# **Supporting Information**

# Efficient Three-Component Strecker Reaction of Aldehydes/Ketones via NHC-Amidate Palladium (II) Complex Catalysis

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<u>General Information.</u> All commercially available reagents and solvents were used as received by Aldrich and Acros chemical without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a 250 and 63MHz Bruker or 400 and 100MHz Varian instrument. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using commercially prepared 60 mesh silica gel plates visualized with short-wavelength UV light (254 nm). Silica gel 60 (9385, 230-400 mesh) was used for column chromatography. The reported conversions are based upon consumption of amine substrate and yields are isolated yields and are the average of two runs. MS analysis was performed using a Thermo Scientific DSQ II GC-MS (ESI) instrument (He gas, 25 minute run time, the first 5 minutes at 40 degrees Celsius, an increase of 15 degrees/min for the next 15 minutes, and the final 5 minutes at 250 degrees Celsius, with a constant flow of 1.5 mL per minute).

#### **Preparation of Ligand**

**Methyl 2-[2-(1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazol-1-yl)acetamido]-3-methylbutanoate (5) To a solution of benzimidazole (500 mg, 4.23 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added methyl 2-(2-bromoacetamido)-3-methylbutanoate <b>4** (1.06 g, 4.23 mmol) followed by KOH (356 mg, 6.35 mmol). After stirring the reaction mixture for 16 h at room temperature, EtOAc (50 mL) was added. Subsequently, a precipitated solid was removed by filtration. The filtrated organic layers were washed with brine twice, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude oil, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using EtOAc followed by MeOH as an eluent to afford **5** as a white solid (991 mg, 81% yield). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.95 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, NH), 7.35-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.32 (m, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H), 4.53 (dd, *J* = 8.5 and 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.19 (m, 1H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, *J* = 7 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  17.7, 18.8, 30.5, 47.5, 52.0, 57.5, 109.5, 120.0, 122.3, 122.6, 123.4, 133.6, 143.5, 166.6, 171.8; Anal. calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C 62.27, H 6.62, N 14.52, found: C 62.09, H 6.74, N, 14.07; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M+H<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 290.1505, found: 290.1557

1-[2-(1-methoxy-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-ylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-3-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*] imidazol-3-ium iodide (6) To a 300 mL round-bottom flask 5 (900 mg, 3.11 mmol), iodomethane (1.32 g, 9.33 mmol), and THF (100 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred under refluxing for 16 h. After cooling the solution at room temperature, a white solid, which is the desired product **6**, was filtrated and then washed with THF (1.19 g, 89% yield). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.16 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, NH), 7.98-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.59 (m, 2H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (dd, *J* = 7.5 and 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.19-2.33 (m, 1H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  18.8, 19.1, 30.2, 34.2, 49.8, 52.0, 58.9, 112.4, 114.1, 127.2, 127.4, 131.3, 142.5, 164.7, 171.5; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M+H<sup>+</sup>] calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>23</sub>IN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 432.0784, found: 432.0736

### Typical procedure for synthesis of α-aminonitrile compounds

To a mixture of  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (6 mg, 0.025 mmol), sodium sulfate (100 mg, 2 mmol), benzaldehyde (0.053 mL, 0.5 mmol), and aniline (0.046 mL, 0.5 mmol) in 1 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in a pressure tube was added dropwise

TMSCN (0.133 mL, 1 mmol). The pressure tube was closed and stirred for 24 h at 23 °C and reaction progress was monitored by TLC. The mixture was then filtered and the residue was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL). The filtrate was collected and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. If necessary, column chromatography on silica gel with an ethyl acetate/hexanes gradient elution was performed to obtain 2-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile **13a** (33 mg, 79%) as a light yellow solid m.p. 76-79 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz)  $\delta$  4.67 (br s, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.8Hz, 2H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.37-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (63 MHz)  $\delta$  50.1, 114.1, 118.1, 120.2, 127.2, 128.4, 129.2, 129.4, 134.0, 144.7. This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



**13b:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile as a white solid (20 mg, 42%). m.p. 95-97 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  4.04 (br s, 1H),

