# N-Acyloxyphthalimides as Nitrogen Radical Precursors in the Visible Light Photocatalyzed Room Temperature C–H Amination of Arenes and Heteroarenes

Laura J. Allen, Pablo J. Cabrera, Melissa Lee and Melanie S. Sanford\*

Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

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1. Materials and Methods: All reagents were purchased from common suppliers and dried over  $P_2O_5$  prior to use unless otherwise noted. Tris[2-phenylpyridinato- $C^2$ , Miridium(III) (Ir(ppy\_3)) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and hexanes for column chromatography were purchased from VWR. Silica gel for flash column chromatography was purchased from Dynamic Adsorbents. CDCl<sub>3</sub> was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Thin laver chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck TLC plates pre-coated with silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub>. NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian vnmrs 700 (699.76 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 175.95 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C), Varian vnmrs 500 (500.10 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 125.75 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C, 470.56 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F), or Varian MR400 (400.52 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 100.71 for <sup>13</sup>C; 376.87 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F) with the residual solvent peak (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H:  $\delta$  = 7.26 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C:  $\delta$  = 77.16 ppm) as the internal reference unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) ( $\delta$ ) relative to tetramethylsilane. Multiplicities are reported as follows: br (broad resonance), s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz. Infrared (IR) spectroscopy was performed on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum BX FT-IR spectrometer and peaks are reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. Melting points were determined with a Mel-Temp 3.0, a Laboratory Devices Inc, USA instrument and are uncorrected. High-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Micromass AutoSpec Ultima Magnetic Sector mass spectrometer. Gas chromatography was carried out on a Shimadzu 17A using a Restek Rtx<sup>®</sup>-5 (Crossbond 5% diphenyl/95% dimethyl polysiloxane; 15 m, 0.25 mm ID, 0.25  $\mu$ m df) column. All stock solutions were made using volumetric glassware. All reagents were weighed out in a nitrogen-filled drybox with exclusion of air and moisture, unless otherwise noted.

## 2. General Procedures:

A. General procedure for synthesis of substituted N-acyloxyphthalimides:<sup>1</sup>



In a 250 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar was added Nhydroxyphthalimide (4.29 mmol, 700 mg, 1.0 equiv) and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (4.29 mmol, 885 mg, 1.0 equiv). Ethyl acetate (125 mL) was then added followed by the appropriate carboxylic acid (4.29 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and the reaction was stirred at room temperature, open to air for 3 h, during which time the reaction mixture became cloudy and a white solid precipitated from the solution. The white solid was removed via vacuum filtration and the filtrate was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and further dried *in vacuo* to give the crude product. Recrystallization of the crude solid from hot ethanol provided the pure substituted N-acyloxyphthalimide.

B. General procedure for optimization reactions (Table 1, Table S1 & Table S2)



In a N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox, substituted N-acyloxyphthalimide **1** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (0.0025 mmol, 0.05 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a micro

stirbar. Acetonitrile (0.5 mL, 0.1 M solution in 1) was then added followed by benzene (0.5 mmol, 44  $\mu$ L 10.0 equiv). The reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox, and placed on a stir-plate. Two 26 W compact fluorescent light bulbs were placed on opposite sides of the vial at approximately 5 cm distance. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. It was then diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3.0 mL) and a GC standard (neopentylbenzene, 0.0579 mmol, 10  $\mu$ L, 1.16 equiv) was added. An aliquot (~0.6 mL) was removed for analysis, and yields were determined by GC.

C. General procedure for isolation reactions (Table 2 & Table 3):



In a N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox, trifluoroacyloxyphthalimide (**1g**) (0.25 mmol, 65 mg, 1.0 equiv) and Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub> (0.0125 mmol, 8.0 mg, 0.05 equiv) were weighed into a 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a micro stirbar. Acetonitrile (2.5 mL, 0.1 M solution **1**) was then added followed by the arene substrate (2.5 mmol, 10.0 equiv). The reaction vial was sealed with a Teflon-lined cap, removed from the N<sub>2</sub>-filled drybox, and placed on a stir-plate. Two 26 W compact fluorescent light bulbs were placed on opposite sides of the vial at approximately 5 cm distance. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for the indicated time.

