

Supporting Information

A General Strategy for the Organocatalytic Activation of C-H Bonds via Photoredox Catalysis: The Direct Arylation of Benzylic Ethers

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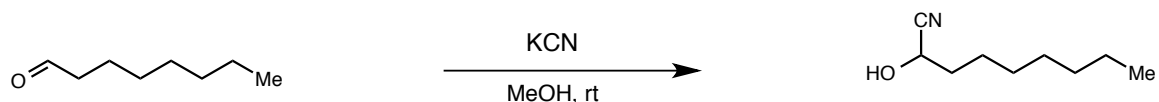
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General Information. Commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and purified prior to use following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.¹ All aldehydes were distilled prior to use. All solvents were purified by passage through columns of activated alumina. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a Büchi rotary evaporator using an acetone-dry ice bath. Chromatographic purification of products was accomplished using forced-flow chromatography according to the method of Still³ on ICN 60 32-64 mesh silica gel 63. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Silicycle 250 mm silica gel F-254 plates. Visualization of the developed plates was performed by fluorescence quenching, potassium permanganate, or ceric ammonium molybdate stain. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 (500 and 125 MHz), and are internally referenced to residual protio solvent signals (for CDCl₃, δ 7.27 and 77.0 ppm, respectively). Data for ¹H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, h = heptet, m = multiplet, br = broad), integration, coupling constant (Hz). ¹³C spectra were

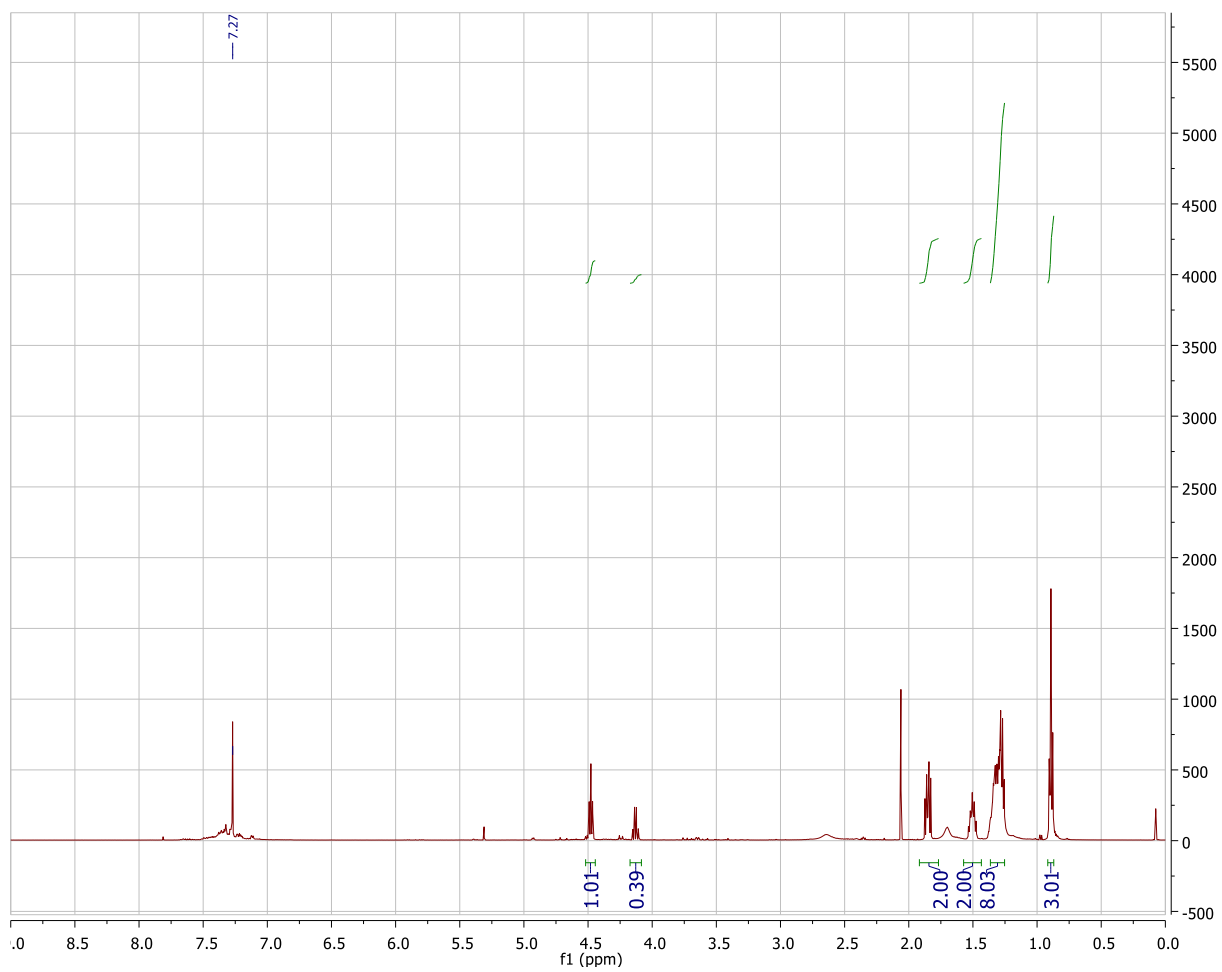
reported in terms of chemical shifts in ppm and no special nomenclature is used for equivalent carbons. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Paragon 1000 spectrometer and are reported in terms of wavenumber of absorption (cm^{-1}). High Resolution Mass spectra were obtained from the Princeton University Mass Spectral Facility. All benzyl ethers were used from commercial suppliers or prepared using standard literature procedures. All cyano aromatics were used from commercial suppliers or prepared using standard literature procedures.

Studies of aldehyde as cyanide scavenger:

