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> Supplementary Information (Muto, Hatakeyama, Yamaguchi, Itami) C–H Arylation and Alkenylation of Imidazoles by Nickel Catalysis: Solvent-accelerated Imidazole C–H Activation

Supplementary Information

C-H Arylation and Alkenylation of Imidazoles by Nickel Catalysis: Solvent-accelerated Imidazole C-H Activation

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1. General

Unless otherwise noted, all materials including dry solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used as received. Ni(cod)₂ and K₃PO₄ were obtained from Wako Chemicals. 1,2-Bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane (dcype) was obtained from Kanto Chemical. Dry t-AmylOH was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. 1-Benzyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (1B)¹, 1-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (1C)², 4-(2-(1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)morpholine (1D)³, 1-(methoxymethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (1E)⁴, 1,5,6-trimethyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (1F)⁵, (1H)6 1-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole 7 1-benzyl-1*H*-imidazole (1N)4-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)benzonitrile (10)⁸, 1-((benzyloxy)methyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole $(1\mathbf{Q})^9$, phenyl dimethylcarbamate $(2\mathbf{a})^{10}$, naphthalen-2-yl dimethylcarbamate $(2\mathbf{b})^{10}$, naphthalen-1-yl $(2i)^{10}$, dimethylcarbamate (**2e**) 11 dimethylcarbamate 4-methoxyphenyl methyl $(2f)^{11}$, $(2I)^{10}$, 3-((dimethylcarbamoyl)oxy)benzoate [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl dimethylcarbamate 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2-yl dimethylcarbamate $(2\mathbf{k})^{12}$, 3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl dimethylcarbamate 5-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-phenyloxazole (**5D**) 14 (2m)and 3,4-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)thiophene (dcypt)¹⁵ were synthesized according to procedures reported in the literature. Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed with dry solvents under an atmosphere of argon in flame-dried glassware using standard vacuum-line techniques. All C-H coupling reactions were performed in 20-mL glass vessel tubes equipped with J. Young[®] O-ring tap and heated in an 8-well reaction block (heater + magnetic stirrer) unless otherwise noted. All work-up and purification procedures were carried out with reagent-grade solvents in air.

Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using E. Merck silica gel 60 F_{254} precoated plates (0.25 mm). The developed chromatogram was analyzed by UV lamp (254 nm). Flash column chromatography was performed with E. Merck silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh) or Biotage Isolera[®] equipped with Biotage SNAP Cartridge KP-Sil columns using hexane/EtOAc as an eluent.

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Preparative thin-layer chromatography (PTLC) was performed using Wakogel B5-F silica coated plates (0.75 mm) prepared in our laboratory. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained from a JMS-T100TD instrument (DART) and Thermo Fisher Scientific Exactive (ESI). Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-ECA-600 (¹H 600 MHz, ¹³C 150 MHz) spectrometer and a JEOL JNM-ECA-400 (¹H 400 MHz, ¹³C 100 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts for ¹H NMR are expressed in parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00 ppm). Chemical shifts for ¹³C NMR are expressed in ppm relative to CDCl₃ (δ 77.0 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad signal), coupling constant (Hz), and integration.

N N Me				N N O Me	Me N Me N Me
1A	1B	-) 1C	() 1D	1E	1F
€ N Me			N Me	Me Me	F ₃ C
1G	1H	11	1J	1K	1L
I N∽N Me 1M		NC	Eto N Me 1P		

2. Substrate Structure of Imidazoles, Carbamates, Chloroarenes, Thiazoles, and Oxazoles

Imidazoles 1

Carbamates 2



Chloroarenes 4





Thiazoles and Oxazoles **5**



3. Preparation of Starting Materials

Ethyl 1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (1P)



To a solution of ethyl 1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (700 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) was added NaH (60% dispersion in paraffin liquid: 300 mg, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) at 0 °C. After stirring the mixture for 30 min, methyl iodide (781 mg, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added at 0 °C and the solution was stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture was quenched by the addition of water, then extracted several times with EtOAc, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtrated. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude mixture was purified by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1 to EtOAc) to afford **1P** as a yellow solid (615 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.5, 138.3, 133.8, 125.9, 60.1, 33.5, 14.1; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₇H₁₀N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 177.0634, found 177.0633.