D. General procedure for synthesis of authentic samples:<sup>3</sup>



Phthalic anhydride (60 mg, 0.40 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to a 20 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Acetic acid (1.00 mL) was added via syringe followed by the appropriate aniline derivative (0.40 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The reaction was heated at 100 °C for 2-3 h, and then the reaction mixture was quenched with water, upon which time a white solid precipitated from solution. The precipitate was collected via vacuum filtration, washed with water, and dried *in vacuo* to give the desired product.

## 3. Table S1. Optimization of Photocatalytic C–H Amination:

	O )→−CF <sub>3</sub>	- <b>H</b>	cat. lr(ppy visible lig	y) <sub>3</sub> ht	
0			MeCN, R 24 h		, Ö
	Entry	mol % [lr]	equiv	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>	
			benzene		_
	1	none	10	nd <sup>b</sup>	-
	2	5 <sup>°</sup>	10	nd <sup>b</sup>	
	3	0.5	10	$55^d$	
	4	1.0	10	$65^d$	
	5	5	10	81	
	6	5	5	62	
	7	5	2.5	56	
	8	5	1	23	

<u>Conditions</u>: General procedure **B** was followed using **1g** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (0.5-5 mol %), benzene (1-10 equiv), MeCN (0.1 M in **1g**), and visible light for 24 h, rt. <sup>*a*</sup>GC yields using neopentylbenzene as a standard. <sup>*b*</sup>nd = not detected. <sup>*c*</sup>No light. <sup>*d*</sup>Isolated yield.

# 4. Table S2. Optimization of Electron Deficient Heteroarene Substrates:



Entry	mol %	equiv 2,6-	Concentration	yield
	[lr]	dichloropyridine	of <b>1g</b> in MeCN	(%) <sup>a</sup>
1	5	10	0.1 M	59 ± 5
2	5	5	0.1 M	27 ± 1
3	5	20	0.1 M	67 ± 4
4	5	30	0.1 M	80 ± 6
5	5	40	0.1 M	77 ± 3
6	5	50	0.1 M	83 ± 6
7	10	10	0.1 M	$36 \pm 0$
8	2.5	10	0.1 M	59 ± 5
9	5	10	0.05 M	49 ± 3
10	5	10	0.2 M	62 ± 1
11	5	10	0.3 M	63 ± 2
12	5	10	0.5 M	61 ± 4
13	5	10	1 M	59 ± 3
14	5	20	0.2 M	77 ± 4

15	5	30	0.2 M	80 ± 7
16	5	50	0.2 M	80 ± 3

<u>Conditions</u>: General procedure **B** was followed using **1g** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (2.5-10 mol %), 2,6-dichloropyridine (5-50 equiv), MeCN (0.05-1 M in **1g**), and visible light for 24 h, rt. <sup>a</sup>GC yields using neopentylbenzene as a standard. Reactions done in duplicate.

## 5. Figure S1. Time Study of Benzene C–H Amination:



<u>Conditions:</u> General procedure **B** was followed using **1g** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (5 mol %), benzene (10 equiv), MeCN (0.1 M in **1g**), and visible light for 2-48 h, rt. <sup>a</sup>GC yields using neopentylbenzene as a standard.

## 6. Scheme S1. Radical Chain Probe Experiment:



<u>Conditions:</u> General procedure **B** was followed using **1g** (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (0.05 equiv), visible light, and benzene (10 equiv) in MeCN (0.1 M in **1g**). The reaction mixtures were stirred at room temperature for the given time. Yields were determined by GC using neopentylbenzene as a standard.

### 7. Table S3. Control Reactions

$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $				
Entry	R	mol% [lr]	Visible light	Yield <sup>a</sup>
1	OCOCF <sub>3</sub> ( <b>1g</b> )	none	yes	nd
2	1g	5	no	nd
3 <sup>b</sup>	1g	none	no	nd
4 <sup>b</sup>	1g	5	no	nd
5 <sup>b,c</sup>	1g	none	no	nd
6	Br	none	yes	<10%
7	Br	5	yes	<10%
8 <sup>b</sup>	Br	5	no	nd
9	Ts	none	yes	<10%
10	Ts	5	yes	38%
11	Ts	5	no	nd
12 <sup>b</sup>	Ts	none	no	nd

<u>Conditions</u>: General procedure **B** was followed using N-substituted phthalimides (0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (0.05 equiv), visible light, and benzene (10 equiv) in MeCN (0.1 M in **1g**). The reaction mixtures were stirred at room temperature for 24 h. <sup>a</sup>Yields were determined by GC using neopentylbenzene as a standard. nd = not detected. <sup>b</sup>80 °C. <sup>c</sup>trifluoroacetic acid (1.0 equiv) added.