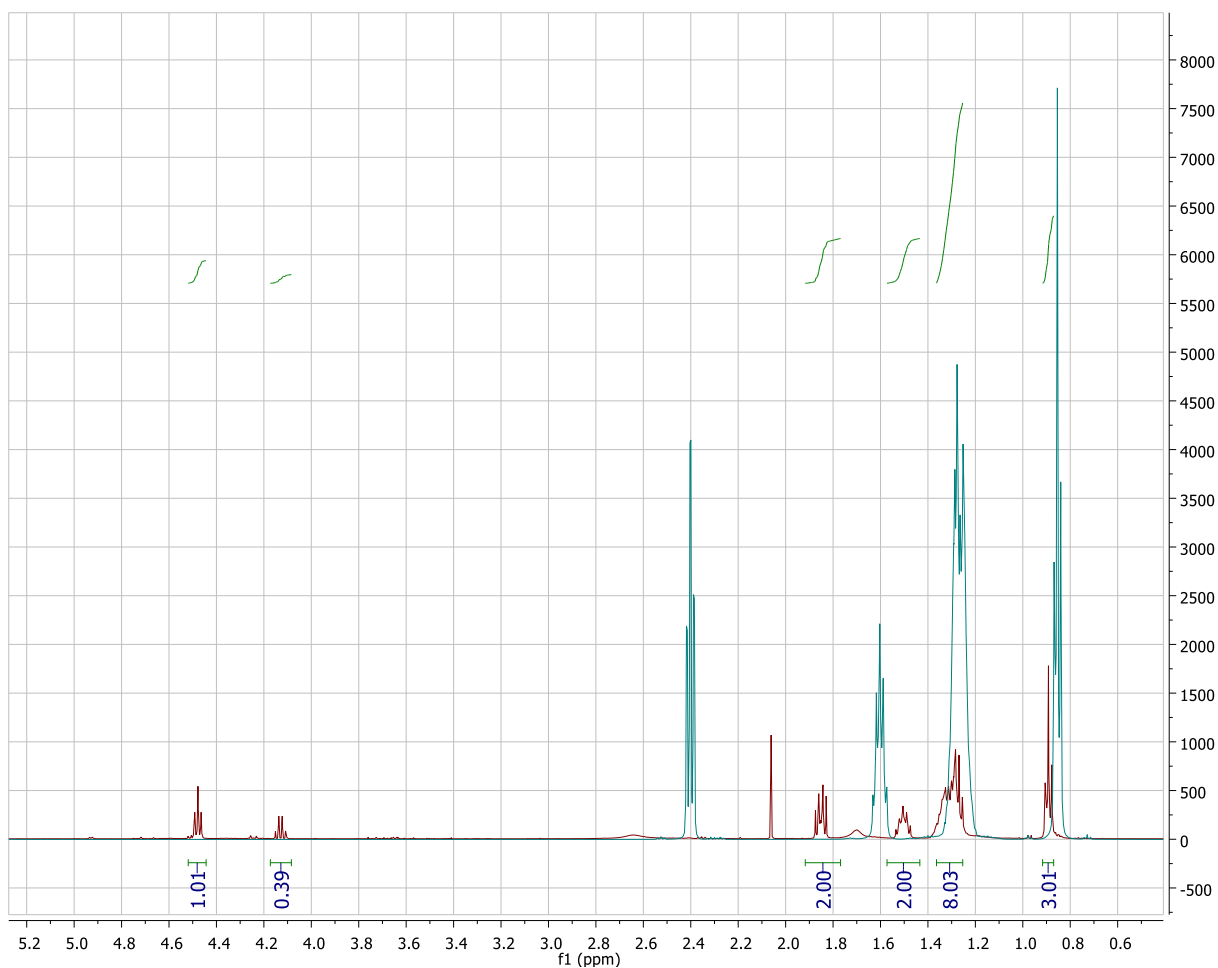
Synthesis of 2-hydroxynonanenitrile:



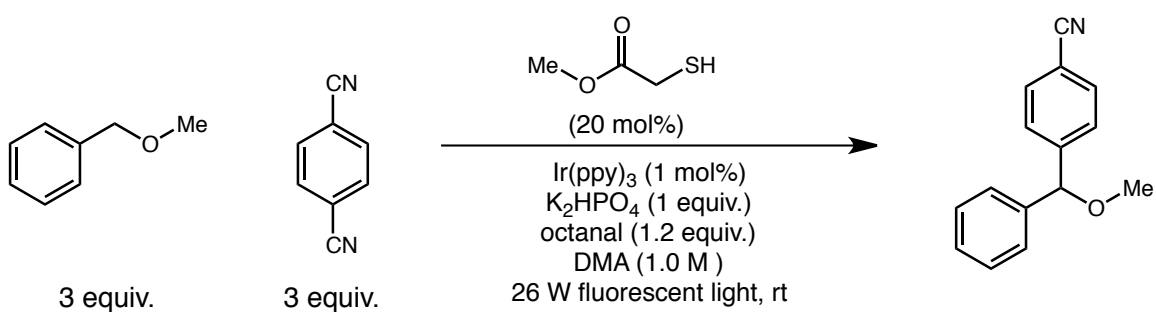
A 8 mL vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with KCN (80.0 mg, 1.23 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The vial was purged with a stream of nitrogen and 2.0 mL of MeOH was added via syringe, followed by freshly distilled octanal (128.0 μL , 0.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and organic layer was washed with sat. aqueous NaHCO_3 , brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography on silica gel using 20% Et_2O in hexane afforded the desired cyanohydrin product.



Superimposed spectra of 2-hydroxynonanenitrile and octanal:



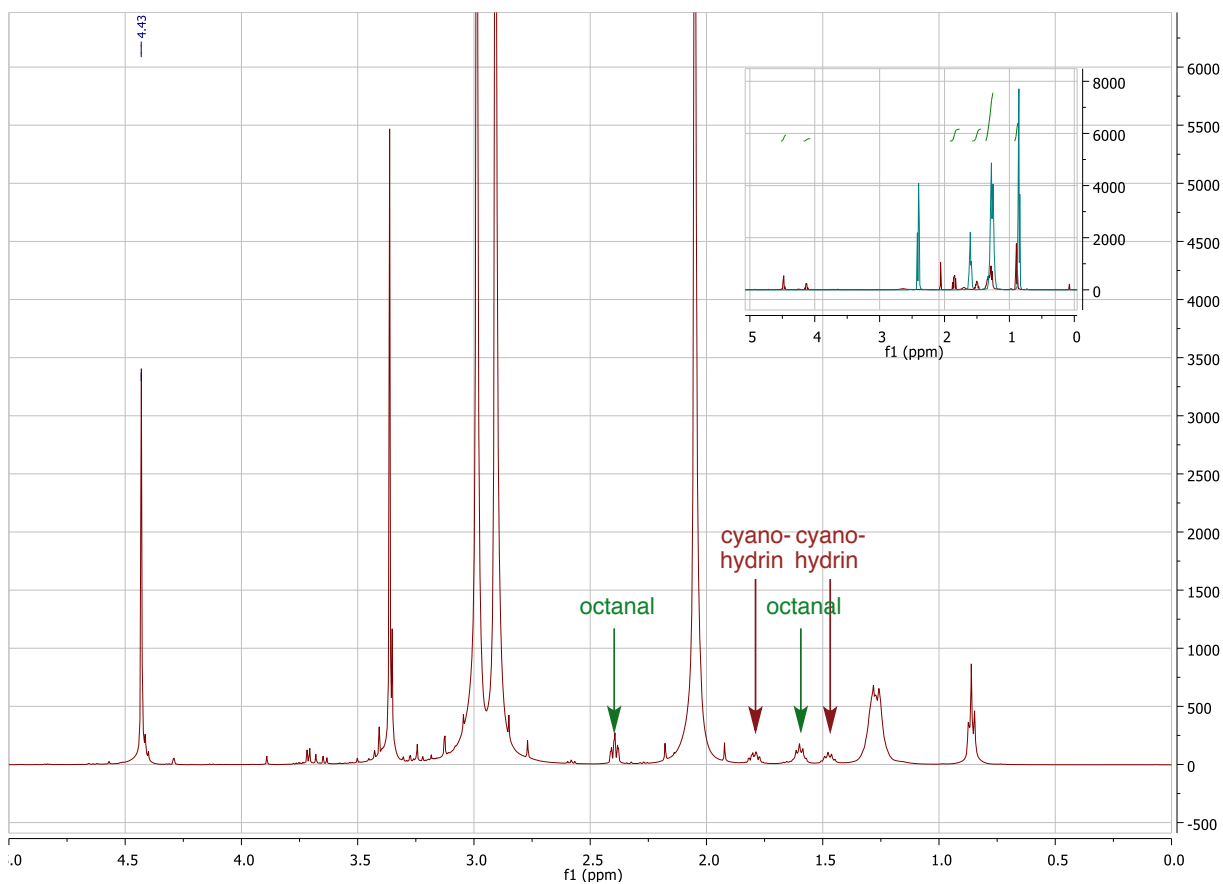
* Superimposed spectra of octanal (green) and 2-hydroxynonanenitrile (red)



