

Supporting Information

Imidoyl dichlorides as new reagents for the rapid formation of 2-aminobenzimidazoles and related azoles

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General Information:

All reagents were used as purchased. THF, CH₂Cl₂ used in reactions were dried using a solvent delivery system (neutral alumina column). All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz or 500 MHz Varian Mercury spectrometers as noted. ¹H spectra were referenced to CHCl₃ at 7.26 ppm, DMSO-d₆ at 2.50 ppm, or CD₃OD at 3.31 ppm. ¹³C spectra were referenced to CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm, DMSO-d₆ at 39.5 ppm, or CD₃OD at 49.0 ppm. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck silica gel 60 F254 glass backed plates and visualized using 254 nm UV light. Flash chromatographic purifications were performed using silica gel (40-60 μm) or using an MPLC system equipped with silica gel columns.

Dimethyl carbonimidodithioate, 4. Following literature procedures,¹ ammonia gas was bubbled into carbon disulfide **1** (16.7g, 0.22 mol) in THF (100 ml) keeping the temperature below 45 °C. After 1 hr, the reaction was stopped by allowing the temperature to decrease to rt. The excess ammonia gas was removed by streaming N₂ for 30 min or by rotary evaporation under vacuum. The precipitate was collected by filtration to afford white solid ammonium dithiocarbamate **2** (23.1 g, 96%). Methyl iodide (17.8 g, 0.125 mol) was added to a solution of **2** (5.5 g, 0.05 mol) in acetone (100 ml) at rt and the mixture was stirred for 24 hr. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with chilled acetone (20 ml) and dried under vacuum to provide white solid S,S'-dimethyliminodithiocarbonate hydroiodide ammonium iodide **3** (18.9 g, 96%). **3** (7.9 g, 0.02 mol) was treated with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ solution (100 ml x 2) and the organic products extracted with dichloromethane (50 ml). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to a clear, colorless liquid **4** (2.3 g, 95%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.88 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.10, 14.50. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₃H₈N⁺ 122.0098, found 122.0096.

Benzyl (bis(methylthio)methylene)carbamate, 5: To a solution of **4** (1.2 g, 0.01 mol) and *N*-methylmorpholine (1.1 g, 0.011 mol) in THF (10 ml) was added dropwise chloro benzylcarbonate (2.05 g, 0.012 mol) at -20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hr allowing the temperature to rise to rt. The reaction was monitored with silica TLC (25% EtOAc in hexanes, rf 0.6). Once starting material disappeared on TLC, the reaction mixture was washed with water to remove ammonium salt and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 ml x 3). The product was purified by followed by column chromatography (20 % EtOAc in hexanes) to provide an off-white solid **5** (2.3 g, 90%). ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 2.53 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.1, 159.8, 136.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.6, 68.6, 16.1. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₄NO₂S₂⁺ 256.0466, found 256.0470.

Benzyl (bis(chloro)methylene)carbamate, carboxybenzyl imidoyl dichloride, 6: To a solution of Benzoyloxycarbonylimino-S, S'-dimethylthiocarbonate (1.0 g, 0.004 mol) in DCM (3 ml) was added 10% Chlorine in CCl₄ (5.0 g, 0.07 mol) at -78 °C and stirred for 30 min at the same temperature. The excess chlorine and solvent were removed using a stream of N₂ gas at

rt. The residual liquid was pure enough to use a next reaction without further purification. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41 (m, 5H), 5.30 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 135.5, 134.4, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 70.0. Elemental analysis: Found C, 43.68; H, 3.06; N, 5.32. $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2 \cdot 0.12\text{Cl}_2$ requires C, 43.73; H, 2.82; N, 5.59%.

Representative example for the synthesis of 8a-8i. benzyl 1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-ylcarbamate, 8a: *o*-Phenylenediamine (103 mg, 1 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (180 mg, 2.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were suspended in 10 mL THF. **6** (241 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in 10 mL of THF and added at once via a pipet to the stirring solution. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour to ensure complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was poured on 100 mL ice cold water. The product was isolated by vacuum filtration, rinsed with cold water, and dried in a vacuum desiccator to generate 264.9 mg (97% yield) of pure **8a**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.50 – 7.31 (m, 7H), 7.06 (dd, $J = 5.9, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 148.3, 137.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 121.9, 114.0, 67.3. HRMS (ESI^+) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 286.1086, found 286.1082.