## 8. Substituted N-acyloxyphthalimide Characterization:

N-acetoxyphthalimide (1a): General procedure A was followed using acetic acid (4.29 mmol, 258 mg, 0.25 mL) as the carboxylic acid substrate. The product was obtained as a white solid (547 mg, 62% yield). The structure of 1a was CH<sup>2</sup> confirmed by comparison of <sup>1</sup>H NMR data to that reported in the literature.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.89 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 1a 7.79 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 റ MHz): δ 166.7, 162.0, 134.9, 129.1, 124.1, 17.9.

**1.3-dioxoisoindolin-2-vl 4-methoxybenzoate (1b):** General procedure A was followed using



p-methoxybenzoic acid (4.29 mmol, 653 mg) as the carboxylic acid substrate. The product was obtained as a white solid (865 mg, 70% yield). The structure of 1b was confirmed by comparison of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data to that reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.92-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.81-7.80 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz,

2H) 3.90 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 165.0, 162.5, 162.4, 134.9, 133.1, 129.2, 124.1, 117.4, 114.4, 55.8.

1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl benzoate (1c): General procedure A was followed using benzoic acid Ó 1c

(4.29 mmol, 524 mg) as the carboxylic acid substrate. The product was obtained as a white solid (805 mg, 70% yield). The structure of 1c was confirmed by comparison of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data to that reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.21-8.19 (m, 2H), 7.94-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.70 (tt, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 162.9,

162.2, 135.0, 134.9, 130.8, 129.2, 129.0, 125.4, 124.2.

1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzoate (1d): General procedure A was followed using p-trifluoromethylbenzoic acid (4.29 mmol, 815 mg) as the carboxylic acid substrate. The product was obtained as a white solid (934 mg, 65% yield). The structure of 1d was  $\cap$ confirmed by comparison of <sup>1</sup>H NMR data to that reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.32 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1d 2H), 7.94 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.84-7.81 (multiple peaks,

4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 161.9, 161.9, 136.3 (q, *J* = 33 Hz), 135.1, 131.2, 129.0, 128.8, 126.1 (q, J = 4 Hz), 124.3, 123.5 (q, J = 273 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376.87 MHz): δ –63.4.

1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl 2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzoate (1e): General procedure A was followed using pentafluorobenzoic acid (4.29 mmol, 910 mg) as the carboxylic acid substrate. The product was obtained as a white solid (1.127 g, 73% yield, mp = 111-112 °C.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.94 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 161.3, 156.1 (m), 147.5-145.8 (m), 145.8-144.2 (m), 139.0-137.3 (m), 135.2, 128.9, 124.4, O 103.4 (td, J = 14, 5 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376.87 MHz):  $\delta$  –132.9 1e

thru -132.9 (m), -143.3 (tt, J = 21, 7 Hz), -158.8 thru -158.9 (m). HRMS: EI (m/z) M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>5</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: 357.0060; found: 357.0058.



<u>N-(trifluoromethyl)acyloxyphthalimide (1g)</u>: N-Hydroxyphthalimide (1.0 g, 6.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to an oven-dried Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar, and the flask was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen. Dry acetonitrile (6 mL) and trifluoroacetic anhydride (1.73 mL, 12.26 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were then added via syringe, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. The volatiles were then removed

*in vacuo*, and the remaining white solid was dried *in vacuo* for an additional 12 h. The product was obtained as a moisture sensitive white solid (1.16 g, 80% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.09 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 5.6, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  160.2, 155.3 (q, *J* = 45 Hz), 134.6, 128.5, 124.0, 114.7 (q, *J* = 286 Hz) <sup>19</sup>F NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  –72.6. HRMS EI (m/z): M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>: 259.0088; found: 259.0092.

### 9. Product Characterization:

#### N-phenylphthalimide (2):



General procedure **C** was followed using benzene (2.5 mmol, 195 mg, 0.22 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*, and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to afford **2** as a white solid in 76% yield (95 mg). The structure of **2** was confirmed by comparison of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data to that reported in the literature.<sup>5,6</sup> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.96 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.42-

7.40 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl\_3, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.4, 134.5, 131.9, 131.8, 129.2, 128.2, 126.7, 123.9.