5.43 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 5 Hz), 7.55 (d J = 7.5 Hz). This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



**13c:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile as a light yellow solid (31 mg, 79%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  4.19 (br s, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 6.44-6.46

(m, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.51 (m, 1 H). This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



**13d:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(phenylamino)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)acetonitrile as a white solid (39 mg, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  5.65 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,

2H), 6.94 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  46.2, 114.7, 117.6, 120.8, 125.5, 127.1, 127.2, 127.3, 130.0, 144.2. This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



**13e:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(phenylamino)-2-(pyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile as a light yellow solid (40 mg, 95%). m.p. 74-83 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  4.16 (br s, 1H), 5.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81, (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96, (t, *J* = 8.0

Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.88 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  48.3, 114.5, 117.3, 120.9, 123.9, 129.7, 134.9, 144.3, 148.7, 150.8. This compound is known.<sup>2</sup>



**13f:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain (E)-4-phenyl-2-(phenylamino)but-3-enenitrile as a yellow solid (39 mg, 83%). m.p. 55-61 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  3.50 (br s, 1H), 5.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dd, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.0

Hz, 2H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.46 (m, 2H). This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



13g: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2cyclohexyl-2-(phenylamino)acetonitrile as a white solid (38 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  1.17-1.35 (m, 5H), 1.74 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 1.82-1.88 (m, 3H), 1.96-2.01 (m, 2H), 3.79 (br s, 1H), 4.04-4.08

(m, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.27 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) δ 25.7, 29.7, 30.4, 40.8, 51.8, 114.1, 118.9, 119.9, 129.5, 145.3. This compound is known.<sup>3</sup>



13h: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-phenylacetonitrile as a white solid (35 mg, 79%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 3.99 (AB, q, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.45 (m, 8H), 7.55 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  51.1, 53.3, 118.5, 127.2, 127.5, 128.3, 128.5, 128.8, 128.9, 134.6, 137.9. This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



13i: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)acetonitrile as a white solid (46 mg, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz) δ 1.89(br s, 1H), 4.00 (AB,

q, J= 12.5 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.51 (m, 9H). This compound is known.<sup>4</sup>



13j: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(furan-2-yl)acetonitrile as a light brown oil (36 mg, 86%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  2.03 (br s, 1H), 3.99 (AB, q, J =

15.0 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 6.38-6.40 (m, 1H), 6.48-6.50 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.44-7.45 (m, 1H). This compound is known.<sup>5</sup>



13k: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)acetonitrile as a white solid (42 mg, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  2.47 (br s, 1H), 4.03 (AB, q, J = 17.5 Hz, 2H), 4.97, (s, 1H), 6.99-7.02 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.43 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) δ 49.3, 50.9, 118.1, 126.5, 126.9, 127.8, 128.4, 128.8, 137.9, 138.2; MS Anal. Calcd [-CN]: 228.07 Found: 228.10. This compound is known.<sup>5</sup>



**131:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(pyridin-3-yl)acetonitrile as a yellow solid (39 mg, 87%). m.p. 103-105 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  2.47 (br s, 1H), 4.03 (AB, q, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.88-7.93 (m, 1H), 8.63-8.65 (m, 1H), 8.80 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  51.0, 117.5, 123.4, 127.6, 128.1, 128.5, 130.5, 134.8, 137.4, 148.5, 150.1. This compound is known.<sup>6</sup>



**13m:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain (E)-2-(benzylamino)-4-phenylbut-3-enenitrile as a yellow solid (49 mg, 98%). m.p. 109-115 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.62

(br s, 1H), 4.01 (AB, q, J = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (dd, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dd, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 20.0 Hz), 7.28-7.42 (m, 10H). This compound is known.<sup>7</sup>



**13n:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)pentanenitrile as a white oil (27 mg, 70%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  0.94 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.46-1.61 (m, 2H),

1.71-1.80 (m, 2H), 3.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (AB, q, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.36 (m, 5H). This compound is known.<sup>8</sup>



**130:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-cyclohexylacetonitrile as a white solid (28 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  1.09-1.30 (m, 5H), 1.67-1.92 (m, 6H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (AB, q, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 2H),

7.27-7.38 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) δ 25.9, 26.3, 29.2, 30.0, 51.8, 55.8, 119.9, 128.6, 128.8, 138.8.



