68 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.4, 6.0, 5.4$  Hz, OCHH), 3.26–3.18 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 2.73–2.63 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.7 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 137.4 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.3 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 126.5 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 96.8 (OCHS), 71.1 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 22.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ).

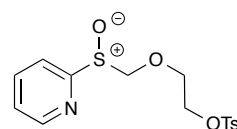
**Major Diastereoisomer 2b-B:**  $R_f = 0.13$  (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3079, 2965, 2897, 1574, 1475, 1391, 1256, 1235, 1176, 1090, 1079, 1052, 975, 931, 913, 822, 741, 702.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.61 (2 H, dt,  $J = 8.4, 2.0$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ar-H}$ ), 7.51 (2 H, dt,  $J = 8.4, 2.0$  Hz,  $2 \times \text{Ar-H}$ ), 5.38 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 5.7$  Hz, OCHS), 4.65–4.55 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.07–3.98 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.7 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 137.4 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.3 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 126.5 ( $2 \times \text{Ar-C}$ ), 96.8 (OCHS), 71.1 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 22.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ).

**Synthesis of 2-(oxetan-2-ylsulfinyl)pyridine (2c)****2-[(Pyridin-2-ylsulfanyl)methoxy]ethan-1-ol (4c)<sup>1</sup>**

Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 0.55 g, 13.78 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (120 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 55 min. Sodium iodide (2.06 g, 13.78 mmol) was added followed by chloromethyl sulfide **3c** (2.00 g, 12.53 mmol) using ethylene glycol (1 mL) to aid transfer. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 25 min then warmed to rt for 19 h 20 min. Water (150 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (10 × 35 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (0–80% EtOAc/heptane) afforded alcohol **4c** (1.46 g, 63%) as a colourless oil.  $R_f$  = 0.59 (80% EtOAc/heptane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3344 (OH), 2925, 1656, 1577, 1454, 1416, 1281, 1102, 1060, 908, 824, 758, 721, 678. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.46–8.44 (1 H, m, Py-H), 7.52 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.3, 1.9 Hz, Py-H), 7.29 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.0, 0.9 Hz, Py-H), 7.04 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 7.3, 5.0, 1.0 Hz, Py-H), 5.38 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.77–3.72 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.95 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.4 (Py-C<sub>q</sub>), 149.5 (Py-C), 136.5 (Py-C), 123.2 (Py-C), 120.4 (Py-C), 71.9 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ESI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 186.0583; Found: 186.0582 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0.5 ppm.

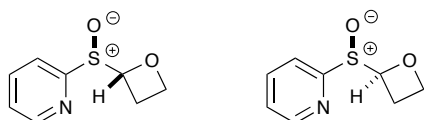
**2-[(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy]methanesulfinyl]pyridine (5c)<sup>1</sup>**

Triethylamine (4.06 mL, 28.89 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (93 mg, 0.97 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4c** (0.90 g, 4.86 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. A solution of 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.71 g, 19.46 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 35 min then at rt for 2 h 35 min. Water (50 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (7 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and brine (30 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (0–40% EtOAc/heptane) afforded tosylate **5c** (1.57 g, 95%) as a colourless oil.  $R_f$  = 0.36 (40% EtOAc/heptane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2924, 1610, 1533, 1494, 1453, 1419, 1353, 1281, 1216, 1172, 1119, 1032, 1009, 916, 816, 767, 680. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.43–8.41 (1 H, m, Py-H), 7.76 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.50 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.4, 1.9 Hz, Py-H), 7.31 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.24 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, Py-H), 7.02 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 7.4, 4.9, 1.0 Hz, Py-H), 5.32 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.18–4.16 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.79–3.76 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 157.2 (Py-C<sub>q</sub>), 149.4 (Py-C), 144.7 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 136.4 (Py-C), 133.0 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 129.7 (2 × Ts-C), 127.8 (2 × Ts-C), 122.8 (Py-C), 120.3 (Py-C), 71.8 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 66.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (NSI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 340.0672; Found: 340.0674 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0.6 ppm.

**2-[(2-[(4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy]methanesulfinyl]pyridine (1c)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (2.06 g, 11.93 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of sulfide **5c** (3.37 g, 9.93 mmol) in dichloromethane (150 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred whilst warming to rt for 2 h 30 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (40 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (40 mL) then extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 40 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography

(90–100% EtOAc/hexane) afforded sulfoxide **1c** (2.54 g, 72%) as a yellow solid, m.p. = 81–83 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.30 (100% EtOAc). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  1577, 1445, 1421, 1347, 1240, 1172, 1145, 1110, 1035, 1009, 947, 914, 805, 770, 664.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.62–8.59 (1 H, m, Py-H), 7.99–7.90 (2 H, m, Py-H), 7.75 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.38 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 7.0, 4.7, 1.8 Hz, Py-H), 7.32 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 4.85 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz, SCHHO), 4.57 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz, SCHHO), 4.17–3.99 (4 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ), 2.42 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.6 (Py- $\text{C}_q$ ), 149.6 (Py-C), 145.0 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 138.0 (Py-C), 132.7 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.8 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 127.9 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 124.7 (Py-C), 120.8 (Py-C), 91.1 ( $\text{SCH}_2\text{O}$ ), 71.1 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 68.6 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 21.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNaO}_5\text{S}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ]: 378.0446; Found: 378.0457 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ],  $\Delta$  2.9 ppm.