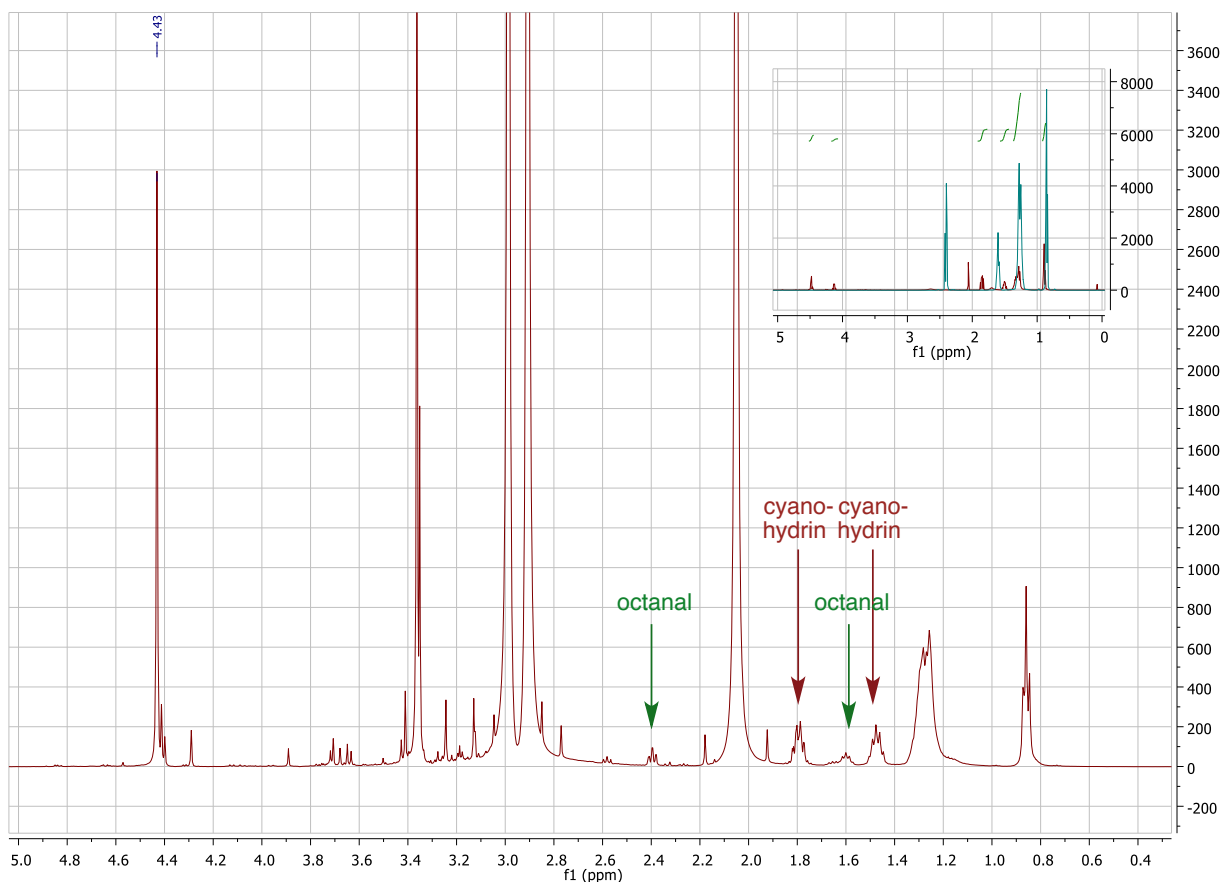
A 8 mL vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with tris[2-phenylpyridinato- C^2,N]iridium(III) (4.8 mg, 7.5 μmol , 0.01 equiv.), the corresponding aromatic nitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), the corresponding benzyl ether (2.25 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and K_2HPO_4 (131.0 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The vial was

purged with a stream of nitrogen and 0.75 mL of DMA was added via syringe, followed by freshly distilled octanal (0.14 mL, 0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (13.0 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78 $^{\circ}$ C and degassed via vacuum evacuation (5 min), backfilled with nitrogen, and warmed to room temperature. This process was repeated three times. After the reaction was thoroughly degassed, the vial was placed approximately 2 cm from a 26 W fluorescent lamp. After the indicated time, the reaction mixture was diluted with CDCl_3 and the crude reaction analyzed by ^1H -NMR.

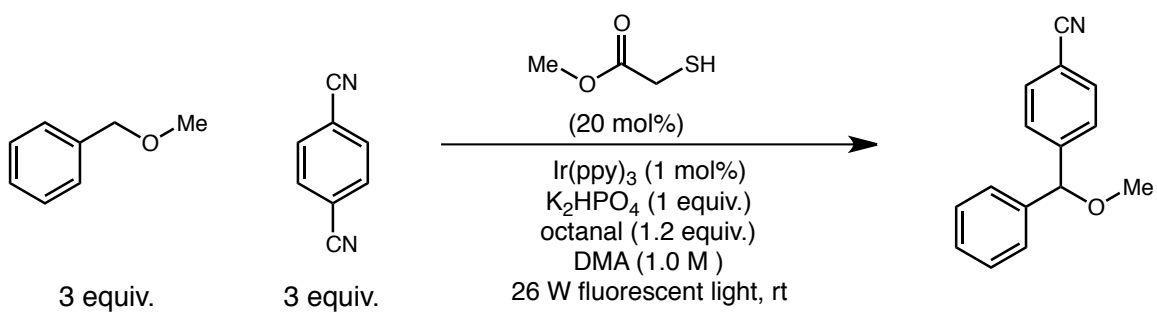
Crude reaction mixture after 2h:



Crude reaction mixture after 6h:



Optimization Studies :



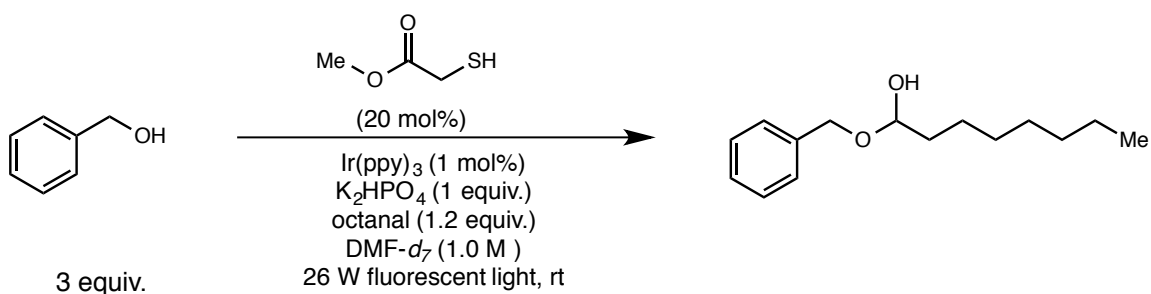
| Conditions | Product % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Ir(ppy) ₃ , no light | 0% |
| no photocatalyst | 0% |
| no thiol | 0% |
| As shown | 77% |

| Benzyl methyl ether | Product % |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 5 equiv. | 79% |
| 4 equiv. | 80% |
| 3 equiv. | 77% |
| 2 equiv. | 68% |
| 1 equiv. | 42% |