**15a:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)propanenitrile as an orange solid (50 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  2.02 (s, 3H), 4.37 (br s, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5

Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.90 (m, 3H), 8.15 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  33.2, 57.3, 113.2, 115.8, 120.0, 122.0, 124.3, 126.6, 127.6, 128.2, 129.0, 129.3, 133.1, 143.6. This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>

**15b:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(4methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylamino)propanenitrile as a white solid (22 mg, 44%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz)  $\delta$  1.92 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.26 (br s, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  33.4, 55.3, 56.7, 114.5, 115.9, 119.9, 126.2, 129.0, 143.6, 159.6; MS Anal. Calcd [-CN]: 225.12 Found: 225.00.



**15d:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-(phenylamino)propanenitrile as a yellow solid (8 mg, 15%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.98 (s, 3H), 4.39 (br s, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H)

2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz)  $\delta$  32.7, 56.4, 115.3, 119.3, 120.4, 123.5, 124.3, 125.8, 128.8, 142.3, 147.7. This compound is known.<sup>1</sup>



**15e:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(phenylamino)-2-(pyridin-3-yl)propanenitrile as an orange solid (18 mg, 40%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  2.00 (s, 3H), 4.33 (br s, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 8.0

Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  33.0, 55.4, 116.1, 120.5, 124.0, 129.3, 133.2, 135.6, 143.1, 147.2, 150.1, 153.5. This compound is known.<sup>10</sup>



**15f:** Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(phenylamino)propanenitrile as a light yellow solid (35 mg, 83%). m.p. 83-85 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  2.02 (s, 3H), 4.11 (br s, 1H), 6.37-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.38 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.88 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.88 (d, J = 8. 2H), 6.90 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.20 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) δ 28.8, 52.8, 108.4, 110.9, 117.2, 119.3, 121.3, 129.4, 143.4, 150.8, 152.2, 156.6. This compound is known.<sup>10</sup>



15g: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)propanenitrile as a white solid (19 mg, 33%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.87 (s, 3H), 3.76 (AB, q, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.51-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.85-7.93 (m, 3H), 8.19 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) & 31.0, 49.6, 60.6, 122.6, 125.2, 126.5, 126.6,

127.3, 127.5, 128.1, 128.2, 128.4, 129.0, 132.9, 133.2, 136.9; MS Anal. Calcd [-CN]: 259.14 Found: 258.11.

15h: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-NC Me (benzylamino)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)propanenitrile as a light Ν Η brown solid (11 mg, 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz) δ 1.80 (s, H<sub>3</sub>CO 3H), 3.76 (AB, q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.98 (d, J = 7.5Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  31.2, 49.4, 55.3, 59.9, 114.1, 126.7, 127.3, 128.2, 128.4, 139.0, 159.7; MS Anal. Calcd [-CN]: 239.13 Found: 238.08. This compound is known.<sup>11</sup>



15i: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(4-bromophenyl)propanenitrile as a white solid (35 mg, 55%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.61 (br s, 1H), 1.75 (s,

3H), 3.71 (AB, q, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.53-7.63 (m, 3H), 8.39-8.42 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz) δ 31.3, 49.6, 60.1, 122.7, 127.4, 127.5, 128.2, 128.6, 132.1. This compound is known.<sup>11</sup>



15j: Synthesized according to the general procedure to obtain 2-(benzylamino)-2-(pyridin-3-yl)propanenitrile as a white solid (28 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 250 MHz) δ 1.84 (s, 3H), 2.86 (br s, 1H), 3.75 (AB, q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.47 (m, 6H), 7.99-8.04 (m, 1H), 8.62-8.65 (m, 1H), 8.98 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 63 MHz)  $\delta$  31.2, 49.7, 59.0, 123.6, 127.7, 128.3, 133.6, 135.6, 147.6, 150.2.

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