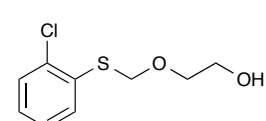
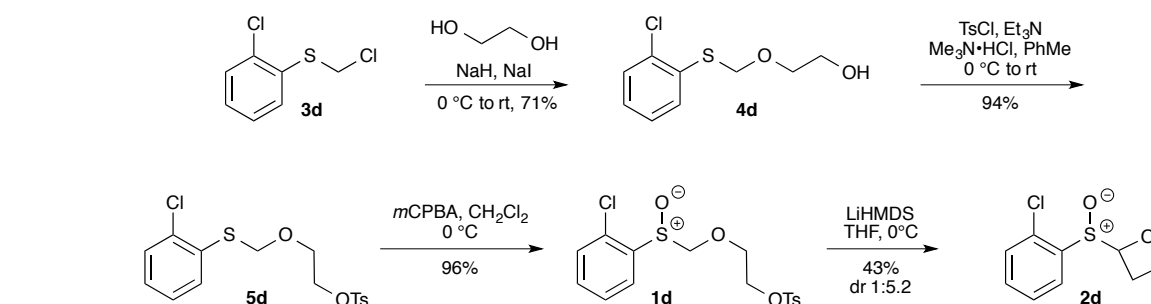
### 2-(Oxetan-2-ylsulfinyl)pyridine (**2c**)

A solution of LDA (1 M in THF, 1.08 mL, 1.08 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1c** (0.26 g, 0.71 mmol) in THF (28 mL) at  $-78$  °C and stirred for 15 min. The reaction flask was transferred to a  $-20$  °C bath and stirred for a further 20 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (50 mL) and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5  $\times$  30 mL). The combined organics were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography afforded the oxetane as a mixture of two diastereoisomers **2c-A** (50 mg, 38%) (20% EtOAc/hexane) followed by **2c-B** (68 mg, 51%) (20%  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) both as white solids.

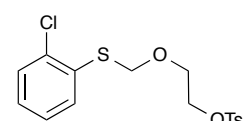
**Minor Diastereoisomer 2c-A:** m.p. = 71–73 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.10 (20%  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3502, 2970, 2912, 1575, 1449, 1421, 1240, 1088, 1053, 1009, 975, 915, 774, 739.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.61 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz, Py-H), 8.04 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, Py-H), 7.94 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 7.8, 7.5, 1.7 Hz, Py-H), 7.37 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 7.5, 4.7, 1.1 Hz, Py-H), 5.78 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 5.6 Hz, OCHS), 4.82 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.8, 6.9, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 4.65 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 6.0, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 3.39–3.28 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 3.17–3.05 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.0 (Py- $\text{C}_q$ ), 149.5 (Py-C), 137.7 (Py-C), 124.6 (Py-C), 121.4 (Py-C), 97.2 (OCHS), 71.4 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 22.7 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ). HRMS (CI)  $m/z$  Calculated for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ]: 184.0432; Found: 184.0430 [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ],  $\Delta$  1.1 ppm.

**Major Diastereoisomer 2c-B:** m.p. = 71–73 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.15 (20%  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  3398, 2956, 1573, 1564, 1447, 1418, 1332, 1222, 1113, 1083, 1042, 988, 764, 712.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.63–8.61 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, Py-H), 7.98–7.90 (2 H, m, 2  $\times$  Py-H), 7.38 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 6.8, 4.8, 2.2 Hz, Py-H), 5.82 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.4, 5.3 Hz, OCHS), 4.80 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 12.0, 6.8, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 4.69 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 11.4, 6.0, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 3.58–3.47 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 3.22–3.12 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.0 (Py- $\text{C}_q$ ), 149.7 (Py-C), 137.9 (Py-C), 124.6 (Py-C), 120.5 (Py-C), 100.0 (OCHS), 71.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 18.7 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ). HRMS (CI)  $m/z$  Calculated for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ]: 184.0432; Found: 184.0430 [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ],  $\Delta$  1.1 ppm.

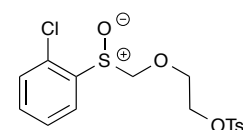


**Synthesis of 2-(2-chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane (2d)****2-(((2-Chlorophenyl)thio)methoxy)ethanol (4d)<sup>2</sup>**

Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 1.60 g, 40.01 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (350 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 30 min. Sodium iodide (6.01 g, 40.10 mmol) was added followed by chloromethylsulfide **3d** (6.88 g, 35.63 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h then warmed to rt for 17 h. Water (175 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4d** (5.60 g, 71%) as a pale yellow oil.  $R_f = 0.42$  (100% EtOAc). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3380 (OH), 2927, 1575, 1454, 1431, 1309, 1253, 1100, 1055, 1033, 1018, 887, 824, 745, 656. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.61 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.6$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.38 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.5$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.23 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.1, 7.8, 1.5$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.16 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.1, 7.8, 1.6$  Hz, Ar-H), 5.10 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.75 (4 H, br s, SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.05 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.2 (Ar-C), 129.7 (Ar-C), 127.5 (Ar-C), 127.3 (Ar-C), 74.8 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.0 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (EI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>35</sup>Cl [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]: 236.0512; Found: 236.0521 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>], Δ 3.8 ppm.

**2-[[[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]methoxy]ethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5d)<sup>2</sup>**

Triethylamine (9.59 mL, 68.24 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (0.22 g, 2.29 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4d** (5.02 g, 22.93 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (8.74 g, 45.87 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 50 min then allowed to warm to rt and stirred for a further 1 h 30 min. Water (75 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5d** (8.03 g, 94%) as a white solid; m.p. = 40–42 °C.  $R_f = 0.15$  (20% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3069, 2876, 1596, 1573, 1450, 1357, 1314, 1230, 1175, 1123, 1085, 1018, 924, 835, 759, 730, 661. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.55 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.7$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.37 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.32 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.25–7.14 (2 H, m, 2 × Ar-H), 5.00 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.23–4.18 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.80–3.80 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 133.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.3 (Ar-C), 129.8 (2 × Ts-C), 129.6 (Ar-C), 127.9 (2 × Ts-C), 127.5 (Ar-C), 127.4 (Ar-C), 74.6 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl [M+H+CH<sub>3</sub>CN]: 414.0601; Found: 414.0605 [M+H+CH<sub>3</sub>CN], Δ 1.0 ppm.