Benzyl (5-bromo-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8b: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4-bromo-1,2-diaminobenzene (22 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (35 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (38 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 30.7 mg (76% yield) of **8b**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.32 (m, 5H), 7.23 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 154.43, 148.13, 136.62, 129.20, 129.00, 128.96, 128.87, 128.38, 124.75, 117.04, 115.94, 114.00, 67.63. HRMS (ESI^+) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{Br}^+$ 346.0191, found 346.0191.

Benzyl (5-fluoro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8c: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4-fluoro-1,2-diaminobenzene (13 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (36 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (41 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 21.0 mg (71% yield) of **8c**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.49 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.26 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.03 (ddd, $J = 9.9, 8.7, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 160.12, 158.25, 153.91, 147.34, 136.37, 129.21, 129.17, 129.05, 129.00, 128.96, 128.37, 114.79, 110.74, 110.55, 101.23, 101.02, 67.99. ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ -76.60. HRMS (ESI^+) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{F}^+$ 286.0992, found 286.0993.

Benzyl (5-chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8d: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4-chloro-*o*-phenylenediamine (14 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (34 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (45 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 23.8 mg (78% yield) of **8d**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.49 – 7.31 (m, 7H), 7.13 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 154.35, 148.15, 136.58, 129.20, 129.00, 128.97, 128.89, 128.37, 126.40, 122.24, 115.41, 114.17, 67.69. HRMS (ESI^+) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{Cl}^+$ 302.0696, found 302.0695.

Benzyl (5,6-dichloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8e: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4,5-dichloro-*o*-phenylenediamine (19 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (35 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (38 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 34.4 mg (97% yield) of **8e**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.50 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 5.28 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 153.95, 148.65, 136.39, 135.44, 129.21, 129.04, 129.00, 128.94, 128.37, 124.61, 115.65, 67.94. HRMS (ESI^+) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2\text{Cl}_2^+$ 336.0307, found 336.0300.

Benzyl (5-cyano-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8f: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 3,4-diaminobenzonitrile (13 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (37 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (35 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 20.2 mg (70% yield) of **8f**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.58 – 7.31 (m, 7H), 5.28 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d_6) δ 154.24, 149.80, 136.50, 129.21,

129.00, 128.92, 128.37, 125.88, 120.80, 118.75, 115.51, 103.60, 67.77. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₄O₂⁺ 293.1039, found 293.1041.

Benzyl (5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8g: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4-methoxy-*o*-phenylenediamine hydrochloride (21 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (72 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (41 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 20.7 mg (70% yield) of **8g**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.54 – 7.25 (m, 6H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 157.62, 157.27, 152.79, 144.02, 138.04, 135.84, 130.61, 129.25, 129.21, 129.15, 129.00, 128.38, 128.36, 123.70, 114.69, 113.54, 97.74, 68.73, 56.38. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N₃O₃⁺ 298.1192, found 298.1190.

Benzyl (5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 8h: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 4-nitro-*o*-phenylenediamine (17 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (38 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (45 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 28.8 mg (81% yield) of **8h**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.29 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 154.3, 151.2, 142.5, 136.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 118.1, 110.3, 67.8. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₃N₄O₄⁺ 313.0937, found 313.0933.

2-(((Benzyloxy)carbonyl)amino)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid, 8i: As for the synthesis of **8a**: 3,4-diaminobenzoic acid (15 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (41 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (46 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 22.1 mg (70% yield) of **8i**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 5.33 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.7, 157.3, 153.4, 138.1, 136.1, 129.2, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 125.7, 115.4, 113.4, 68.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₄N₃O₄⁺ 312.0984, found 312.0990.