### N-(trifluoromethylbenzene)phthalimide (3):2



General procedure **C** was followed using trifluorotoluene (2.5 mmol, 365 mg, 0.31 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was

purified by column chromatography to give a mixture of **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** as a white solid. The structures of **3a**, **3b**, and **3c** were determined by synthesis of authentic samples (using general procedure **E**). Isomer ratios were determined by <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectroscopy.

Isolated Yield: 23% (17 mg, 1.0: 8.4: 2.8)

R<sub>f</sub> (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.47 (30% EtOAc/70% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>); (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>: 2921, 2852, 1708, 1494, 1453, 1375, 1313, 1109, 1062, 875, 804

<u>HRMS (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>: EI (m/z)  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{15}H_8F_3NO_2$ : 291.0507; found: 291.0514.

**3a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.2, 134.6, 133.3, 132.0, 131.8, 130.2, 129.9 (q, *J* = 2 Hz), 129.7 (q, *J* = 31 Hz), 127.7 (q, *J* = 5 Hz), 124.1, 123.1 (q, *J* = 273 Hz), <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376.87 MHz):  $\delta$  -61.42 (s). mp = 103-105 °C.

**3b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.00-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.78 (br s, 1H), 7.67 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.1, 135.1, 132.7, 132.0 (q, J = 33 Hz), 131.8, 130.0, 129.9, 125.0 (q, J = 4 Hz), 124.3, 123.9 (q, J = 273 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 4 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376.87 MHz): δ -62.69 (s). mp = 84-87 °C.

**3c**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.00-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 166.9, 135.1, 134.9, 131.7, 130.0 (q, J = 33 Hz), 126.6, 126.4 (q, J = 4 Hz), 124.2, 124.0 (q, J = 272 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 470.56 MHz): δ -62.66 (s). mp = 216-218 °C.

N-(tolyl)phthalimide (4):<sup>2,5,6</sup>



General procedure **C** was followed using toluene (2.5 mmol, 230 mg, 0.27 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give a mixture of **4a**, **4b**, and **4c** as a white solid. The structures of **4a**, **4b**, and **4c** were confirmed by synthesis of authentic samples (using general procedure **E**) and isomer ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

Isolated Yield: 80% (47 mg, 2.0: 1.0: 1.2)

R<sub>f</sub> (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.77 (30% EtOAc/70% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>); (isolated mixture of isomers):</u> 1708, 1465, 1377, 1110, 1080, 884, 770, 715.

<u>HRMS (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>: EI (m/z)  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{15}H_{11}NO_2$ : 237.0790; found: 237.0793.

**4a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.96 (dd, J = 4.9, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, J = 4.9, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.7 Hz) 2.22 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.5, 136.7, 134.5, 132.2, 131.3, 130.7, 129.6, 128.9, 127.0, 123.9, 18.2. mp = 151-152 °C.

**4b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.96-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.5, 139.3, 134.5, 131.9, 131.6, 129.2, 129.1, 127.4, 123.9, 123.8, 21.6. mp = 146-147 °C.

**4c**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.96-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.31 (s, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.6, 138.3, 134.5, 132.0, 129.9, 129.1, 126.6, 123.8, 21.4. mp = 173-175 °C.

# N-(methoxybenzene)phthalimide (5):<sup>2</sup>



General procedure **C** was followed using anisole (2.5 mmol, 270 mg, 0.27 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give a mixture of **5a**, **5b**, and **5c** as a white solid. The structures of **5a**, **5b**, and **5c** were confirmed by synthesis of authentic samples (using general procedure **E**) and isomer ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

Isolated Yield: 81% (51 mg, 12: 1: 10.3)

R<sub>f</sub> (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.54 (100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>); (isolated mixture of isomers):</u> 1703, 1505, 1384, 1251, 1113, 1021, 883, 768, 712.

<u>HRMS:</u> EI (m/z); (isolated mixture of isomers):  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{15}H_{11}NO_3$ : 253.0739; found: 253.0746

**5a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.95 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.26 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.06 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.5, 155.6, 134.2, 132.4, 130.8, 130.1, 123.8, 121.0, 120.4, 112.3, 56.0. mp = 129-130 °C.

**5b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.96 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (ddd, J = 7.7, 2.1, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H) 6.96 (ddd, J = 7.7, 2.1, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.4, 160.2, 134.6, 132.8, 131.9, 130.0, 123.9, 119.0, 114.3, 112.5, 55.6. mp = 92-94 °C.

**5c**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.95 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.7, 159.4, 134.4, 132.0, 128.1, 124.4, 123.8, 114.6, 55.7. mp = 131-132 °C.