3,4-Dimethylphenyl dimethylcarbamate (2c)



То а solution of 3,4-dimethylphenol (611 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and N,N-dimethyl-4-aminopyridine (DMAP: 6.1 mg, 0.050 mmol, 1 mol%) in dichloroethane (4 mL) were added Et₃N (843 µL, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl chloride (505 µL, 5.5 mmol, 1.1 equiv). This mixture was stirred overnight at 70 °C. The reaction mixture was guenched by the addition of saturated NaHCO₃ aq, and then the mixture was extracted four times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) to afford **2c** as a white solid (980) mg, quant). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.3, 149.4, 137.5, 133.4, 130.1, 122.7, 118.8, 36.6, 36.4, 19.8, 19.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₁H₁₅NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 216.0995, found 216.0991.



3-(*tert*-**Butyl**)**phenyl dimethylcarbamate** (**2d**): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) afforded **2d** as a white solid (751 mg, 97% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.29 (dd, J = 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.0, 152.7, 151.3, 128.6, 122.2, 118.74, 118.71, 36.6, 36.4, 34.7, 31.2; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 222.1494, found 222.1490.



3-(Dimethylamino)phenyl dimethylcarbamate (2g): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded **2g** as a brown liquid (900 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 152.5, 151.6, 129.4, 109.6, 109.5, 105.9, 40.5, 36.6, 36.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 231.1104, found 231.1100.



Pyridin-3-yl dimethylcarbamate (2h): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1 to EtOAc) afforded **2h** as a yellow liquid (721 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.46–8.42 (m, 2H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.03 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.0, 148.1, 146.2, 143.5, 129.3, 123.6, 36.7, 36.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₈H₁₀N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 189.0634, found 189.0630.

7-Methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2-yl dimethylcarbamate (21):



NaH (55% dispersion in paraffin liquid: 1.15 g, 27 mmol, 1.8 equiv) was placed in a 300-mL flask under a stream of argon, and THF (24 mL) was added to the flask. To this suspension, 7-methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2(1*H*)-one (2.82 g, 16 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (8 mL) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. A solution of *N*,*N*-dimethylcarbamoyl chloride (2.21 mL, 24 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in THF (4 mL) was added, and then the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min. The reaction was quenched by the addition of water. The mixture was extracted three times with *tert*-butyl methyl ether, and the combined organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and then filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) to afford **21** as a pale yellow oil (3.26 g, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.92 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.3, 154.2, 152.1, 134.7, 127.7, 125.3, 113.9, 111.9, 111.2, 55.2, 36.44, 36.35, 27.7, 27.0; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 248.1287, found 248.1287.



7-Methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl dimethylcarbamate (2n): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) afforded 2n as a pale yellow oil (1.45 g, 39% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.05 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72–6.68 (m, 2H), 5.73 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.13 (s, 3H) 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.79 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (dt, J = 8.0, 4.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 154.5, 145.6, 132.2, 128.5, 128.0, 115.6, 111.6, 107.6, 55.1, 36.6, 36.2, 26.5, 22.3; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 248.1287, found 248.1282.



7-Fluoro-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl dimethylcarbamate (20): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 1:1) afforded 20 as a yellow oil (1.02 g, 71% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.10–7.04 (m, 1H), 6.88–6.80 (m, 2H), 5.77 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H),

2.99 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (dt, J = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.7 (d, $J_{C-F} = 241.2$ Hz), 154.4, 145.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 1.9$ Hz), 133.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 8.6$ Hz), 131.7 (d, $J_{C-F} = 2.9$ Hz), 128.5 (d, $J_{C-F} = 7.6$ Hz), 116.3, 113.8 (d, $J_{C-F} = 20.9$ Hz), 107.9 (d, $J_{C-F} = 23.9$ Hz), 36.6, 36.3, 26.6, 22.1; HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₁₅FNO₂ [M+H]⁺: 236.1087, found 236.1087.



4-Methyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl dimethylcarbamate (2p): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded **2p** as a white solid (2.34 g, 65% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26–7.10 (m, 4H), 5.64 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 3.07–2.93 (m, 4H), 2.60 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 6.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 6.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.9, 145.4, 141.4, 130.4, 127.9, 126.2, 126.1, 120.7, 113.6, 36.7, 36.4, 31.9, 29.9, 20.1; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 232.1338, found 232.1339.