Representative example for the synthesis of 11a-f, 12-14. benzyl (1-ethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11a: **10a** (28 mg, 0.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (78 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were suspended in 2 mL THF. **6** (87 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in 2 mL of THF and added at once via a pipet to the stirring solution. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour to ensure complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was poured on 20 mL ice cold water. The product was isolated by extraction with EtOAc (2 x 10 mL), washing with saturated NaCl, drying over MgSO₄, and concentrating to generate 54.0 mg (89% yield) of pure **11a**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.21 (bs, 1H), 7.35 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.03 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.1, 154.3, 137.5, 136.4, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 122.8, 110.9, 109.0, 67.3, 36.9, 13.7. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₈N₃O₂⁺ 296.1399, found 296.1399.

Benzyl (1-propyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11b: As for the synthesis of **11a**: **10b** (18 mg, 0.1 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (37 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (31 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 34.8 mg (93% yield) of **11b**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 4H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 4.10 – 4.02 (m, 2H), 1.90 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.2, 154.7, 137.6, 130.2, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 122.9, 122.8, 110.8, 109.4, 67.3, 43.6, 21.7, 11.4. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₀N₃O₂⁺ 310.1556, found 310.1546.

Benzyl (1-butyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11c: As for the synthesis of **11a**: **10c** (34 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (78 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (76 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 48.6 mg (73% yield) of **11c**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 – 7.11 (m, 9H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 4.20 – 4.08 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.45 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 1.01 – 0.91 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 163.7, 154.1, 137.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 123.0, 122.9, 110.9, 109.4, 67.4, 42.1, 30.5, 20.2, 13.9. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O₂⁺ 324.1712, found 324.1717.

Benzyl (1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11d: As for the synthesis of **11a**: **10d** (35 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (74 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (83 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 48.2 mg (70% yield) of **11d**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 5.30 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 1.93 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.7, 155.4, 137.9, 130.34, 129.1, 128.9, 128.5, 127.8, 122.3, 113.8, 110.8, 69.9, 67.5, 61.3, 30.4. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O₂⁺ 324.1712, found 324.1714.

Benzyl (1-benzyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11e: As for the synthesis of **11a**: **10e** (40 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (79 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (75 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 75.2 mg (97% yield) of **11e**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.32 (s, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.22 (m, 7H), 7.15 (dtd, *J* = 25.0, 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 5.26 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.2, 135.3, 129.7, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.8, 127.4, 122.9, 110.6, 109.8, 67.3, 45.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₃O₂⁺ 385.1556 found 385.1554.

Benzyl (1-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 11f: As for the synthesis of **11a**: **10f** (35 mg, 0.1 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (75 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (84 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 65.2 mg (70% yield) of **11f**. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 – 7.05 (m, 14H), 5.18 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.4, 134.0, 129.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 123.6, 123.2, 111.0, 110.2, 110.0, 67.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₃O₂⁺ 344.1399, found 344.1398.

Benzyl (1*H*-perimidin-2-yl)carbamate, 12: As for the synthesis of **11a**: 1,8-aminonaphthalene (17 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (35 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (34 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 20.5 mg (78% yield) of **12**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.98 (s, 2H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 152.8, 137.8, 136.4, 134.9, 129.1, 128.9, 128.4, 128.2, 119.7, 117.3, 106.9, 66.6. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₃O₂⁺ 318.1243, found 318.1249.

Benzyl benzo[*d*]oxazol-2-ylcarbamate, 13: As for the synthesis of **11a**: 2-aminophenol (19 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (74 mg, 0.5 mmol), **6** (78 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 40.0 mg (85% yield) of **13**. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 7.26 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 4.36 (bs, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 124.5, 123.4, 117.1, 109.6, 69.6, 67.6. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₃N₂O₃⁺ 269.0926, found 269.0919.

Benzyl benzo[*d*]thiazol-2-ylcarbamate, 14: As for the synthesis of **11a**: 2-aminothiophenol (12 mg, 0.1 mmol), 2 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (36 mg, 0.25 mmol), **6** (38 mg, 0.12 mmol), producing 17.2 mg (65% yield) of **14**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 12.15 (bs, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.31 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 136.4, 132.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 126.7, 124.0, 122.24, 120.9, 67.9. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₃N₂O₂S⁺ 285.0698, found 285.0696.