## 1-N-phthalimido-2,4-dimethylbenzene (6):<sup>5,6</sup>



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,4-dimethylbenzene (2.5 mmol, 265 mg, 0.31 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in EtOAc (~10 mL) and washed with 2M NaOH (3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give **6** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 88% (55 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.52 (50% hexane/50% Et<sub>2</sub>O)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2921, 2851, 1716, 1507, 1370, 1238, 1112, 1082, 873, 819, 717.

<u>mp:</u> 137-139 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 252.1019; found: 252.1016.

<u>NMR</u>: <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.97-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.5, 136.8, 134.4, 133.4, 132.2, 131.0, 130.5, 130.4, 129.3, 123.8, 20.9, 17.6.

## 1-N-phthalimido-2,4-dichlorobenzene (7):



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,4-dichlorobenzene (2.5 mmol, 370 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in EtOAc (~10 mL) and washed with 2M NaOH (3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give **7** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 40% (29 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.41 (25% EtOAc/75% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 1719, 1473, 1412, 1217, 1094, 1078, 864, 815, 710.

<u>mp:</u> 177-179 °C

HRMS: ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 291.9927; found: 291.9923

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.00-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.3, 134.8, 133.3, 131.9, 131.9, 131.3, 130.9, 130.9, 130.8, 124.3.

### 1-N-phthalimido-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene (8):5



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (2.5 mmol, 300 mg, 0.35 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified via column chromatography to give **8** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 89% (59 mg)

R<sub>f</sub>: 0.48 (25% EtOAc/75% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2919, 1718, 1489, 1464, 1375, 1113, 1038, 882, 852, 715

<u>mp:</u> 154-156 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup>(m/z):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 266.1176; found: 266.1172

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.97-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.5, 139.4, 136.6, 134.4, 132.1, 129.4, 127.2, 123.8, 21.2, 18.1

#### 1-N-phthalimido-2,4,6-trimethoxybenzene (9):



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (2.5 mmol, 420 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give **9** as a light yellow crystalline solid.

Isolated Yield: 73% (57 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.24 (30% EtOAc/70% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2922, 1785, 1731, 1711, 1591, 1515, 1463, 1423, 1388, 1341, 1239, 1206, 1164, 1130, 1104, 1084, 1033, 946, 882, 817, 716.

<u>mp:</u> 195-196 °C

<u>HRMS</u>: EI (m/z)  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}NO_5$ : 313.0950; found: 313.0946.

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 7.92-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.72 (m, 2H), 6.21 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.8, 162.2, 157.7, 133.9, 132.6, 123.5, 101.8, 91.2, 56.1, 55.6.

## 1-N-phthalimido-2,4,6-trichlorobenzene (10):



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene (2.5 mmol, 454 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give **10** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 42% (34 mg)

Rf: 0.65 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>)</u>: 3085, 2926, 1723, 1555, 1466, 1364, 1224, 1100, 872, 788, 714.

<u>mp:</u> 146-147 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> EI (m/z):  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{14}H_6Cl_3NO_2$ : 324.9464; found: 324.9464.

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.00-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.51 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): 165.6, 136.6, 136.3, 134.9, 131.9, 128.9, 127.2, 124.4.

### N-(1,2,3-trichlorobenzene)phthalimide (11):



General procedure **C** was followed using 1,2,3-trichlorobenzene (2.5 mmol, 454 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give to give **11a** and **11b** as white solids (57% total yield; 5.4: 1). The regioisomeric ratio was determined by the amount of **11a** and **11b** separated by column chromatography.

<u>**11a**</u>: Isolated yield: 48% (39 mg, mp = 154-155 °C); R<sub>f</sub>: 0.47 (30% Ethyl Acetate, 70% hexanes). MP: 176-177 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.98 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.3, 135.7, 134.9, 134.2, 133.4, 131.8, 129.9, 128.9, 128.8, 124.3. IR ( $\nu$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1716, 1451, 1373, 1097, 881, 823, 791, 709. HRMS: EI (m/z):  $M^+$  calcd for  $C_{14}H_6Cl_3NO_2$ : 324.9464; found: 324.9464.