**1-Chloro-2-((2-[[[(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy]ethoxy]methane sulfinyl)benzene (1d)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (0.26 g, 1.51 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of sulfide **5d** (0.51 g, 1.37 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture for 1 h 45 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) then extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (2 × 10 mL) and sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash

chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane) afforded sulfoxide **1d** (0.51 g, 96%) as a colourless oil.  $R_f = 0.30$  (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2953, 1598, 1448, 1355, 1175, 1095, 1018, 910, 814, 733, 661.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.7$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.89 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.55 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 7.6, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.48 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 7.9, 1.7$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.41 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.35 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 4.79 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.39 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.8$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.23–4.19 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.14–4.09 (2 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 2.45 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  145.1 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 138.1 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.8 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.6 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 130.2 (Ar-C), 130.0 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 129.9 (Ar-C), 128.2 (Ar-C), 128.1 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 126.9 (Ar-C), 91.2 ( $\text{SCH}_2\text{O}$ ), 71.2 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 68.8 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 21.8 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ).

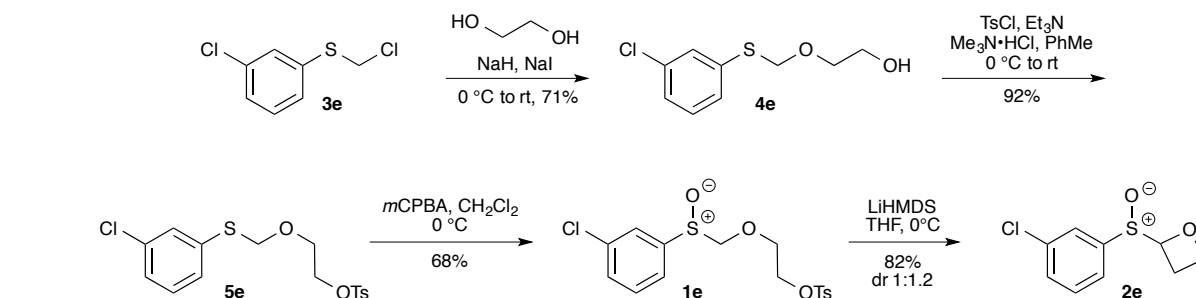


### 2-(2-Chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane (**2d**)

A solution of LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 0.94 mL, 0.94 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1d** (0.30 g, 0.78 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 15 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (20 mL) and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5  $\times$  15 mL). The combined organics were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexane) afforded the sulfinyl oxetane as a mixture of two diastereoisomers **2d-A** (12 mg, 6%) followed by **2d-B** (62 mg, 37%) both as colourless oils.

**Minor Diastereoisomer 2d-A:**  $R_f = 0.22$  (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2965, 1724, 1573, 1433, 1357, 1248, 1176, 1103, 1026, 914, 815, 752, 660.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.82 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.3, 1.8$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.50 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.9, 7.3, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.44 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.9, 7.8, 1.8$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.39 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 5.79 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 5.3$  Hz, OCHS), 4.81 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.9, 6.7, 5.3$  Hz, OCHH), 4.68 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.3, 6.1, 5.3$  Hz, OCHH), 3.27–3.18 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 2.56–2.47 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.9 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.2 (Ar-C), 130.3 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.8 (Ar-C), 127.9 (Ar-C), 126.4 (Ar-C), 97.5 (SCHO), 71.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 18.2 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}^{35}\text{ClO}_2\text{S}$  [M+H]: 217.0090; Found: 217.0104, [M+H],  $\Delta$  6.5 ppm.

**Major Diastereoisomer 2d-B:**  $R_f = 0.15$  (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2965, 1724, 1573, 1433, 1357, 1248, 1176, 1103, 1026, 914, 815, 752, 660.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.92 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.7$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.50 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 7.7, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.43 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 9.0, 7.9, 1.7$  Hz, Ar-H), 7.36 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.9, 1.3$  Hz, Ar-H), 5.75 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.7, 5.5$  Hz, OCHS), 4.79 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.8, 6.9, 5.2$  Hz, OCHH), 4.64 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.3, 5.9, 5.2$  Hz, OCHH), 3.31–3.23 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 3.13–3.04 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.8 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.1 (Ar-C), 129.9 ( $\text{C}_q$ ), 129.5 (Ar-C), 128.0 (Ar-C), 127.5 (Ar-C), 94.5 (SCHO), 71.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 22.7 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}^{35}\text{ClO}_2\text{S}$  [M+H]: 217.0090; Found: 217.0104, [M+H],  $\Delta$  6.5 ppm.

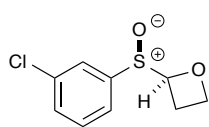
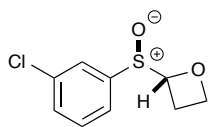
**Synthesis of 2-((3-chlorophenyl)sulfinyl)oxetane (2e)**

**2-((3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)ethoxyethanol (4e)<sup>2</sup>**  
 Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 0.27 g, 6.87 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (55 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 20 min. Sodium iodide (1.03 g, 6.87 mmol) was added followed by chloromethylsulfide **3e** (1.20 g, 6.25 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then warmed to rt and stirred for a further 17 h. Water (30 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4e** (0.97 g, 71%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.10 (30% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3381 (OH), 2929, 1576, 1562, 1460, 1400, 1307, 1052, 1017, 886, 823, 773, 677. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.49–7.46 (1 H, m, Ar-H), 7.35 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 6.6, 1.9, 1.7 Hz, Ar-H), 7.26–7.19 (2 H, m, 2 × Ar-H), 5.07 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.83–3.73 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.87 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 137.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.9 (Ar-C), 129.4 (Ar-C), 127.9 (Ar-C), 126.8 (Ar-C), 75.9 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (CI) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>35</sup>Cl [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 219.0247; Found: 219.0253 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 2.7 ppm.

