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### ARTICLE

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# rganic & Biomolecular Chemistry Accepted Manuscrip

with Oleanolic Acid Derivatives Liangfeng Fu,<sup>a</sup> Qi-Xian Lin,<sup>a</sup> Karen T. Liby,<sup>b</sup> Michael B. Sporn,<sup>\*, b</sup> and Gordon W.

An Efficient Synthesis of Methyl 2-Cyano-3,12-

Gribble<sup>\*, a</sup> GI-Xian Lin, Karen T. Liby, Michael B. Sporn, \*, and Gordon

dioxoursol-1,9-dien-28-oate (CDDU-Methyl Ester);

Analogues, Biological Activities, and Comparison

An efficient synthesis of methyl 2-cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1,9-dien-28-oate (CDDU-methyl ester) from commercially available ursolic acid, which features an oxidative ozonolysis-mediated C-ring enone formation, and provides the first access to ursolic acid-derived cyano enone analogues with C-ring activation. These new ursolic acid analogues show potent biological activities, with potency of approximately five-fold less than the corresponding oleanolic acid derivatives.

### Instruction

The biological importance of naturally occurring pentacyclic triterpenoids has long been recognized. The annual review of triterpenoids in Natural Product Reports is ample testimony to the ubiquitous worldwide distribution of these compounds, which include squalenes, lanostanes, fusidanes, dammanes, euphanes, and others. Within each class is a stunning array of structural diversity and a range of biological activity.<sup>1</sup> For example, many oleanane and ursane triterpenoids, which are derived biosynthetically by cyclization of squalene,<sup>2</sup> have interesting biological, pharmacological, and medicinal activities not unlike those attributed to retinoids and steroids. These properties include anti-inflammatory, suppression of tumor suppression of immunoglobulin synthesis, promotion, protection of the liver against toxic injury, induction of collagen synthesis, and induction of differentiation in leukemia and teratocarcinoma cells.<sup>3</sup>

Oleanolic acid (1), ursolic acid (2), and betulinic acid (3) (Figure 1), probably the most commonly studied triterpenoids, exhibit modest biological activity, although 2 has been marketed in China as an oral drug for the treatment of liver disorders in humans.<sup>4</sup>

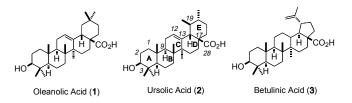


Figure 1 Oleanolic acid, ursolic acid, and betulinic acid

Extensive studies report the use of oleanolic acid as a skeleton motif. Indeed, the highly potent oleanolic acid derivative CDDO-methyl ester (4) (bardoxolone methyl) (Figure 2), which was developed in our laboratory years ago,<sup>5</sup> has successfully completed a Phase I clinical trial for the treatment of cancer<sup>6</sup> and a Phase II clinical trial for the treatment of chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes patients.<sup>7</sup> During this research we synthesized a series of CDDO-methyl ester analogues (Figure 2), such as CDDO-ethyl amide (5), CDDO-trifluoroethyl amide (6), and CDDO-imidazolide (7).<sup>8</sup> Details of their biological properties are described in recent review articles.<sup>9-11</sup>

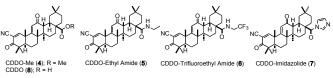


Figure 2 CDDO methyl ester and analogues

Due to the limited structure–activity studies involving ursolic acid, we have undertaken and now describe an efficient synthesis of the ursolic acid analogue of CDDO-methyl ester, CDDU-methyl ester (methyl 2-cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1,9-dien-28-oate), along with related derivatives, and describe their biological activities. To investigate the anti-inflammatory and cancer chemopreventive properties of these derivatives, we have adopted a preliminary screening assay system that measures inhibition of nitric oxide (NO) production as induced by interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ) in mouse macrophages. Thus, CDDO (8) is 200,000–400,000 times more active than oleanolic acid in this inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) assay. Also, CDDO at nanomolar concentrations suppresses the *de novo* synthesis of the inflammatory enzymes iNOS and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) in activated macrophages.<sup>12</sup>

### **Results and Discussion**

**Chemical Synthesis.** Our rationale for this project is that because ursolic acid is often more potent than oleanolic acid,<sup>13</sup> we deemed it important to synthesize and study the ursolic acid derivatives CDDU-methyl ester (9), CDDU-ethyl amide (10), CDDU-trifluoroethyl amide (11), and CDDU-imidazolide (12) (Figure 3).

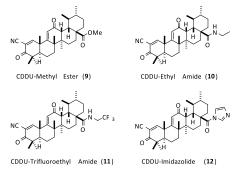
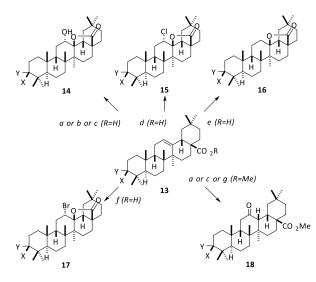


Figure 3. CDDO-methyl ester and analogues.