***N*-methyl-3-nitropyridin-2-amine, 15:** To a solution of 3-nitro-2-chloropyridine (4.0 g, 25.2 mmol) in 15 mL 2-methoxyethanol was added methylamine (2.0 M in THF, 32 mL). The reaction

was stirred for 8 hr at 80 °C in a sealed tube. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was evaporated to afford **15** quantitatively (3.6 g, 23.2 mmol). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47 – 8.37 (m, 2H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 6.64 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.0, 153.5, 135.4, 111.7, 28.4. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₆H₈N₃O₂⁺ 154.0617, found 154.0610.

5-bromo-N-methyl-3-nitropyridin-2-amine, 16: 15 (2.0 g, 13.1 mmol) was dissolved into glacial acetic acid (20 mL) and pyridinium tribromide (4.2 g, 13.1 mmol) was added. After stirring for 6 hrs at rt, DI water (100 mL) was added producing a yellow solid that was collected by filtration. Recrystallization in ethanol afforded **16** (2.8 g, 93%). ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (bs, 1H), 3.17 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.7, 156.7, 152.0, 136.9, 104.5, 28.6. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₆H₇N₃O₂Br⁺ 231.9722, found 231.9722.

N-methyl-3-nitro-5-phenylpyridin-2-amine, 17: A mixture of **16** (2.8 g, 12.1 mmol), sodium carbonate (12 mL aqueous 2M solution), benzene (35 mL), phenylboronic acid (1.2 g, 9.9 mmol), and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (300 mg) was heated 80 °C monitoring by TLC. After complete consumption of **16**, EtOAc was added; the crude material was concentrated under vacuum, loaded directly onto a silica gel column, and eluted with 10% EtOAc in hexane to provide the orange **17** (2.1 g, 78%). ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.62 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.60 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 3.21 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.46, 152.52, 136.23, 133.01, 129.42, 127.98, 126.46, 125.58, 28.57. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₂N₃O₂⁺ 230.0930, found 230.0921.

N²-methyl-5-phenylpyridine-2,3-diamine, 18: 17 (450 mg, 1.97 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (10 mL) in a pressure bottle and PtO₂ (20 mg) was added. Hydrogen (30 psi) was applied using a Parr shaker. After shaking 30 min at 30 psi H₂, the solution had changed from orange to clear. The crude mixture was passed through celite and evaporation afforded **18** (389 mg, 99.2%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 8.4, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.6, 139.0, 137.5, 129.0, 128.7, 127.0, 126.8, 126.5, 120.8, 29.1. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₄N₃⁺ 200.1188, found 200.1181.

benzyl (3-methyl-6-phenyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-2-yl)carbamate, 19: To a solution of **18** (433 mg, 2.2 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) was added **6** (700 mg, 6.16 mmol) and subsequently dropwise trimethylamine (913 μL, 3.0 mmol) at rt. After complete consumption of **18** as monitored by TLC, the solvent was evaporated. The residue was dissolved into methylene chloride and a white solid precipitated after addition of methanol. Filtration provided pure **19** (780 mg, 99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.31 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.08 (m, 10H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.6, 141.9, 138.1, 137.1, 132.8, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 115.9, 67.7, 27.4. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₄O₂⁺ 359.1508, found 359.1497.

3-methyl-6-phenyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridin-2-amine, 20: Hydrogenation (30 psi) of **19** (400 mg, 1.1 mmol) over 10% Pd/C in a MeOH for 1 hr afforded **20** (265 mg, >99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 8.47 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.52 –

7.32 (m, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 152.0, 143.4, 141.8, 137.5, 133.9, 129.1, 128.0, 127.1, 123.2, 117.4, 26.8. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_4^+$ 225.1140, found 225.1133.

tert-Butyl (bis(methylthio)methylene)carbamate, 21: To a solution of **4** (590 mg, 4.88 mmol) and pyridine (385 mg, 4.88 mmol) in toluene (10 ml) was added dropwise phosgene solution (20% in toluene, 2.45 g, 4.95 mmol) at -78°C . After stirring for 4 hr at the same temperature, t-butanol (900 mg, 9.60 mmol) was added and successively pyridine (385 mg, 4.88 mmol) was added into the reaction mixture at rt. The reaction mixture was washed with water and dried over MgSO_4 . The solution was concentrated under vacuum to load SiO_2 column. Elution with the mixture of EA/n-Hex (10:90, v/v) afforded colorless liquid (900 mg, 84%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.50 (s, 6H), 1.53 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 176.0, 159.2, 82.1, 28.2, 15.8. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2^+$ 222.0622, found 222.0627.