**2-((3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)ethoxyethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (5e)<sup>2</sup>**  
 Triethylamine (1.66 mL, 11.83 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (38 mg, 0.39 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4e** (0.86 g, 3.94 mmol) in toluene (18 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (1.50 g, 7.87 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min then allowed to warm to rt and stirred for a further 1 h 30 min. Water (20 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5e** (1.35 g, 92%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.15 (20% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2921, 1576, 1453, 1431, 1251, 1117, 1034, 954, 907, 735, 658. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.40 (1 H, br s, Ar-H), 7.33 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.31–7.26 (1 H, m, Ar-H), 7.23–7.18 (2 H, m, 2 × Ar-H), 4.95 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.24–4.18 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.84–3.78 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 137.4 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 134.6 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.8 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 129.9 (Ar-C), 129.8 (2 × Ts-C), 129.4 (2 × Ar-C), 127.9 (2 × Ts-C), 126.9 (Ar-C), 75.8 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 390.0595; Found: 390.0587 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 2.1 ppm.

**1-Chloro-3-((2-((4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy)ethoxy)methyl)sulfonium benzene (1e)**  
 $meta$ -Chloroperbenzoic acid (0.36 g, 2.09 mmol) was added to a solution of sulfide **4e** (0.71 g, 1.91 mmol) in dichloromethane (28 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (25 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 1 M NaOH (2 × 10 mL) and sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane) afforded sulfoxide **1e** (0.50 g, 68%) as a white solid, m.p. = 81–82 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.30 (70%

EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3060, 2957, 1597, 1588, 1457, 1406, 1352, 1249, 1186, 1172, 1121, 1041, 1015, 937, 915, 887, 775, 664. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.63–7.60 (1 H, m, Ar-H), 7.51–7.44 (3 H, m, 3 × Ar-H), 7.34 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 4.49 (1 H, d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, SCHHO), 4.39 (1 H, d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, SCHHO), 4.23–3.99 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.44 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 145.1 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 142.6 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 135.7 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.6 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (Ar-C), 130.5 (Ar-C), 129.9 (2 × Ts-C), 127.9 (2 × Ts-C), 124.3 (Ar-C), 122.5 (Ar-C), 92.1 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 71.1 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 68.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ES) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 389.0284; Found 389.0300 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 4.1 ppm.

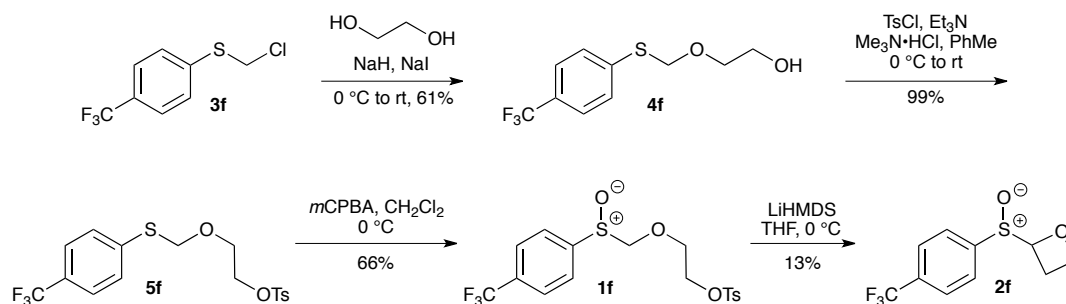


### 2-(3-Chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane (2e)

A solution of LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 5.04 mL, 5.04 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1e** (1.78 g, 4.58 mmol) in THF (175 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 25 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (50 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 × 15 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane) afforded the oxetane as a mixture of two diastereoisomers **2e-A** (0.45 g, 45%) followed by **2e-B** (0.37 g, 37%) both as off-white solids.

**Major Diastereoisomer 2e-A:** m.p. = 65–66 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.17 (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3025, 2970, 2937, 1756, 1738, 1438, 1336, 1228, 1217, 1208, 914, 650. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60–7.58 (1 H, m, Ar-H), 7.49–7.41 (3 H, m, 3 × Ar-H), 5.31 (1 H, dd, *J* = 7.5, 5.0 Hz, OCHS), 4.81 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.7, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 4.68 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 8.5, 6.2, 5.4 Hz, OCHH), 3.28–3.16 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH), 2.74–2.62 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.4 (Ar-C), 130.4 (Ar-C), 124.2 (Ar-C), 122.2 (Ar-C), 99.9 (SCHO), 71.3 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 19.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ES) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub><sup>35</sup>ClO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 217.0085; Found: 217.0079, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 2.8 ppm.

**Minor Diastereoisomer 2e-B:** m.p. = 65–66 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.09 (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3025, 2970, 2937, 1756, 1738, 1438, 1336, 1228, 1217, 1208, 914, 650. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.69–7.67 (1 H, m, Ar-H), 7.55–7.44 (3 H, m, 3 × Ar-H), 5.42 (1 H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 5.6 Hz, OCHS), 4.67–4.59 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.10–2.99 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (Ar-C), 130.2 (Ar-C), 125.2 (Ar-C), 123.2 (Ar-C), 97.0 (SCHO), 71.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ES) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub><sup>35</sup>ClO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 217.0085; Found: 217.0079, [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 2.8 ppm.

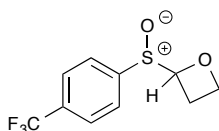
**Synthesis of 2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfinyl]oxetane (2f)**

**2-([4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfanyl)methoxy)ethan-1-ol (4f)<sup>2</sup>**  
 Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 76 mg, 1.92 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (16 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 40 min. Sodium iodide (0.29 g, 1.95 mmol) was added followed by chloromethyl sulfide **3f** (0.40 g, 1.77 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h then warmed to rt for 15 h. Water (20 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4f** (0.28 g, 61%) as a pale yellow oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.10 (30% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2927, 2296, 1607, 1403, 1321, 1162, 1060, 1013, 888, 825, 779, 677. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59–7.52 (4 H, m, 4 × Ar-H), 5.12 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.83–3.75 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.03 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.0 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 128.7 (2 × Ar-C), 128.2 (C<sub>q</sub>, q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 32.9 Hz, C-CF<sub>3</sub>), 125.5 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.3 Hz, 2 × Ar-C), 123.9 (C<sub>q</sub>, q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 272.0 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 75.0 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 69.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.57 (CF<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (CI) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NF<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 270.0770; Found: 270.0770 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0 ppm.