Our first goal was to prepare the C-ring enone of ursolic acid. A number of reagents and reaction conditions are known to oxidize the C11-C12 alkene of oleanolic acid, including *m*-CPBA,<sup>14</sup> MMPP,<sup>15</sup> ozone-mediated<sup>16</sup> hydroxy lactonization, DMDO-mediated chlorolactonization,<sup>17</sup> bismuth (III) triflate-mediated<sup>18</sup> lactonization, and bromolactonization.<sup>19</sup> Oxidation conditions, such as  $H_2O_2/AcOH^{20}$  or *m*-CPBA-mediated epoxidation and isomerization,<sup>21</sup> ozonolysis<sup>22</sup> have also been developed for oleanolic acid esters (Scheme 1).

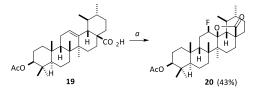
Scheme 1.ª Reported C11-C12 oxidation of oleanolic acid.



<sup>a</sup>Reagents: (a) *m*-CPBA, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (b) MMPP, acetone; (c)  $O_3$ , CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (d) DMDO, CHCl<sub>3</sub>; (e) Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (f) Br<sub>2</sub>, AcOH; (g) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, AcOH.

However, the corresponding oxidations of ursolic acid are either rare or unknown. For example, Bag and coworkers reported a selective  $Br_2/AcOH$ -induced bromolactonization of oleanolic acid in the presence of ursolic acid.<sup>19</sup> Recently, Csuk and Siewert reported a *m*-CPBA-mediated oxidative separation of oleanolic acid from ursolic acid.<sup>14b</sup> Under these conditions, oleanolic acid was completely converted to the oxidation product, whereas ursolic acid was recovered nearly quantitatively. The different C-ring reactivity between oleanolic acid and ursolic acid is presumed to be due to the steric hindrance imparted by the C19 methyl group in ursolic acid. However, Salvador, Jing and co-workers describe the introduction of a C-12 fluorine in an ursolic acid derivative<sup>23</sup> (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2.ª Reported fluorolactonization on ursolic acid



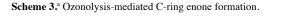
<sup>a</sup>Reagent: (a) Selectfluor, dioxane, nitromethane, 80 °C.

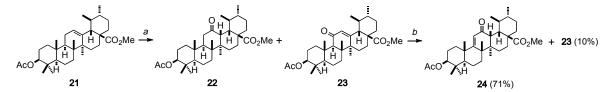
Not surprisingly, we encountered difficulty in the oxidation of the ursolic acid C-ring. Thus, an initial reaction of ursane ester **21** with *m*-CPBA as the oxidant resulted in almost quantitative recovery of  $21^{24}$  (Scheme 3), and classic conditions employing hydrogen peroxide in acetic acid gave complex mixtures. Moreover, neither *t*-butyl hydroperoxide nor MMPP provided satisfactory results. Reductive conditions on **21** using excess borane also failed, yielding partial reduction of both the C-3 acetate and C-17 methyl ester, but leaving the C11-C12 alkene intact.

To our delight, treatment of **21** with ozone at -40 °C afforded a mixture of **22** and **23** (4:1) (Table 1, entry 3) as an inseparable mixture, which was evidenced by our proton and carbon NMR spectra. A temperature study revealed that -78 °C is optimal (Table 1, entry 4), and these conditions provided **22** and **23** in a ratio of 8:1. Without further purification, direct treatment with pyridinium perbromide in acetonitrile afforded ring-C enones **24** and **23** in 81% and 10% yield, respectively (Scheme 3).

Mild base-catalyzed hydrolysis of 24 afforded an alcohol 25 (not shown), which was oxidized to the corresponding ketone 26 with refluxing iodoxybenzoic acid. A subsequent two-step selenation/oxidation/elimination protocol gave bis-enone 27 in good yield. Regioselective iodination using iodine in carbon tetrachloride and pyridine in the presence of catalytic amount of dimethylaminopyridine gave iodoenone 28. Final cyanation using copper (I) cyanide in dimethyl formamide unexpectedly provided a mixture of the desired cyanoenone 9 and bis-cyanoenone 29, the latter of which was not observed in our recently developed CDDO-Me synthesis.<sup>25</sup> The formation of bis-cyanoenone 29 may indicate that CDDU-methyl ester (9) is a more reactive Michael acceptor and will prove more potent than CDDO-methyl ester (4).

In similar fashion, enone 23 was converted in five steps to cyanoenone 33 and bis-cyanoenone 34 (Scheme 5).



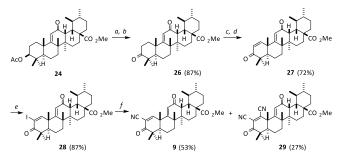


<sup>a</sup>Reagent: (a) O<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, T °C; (b) pyHBr<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 50 °C.

Table 1. Optimization for ozonolysis-mediated C-ring enone formation of 22 plus 23.