Table S1. Optimization Studies

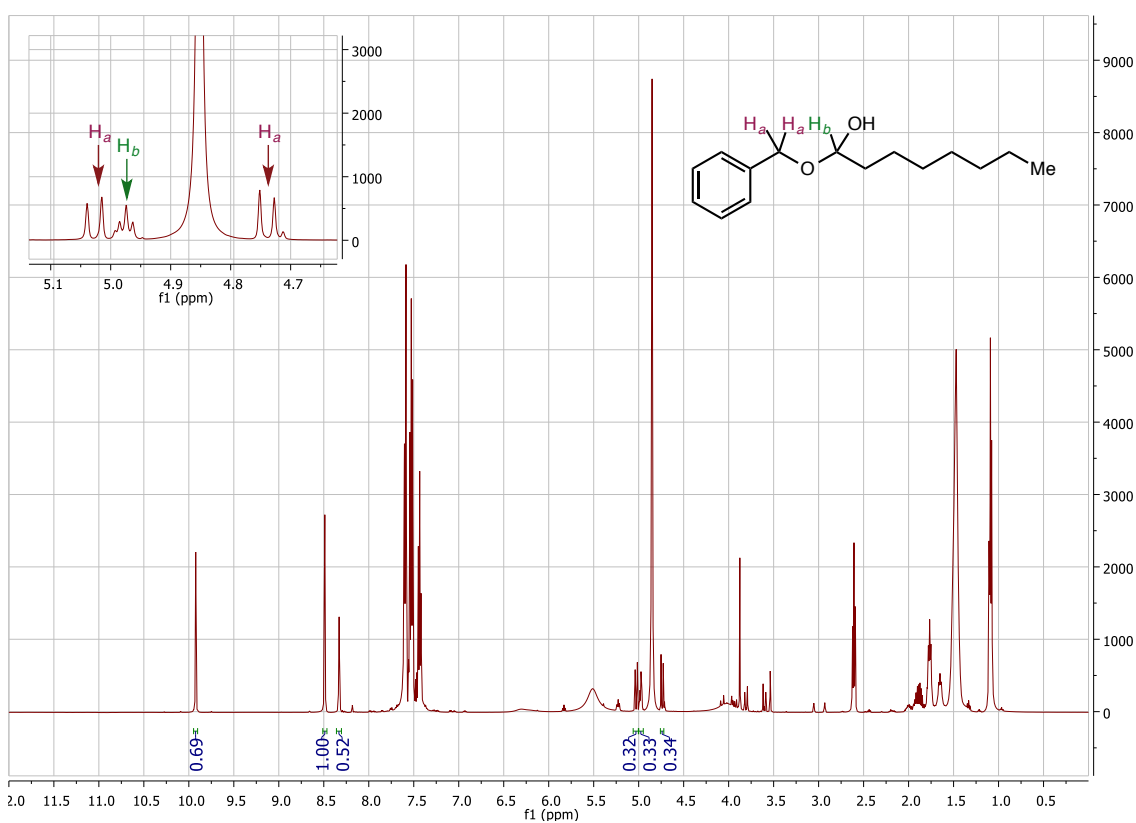
* % Yields calculated by ¹H-NMR with 1-bromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene

Studies of benzyl alcohol hemiacetal formation:



A 8 mL vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with tris[2-phenylpyridinato-*C*²,*N*]iridium(III) (4.8 mg, 7.5 μmol, 0.01 equiv.), benzyl alcohol (2.25 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and K₂HPO₄ (131.0 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The vial was purged with a stream of nitrogen and 0.75 mL of DMA was added via syringe, followed

by freshly distilled octanal (0.14 mL, 0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (13.0 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78 $^{\circ}$ C and degassed via vacuum evacuation (5 min), backfilled with nitrogen, and warmed to room temperature. This process was repeated three times. After the reaction was thoroughly degassed, the vial was placed approximately 2 cm from a 26 W fluorescent lamp. After 2 h, the reaction mixture was transferred to a NMR tube and the crude reaction mixture analyzed by 1 H-NMR.

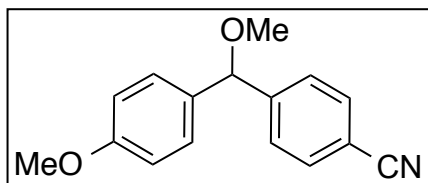


| Conditions | Hemiacetal |
|------------|------------|
| as shown | 33% |

Table S2. Hemiacetal Formation Studies

* % Yields calculated by 1 H-NMR with 1-bromo-3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene

General Procedure for the C-H arylation of Benzyl ethers: A 8 mL vial equipped with a Teflon septum and magnetic stir bar was charged with tris[2-phenylpyridinato- C^2,N]iridium(III) (4.8 mg, 7.5 μmol , 0.01 equiv.), the corresponding aromatic nitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), the corresponding benzyl ether (2.25 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and K_2HPO_4 (131.0 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The vial was purged with a stream of nitrogen and 0.75 mL of DMA was added via syringe, followed by freshly distilled octanal (0.14 mL, 0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (13.0 μL , 0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78°C and degassed via vacuum evacuation (5 min), backfilled with nitrogen, and warmed to room temperature. This process was repeated three times. After the reaction was thoroughly degassed, the vial was placed approximately 2 cm from a 26 W fluorescent lamp. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with water, extracted with EtOAc (3 x 5 mL), combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the crude product by flash chromatography on silica gel using the indicated solvent system afforded the desired C-H arylated benzyl ether product.

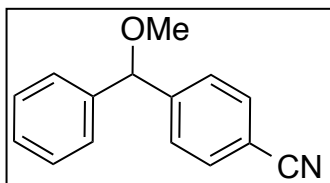


4-(methoxy(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)benzonitrile

(Table 2.1): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C^2,N]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 342 mg of 4-methoxybenzyl methyl ether (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μL of

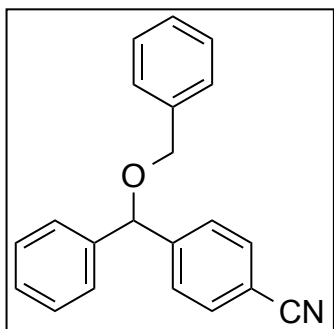
methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (155 mg, 0.61 mmol, 82%). IR (film) 2935, 2229, 1611, 1512, 1247, 1173, 1092, 805, 829, 728 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.88 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 5.23 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 3.80 (s, 3H, ArOCH₃), 3.37 (s, 3H, ArCHOCH₃); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.36, 147.90, 132.19, 128.38, 127.16, 118.89, 114.03, 113.14, 110.93, 84.11, 56.90, 55.26; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$) requires m/z 254.11756, found m/z 254.11751.



4-(Methoxy(phenyl)methyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.2):

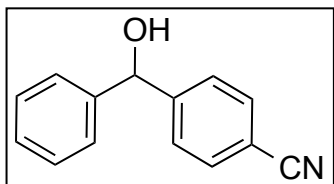
Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $\text{C}_{2,N}$]iridium(III) (7.5 μmol , 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 275 mg of benzyl methyl ether (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (129 mg, 0.58 mmol, 77%). IR (film) 2933, 2228, 1739, 1609, 1454, 1193, 1095, 804, 700 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH),

7.37–7.30 (m, 5 H, ArH), 5.27 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 3.39 (s, 3H, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.58, 140.60, 132.24, 128.71, 128.12, 127.26, 126.99, 84.58, 57.08; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₅H₁₄NO) requires *m/z* 224.10699, found *m/z* 224.10702.