**<u>11b</u>**: Isolated yield: 9% (7 mg, mp = 190-193 °C); R<sub>f</sub>: 0.50 (30% Ethyl Acetate, 70% Hexane). MP: 207-209 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.98 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H) 7.62 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.4, 135.1, 134.6, 131.3, 131.2, 131.0, 126.4, 124.3. IR ( $\upsilon$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1719, 1589, 1555, 1439, 1376, 1227, 1163, 1095, 1081, 857, 787, 709. HRMS: EI (m/z): M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 324.9464; found: 324.9461.

### N-Phthalimidonaphthalene (12):<sup>5</sup>



General procedure **C** was followed using naphthalene (2.5 mmol, 320 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in EtOAc (~10 mL) and washed with 2M NaOH (3 x 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give a mixture of **12a** and **12b** as a white solid. The structures of **12a** and **12b** were confirmed by synthesis of authentic samples (using general procedure **E**) and isomer ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy

Crude ratio: 7.1 : 1.0 (GC)

<u>Isolated Yield</u>: 79% (54 mg, 4.6 : 1 by <sup>1</sup>H NMR)

R<sub>f</sub> (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.41 (25% EtOAc/75% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>); (isolated mixture of isomers):</u> 1707, 1540, 1466, 1401, 1374, 1108, 1084, 774

<u>HRMS; (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>: ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 274.0863; found: 274.0860

**12a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.03-8.02 (m, 2H), 8.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.47 (multiple peaks, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 167.9, 134.6, 134.6, 132.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.7, 128.3, 127.3, 127.1, 126.7, 125.6, 124.1, 122.6.

**12b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.00-7.98 (multiple peaks, 3H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.52 (multiple peaks, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.6, 134.6, 133.4, 132.7, 131.9, 129.2, 129.1, 128.4, 127.9, 126.8, 126.7, 125.7, 124.3, 123.9

#### N-Phthalimidothiophene (13):



General procedure **C** was followed using thiophene (2.5 mmol, 210 mg, 0.20 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give a mixture of **13a** and **13b** as a yellow solid. The structure of **13a** was confirmed by synthesis of an authentic sample from commercially available 2-nitrothiophene (85% pure, 15% 3-nitrothiophene), phthalic anhydride, and iron powder following literature procedure.<sup>7</sup> The isolated authentic product mixture contained the same ratio of isomers (85:15) as the starting material nitrothiophene.

Isolated Yield: 69% (40 mg, 4.6 : 1)

R<sub>f</sub>; (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.50 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>); (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>: 3114, 2921, 1710, 1529, 1446, 1375, 1323,1243, 1108, 1061, 882, 779, 677

mp (isolated mixture of isomers): 162-164 °C

<u>HRMS (isolated mixture of isomers)</u>:  $\text{ESI}^+$  (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{12}H_8NO_2S$ : 230.0270; found: 230.0265.

**13a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.95-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.78-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.1, 134.8, 132.4, 131.5, 125.4, 124.0, 122.0, 120.5.

### 2-N-Phthalimidofuran (14):



General procedure **C** was followed using furan (2.5 mmol, 170 mg, 0.18 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give **14** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 51% (27 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.57 (25% EtOAc/75% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 1728, 1603, 1497, 1388, 1222, 1152, 1082, 882, 713.

<u>mp:</u> 162-164 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 214.0499; found: 214.0489

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.99-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.47 (dd, J = 1.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 2.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, J = 1.4, 3.5 Hz, 1H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.3, 141.8, 138.0, 134.9, 131.7, 124.3, 111.6, 106.8.

#### <u>1-methyl-2-*N*-phthalimidopyrrole (15):</u>

General procedure **C** was followed using N-methylpyrrole (2.5 mmol, 203 mg, 0.22 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give **15** as a white solid.



Isolated Yield: 51% (28 mg)

Rf: 0.35 (30% EtOAc/70% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2162, 1718, 1553, 1496, 1369, 1291, 1237, 1080, 880, 798, 697

<u>mp:</u> 172-173 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 227.0815; found: 227.0815

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.99-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 2H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.9 MHz):  $\delta$  167.8, 134.7, 131.9, 124.1, 122.3, 118.7, 107.7, 107.7, 33.4.

#### 8-(N-phthalimido)caffeine (16):



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General procedure **C** was followed using caffeine (2.5 mmol, 486 mg) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was recrystallized from  $CHCl_3/Et_2O$  to give **16** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 45% (38 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.44 (100% Et<sub>2</sub>O)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 1734, 1706, 1654, 1506, 1445, 1221, 1055, 1033, 879, 717.

<u>mp:</u> 228-229 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 340.1040; found: 340.1033.