Entry	T (°C)	Ratio (22:23)	Yield (%)	Yield of <b>22</b> (%)	Yield of 23 (%)
1	25	2:1	84	56	28
2	0	2:1	84	56	28
3	-40	4:1	87	70	17
4	-78	8:1	91	81	10

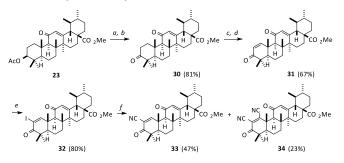
Scheme 4.<sup>a</sup> Synthesis of CDDU-methyl ester (9).



<sup>a</sup>Reagent: (a)  $K_2CO_3$ , MeOH; (b) IBX, EtOAc, reflux; (c) LiHMDS, THF, -78 °C to 0 °C; PhSeCl, THF, -78 °C; (d)  $H_2O_2$ , THF,  $CH_2Cl_2$ , 0 °C to rt; (e)  $I_2$ , DMAP, pyridine,  $CCl_4$ , 90 °C; (f) CuCN, DMF, 120 °C.

With CDDU-methyl ester (9) in hand, lithium iodidemediated demethylation in refluxing pyridine afforded CDDU (35) in 81% yield (Scheme 6). Amides 10, 11, 36, and imidazolide 12 were obtained in a two-step sequence from CDDU 35, via the acid chloride, respectively. Treatment of 36 with trifluoroacetic anhydride and triethylamine in methylene chloride afforded bis-nitrile 37 in an 89% yield. Finally, direct treatment of 35 with DDQ in refluxing benzene provided lactone 38 in 71% yield (Scheme 6).<sup>26</sup>

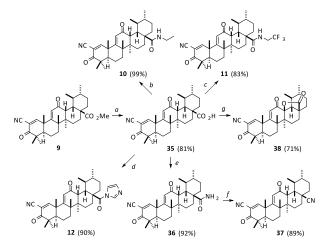
Scheme 5.ª Synthesis of cyano enones 33 and 34.



<sup>a</sup>Reagent: (a)  $K_2CO_3$ , MeOH; (b) IBX, EtOAc, reflux; (c) LiHMDS, THF, -78 °C to 0 °C; PhSeCl, THF, -78 °C; (d)  $H_2O_2$ , THF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0 °C to rt; (e) I<sub>2</sub>, DMAP, pyridine, CCl<sub>4</sub>, 90 °C; (f) CuCN, DMF, 120 °C.

**Biological Evaluation.** The inflammatory activity of our ursolic acid cyanoenones as measured by the inhibition of nitric oxide (NO) production in RAW 264.7 macrophages is summarized in Table 1. The orientation of the ring-C enone is important, as the activity significantly decreases when this moiety is moved from the 9(11)-en-12-one position in CDDU-methyl ester (9) to the 12(13)-en-11-one position in 33. Similarly, **29** is somewhat more potent than **34**. Notably, the addition of a cyano group at C1 (**29** and **34** compared to **9** and **33**) significantly decreases biological activity, presumably because the C1-cyano group retards Michael addition with a reactive cysteine or other nucleophiles on a target protein.

Scheme 6.<sup>a</sup> Synthesis of CDDU-methyl ester analogues.



Reagent: (a) LiI, pyridine, reflux; (b)  $(COCl)_2$ , DMF,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ; EtNH<sub>2</sub>.HCl, Et<sub>3</sub>N,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ; (c)  $(COCl)_2$ , DMF,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ; CF<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>.HCl, Et<sub>3</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (d)  $(COCl)_2$ , DMF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; imidazole, PhH; (e)  $(COCl)_2$ , DMF, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; NH<sub>3</sub>, MeOH; (f) TFAA, Et<sub>3</sub>N, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>; (g) DDQ, PhH, reflux.

Compounds 9, 10, 11, 12, 35, 36, 37, and 38 are all active at nanomolar concentrations in this assay (Table 2). Imidazolide 12, nitrile 37, and lactone 38 are the most potent. CDDU-Me (9) is slightly less active than the former three compounds, but more active than CDDU (35) itself.

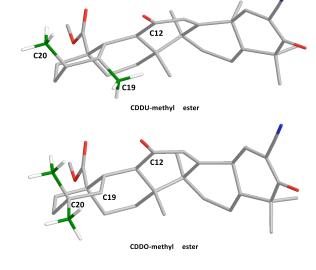
As shown in Table 1, the oleanolic acid analogues are uniformly more potent than the corresponding ursolic acid derivatives, but with a similar trend. Thus, imidazolides (12 and CDDO-Im), nitriles (37 and CDDO-CN), and a lactone (38) are the most potent. As the only difference between the two scaffolds is the C19 axial methyl substituent for CDDU- methyl ester (9) versus C20 equatorial methyl for CDDOmethyl ester (Scheme 7), this simple transposition affects the biological activity by 5–10 fold. This result may be useful for future studies of structure-activity relationships related to the methyl substituents on oleanolic acid and ursolic acid. Especially important would seem to be the modification of the gem dimethyl group at C4, since the origin of the biological activity is primarily due to the reversible Michael addition mechanism at C-1 on ring-A.