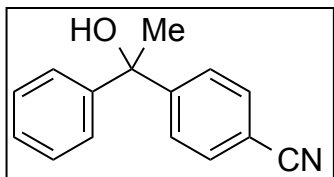
4-((Benzyloxy)(phenyl)methyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.3):

Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μmol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 446 mg of dibenzyl ether (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (180 mg, 0.60 mmol, 80%). IR (film) 3032, 2864, 2230, 1495, 1454, 1276, 1085, 906, 714, 700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.41–7.30 (m, 10 H, ArH), 5.47 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 4.58 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H, OHCHAr), 4.51 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H, OHCHAr)); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.64, 140.61, 137.64, 132.22, 128.75, 128.46, 128.16, 127.81, 127.71, 127.43, 127.21, 118.85, 111.07, 81.59, 70.60; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₁H₁₈NO) requires *m/z* 300.13829, found *m/z* 300.13831.



4-(hydroxy(phenyl)methyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.4):

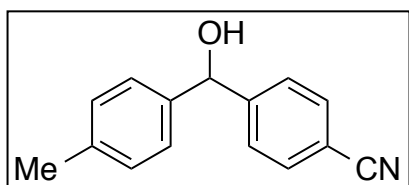
Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μ mol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 243 mg of benzyl alcohol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (121 mg, 0.58 mmol, 77%). IR (film) 3425, 2230, 1608, 1493, 1454, 1261, 1189, 1042, 906 737 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.51 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.39-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.87 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.38 (bs, 1H, OH); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 148.70, 142.72, 132.25, 128.86, 128.29, 126.92, 126.63, 118.82, 111.08, 75.60; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ ($C_{14}H_{12}NO$) requires m/z 210.09134, found m/z 210.09137.



4-(1-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.5):

Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μ mol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 275 mg of 1-phenylethan-1-ol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2

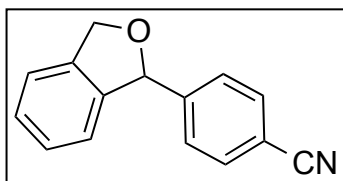
equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (125 mg, 0.56 mmol, 74%). IR (film) 3456, 2982, 2230, 1606, 1493, 1447, 1276, 1191, 1069, 907, 847, 753, 721 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H ArH), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.29 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 2.26 (bs, 1H, OH), 1.97 (s, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.21, 146.51, 132.01, 128.51, 127.62, 126.47, 125.77, 118.88, 110.57, 75.93, 30.53; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$) requires m/z 224.10699, found m/z 224.10694.



4-(1-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.6):

Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $\text{C}2,N$]iridium(III) (7.5 μmol , 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 275 mg of 4-methylbenzyl alcohol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.) 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (121 mg, 0.54 mmol, 72%). IR (film) 3426, 2924, 2229, 1608, 1514, 1409, 1190, 1040, 818, 769 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H ArH), 7.52 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H,

ArH), 5.85 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.29 (bs, 1H, OH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.91, 139.90, 138.19, 132.22, 129.54, 126.86, 126.62, 118.87, 110.99, 75.47, 21.14; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₅H₁₄NO) requires *m/z* 224.10699, found *m/z* 224.10690.

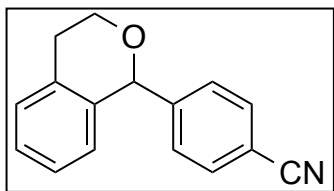


4-(1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-1-yl)benzonitrile (Table

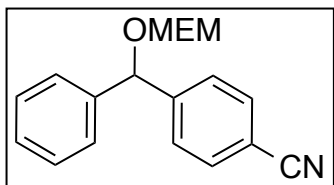
2.7): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8

mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μmol,

0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 270 mg of phthalan (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (118 mg, 0.53 mmol, 71%). IR (film) 2861, 2229, 1772, 1681, 1606, 1461, 1285, 1044, 904, 817, 730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.36-7.30 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.30-7.23 (m, 1H ArH), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.21 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 5.38 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H ArHCHO), 5.26 (d, *J* = 12.2, 1H, ArHCHO); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.51, 140.71, 138.69, 132.47, 128.13, 127.75, 127.30, 121.95, 121.19, 118.77, 111.74, 85.27, 73.68; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₅H₁₂NO) requires *m/z* 222.09134, found *m/z* 222.09126.

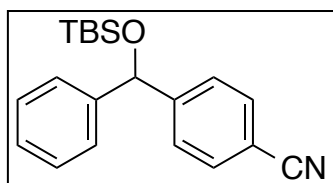


4-(isochroman-1-yl)benzonitrile (Table 2.8): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μ mol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 302 mg of isochroman (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (124 mg, 0.53 mmol, 70%). IR (film) 2928, 2858, 2229, 1606, 1608, 1492, 1453, 1276, 1112, 1096, 1060, 908, 744 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.24-7.18 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.11 dd, J = 10.8, 4.5 Hz, 1H ArH), 6.69 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.78 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 4.23-4.15 (m, 1H, CH_2HCHO), 3.95 (td, J = 10.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H, CH_2HCHO), 3.22-3.11 (m, 1H, CH_2HCHAr), 2.84 (dt, J = 16.4, 3.5 Hz, 1H, CH_2HCHAr); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.29, 135.85, 133.67, 132.27, 129.45, 129.02, 127.07, 126.49, 126.15, 118.73, 111.86, 78.79, 64.09, 28.56; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ ($C_{16}H_{14}NO$) requires m/z 236.10699, found m/z 236.10686.



4-(((2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy)(phenyl)methyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.9): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 μ mol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00

equiv), 442 mg of (((2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy)methyl)benzene (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (140 mg, 0.47 mmol, 62%). IR (film) 2926, 2887, 2228, 1738, 1609, 1493, 1454, 1409, 1268, 1105, 1028, 805, 732, 699 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.62 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.49 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.38-7.28 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.81 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 4.79 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, OCH_2O), 3.76-3.68 (m, 2H, OCH_2CH_2), 3.50 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H, OCH_2CH_2), 3.36 (s, 1H, OCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.37, 140.40, 132.21, 128.67, 128.11, 127.56, 127.32, 118.49, 126.15, 118.80, 111.13, 93.20, 78.17, 71.58, 67.29, 59.02; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ ($C_{20}H_{26}NOSi$) requires m/z 298.14428, found m/z 298.14432.

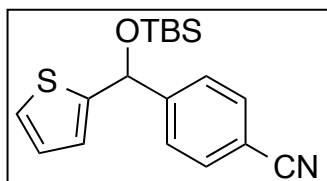


4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-

benzonitrile (Table 2.10): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

$C2,N$]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes)

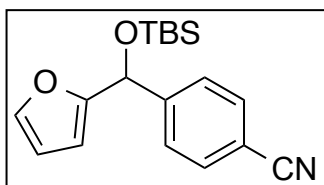
to afford the title compound as a clear oil (181 mg, 0.56 mmol, 74%). IR (film) 2930, 2957, 2229, 1738, 1608, 1472, 1255, 1089, 843, 778, 699 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.59 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.49 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.35-7.29 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H, ArH), 5.77 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.92 (s, 9H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH_3), -0.04 (s, 3H, SiCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.51, 143.78, 132.14, 128.49, 127.59, 126.67, 126.27, 76.12, 25.75, 18.24, -4.82, -4.96; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{NOSi}$) requires m/z 324.17782, found m/z 324.17750.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(thiophen-2-yl)methyl)-benzonitrile (Table 2.11): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

$\text{C}_2, \text{N}]$ iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 514 mg of *tert*-butyldimethyl(thiophen-2-ylmethoxy)silane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (181 mg, 0.55 mmol, 73%). IR (film) 2955, 2230, 1608, 1472, 1254, 1078, 907, 863, 779, 733 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.24 (dd, J = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.91 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.81 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H, ArH),