**2-([4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfanyl)methoxy)ethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5f)<sup>2</sup>**  
 Triethylamine (0.33 mL, 2.37 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (7 mg, 0.07 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4f** (0.20 g, 0.79 mmol) in toluene (4 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (0.31 g, 1.61 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min then allowed to warm to rt and stirred for a further 1 h 30 min. Water (20 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (5 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5f** (0.32 g, 99%) as an off white solid; m.p. = 70–71 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.15 (20% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2926, 1603, 1317, 1161, 1097, 1083, 1028, 996, 909, 826, 811, 759, 683. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.52–7.48 (4 H, m, 4 × Ar-H), 7.33 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 5.02 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.26–4.29 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.86–3.81 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.45 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 140.7 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (2 × Ts-C), 129.0 (2 × Ar-C), 128.5 (C<sub>q</sub>, q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 32.1 Hz, C-CF<sub>3</sub>), 127.9 (2 × Ts-C), 125.6 (q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 3.5 Hz, 2 × Ar-C), 124.0 (C<sub>q</sub>, q, *J*<sub>CF</sub> = 272.6 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 75.1 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.8 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.5 (CF<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (APCI) *m/z* Calculated C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 424.0859; Found: 424.0854 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 1.2 ppm.

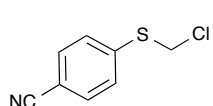
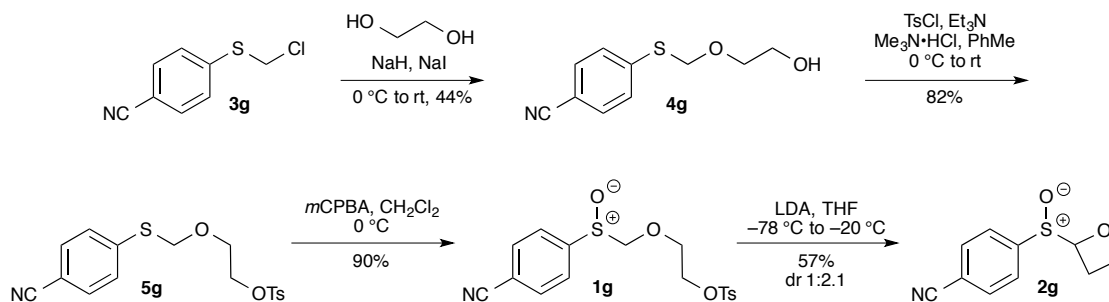
**1-([2-([4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl]oxy)ethoxy]methanesulfinyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (1f)**  
 $\textit{meta}$ -Chloroperbenzoic acid (79 mg, 0.46 mmol) was added to a solution of sulfide **5f** (0.17 g, 0.42 mmol) in dichloromethane (6 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 2 h 15 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 1 M NaOH (2 × 10 mL) and sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane)

afforded sulfoxide **1f** (0.12 g, 66%) as a colourless oil.  $R_f = 0.21$  (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2914, 1599, 1452, 1404, 1359, 1322, 1170, 1102, 1037, 1013, 946, 811, 700, 659.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.83–7.70 (6 H, m, 4  $\times$  Ar-H + 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.34 (2 H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 4.53 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.44 (1 H, d,  $J = 10.4$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.22–4.00 (4 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}$ ), 2.44 (3 H, s,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  145.2 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 133.6 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 132.6 (Ts- $\text{C}_q$ ), 131.9 ( $\text{C}_q$ , q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 31.2$  Hz, C- $\text{CF}_3$ ), 129.9 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 127.9 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 126.3 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.6$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-C), 124.9 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 123.5 ( $\text{C}_q$ , q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 248.9$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 91.8 ( $\text{SCH}_2\text{O}$ ), 71.3 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 68.5 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 21.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.5 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_5\text{F}_3\text{NaS}_2$  [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ]: 445.0367; Found 445.0373 [ $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ],  $\Delta$  1.3 ppm.

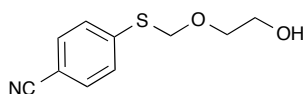


### 2-[4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfinyl]oxetane (**2f**)

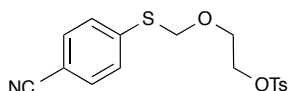
A solution of LiHMDS (1 M in THF, 0.21 mL, 0.21 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1f** (74 mg, 0.17 mmol) in THF (7 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 45 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (20 mL) and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organics were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane) afforded oxetane **2f** (6 mg, 13%) as a colourless oil. Only one diastereoisomer isolated.  $R_f = 0.22$  (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/ $\text{cm}^{-1}$  2929, 1730, 1605, 1402, 1321, 1169, 1128, 1102, 1061, 1014, 952, 836, 698, 666.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (2 H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar), 7.72 (2 H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar), 5.32 (1 H, dd,  $J = 7.4, 5.2$  Hz, SCHHO), 4.84 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.8, 6.8, 5.4$  Hz, OCHH), 4.70 (1 H, ddd,  $J = 8.8, 6.2, 5.4$  Hz, OCHH), 3.28–3.18 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ), 2.75–2.64 (1 H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CHH}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.7 (Ar- $\text{C}_q$ ), 133.2 ( $\text{C}_q$ , q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 32.3$  Hz, C- $\text{CF}_3$ ), 126.2 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.2$  Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-C), 124.7 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 123.5 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} = 274.4$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 99.9 (OCHS), 71.4 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 19.8 ( $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.9 ( $\text{CF}_3$ ). HRMS (EI)  $m/z$  Calculated  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{F}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}$ ]: 250.0275; Found 250.0287 [ $\text{M}$ ],  $\Delta$  4.8 ppm.