Table 2. Biological potency of triterpenoids with a comparison	
between ursolic and oleanolic analogues.	

UA cmpds	IC50 (nM)	OA cmpds	IC <sub>50</sub> (nM)	
9	$17 \pm 1$	CDDO-Me	4 ± 1.6	
29	$380 \pm 38$			
33	$61 \pm 7$			
34	$304 \pm 38$			
10	$54 \pm 2$	CDDO-EA	$5 \pm 3$	
11	$26 \pm 4$	CDDO-TFEA	$8 \pm 4$	
12	$5\pm0.2$	CDDO-Im	$1\pm0.4$	
35	$251 \pm 41$	CDDO	$95 \pm 21$	
36	$48\pm5$	CDDO-CONH <sub>2</sub>	$7 \pm 3$	
37	$7\pm0.4$	CDDO-CN	$1\pm0.05$	
38	$8 \pm 2$			

 $IC_{50}$  values were determined by serial dilutions of the compounds (range 1 nM-1  $\mu$ M). All experiments were repeated at least 3 times.

Scheme 7. 3D models for CDDU-methyl ester and CDDO-methyl ester.



### Conclusions

An efficient synthesis of methyl 2-cyano-3,12-dioxursol-1,9dien-28-oate (CDDU-methyl ester) from commercially available ursolic acid is disclosed, which provides access to ursolic acid-derived cyanoenone analogues with C-ring enone activation. The conversion of the C ring C11-C12 alkene to a 9(11)-en-12-one features an ozonolysis-induced oxidation followed by enone formation mediated by pyridinium tribromide. Biological studies of these ursolic acid analogues display a similar structure-activity relationship to the corresponding oleanolic acid analogues, but are less potent by approximately half a log. Interestingly, introduction of a cyano substituent at C1 greatly decreases the biological activity, probably due to steric blocking of C1 to a Michael addition.

### **Experimental Section**

*Chemistry.* All reactions were performed in a single-neck, round-bottomed flask fitted with rubber septa under a positive pressure of nitrogen, unless otherwise noted. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation below 30 °C. Flash-column chromatography was performed using silica gel (0.04-0.063 mm, 230-400 mesh ASTM) purchased from DAWN RUSSUP Macherey-Nagel Inc. (Bethlehem, PA). Analytical

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thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using glass backed TLC extra hard layer pre-coated with silica gel (0.25 mm, 60Å pore size) impregnated with a fluorescent indicator. TLC plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light (UV) or/and submersion in PAA (p-anisaldehyde) or CAM (ceric ammonium molybdate) stains followed by brief heating on a hot plate (120 °C, 10-15 s). Commercial solvents and reagents were used as received. Proton nuclear magnetic spectra (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) were recorded at 500 MHz at 24 °C, unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$  scale) downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CHCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ 7.26). Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances, br = broad, app = apparent), integration, coupling constant in Hertz, and assignment. Proton-decoupled carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) were recorded at 500 MHz at 24 °C unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm,  $\delta$  77.0). IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco FT-IR 4100 Series spectrophotometer,  $\gamma_{max}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) are partially reported. High resolution mass spectra were acquired from the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory of the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign, IL).

**Biological Evaluation.** NO Assay. RAW 264.7 cells (5 x  $10^5$  cells per well) were plated in 96-well plates. The next day, cells were incubated with synthetic triterpenoids and 10 ng/mL IFN $\gamma$  (R & D systems) for 24 h. NO was measured as nitrite by the Griess reaction.

Methyl 3-Acetoxyl-12-oxoursol-9(11)-en-28-oate (24). To a stirred solution of ester 21 (500 mg, 0.98 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was subjected to ozonolysis at -78 <sup>o</sup>C. Upon completion of the reaction, it was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature and kept at room temperature for 3 h. The solvent was then removed to give crude inseparable reaction mixtures with the desired ketone 22 and 23 (~8:1). The crude mixture was dissolved in acetonitrile (10 mL) and pyridinium perbromide (416 mg, 1.30 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added. The resulting mixture was then heated to 50 °C for 18 h. After the completion of the reaction, it was allowed to cool to room temperature and quenched with 20% aqueous sodium thiosulfate (20 mL). It was then extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 20 mL), the combined organic extracts were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), brine (20 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave 24 (52 mg, 10%) and 23 (365 mg, 71%) as white solids, respectively. For 24: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.87 (s, 1H), 4.47 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$  = 11.7 Hz,  $J_2$  = 4.6 Hz), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.91 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 11.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.2 Hz), 2.39 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.87-2.00 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.80 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.70 (m, 10H), 1.14-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.83-0.90 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, 3H, J = 5.6 Hz), 0.73 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 201.0, 179.3, 178.5, 171.1, 123.3, 80.0, 52.1, 51.2, 50.3, 50.2, 45.4, 42.4, 40.9, 40.1, 39.6, 38.9, 38.3, 37.0, 36.2, 33.0, 31.3, 28.4, 28.3, 24.6, 24.4, 24.1, 24.0, 21.5, 20.9, 19.9, 19.7, 17.7, 16.9; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2366, 2340, 1717, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1456, 1217, 772, 669, 463