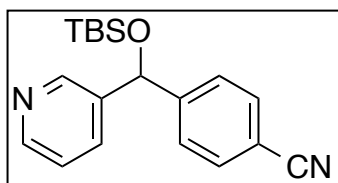
6.02 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.93 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.04 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), 0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.59, 148.52, 132.24, 126.62, 126.48, 125.33, 123.98, 118.87, 111.14, 72.37, 25.67, 18.24, -4.97, -5.03; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₈H₂₄NOSSi) requires *m/z* 330.13424, found *m/z* 330.13397.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(furan-2-yl)methyl)-

benzonitrile (Table 2.12): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 478 mg of *tert*-butyl(furan-2-ylmethoxy)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 158 mg of Na₂CO₃ (0.75 mmol, 2.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (150 mg, 0.48 mmol, 64%). IR (film) 2955, 2230, 1472, 1253, 1079, 1230, 905, 839, 780, 730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.35 (s, 1H ArH), 6.35-6.23 (m, 1H ArH), 6.12 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.82 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.08 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), 0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.34, 147.32, 142.47, 132.09, 126.87, 118.92, 111.18, 110.20, 107.28, 69.86, 25.70, 18.27, -5.10, -5.17; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₈H₂₄NO₂Si) requires *m/z* 314.15708, found *m/z* 314.15697.

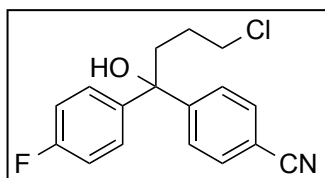


4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(pyridin-3-

yl)methyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.13): Prepared according to

the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-

phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 503 mg of 3-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)pyridine (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (149 mg, 0.46 mmol, 61%). IR (film) 2955, 2930, 1608, 1472, 1426, 1253, 1086, 904, 862, 729 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 8.52 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.60-7.65 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.81 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.29, 149.15, 147.84, 139.21, 133.83, 132.38, 126.63, 123.59, 118.70, 111.23, 74.05, 25.68, 18.19, -4.83, -4.91; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₉H₂₅N₂OSi) requires *m/z* 325.17307, found *m/z* 325.17288.



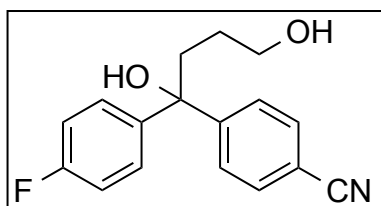
4-(4-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-hydroxybutyl)-

benzonitrile (Table 2.14): Prepared according to the general

procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00

equiv.), 456 mg of 4-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)butan-1-ol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (161 mg, 0.53 mmol, 70%). IR (film) IR (film) 3392, 2945, 2254, 1605, 1509, 1224, 904, 837, 726 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.62 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H ArH), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.03 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.58 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H, CH_2Cl), 2.63 (s, 1H, OH), 2.52-2.39 (m, 2H, CCH_2CH_2), 1.93-1.62 (m, 2H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.99 (d, $J = 246$ Hz), 151.42, 141.42 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 132.16, 127.70 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 126.62, 118.67, 115.46 (d, $J = 21.6$ Hz), 110.91, 76.75, 45.22, 38.91, 26.75; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClFNO}$) requires m/z 304.08990, found m/z 304.08978.

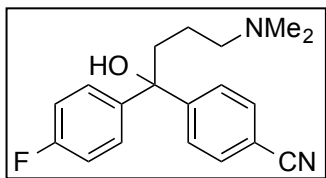


4-(1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,4-dihydroxybutyl)benzonitrile

(Table 2.15): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $\text{C}2,N$]iridium(III)

(7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 414 mg of 1-(4-fluorophenyl)butane-1,4-diol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 262 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 2.00 equiv.), 176 mL of octanal (1.125 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction

mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (156 mg, 0.54 mmol, 72%). IR (film) 3436, 2945, 2254, 2232, 1680, 1600, 1508, 1276, 1232, 904, 725 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H ArH), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.40 (dd, $J = 8.7, 5.4$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.01 (t, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.72 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 2H, CH_2OH), 2.55-2.36 (m, 2H, CCH_2CH_2), 1.72-1.49 (m, 3H, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 + \text{OH}$); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.78 (d, $J = 321$ Hz), 152.42, 141.95 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 132.04, 127.77 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 126.76, 118.84, 115.21 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), 110.50, 76.75, 62.90, 39.23, 26.57; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2$) requires m/z 286.12443, found m/z 286.12441.



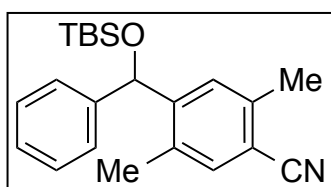
4-(4-(dimethylamino)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-

hydroxybutyl)benzonitrile (Table 2.16): Prepared according

to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-

phenylpyridinato- $\text{C}2,N$]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 96 mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 475 mg of 4-(dimethylamino)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)butan-1-ol (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (176 mg, 0.56 mmol, 75%). IR (film) 3600, 2953, 2225, 1604, 1225, 1160, 1016, 904, 832, 727 cm^{-1} ; ^1H

NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.58 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.99 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, ArH), 2.54-2.30 (m, 5H, CCH₂CH₂CH₂N + OH), 2.12 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)₂), 1.66-1.52 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.49 (d, J = 244 Hz), 154.12, 142.98, 142.98 (d J = 3.1 Hz), 131.92, 127.75 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 126.80, 119.07, 114.93 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 109.99, 75.70, 59.65, 44.55, 42.02, 22.36; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₉H₂₂FN₂O) requires m/z 313.17107, found m/z 313.17119.

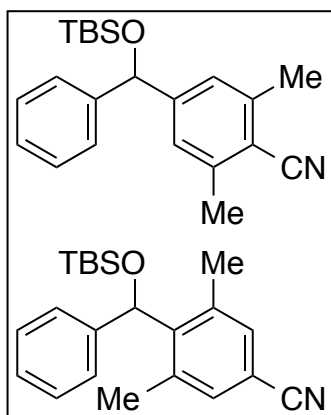


4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,5-

dimethylbenzonitrile (Table 3.1): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 117 mg of 2,5-dimethylterephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (141 mg, 0.40 mmol, 53%). IR (film) 2930, 2858, 2225, 1463, 1254, 1093, 907, 837, 778, 731 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38-7.23 (m, 6H, ArH), 5.87 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.56 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 2.21 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 0.93 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.82, 142.57, 139.34, 134.16, 132.88, 128.57, 128.28, 127.34, 126.77, 118.39, 111.08, 73.84, 25.75, 20.23, 18.87, 18.24, -4.85, -4.87;

HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ ($C_{22}H_{30}NOSi$) requires m/z 352.20912, found m/z 352.20916.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,6-dimethylbenzonitrile and 4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3,5-

dimethylbenzonitrile (Table 3.2): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 117 mg of 2-

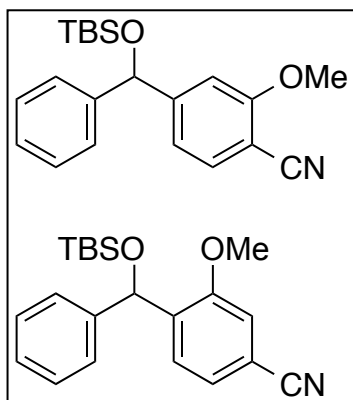
methoxyterephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure. Analysis of the crude reaction mixture by 1H NMR in $CDCl_3$ determined that the regioisomer ratio was 2:1.