4-(tert-Butyl)cyclohex-1-en-1-yl dimethylcarbamate (2q)



To a solution of 4-(*tert*-butyl)cyclohexanone (462.8 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (4.5 mL) was slowly added lithium diisopropylamide [LDA: prepared from diisopropylamine (333.9 mg, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and 1.6 M of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.06 mL, 3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in 4.5 mL of THF] at 0 °C. After stirring the solution for 1 h, *N*,*N*-dimethylcarbamoyl chloride (413.6 mL, 4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added at 0 °C and the mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature. The solution was stirred overnight, and then NaHCO₃ aq was added to quench the reaction. The mixture was extracted three times with EtOAc, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and then filtered. The mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude mixture was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 50:1 to 10:1) to afford **2q** as a colorless liquid (193 mg, 29% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.35 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.38–2.21 (m, 1H), 2.17–2.05 (m, 2H), 1.96–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.30 (m, 2H), 0.89 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.0, 148.7,

113.5, 43.4, 36.4, 36.2, 32.1, 28.2, 27.3, 25.0, 24.0; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₄NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 226.1807, found 226.1810.

(E)-2-Phenylprop-1-en-1-yl dimethylcarbamate (2r)



To a solution of 2-phenylpropionaldehyde (2.7 mL, 20.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dichloroethane (40 mL) were added Et₃N (4.8 mL, 34.4 mmol, 1.7 equiv), *N*,*N*-dimethyl-4-aminopyridine (DMAP: 610.8 mg, 5 mmol, 25 mol%) and *N*,*N*-dimethylcarbamoyl chloride (2.5 mL, 27.2 mmol, 1.3 equiv). This mixture was stirred overnight at 80 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of saturated NH₄Cl aq, and then the mixture was extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 5:1) to afford **2r** as a colorless oil (3.48 g, 85% yield, E/Z = 5:3). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49–7.21 (m, 15H, (*E* and *Z*)), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H, (*Z*)), 3.01 (s, 5H, (*E*)), 2.96 (s, 5H, (*E*)), 2.91 (s, 3H, (*Z*)), 2.84 (s, 3H, (*Z*)), 2.07 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 5H, (*E*)), 1.99 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H, (*Z*)); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.5, 139.2, 137.8, 133.8, 131.8, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 126.6, 125.4, 118.7, 116.8, 36.35, 36.27, 35.74, 35.70, 18.5, 13.3; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 206.1181, found 206.1184.

tert-Pentyl 2-(1-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (4t)



To a solution of indomethacin (3.58 g, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) were added oxalyl chloride (1.29 mL, 15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and a few drops of DMF at room temperature, and then this solution was stirred for 1 h. To the mixture were added *t*-AmylOH (3.24 mL, 30 mmol, 3.0 equiv),

Et₃N (3.06 mL, 22 mmol, 2.2 equiv), and *N*,*N*-dimethyl-4-aminopyridine (DMAP: 12.2 mg, 0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) at 0 °C. This solution was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of NaHCO₃ aq and extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂, dried over Na₂SO₄, and then filtered. The resulting solution was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude mixture was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to 4:1) to afford **4t** as a yellow solid (1.41 g, 33% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.75 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (s, 6H), 0.81 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0, 168.2, 155.9, 139.1, 135.6, 134.0, 131.1, 130.8, 130.7, 129.0, 114.9, 113.3, 111.6, 101.2, 83.5, 55.6, 33.3, 31.6, 25.5, 13.3, 8.1; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₇ClNO₄ [M+H]⁺: 428.1629, found 428.1627.