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.02 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  165.6, 153.4, 151.6, 147.0, 137.1, 135.6, 131.6, 124.9, 108.3, 32.5, 30.1, 28.2.

### 2,6-dimethyl-3-(*N*-phthalimido)pyridine (17):



General procedure **C** was followed using 2,6-dimethylpyridine (2.5 mmol, 268 mg, 0.29 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* and the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography to give **17** as a light brown solid.

Isolated Yield: 71% (34 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.33 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2922, 2851, 1723, 1578, 1464, 1373, 1226, 1106, 885, 720

<u>mp:</u> 160-161 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 253.0972; found: 253.0970

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.96 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.1, 159.2, 156.1, 136.8, 134.7, 132.1, 124.4, 124.1, 121.6, 24.5, 21.4.

N-Phthalimido-4-picoline (18):



General procedure **C** was followed using 4-methylpyridine (2.5 mmol, 233 mg, 0.24 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified via column chromatography to give a mixture of **18a** and **18b** as a light brown solid. The structures of **18a** and **18b** were confirmed by synthesis of authentic samples (using general procedure **E**) and isomer ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

Crude ratio: 1.0 : 7.2 (GC)

<u>Isolated Yield</u>: 57% (34 mg; 1: >20 <sup>1</sup>H NMR)

R<sub>f</sub> (isolated mixture of isomers): 0.26 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>) (isolated mixture of isomers):</u> 2924, 1709, 1598, 1502, 1422, 1378, 1240, 1080, 843, 708

mp (isolated mixture of isomers): 147-149 °C

<u>HRMS (isolated mixture of isomers):</u> :  $ESI^+$  (m/z):  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{14}H_{11}N_2O_2$ : 239.0815; found: 239.0820.

**18a**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz): δ 8.54 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.81-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz): δ 166.9, 150.1, 149.4, 146.2, 134.7, 131.9, 124.7, 124.1, 123.0, 21.2. mp: 145-146 °C

**18b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.55 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.99-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.1, 150.2, 149.6, 146.1, 134.8, 132.0, 128.2, 125.9, 124.2, 18.0. mp: 147-148 °C

# 2,4,6-trimethyl-3-(N-phthalimido)pyridine (19):



General procedure **C** was followed using 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine (2.5 mmol, 302 mg, 0.33 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified via column chromatography to give **19** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 66% (44 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.45 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2925, 2361, 1723, 1603, 1466, 1373, 1112, 866, 716

<u>mp:</u> 112-113 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 267.1128; found: 267.1132

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.97-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.83-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.0, 158.8, 156.3, 146.4, 134.7, 132.0, 124.1, 124.0, 123.3, 24.3, 21.1, 17.8.

### 2,6-dimethoxy-3-(*N*-phthalimido)pyridine (20):



General procedure **C** was followed using 2,6-dimethoxypyridine (2.5 mmol, 348 mg, 0.33 mL) as the arene substrate. After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (~15 mL) and washed with 1M NaOH (3 x 6 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give **20** as a white solid.

Isolated Yield: 79% (56 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.63 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2952, 2361, 1732, 1705, 1586, 1392, 1315, 1084, 1008, 880, 721

<u>mp:</u> 159-160 °C

HRMS: ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z) [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 285.0870; found: 285.0860

<u>NMR:</u> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  7.95-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.79-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.5, 163.4, 158.6, 141.0, 134.3, 132.3, 123.9, 106.6, 101.8, 54.1, 54.0.

## 2,6-dichloro-3-(N-phthalimido)pyridine (21):



A modification from general procedure **C** was followed using 2,6-dichloropyridine (5 mmol, 740 mg, 20 equiv) as the arene substrate and acetonitrile (1.25 mL, 0.2 M solution **1g**). After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (~15 mL) and washed with 1M NaOH (3 x 6 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give **21** as a light brown solid.

Isolated Yield: 51% (38 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.36 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2922, 2852, 1790, 1721, 1552, 1442, 1377, 1140, 1080, 826, 710

<u>mp:</u> 115-117 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 292.9879; found: 292.9879

<u>NMR</u>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.00-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.86-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.0, 151.0, 149.6, 141.4, 135.0, 131.8, 126.0, 124.4, 124.0.