Purification of the crude reaction mixture by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded 4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,6-dimethylbenzonitrile (127 mg, 0.36 mmol, 48%) and 4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3,5-dimethylbenzonitrile (63 mg, 0.18 mmol, 24%) as colorless oils.

4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,6-dimethylbenzonitrile: IR (film) 2958, 2219, 1607, 1472, 1254, 1095, 908, 862, 732 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.35-7.29 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.14 (s, 1H, ArH), 5.68 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.50 (s, 6H, 2 \times ArCH $_3$), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH $_3$) $_3$), 0.00 (s, 3H, SiCH $_3$), -0.04 (s, 3H,

SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.64, 144.06, 142.14, 128.40, 127.41, 126.17, 124.89, 117.46, 111.73, 76.10, 25.76, 20.92, 18.27, -4.83, -4.92; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₂H₃₀NOSi) requires *m/z* 352.20916, found *m/z* 352.20919.

4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3,5-dimethylbenzonitrile: IR (film) 2955, 2225, 1471, 1251, 1066, 903, 778, 724 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.28 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.27 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.32 (bs, 6H, 2 × ArCH₃), 0.95 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.15 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.17 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.73, 142.56, 128.17 (2C), 126.74, 125.08 (2C), 119.01, 110.97, 71.05, 25.80, 20.50, 18.29, -4.80, -5.05; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₂H₃₀NOSi) requires *m/z* 352.20912, found *m/z* 352.20906.



4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-methoxybenzonitrile and 4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3-methoxybenzonitrile (Table 3.3): Prepared according to

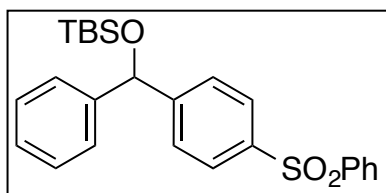
the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,N]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.),

96 mg of 2-methoxyterephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(tert-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure. Analysis

of the crude reaction mixture by ^1H NMR in CDCl_3 determined that the regioisomer ratio was 2:1. Purification of the crude reaction mixture by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded 4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3-methoxybenzonitrile (95 mg, 0.27 mmol, 36%) and 4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-methoxybenzonitrile (50 mg, 0.14 mmol, 18%) as colorless oils.

4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-3-methoxybenzonitrile: IR (film) 2955, 2226, 1608, 1463, 1412, 1261, 1093, 904, 729 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.07 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.90 (dd, $J = 7.9, 0.7$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.69 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 3.87 (s, 3H, ArOMe), 0.88 (s, 9H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), -0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH_3), -0.09 (s, 3H, SiCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.33, 152.57, 143.65, 133.46, 128.48, 127.64, 126.29, 118.56, 116.65, 108.50, 99.97, 76.13, 55.86, 25.73, 18.24, -4.81, -4.97; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2\text{Si}$) requires m/z 354.18838, found m/z 354.18829.

4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-methoxybenzonitrile: IR (film) 2956, 2231, 1574, 1462, 1407, 1260, 1066, 905, 741 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.31-7.25 (m, 3H, ArH), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.03 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.12 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 3.85 (s, 3H, ArOMe), 0.90 (s, 9H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), -0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH_3), -0.05 (s, 3H, SiCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.29, 143.66, 139.64, 128.04, 127.44, 127.11, 126.32, 125.02, 119.08, 113.24, 111.18, 69.70, 55.61, 25.75, 18.19, -4.94, -5.06; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NO}_2\text{Si}$) requires m/z 354.18838, found m/z 354.18861.

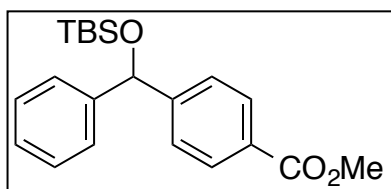


***tert*-butyldimethyl(phenyl(4- (phenylsulfonyl)-**

phenyl)methoxy)silane (Table 3.4): Prepared according

to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-

phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 547 mg of 4-(phenylsulfonyl)benzonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (232 mg, 0.53 mmol, 71%). IR (film) 2955, 2857, 2255, 1595, 1447, 1318, 1258, 1156, 1090, 903, 723 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.56-7.45 (m, 5H, ArH), 7.30-7.24 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H, ArH), 5.73 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.88 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.03 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.09 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.91, 143.83, 141.52, 139.84, 133.10, 129.21, 128.43, 127.68, 127.63, 127.54, 126.73, 126.29, 76.05, 25.73, 18.22, -4.83, -4.98; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₅H₃₁O₃SSi) requires *m/z* 439.17632, found *m/z* 439.17599.



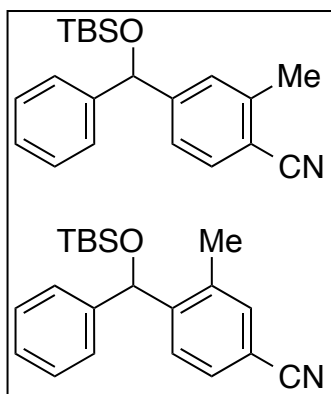
Methyl 4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-

(phenyl)methyl)benzoate (Table 3.5): Prepared

according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of

tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 121 mg of methyl 4-

cyanobenzoate (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 393 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (146 mg, 0.41 mmol, 55%). IR (film) 2954, 2858, 2256, 1721, 1612, 1436, 1279, 1190, 1090, 908, 837, 778, 732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.79 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 3.90 (s, 3H, ArCO₂CH₃), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.00, 150.34, 144.37, 129.60, 128.73, 128.31, 127.25, 126.24, 126.09, 52.04, 25.77, 18.26, -4.86, -4.90; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₁H₂₉O₃Si) requires *m/z* 357.18805, found *m/z* 357.18774.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-methylbenzonitrile and 4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-(phenyl)methyl)-3-methylbenzonitrile (Table 3.6):

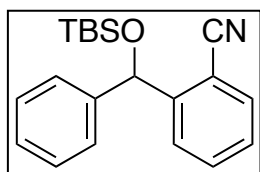
Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 107 mg of 2-methylterephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol,

1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.),

79 mg of Na_2CO_3 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure. Analysis of the crude reaction mixture by ^1H NMR in CDCl_3 determined that the regioisomer ratio was 1.4:1. Purification of the crude reaction mixture by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded a mixture of the title compounds as a clear oil (176 mg, 0.52 mmol, 69%, 1.4:1 r.r.).

4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-methylbenzonitrile: IR (film) 2955, 2930, 2858, 2228, 1736, 1609, 1472, 1259, 1089, 1068, 905, 864, 837, 734 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.34-7.22 (m, 7H, ArH), 5.73 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.52 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.01 (s, 2H, SiCH₃), -0.04 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NOSi}$) requires m/z 338.19368, found m/z 338.19347.

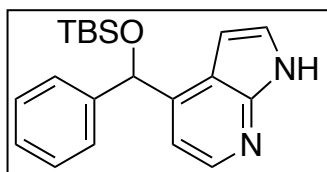
4-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-4-methylbenzonitrile: IR (film) 2955, 2930, 2858, 2228, 1736, 1609, 1472, 1259, 1089, 1068, 905, 864, 837, 734 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.56 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.38 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.34-7.20 (m, 5H, ArH), 5.788 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.24 (s, 3H, ArCH₃), 0.90 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), -0.02 (s, 2H, SiCH₃), -0.03 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{NOSi}$) requires m/z 338.19368, found m/z 338.19347.