**Synthesis of 4-(oxetane-2-sulfinyl)benzonitrile (2g)****4-4-[(Chloromethyl)sulfanyl]benzonitrile (3g)**

*N*-Chlorosuccinimide (2.46 g, 18.42 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of 4-(methylthio)benzonitrile (2.50 g, 16.75 mmol) in dichloroethane (25 mL). The reaction was stirred at rt for 18 h then filtered through a short pad of silica, eluting with dichloromethane (50 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford chloromethyl sulfide **3g** (3.00 g, 97%) as an off white solid, which was used without further purification; m.p. = 146–147 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.51 (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR(film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3034, 2224 (CN), 1590, 1486, 1403, 1224, 1140, 1123, 1085, 1016, 831, 811, 736. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.67–7.65 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.55–7.52 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.04 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>Cl). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.6 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.6 (2 × Ar-C), 128.4 (2 × Ar-C), 118.4 (CN), 110.5 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 47.8 (SCH<sub>2</sub>Cl). HRMS (EI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>NS<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl [M]: 182.9909; Found: 182.9908 [M], Δ 0.5 ppm. The observed data (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C) is consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>3</sup>

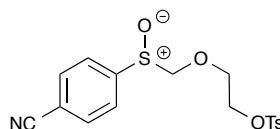
**4-[[2-(2-Hydroxyethoxy)methyl]sulfanyl]benzonitrile (4g)**

Potassium *t*-butoxide (1.01 g, 9.00 mmol) was added to a solution of ethylene glycol (4.6 mL, 82.50 mmol) in DMF (67 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h. Potassium iodide (1.49 g, 8.98 mmol) was added followed by chloromethylsulfide **3g** (1.50 g, 8.17 mmol). DMF (2 mL) was added to aid solubility. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h then warmed to rt for 14 h. Water (100 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (7 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4g** (0.76 g, 44%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.09 (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3411 (OH), 2925, 2226 (CN), 1592, 1457, 1432, 1402, 1316, 1303, 1273, 1181, 1106, 1085, 1058, 1016, 975, 888, 822, 778, 760, 680. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.58 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.54 (2 H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.16 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.83–3.76 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.77 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 143.4 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.3 (2 × Ar-C), 128.4 (2 × Ar-C), 118.7 (CN), 109.5 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 74.7 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.1 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (CI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 210.0583; Found: 210.0579 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 1.9 ppm.

**2-[[4-(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfanyl]methoxyethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5g)**

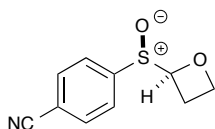
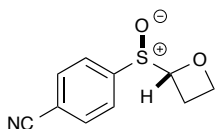
Triethylamine (2.52 mL, 17.93 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (57 mg, 0.60 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4g** (1.26 g, 6.03 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (2.30 g, 12.06 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 35 min then allowed to warm to rt slowly and stirred for a further 3 h. Water (75 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (4 × 25 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5g** (1.79 g, 82%) as an off white solid; m.p. = 86–87 °C. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.18 (30% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2221 (CN), 1590, 1487, 1430, 1317, 1292, 1240, 1188, 1171, 1118, 1081, 1029, 995, 907, 822, 761, 683. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.77 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.54–7.46 (4 H, m, 4  $\times$  Ar-H), 7.34 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 5.04 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.24–4.20 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.85–3.82 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.46 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  145.0 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 143.0 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.8 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.3 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 129.8 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 128.5 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 127.9 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 118.6 (CN), 109.5 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 74.5 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 65.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (NSI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 381.0937; Found: 381.0940 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>,  $\Delta$  0.8 ppm.



#### 4-((2-((4-Methylbenzenesulfonyl)oxy)ethoxy)methanesulfinyl)benzonitrile (**1g**)

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (0.26 g, 1.51 mmol) was added to a solution of sulfide **5g** (0.50 g, 1.38 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred at 0 °C for 2 h 30 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (5  $\times$  15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 1 M NaOH (2  $\times$  15 mL) and sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% EtOAc/hexane) afforded sulfoxide **1g** (0.47 g, 90%) as pale yellow solid, m.p. = 85–87 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.20 (70% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2929, 2231, 1596, 1487, 1445, 1397, 1351, 1309, 1295, 1247, 1189, 1120, 1080, 1042, 939, 834, 811, 775, 719, 704, 663. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86–7.73 (6 H, m, 4  $\times$  Ar-H + 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 7.37 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ts-H), 4.56 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.6 Hz, SCHHO), 4.47 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.6 Hz, SCHHO), 4.24–4.03 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O), 2.47 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.5 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 145.2 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.9 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 132.9 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 127.9 (2  $\times$  Ts-C), 125.2 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 117.7 (CN), 115.2 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 91.4 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 71.4 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 68.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (ES)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 380.0621; Found: 380.0624 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>,  $\Delta$  0.8 ppm.



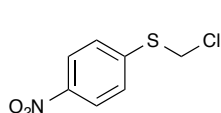
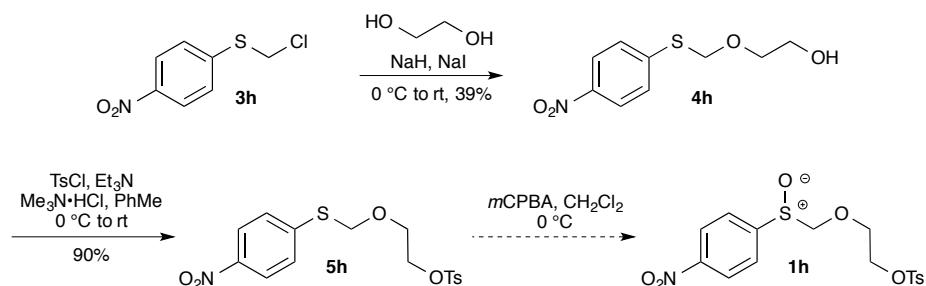
#### 4-(Oxetane-2-sulfinyl)benzonitrile (**2g**)

A solution of LDA (1 M in THF, 0.29 mL, 0.29 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of sulfoxide **1g** (72.2 mg, 0.190 mmol) in THF (7.6 mL) at –78 °C and stirred for 15 min. The reaction flask was transferred to a –20 °C bath and stirred for a further 20 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (60-70% EtOAc/pentane) afforded the oxetane as a mixture of two diastereoisomers, **2g-A** (7.2 mg, 18%) followed by **2g-B** (19.5 mg, 50%); both as colourless oils.