Methyl 3-Hydroxyl-12-oxoursol-9(11)-en-28-oate (25). To a stirred solution of enone 24 (7.0 g, 13.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methanol (100 mL) was added potassium carbonate (7.0 g, 40.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was allowed stir at room temperature for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, it was quenched with water (200 mL) and extracted with methylene chloride (4 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (80 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (2:1) gave alcohol 25 (5.6 g, 87%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.80 (s, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 11.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 4.5$  Hz), 2.83 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 11.4 Hz,  $J_2$  = 3.0 Hz), 2.32 (d, 1H, J = 3.8 Hz), 2.25 (brs, 1H), 1.78-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.72 (m, 12H), 1.24-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.03-1.20 (m, 2H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.79 (d, 3H, J = 6.1 Hz), 0.73 (s, 3H), 0.65 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  201.0, 179.9, 178.4, 123.0, 77.9, 52.0, 51.1, 50.1, 45.4, 42.3, 40.8, 40.2, 39.5, 39.4, 38.8, 36.9, 36.4, 33.0, 31.3, 28.4, 27.6, 24.5, 24.4, 23.9, 20.9, 19.9, 19.7, 18.0, 15.9; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2410, 2360, 2340, 1716, 1652, 1558, 1539, 1520, 1507, 1217, 772, 669, 624, 432.

Methyl 3,12-Dioxoursol-9(11)-en-28-oate (26). To a stirred solution of alcohol 25 (4.9 g, 10.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in ethyl acetate (80 mL) was added iodoxybenzoic acid (3.7 mg, 13.1 mmol, 1.3 equiv) in one portion. The resulting suspension was heated to reflux for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, it was cooled in ice bath and was then filtered through Celite. The resulting filtrate was concentrated and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (2:1) gave ketone 26 (4.8 g, 99%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.87 (s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.86 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$  = 11.2 Hz,  $J_2 = 2.7$  Hz), 2.57 (m, 1H), 2.45 (m, 2H), 2.18 (m, 1H), 1.35-1.95 (m, 14H), 1.00-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.07 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 0.83 (d, 3H, J= 6.1 Hz), 0.67 (d, 3H, J = 6.3 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ215.4, 199.9, 177.9, 177.6, 124.2, 51.8, 50.9, 50.5, 49.9, 47.3, 45.3, 42.2, 40.7, 39.4, 39.3, 38.7, 36.8, 36.7, 34.1, 32.0, 31.1, 28.3, 26.5, 24.3, 24.2, 23.8, 21.4, 20.8, 19.7, 19.5, 19.0; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1698, 1684, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1507, 1217, 772, 668; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{31}H_{47}O_4 [M+H]^+$ ) 483.3474, found 483.3471.

Methyl 3,12-Dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-oate (27). To a stirred solution of ketone 26 (4.8 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (150 mL) at -78 °C was slowly added LHMDS (20 mL, 1.0 M solution, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv); it was kept stirring at -78 °C for 30 min and then allowed to warm to 0 °C and kept at 0 °C for 30 min. It was then cooled back to -78 °C and phenylselenium chloride (3.8 g, 20.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added slowly. After the completion of the reaction, it was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride, and extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed to give crude product, which was used directly for next step without further purifications. The selenite obtained above was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of THF and methylene chloride (100 mL), and 30% aqueous hydrogen peroxide (5 mL) was added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred until disappearance of starting selenite. The reaction mixture was then diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and washed with 20% aqueous sodium

thiosulfate (10 mL), brine (10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave bis-enone 27 (3.44 g, 72%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.32 (d, 1H, J = 10.7 Hz), 6.14 (s, 1H), 5.93 (d, 1H, J = 10.3 Hz), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 11.2$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.2$  Hz), 2.48 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz), 1.89-1.98 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.84 (m, 7H), 1.44-1.65 (m, 4H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.10-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 0.88 (d, 3H, J = 6.1 Hz), 0.73 (d, 3H, J = 6.3 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  203.8, 200.0, 178.4, 173.0, 155.4, 126.5, 124.4, 52.1, 51.4, 50.2, 48.4, 45.8, 44.9, 42.5, 42.1, 41.1, 39.6, 38.9, 36.9, 32.2, 31.3, 28.5, 28.0, 27.5, 25.3, 24.0, 21.8, 20.9, 20.0, 19.6, 18.5; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1716, 1699, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1216, 770, 668, 451; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{31}H_{45}O_4 [M+H]^+$  481.3318, found 481.3306.