2-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)benzonitrile

(Table 3.7): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $\text{C}2,N$]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01

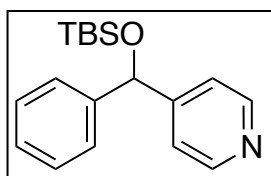
equiv.), 96 mg of phthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (100 mg, 0.31 mmol, 41%). IR (film) 2955, 2859, 2255, 1471, 1252, 1107, 1069, 903, 725 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81-7.73 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.62-7.55 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H, ArH), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 1H, ArH), 6.14 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.91 (m, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), 0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.06, 143.22, 133.13, 132.56, 128.36, 127.50, 127.52, 127.13, 126.15, 117.95, 109.80, 74.17, 25.73, 18.19, -4.94, -4.99; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₂₀H₂₆NOSi) requires *m/z* 324.17782, found *m/z* 324.17781.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridine (Table 3.8): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 107 mg of 1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridine-4-carbonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2

equiv.), 0.375 mL of DMA, 0.375 mL of DMSO. After 48 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (186 mg, 0.55 mmol, 73%). IR (film) 2955, 2857, 2254, 1591, 1472, 1252, 1100, 904, 724 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 9.95 (bs, 1H, **NH**), 8.31 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H **ArH**), 7.45 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H, **ArH**), 7.31-7.26 (m, 3H **ArH**), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, **ArH**), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H, **ArH**), 6.56 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H, **ArH**), 6.10 (s, 1H, **ArCHAr**), 0.93 (s, 9H, $\text{SiC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), -0.01 (s, 3H, SiCH_3), -0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.85, 146.21, 143.76, 142.97, 128.20, 127.24, 126.26, 124.48, 117.41, 112.84, 100.01, 74.93, 25.80, 18.30, -4.92, -4.95; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{OSi}$) requires m/z 339.18872, found m/z 339.18873.

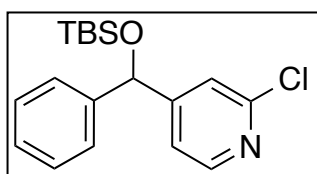


4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)pyridine

(Table 3.9): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-*C2,N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01

equiv.), 78 mg of isonicotinonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (171 mg, 0.57 mmol, 76%). IR (film) 2955, 2858, 1597, 1472, 1412, 1252, 1191, 1090, 1067, 906, 837, 779, 842, 729 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.52 (d, J

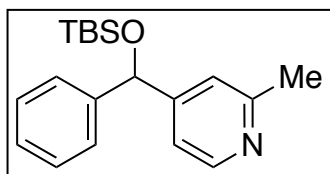
= 6.1 Hz, 2H ArH), 7.35-7.29 (m, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 6H, ArH), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H ArH), 5.70 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.93 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.04 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.05 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.83, 149.67, 143.52, 128.45, 127.63, 126.38, 120.93, 75.54, 25.74, 18.24, -4.83, -4.99; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₈H₂₆NOSi) requires m/z 300.17782, found m/z 300.17784.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-

chloropyridine (Table 3.10): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 104 mg of 2-chloroisonicotinonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (127 mg, 0.38 mmol, 51%). IR (film) 2955, 2858, 1590, 1550, 1463, 1379, 1256, 1095, 904, 862, 779, 724 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H ArH), 7.37-7.27 (m, 6H ArH), 7.21 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.67 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.92 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.05 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.06 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.41, 151.56, 149.51, 142.84, 128.65, 127.99, 126.41, 121.31, 119.80, 75.29, 25.72, 18.22, -4.81, -5.02; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₈H₂₅ClNOSi) requires m/z 334.13940, found m/z 334.13935.

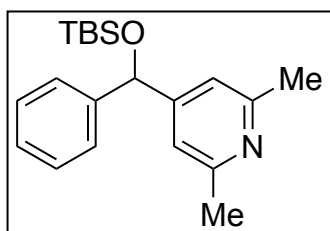


4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2-

methylpyridine (Table 3.11): Prepared according to the

general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 89 mg of 2-methylisonicotinonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K₂HPO₄ (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (204 mg, 0.65 mmol, 86%). IR (film) 2955, 2858, 1601, 1472, 1405, 1253, 1154, 1093, 907, 864, 778, 732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H ArH), 7.38-7.31 (m, 4H ArH), 7.30-7.25 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.17-7.12 (m, 2H, ArH), 5.68 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 0.94 (s, 9H, SiC(CH₃)₃), 0.05 (s, 3H, SiCH₃), -0.02 (s, 3H, SiCH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.20, 154.18, 148.99, 143.68, 128.41, 127.55, 126.34, 120.40, 118.14, 75.62, 25.75, 24.51, 18.26, -4.83, -4.97; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for [M+H]⁺ (C₁₉H₂₇NOSi) requires *m/z* 314.19347, found *m/z* 314.19325.



4-(((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)(phenyl)methyl)-2,6-

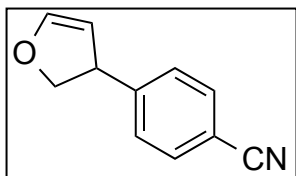
dimethylpyridine (Table 3.12): Prepared according to the

general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato-

C2,*N*]iridium(III) (7.5 mmol, 0.01 equiv.), 99 mg of 2,6-

dimethylisonicotinonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 500 mg of (benzyloxy)(*tert*-

butyl)dimethylsilane (2.25 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 mL of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 mL of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.375 mL of DMA, 0.375 mL of DMSO. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (197 mg, 0.60 mmol, 80%). IR (film) 2955, 2858, 1741, 1606, 1572, 1454, 1254, 1097, 907, 838, 778, 731 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.37-7.31 (m, 4H ArH), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H ArH), 6.99 (s, 2H ArH), 5.65 (s, 1H, ArCHAr), 2.51 (s, 6H, $2 \times ArCH_3$), 0.94 (s, 9H, $SiC(CH_3)_3$), 0.04 (s, 3H, $SiCH_3$), -0.02 (s, 3H, $SiCH_3$); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.53, 154.48, 143.84, 128.37, 127.46, 126.30, 117.56, 75.66, 25.77, 24.48, 18.28, -4.84, -4.94; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[M+H]^+$ ($C_{18}H_{25}ClNOSi$) requires m/z 328.20912, found m/z 328.20889.



4-(2,3-dihydrofuran-3-yl)benzonitrile (Figure 6): Prepared according to the general procedure using 4.8 mg of tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $C2,N$]iridium(III) (7.5 μ mol, 0.01 equiv.), 96

mg of terephthalonitrile (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 263 mg of 2,5-dihydrofuran (3.75 mmol, 5.00 equiv.), 131 mg of K_2HPO_4 (0.75 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), 141 μ L of octanal (0.90 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), 13.0 μ L of methyl 2-mercaptoacetate (0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), 0.75 mL of DMA. After 12 h, the reaction mixture was subjected to the workup protocol outlined in the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 5% ethyl acetate in hexanes) to afford the title compound as a clear oil (106 mg, 0.62 mmol, 82%). IR (film) 2230, 1609, 1140, 1063, 904, 725 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ

7.62 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H ArH), 7.35 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.58 (s, 1H, CH=CH), 5.08 (s, 1H, CH=CH), 4.82-4.60 (m, 1H, OCHH), 4.31-4.07 (m, 2H, OCHH, CHAr); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.63, 147.53, 132.49, 128.10, 118.87, 110.63, 103.68, 77.05, 48.02; HRMS (ESI) exact mass calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ($\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{NO}$) requires m/z 172.07569, found m/z 172.07644.