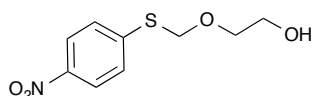
**Minor Diastereoisomer 2g-A:**  $R_f$  = 0.45 (70% EtOAc/pentane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3090, 2967, 2881, 2229, 1731, 1589, 1483, 1397, 1338, 1245, 1177, 1144, 1073, 1015, 953, 828, 778, 715, 663. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 7.72 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 5.31 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.3, 5.0 Hz, OCHS), 4.84 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.8, 7.0, 5.5 Hz, OCHH), 4.71 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.5, 5.9, 5.5 Hz, OCHH), 3.25–3.15 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH), 2.78–2.68 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  145.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.8 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 124.9 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 117.6 (CN), 115.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 99.9 (OCHS), 71.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 20.1 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ASAP)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]: 208.0432; Found: 208.0432 [M],  $\Delta$  0 ppm.

**Major Diastereoisomer 2g-B:**  $R_f$  = 0.13 (70% EtOAc/pentane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3090, 2967, 2881, 2229, 1731, 1589, 1483, 1397, 1338, 1245, 1177, 1144, 1073, 1015, 953, 828, 778, 715, 663. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 7.78 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2  $\times$  Ar-H), 5.44 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 5.4 Hz, OCHS), 4.66–4.60 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.18–3.02 (2 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  144.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.5 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 125.8 (2  $\times$  Ar-C), 117.8 (CN), 115.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 97.1 (OCHS), 71.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.7 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (ASAP)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]: 208.0432; Found: 208.0432 [M],  $\Delta$  0 ppm.

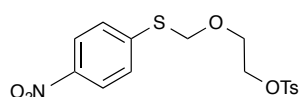


**Synthesis of 2-[[[4-nitrophenyl]sulfanyl]methoxy]ethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5h)****1-[(Chloromethyl)sulfanyl]-4-nitrobenzene (3h)**

*N*-Chlorosuccinimide (2.17 g, 16.25 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of 4-nitrothioanisole (2.50 g, 14.78 mmol) in dichloroethane (25 mL). The reaction was stirred at rt for 17 h then filtered through a short pad of silica, eluting with dichloromethane (25 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford chloromethyl sulfide **82k** (3.04 g, quant) as a pale yellow solid, which was used without further purification; m.p. = 58–59 °C (lit m.p. 63–64 °C).<sup>4</sup>  $R_f$  = 0.81 (100% EtOAc). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3098, 3022, 2964, 2829, 1593, 1575, 1500 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1479, 1401, 1319 (NO<sub>2</sub>), 1235, 1186, 1110, 1089, 964, 836, 735, 720. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.23 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.57 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.07 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>Cl). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 141.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.5 (2 × Ar-C), 123.9 (2 × Ar-C), 47.1 (SCH<sub>2</sub>Cl). HRMS (CI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 203.9881; Found: 203.9879 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 1.0 ppm. The observed data (<sup>1</sup>H) was consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>

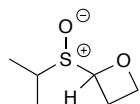
**2-[[[4-Nitrophenyl]sulfanyl]methoxy]ethan-1-ol (4h)**

Sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil, 0.11 g, 2.70 mmol) was added to ethylene glycol (25 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 1 h 30 min. Sodium iodide (0.41 g, 2.71 mmol) was added followed by chloromethyl sulfide **3h** (0.50 g, 2.46 mmol). DMF (1 mL) was added to aid solubility. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min then warmed to rt for 15 h 30 min. Water (50 mL) was added and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (50% EtOAc/hexane) afforded alcohol **4h** (0.22 g, 39%) as a pale yellow solid; m.p. = 40–41 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.15 (50% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2923, 1595, 1578, 1510 (NO), 1479, 1338 (NO), 1109, 1080, 1062, 888, 853, 742, 683. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.14 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.57 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 5.18 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.82–3.75 (4 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 1.84 (1 H, br s, OH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 146.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 145.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.8 (2 × Ar-C), 124.0 (2 × Ar-C), 74.5 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 70.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 61.5 (OCH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (APCI)  $m/z$  Calculated for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 247.0747; Found: 247.0749 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0.8 ppm.

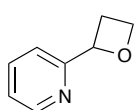
**2-[[[4-Nitrophenyl]sulfanyl]methoxy]ethyl-4-methylbenzene-1-sulfonate (5h)**

Triethylamine (0.24 mL, 1.71 mmol) and trimethylamine hydrochloride (6 mg, 0.06 mmol) were added to a solution of alcohol **4h** (0.13 g, 0.57 mmol) in toluene (2 mL) at 0 °C and stirred for 30 min. 4-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (0.22 g, 1.15 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min then allowed to warm to rt slowly over 30 min and stirred for a further 1 h 30 min. Water (20 mL) was added to the reaction and the product was extracted with EtOAc (4 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (25 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc/hexane) afforded tosylate **5h** (0.19 g, 90%) as a white solid; m.p. = 82–83 °C.  $R_f$  = 0.29 (40% EtOAc/hexane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2925, 1593, 1577, 1505 (NO), 1454, 1345 (NO), 1332, 1280, 1188, 1172, 1103, 1085, 1013, 946, 852, 837, 810, 781, 739, 682. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.09 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.78 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 7.50 (2 H, d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2 × Ar-H), 7.34 (2 H, d,  $J$  =