Methyl 2-Iodo-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-oate (28). To a stirred solution of bisenone 27 (1.07 g, 2.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in a 1:1 mixture of pyridine and carbon tetrachloride (10 mL) was added dimethylaminopyridine (56 mg, 0.46 mmol, 0.2 equiv) and iodine (1.75 g, 6.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and the resulting mixture was heated to 90 °C for 24 h without light. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL). The resulting solution was successively washed with 20% aqueous sodium thiosulfate (3 x 10 mL), 1 N aqueous HCl (3 x 10 mL), saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), brine (10 mL), and dried over Na2SO4. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave iodo-enone **28** (1.18 g, 87%) as a yellowish solid.  $^{1}$ H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 8.11 (s, 1H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.95 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 11.3$  Hz,  $J_2 = 3.0$  Hz), 2.48 (d, 1H, J =3.7 Hz), 1.90-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.87 (m, 7H), 1.59-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.44-1.57 (m, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.15-1.26 (m, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 0.89 (d, 3H, J= 6.1 Hz), 0.75 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 199.8, 197.0, 178.3, 171.5, 163.8, 124.6, 102.4, 52.2, 51.3, 50.2, 38.3, 36.5, 45.9, 45.4, 42.5, 41.2, 39.6, 38.9, 36.9, 31.9, 31.3, 28.6, 28.5, 28.0, 25.3, 24.0, 22.4, 20.9, 20.0, 19.7, 18.7; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1717, 1652, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1217, 770, 669; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{31}H_{44}IO_4 [M+H]^+$ ) 607.2284, found 607.2280.

Methyl 2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-oate (9) and Methyl 1,2-Dicyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28oate (29). To a stirred solution of iodoenone 28 (322 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous dimethylformamide (5 mL) was added copper (I) cyanide (54 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the resulting mixture was allowed to heat to 120 °C for 12 h. After the completion of the reaction, it was cooled to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL). The resulting solution was washed with water (3 x 10 mL), brine (3 x 10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave cyanoenone 9 (142 mg, 53%) and biscyanoenone 29 (76 mg, 27%) as yellowish solids, respectively. For 9: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.96 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 11.5 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.7 Hz), 2.51 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz), 1.91-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.72-1.85 (m, 7H), 1.60-1.68 (m, 1H), 1.47-1.58 (m, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.16-1.30 (m, 2H),1.26 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H),0.90 (d, 3H, J = 6.1 Hz), 0.83-0.90 (m, 1H), 0.74 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  199.3, 196.9, 178.3,

169.8, 166.4, 124.9, 115.1, 114.7, 52.2, 51.4, 50.2, 47.9, 46.0, 45.3, 42.9, 42.6, 41.2, 39.6, 38.9, 36.9, 31.9, 31.3, 28.5, 27.6, 27.5, 25.4, 23.9, 21.8, 20.9, 20.0, 19.6, 18.4; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1716, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1217, 772, 669, 464; HRMS-ESI (calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>44</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>  $[M+H]^+$ ) 506.3270, found 506.3267. For **29:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500) MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.22 (s, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$  = 11.6 Hz,  $J_2 = 2.0$  Hz), 2.51 (d, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz), 1.74-2.02 (m, 7H), 1.40-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.18-1.34 (m, 2H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.22 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 0.83-0.97 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, 3H, J = 5.9 Hz), 0.74 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz);  $^{3}C$ NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.0, 195.2, 178.3, 166.3, 146.8, 126.9, 124.6, 113.9, 112.1, 52.3, 51.6, 50.3, 47.3, 46.4, 46.2, 46.1, 42.7, 42.1, 39.8, 38.8, 36.8, 31.4, 29.1, 28.8, 26.6, 26.2, 26.1, 24.1, 21.0, 20.9, 20.0, 19.3, 19.2; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2929, 2360, 2340, 1732, 1716, 1683, 1668, 1653, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1472, 1456, 1217, 772, 669, 473; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{33}H_{43}N_2O_4$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 531.3474, found 531.3468.

2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxylic acid (35). To a stirred solution of CDDU-methyl ester (9) (6.0 g, 11.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in pyridine (50 mL) was added LiI (16.0 g, 0.12 mol, 10.0 equiv) and the resulting suspension was heated to reflux for 16 h. Additional LiI (3.2 g, 23.8 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added and the heating was continued for another 8 h. After the completion of the reaction, it was cooled to room temperature, and the solvent was removed by vacuum. The reaction was quenched with 2 N HCl (200 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL), brine (50 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (2:1 & 1:1) gave acid **35** (4.7 g, 81%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 2.95 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 11.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.5 Hz), 2.59 (d, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz), 1.66-2.00 (m, 9H), 1.43-1.62 (m, 2H),1.47 (s, 3H), 1.18-1.34 (m, 3H),1.26 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 0.82-0.94 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, 3H, J = 5.8 Hz), 0.75 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 199.3, 196.8, 170.0, 166.3, 124.8, 115.2, 114.6, 51.4, 47.9, 46.0, 45.3, 42.8, 42.6, 41.2, 39.5, 38.8, 37.0, 31.8, 31.2, 28.5, 27.6, 25.5, 23.8, 21.8, 20.9, 20.0, 19.6, 18.4; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1716, 1698, 1684, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1456, 1217, 772, 669; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{31}H_{42}NO_4 [M+H]^+$ ) 492.3114, found 492.3108.