tert-butyl (bis(chloro)methylene)carbamate, t-butylcarboxy imidoyl dichloride, 22: To the solution of t-butylloxycarbonylimino-S, S'-dimethylthiocarbonate (400 mg, 1.80 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 ml) was added 10% chlorine in carbon tetrachloride (3.0 g, 4.22 mmol) at -78°C and stirred for 2 hr at same temperature. The excess chlorine and solvent was removed under a stream of N_2 gas at rt. The residual liquid was pure enough to use a next reaction without further purification. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.54 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.8, 133.8, 85.4, 28.0. Elemental analysis: Found C, 28.83; H, 2.94; N, 4.97. $\text{C}_6\text{H}_9\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}_2$ requires C, 28.51; H, 3.32; N, 5.12%.

Representative example for the synthesis of 23a-e. tert-butyl (1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 23a: o-Phenylenediamine (28 mg, 0.2 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (74 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) were suspended in 2 mL THF. **22** (54 mg, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was dissolved in 2 mL of THF and added at once via a pipet to the stirring solution. The reaction was stirred for 1 hour to ensure complete consumption of starting material. The reaction mixture was poured on 20 mL ice cold water. The product was isolated by extraction into Et_2O (3x 10 mL), washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated to give 49.4 mg (81% yield) of a yellow solid. **tert-butyl (1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 23a:** ^1H NMR (499 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.41 (dd, $J = 5.9, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (dd, $J = 6.0, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 1.57 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 154.7, 148.7, 136.7, 126.1, 123.0, 114.5, 83.0, 30.9, 28.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2^+$ 234.1243, found 234.1239.

(tert-butyl (5-methoxy-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 23b: As for the synthesis of **23a:** 4-methoxy-o-phenylenediamine hydrochloride (60 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (150 mg, 1 mmol), **22** (57 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 52.6 mg (70% yield) of **23b**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.28 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 27.30, 55.06, 81.56, 97.49, 110.12, 113.76, 130.34, 136.60, 147.48, 153.58, 156.18. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3^+$ 264.1348, found 264.1343.

tert-butyl (5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 23c: As for the synthesis of **23a:** 4-nitro-o-phenylenediamine (34 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K_2CO_3 (75 mg, 0.5 mmol), **22** (61 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 56.8 mg (93% yield) of **23c**. ^1H NMR (499 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.29 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.06 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.54 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 152.4, 150.2, 142.0, 117.7, 114.0, 109.4, 82.0, 30.4, 27.8. HRMS (ESI⁺) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4^+$ 279.1093, found 279.1086.

tert-butyl (1-propyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)carbamate, 23d: As for the synthesis of **23a**: **10b** (21 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (73 mg, 0.5 mmol), **22** (58 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 34.6 mg (88% yield) of **23d**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 4.19 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.72 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 9H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 130.2, 128.5, 123.1, 111.0, 109.6, 44.1, 30.5, 28.6, 21.8, 11.3. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₂₂N₃O₂⁺ 276.1712, found 276.1710.

tert-butyl benzo[d]oxazol-2-ylcarbamate, 23e: As for the synthesis of **23a**: 2-aminophenol (41 mg, 0.4 mmol), 8 mL THF, K₂CO₃ (142 mg, 1 mmol), **22** (121 mg, 0.24 mmol), producing 50.5 mg (57% yield) of **23e**. ¹H NMR (499 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 1.49 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 156.3, 151.1, 147.9, 140.9, 124.8, 123.5, 118.2, 110.1, 81.9, 30.9, 28.5. HRMS (ESI⁺) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₅N₂O₃⁺ 235.1083, found 235.1082.

References:

1. Brandsma, L.; OE Jong, R.L.P.; Verkruisje, H. D. *Synthesis*, **1985**, 948.



































