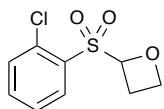
8.2 Hz, 2 × Ts-H), 5.08 (2 H, s, SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.25–4.21 (2 H, m, TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.88–3.84 (2 H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.46 (3 H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 145.9 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 145.6 (Ar-C<sub>q</sub>), 145.1 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 132.8 (Ts-C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (2 × Ts-C), 128.0 (2 × Ts-C), 127.9 (2 × Ar-C), 123.9 (2 × Ar-C), 74.3 (SCH<sub>2</sub>O), 68.3 (TsOCH<sub>2</sub>), 66.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). HRMS (NSI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 401.0836; Found: 401.0834 [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0.5 ppm.

**Sulfoxide-magnesium exchange on oxetane 2e to give 6****2-(Propane-2-sulfinyl)oxetane (6)**

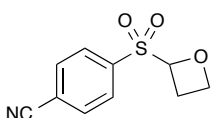
*i*PrMgCl (2 M in Et<sub>2</sub>O, 0.13 mL, 0.26 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-(3-chlorobenzenesulfinyl)oxetane **2e** (28 mg, 0.13 mmol) in THF (1.5 mL) at -78 °C and stirred for 5 min. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 × 10 mL). The combined organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) afforded oxetane **6** (16 mg, 86%) as a colourless oil. *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.14 (100% EtOAc). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2967, 1646, 1471, 1368, 1241, 1051, 1009, 975, 916, 764. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 5.57 (1 H, dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.0 Hz, SCHO), 4.84–4.77 (1 H, m, OCHH), 4.76–4.70 (1 H, m, OCHH), 3.30–3.22 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH), 3.19 (1 H, sept, *J* = 7.0 Hz, (SCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.06–2.95 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH), 1.42 (3 H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.14 (3 H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 91.3 (SCHO), 71.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 46.0 (SCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 16.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**Sulfoxide-magnesium exchange on oxetane 2c to give 7****2-(Oxetan-2-yl)pyridine (7)**

*i*PrMgCl·LiCl (1.3 M in THF, 0.35 mL, 0.46 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-(oxetan-2-ylsulfinyl)pyridine **2c** (41 mg, 0.23 mmol) in THF (4.5 mL) at -78 °C and stirred for 5 min. 3-Pentanone (75 μL, 0.69 mmol) was added and the reaction stirred at -78 °C for a further 5 min. Reaction quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 × 10 mL). Combined organics were dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) afforded oxetane **7** (18 mg, 60%) as a colourless oil. *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.48 (100% EtOAc). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.60 (1 H, d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, Py-H), 7.78 (1 H, ddd, *J* = 9.4, 7.7, 1.6 Hz, Py-H), 7.62 (1 H, d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, Py-H), 7.23 (1 H, dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.7 Hz, Py-H), 5.87 (1 H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, OCHPy), 4.91–4.85 (1 H, m, OCHH), 4.72 (1 H, dt, *J* = 9.2, 5.9 Hz, OCHH), 3.19–3.08 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH), 2.80–2.69 (1 H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>CHH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 149.3 (Py-C), 136.8 (Py-C), 122.5 (Py-C), 119.8 (Py-C), 83.0 (OCHPy), 69.0 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 28.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>).

**Formation of sulfonyl-oxetanes 8d and 8g****2-((2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)oxetane (8d)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (25.9 mg, 0.15 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of sulfide **2d-B** (21.7 mg, 0.10 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred for 1 h at 0 °C followed by 1 h at rt. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (20% EtOAc/pentane) afforded sulfone **8d** (21.2 mg, 91%) as a colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.20 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.61-7.51 (m, 2H, 2 × Ar-H), 7.48 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 5.94 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H, OCHS), 4.95 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H, OCHH), 4.69 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H, OCHH), 3.30-3.13 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). All other data was consistent with that previously reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

**4-(Oxetan-2-ylsulfonyl)benzonitrile (8g)**

*meta*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (19.9 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added portionwise to a solution of sulfide **2g-B** (15.9 mg, 0.077 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.8 mL) at 0 °C and the mixture stirred for 1 h at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (70% Et<sub>2</sub>O/pentane) afforded sulfone **8g** (10.8 mg, 63%) as a colourless oil. *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.26 (70% Et<sub>2</sub>O/pentane). IR (film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3095, 2977, 2905, 2235, 1443, 1396, 1322, 1285, 1150, 1086, 1031, 983, 908, 842, 726, 689. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.14-8.04 (m, 2H, 2 × Ar-H), 7.91-7.83 (m, 2H, 2 × Ar-H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 5.8 Hz, 1H, OCHS), 4.86 (app. td, *J* = 8.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H, OCHH), 4.72-4.65 (m, 1H, OCHH), 3.25-3.07 (m, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 139.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.9 (2 × Ar-C), 130.2 (2 × Ar-C), 118.1 (CN), 117.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 94.2 (OCHS), 71.9 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>). HRMS (NSI) *m/z* Calculated for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>NS<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 246.0195; Found: 246.0197 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, Δ 0.7 ppm.

## References

1. K. F. Morgan, I. A. Hollingsworth and J. A. Bull, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 5203.
2. K. F. Morgan, I. A. Hollingsworth and J. A. Bull, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2015, **13**, 5265.
3. A. Beckwith and P. Pigou, *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1986, **39**, 77.
4. J.-I. Hayami, N. Tanaka, S. Kurabayashi, Y. Kotani and A. Kaji, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 1971, **44**, 3091.
5. Y. Tamura, H. Annoura, M. Fuji, M. Okura and H. Ishibashi, *Chem. Pharm. Bull*, 1986, **34**, 540.

**$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of selected compounds**