2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxylic acid ethyl amide (10). To a stirred solution of acid 35 (400 mg, 0.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (15 mL) was added oxalyl chloride (0.35 mL, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.11 µL, 2.0 µmol, catalytic) slowly at 0 °C, and it was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed, and toluene (10 mL) was added and removed by vacuum, which was repeated for three times to provide the corresponding acyl chloride. To a stirred solution of the resulting acyl chloride obtained above in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added triethylamine (0.58 mL, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) followed by slow addition of ethylamine hydrochloride (340 mg, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) at 0 °C. After the addition, the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and kept stirring until the disappearance of acyl chloride. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed and it was diluted with methylene chloride (80 mL),

washed with 1 N HCl (10 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), brine (10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (2:1 & 1:1) gave ethyl amide 10 (418 mg, 99%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 6.16 (t, 1H, J = 5.5 Hz), 3.33 (m, 1H), 3.21 (m, 1H), 2.68 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 10.7 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.2 Hz), 2.62 (d, 1H, J = 3.4 Hz), 1.60-1.99 (m, 9H), 1.46-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.05-1.30 (m, 3H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H), 0.85-0.95 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, 3H, J = 6.1 Hz), 0.68 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  200.5, 197.1, 177.4, 171.1, 168.1, 124.9, 115.1, 114.8, 51.0, 49.3, 47.8, 46.2, 45.3, 43.8, 43.2, 41.2, 39.9, 39.0, 37.9, 34.6, 31.9, 31.4, 29.6, 28.2, 27.4, 27.3, 25.8, 23.7, 21.8, 21.0, 19.5, 19.4, 15.2; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2979, 2360, 2340, 1698, 1684, 1652, 1636, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1456, 1217, 771, 669, 444; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{33}H_{47}N_2O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 519.3587, found 519.3585.

2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxylic acid trifluoroethyl amide (11). To a stirred solution of acid 35 (400 mg, 0.81 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (15 mL) was added oxalyl chloride (0.35 mL, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.11 µL, 2.0 µmol, catalytic) slowly at 0 °C, and it was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed, and toluene (10 mL) was added and removed by vacuum, which was repeated for three times to provide the corresponding acyl chloride. To a stirred solution of the resulting acyl chloride obtained above in methylene chloride (10 mL) was added triethylamine (0.58 mL, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) followed by slow addition of ethylamine hydrochloride (340 mg, 4.05 mmol, 5.0 equiv) at 0 °C. After the addition, the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and kept stirring until the disappearance of acyl chloride. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed and it was diluted with methylene chloride (80 mL), washed with 1 N HCl (10 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO3 (10 mL), brine (10 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (2:1 & 1:1) gave trifluoroethyl amide 11 (387 mg, 83%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 9.14 (s, 1H), 6.92 (t, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 6.74 (t, 1H, J = 5.5 Hz), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 2.89 (dd, 1H,  $J_1$ = 9.9 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.8 Hz), 2.48 (d, 1H, J = 3.2 Hz), 1.93-2.15 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.92 (m, 6H), 1.47-1.65 (m, 4H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.05-1.30 (m, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.85-0.95 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.57 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 200.3, 197.2, 178.2, 171.2, 169.4, 125.0, 124.5 (g), 115.6, 114.4, 51.1, 49.8, 47.7, 46.1, 45.3, 43.4, 43.3, 41.1, 40.5 (s), 39.7, 38.7, 37.4, 31.9, 31.3, 29.6, 27.9, 27.1, 27.0, 25.9, 23.7, 21.8, 20.9, 19.4, 18.3; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2957, 2869, 2360, 2340, 1652, 1558, 1539, 1520, 1507, 1465, 1436, 1376, 1364, 1217, 772, 669; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{33}H_{44}N_2F_3O_3$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 573.3304, found 573.3307.

### 2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxyl-13-

**oxylactone (38).** To a stirred solution of acid **35** (250 mg, 0.51 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in benzene (15 mL) was added DDQ (136 mg, 0.61 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and the resulting mixture was heated to reflux for 24 h. After the completion of the reaction, it was cooled to room temperature and filtered through Celite. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtoAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave the desired

product **38** (175.5 mg, 71%) as a reddish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.05 (s, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 2.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.7 Hz), 2.12 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.92 (m, 4H), 1.60-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.39-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.22-1.44 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.21 (s, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.00-1.10 (m, 1H), 0.95 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 0.82-0.90 (m, 1H), 0.82 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.6, 192.2, 178.3, 174.3, 165.7, 123.4, 115.4, 114.5, 87.8, 55.1, 48.1, 46.4, 45.3, 45.1, 43.2, 42.9, 39.8, 37.5, 32.8, 31.3, 31.2, 30.8, 28.0, 27.6, 26.3, 21.9, 21.8, 20.3, 19.5, 18.6, 17.8; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2969, 2936, 2360, 2340, 1772, 1715, 1697, 1675, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1456, 1215, 909, 749, 669; HRMS-ESI (calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>40</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 490.2957, found 490.2961.