# 2,6-dibromo-3-(*N*-phthalimido)pyridine (22):

A modification from general procedure **C** was followed using 2,6-dibromopyridine (5 mmol, 1.18 g, 20 equiv) as the arene substrate and acetonitrile (1.25 mL, 0.2 M in 1g). After 24 h, the

reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified via column chromatography. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (~15 mL) and washed with 1M NaOH (3 x 6 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give **22** as a light brown solid.

Isolated Yield: 32% (30 mg)

<u>R<sub>f</sub>:</u> 0.36 (20% NEt<sub>3</sub>/20% EtOAc/60% hexanes)

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2922, 2852, 1745, 1718, 1432, 1374, 1340, 1112, 1083, 855, 712

<u>mp:</u> 157-159 °C

<u>HRMS:</u>  $ESI^{+}$  (m/z)  $[M+H]^{+}$  calcd for  $C_{13}H_6Br_2N_2O_2$ : 380.8869; found: 380.8859

<u>NMR</u>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.00-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.86-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  166.0, 142.1, 141.2, 140.7, 135.1, 131.8, 129.0, 128.1, 124.4.

## N-phthalimidopyridine (23):



A modification from general procedure **C** was followed using pyridine (5 mmol, 393 mg, 0.40 mL, 20 equiv) as the arene substrate and acetonitrile (1.25 mL, 0.2 M solution **1g**). After 24 h, the reaction was diluted with EtOAc, and triethylamine (1 mL) was added to quench trifluoroacetic acid. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was run through a plug of silica gel (~250 mL, 1:1:3 v/v, Et<sub>3</sub>N:EtOAc:Hex). The crude mixture of products were dissolved in DCM (~15 mL) and washed with 1M NaOH (3 x 6 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the volatiles were evaporated *in vacuo* to give a mixture of **23a** and **23b**. Isomer ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. The product mixture was separated via silica gel column chromatography to afford **23a** as a light yellow solid and **23b** as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR ratio (mixture of isolated products): 1 : 2

Isolated Yield (total of 23a & 23b) : 41% (23 mg)

<u>23a:</u>

<u>R<sub>f</sub>: 0.63 (50% DCM/50% Et<sub>2</sub>O)</u>

IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2919, 2850, 1709, 1585, 1464, 1438, 1379, 1112, 1082, 882, 778, 711

<u>mp:</u> 201-203 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 225.0659; found: 225.0659

<u>NMR</u>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.64 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (td, *J* = 2.1, 7.7Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.89-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.46 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  167.8, 150.5, 147.3, 139.5, 135.7, 132.9, 124.9, 124.5, 123.7.

23b:

<u>R<sub>f</sub>: 0.37 (50% DCM/50% Et<sub>2</sub>O)</u>

<u>IR (v, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 2919, 2851, 1781, 1700, 1578, 1479, 1427, 1378, 1107, 879, 792, 708

<u>mp:</u> 155-156 °C

<u>HRMS:</u> ESI<sup>+</sup> (m/z)  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 225.0659; found: 225.0662

<u>NMR</u>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 700 MHz):  $\delta$  8.70 (br s, 1H), 8.63 (br s, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.90-7.85 (m, 3H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 8.4 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 175.95 MHz):  $\delta$  168.0, 149.8, 148.7, 135.8, 135.2, 132.8, 130.1, 124.8, 124.5.

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 $^{19}\mathrm{F}~\mathrm{NMR}$  of  $\mathbf{1f}$ 











<sup>19</sup>F NMR of **1g** 














<sup>19</sup>F NMR of **3a** 





--61.42



<sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3b** 

3b






















































































<sup>13</sup> C NMR of <b>13</b>		134.80 134.61 131.57 131.57 131.57 131.57 124.95 124.95 123.40 123.40 123.67 123.67 123.65 123.65 123.65 123.65 123.65 123.65 123.65	77.34 cdcl3 76.98 cdcl3
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250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180	170 160	150 140 130 120 110 100 90 f1 (ppm) S83	80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10











<sup>13</sup> C NMR of <b>15</b>	— 167.78		<pre>107.69 107.68 </pre>	~76.98 cdcl3 — 33.35	
			ł		
230 220 210 200 190	180 170 160 150	140 130 120 f	110 100 90 80 1 (ppm)	70 60 50 40 3	

S89































<sup>13</sup> C NMR of 21 $(f_{i}+f_{i}+f_{i}+f_{i}+f_{i}+f_{i})$	— 165.90	~ 151.01 ~ 149.56	—141.35	₹77.34 cdc3 26.38 cdc3 26.38 cdc3