### 2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxamide

(36). To a stirred solution of acid 35 (860 mg, 1.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (15 mL) was added oxalyl chloride (0.50 mL, 5.72 mmol, 3.3 equiv) and anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.15 µL, 2.7 µmol, catalytic) slowly at 0 <sup>o</sup>C, and it was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed, and toluene (10 mL) was added and removed by vacuum, which was repeated for three times to provide the corresponding acyl chloride. To a stirred solution of the resulting acyl chloride obtained above in methylene chloride (20 mL) was added ammonia (8.75 mL, 1.0 M in MeOH, 8.75 mmol, 5.0 equiv), and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature until the disappearance of acyl chloride. After the completion of the reaction, the solvent was removed and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes: EtOAc (1:1 & 1:2) gave ethyl amide 36 (791 mg, 92%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.06 (s, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 2.51 (d, 1H, J = 11.7 Hz), 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.90 (m, 6H), 1.51-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.54 (s, 3H), 1.34-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.10-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 0.82-0.92 (m, 1H), 0.91 (d, 3H, J = 6.3 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, J = 6.1 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  200.3, 197.0, 180.4, 171.1, 167.7, 124.9, 115.0, 114.9, 51.2, 49.8, 47.8, 46.2, 45.3, 43.9, 43.1, 41.2, 39.9, 39.0, 37.9, 31.9, 31.4, 28.2, 27.5, 25.9, 23.7, 21.8, 20.9, 20.1, 19.5, 18.4; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1507, 1217, 771, 669, 429; HRMS-ESI (calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 491.3114, found 491.3105.

2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-nitrile (37). To a stirred solution of amide 36 (600 mg, 1.22 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (40 mL) at 0 °C was added triethylamine (0.44 mL, 3.13 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.26 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C until the disappearance of starting material. After the completion of the reaction, it was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), and extracted with methylene chloride (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave the desired product 37 (407 mg, 89%) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.06 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 3.17 (d, 1H, J = 3.7 Hz), 2.72 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 11.2$  Hz,  $J_2 =$ 3.2 Hz), 1.95-2.18 (m, 4H), 1.74-1.86 (m, 3H), 1.55-1.66 (m, 3H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.34-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.16-1.26 (m, 2H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H, J =5.6 Hz), 0.82-0.92 (m, 1H), 0.76 (d, 3H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.1, 196.8, 170.4, 166.1, 125.0, 124.8, 115.2, 114.6, 51.5, 48.0, 46.1, 45.3, 44.3, 43.0, 41.5, 41.2, 39.0, 38.7, 36.7, 32.0, 30.6, 28.8, 27.6, 27.5, 25.8, 25.6, 21.8, 20.6,

19.8, 19.6, 18.4; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1697, 1684, 1662, 1653, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1473, 1456, 1217, 909, 772, 669, 450; HRMS-ESI (calcd for  $C_{31}H_{41}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 473.3168, found 473.3165.

2-Cyano-3,12-dioxoursol-1(2),9(11)-dien-28-carboxyl-ic acid imidazolide (12). To a stirred solution of acid 35 (460 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in methylene chloride (20 mL) was added oxalyl chloride (0.50 mL, 5.8 mmol, 5.8 equiv) and anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.15 µL, 2.0 µmol, catalytic) slowly at 0 °C, and it was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed, and toluene (10 mL) was added and removed by vacuum, which was repeated for three times to provide the corresponding acyl chloride. To a stirred solution of the resulting acyl chloride obtained above in benzene (10 mL) was added imidazole (350 mg, 5.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature until the disappearance of acyl chloride. After the completion of the reaction, removal of solvent and flash column chromatography over silica gel using hexanes:EtOAc (4:1 & 2:1) gave ethyl amide 12 (458 mg, 90%) as a yellowish solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 3.27 (d, 1H, J = 9.8 Hz), 2.43 (s, 1H), 0.98-2.06 (m, 11H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 9H), 0.96 (d, 3H, J = 5.1 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, J = 5.9 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 197.9, 196.8, 175.5, 170.2, 166.3, 137.8, 130.6, 124.6, 117.9, 115.1, 114.6, 52.6, 51.1, 47.9, 46.0, 45.2, 43.1, 42.9, 41.3, 39.9, 38.8, 35.8, 31.7, 31.0, 28.1, 27.5, 27.5, 25.4, 21.8, 20.8, 20.0, 19.7, 18.3; IR (solution, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3019, 2360, 2340, 1716, 1698, 1652, 1558, 1540, 1520, 1507, 1214, 909, 773, 669, 438; HRMS-ESI (calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>) 542.3383, found 542.3377.

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<sup>†</sup> Footnotes should appear here. These might include comments relevant to but not central to the matter under discussion, limited experimental and spectral data, and crystallographic data.

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