Benzo[b]thiophene-2,3-diylbis(dicyclohexylphosphine) (L1)



To a 50-mL round-bottom glass flask containing a magnetic stirring bar were added 2,3-dibromobenzo[b]thiophene (1.46 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and dry Et₂O (5 mL). After cooling at -78 °C, a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (1.6 M, 3.2 mL, 1.0 equiv) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. After stirring the mixture at -78 °C for 1 h, a solution of chlorodicyclohexylphosphine (1.22 g, 5.25 mmol, 1.05 equiv) in Et₂O (1.5 mL) was added at -78 °C over 15 min. The resulting mixture was further stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Then a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (1.6 M, 3.2 mL, 1.0 equiv) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. After stirring the mixture at -78 °C for 1 h, a solution of chlorodicyclohexylphosphine (1.22 g, 5.25 mmol, 1.05 equiv) in Et₂O (1.5 mL) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. The resulting mixture was further stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. After warming to room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water, extracted with hexane, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture was purified by reprecipitation with toluene (0.50)mL) and methanol (25)mL) to afford benzo[b]thiophene-2,3-diylbis(dicyclohexylphosphine) (L1) as a white solid (1.13 g, 43% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (brs, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.31 (m, 2H), 2.49 (brs, 2H), 2.00 (brs, 6H), 1.90–1.50 (m, 14H), 1.49–0.95 (m, 22H); ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –13.2 (d, J = 160 Hz, 1P), -16.2 (d, J = 160 Hz, 1P); HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for $C_{32}H_{49}P_2S$ [M+H]⁺: 527.3030 found 527.3034.

2,3-Bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)thiophene (L2)



To a 50-mL round-bottom glass flask containing a magnetic stirring bar were added 2,3-dibromothiophene (967 mg, 4.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and dry Et₂O (4 mL). After cooling at -78 °C, a solution of n-BuLi in hexane (1.6 M, 2.5 mL, 1.0 equiv) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. After stirring the mixture at -78 °C for 1 h, a solution of chlorodicyclohexylphosphine (977 mg, 4.2 mmol, 1.05 equiv) in Et₂O (1.25 mL) was added at -78 °C over 15 min. The resulting mixture was further stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Then a solution of n-BuLi in hexane (1.6 M, 2.5 mL, 1.0 equiv) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. After stirring the mixture at -78 °C for 1 h, a solution of chlorodicyclohexylphosphine (977 mg, 4.2 mmol, 1.05 equiv) in Et₂O (1.25 mL) was added at -78 °C over 10 min. The resulting mixture was further stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. After warming up to room temperature, the reaction was quenched with water, extracted with hexane, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture was purified by reprecipitation with toluene (0.40 mL) and methanol (20 mL) to afford 2,3-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)thiophene (L2) as a white solid (1.05 g, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H) 1.93–1.80 (m, 8H), 1.78–1.47 (m, 16H), 1.32–1.00 (m, 20H); ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -19.0 (d, J = 129 Hz, 1P), -20.8 (d, J = 129 Hz, 1P); HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for $C_{28}H_{47}P_2S[M+H]^+: 477.2874$ found 477.2867.

3. Ni-Catalyzed C–H Arylation of Imidazoles with Phenol Derivatives (C–H/C–O Coupling) and Chloroarenes (C–H/C–Cl Coupling)



General Procedure: A 20-mL glass vessel equipped with a J. Young[®] O-ring tap containing a magnetic stirring bar and K_3PO_4 (255.0 mg, 1.20 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was dried with a heatgun for 3 min *in vacuo* and filled with N₂ after cooling to room temperature. To this vessel were added Ni(OTf)₂ (14.2 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%), imidazole **1** (0.40 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and aryl carbamate **2** (0.60 mmol, 1.5 equiv). Then the vessel was introduced into an argon-atmosphere glovebox. To the reaction vessel was added 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane (dcype: 20.6 mg, 0.050 mmol, 12 mol%). The vessel was taken out of the glovebox, then dry *t*-AmylOH (1.6 mL) was added under a stream of N₂. The vessel was sealed with an O-ring tap and then heated at 110 °C for 18–36 h in an 8-well reaction block with stirring. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, the mixture was passed through a silica gel pad with EtOAc as the eluent. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was subjected to PTLC or flash silica-gel column chromatography to afford 2-arylimidazole **3**.



3Aa: 82% (C-H/C-O coupling) 81% (C-H/C-Cl coupling)

1-Methyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole** (**3Aa**)¹⁶: Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded **3Aa** as a white solid (68.2 mg, 82% yield by C–H/C–O coupling: 67.3 mg, 81% yield by C–H/C–Cl coupling). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85–7.81 (m, 1H), 7.79–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.6, 142.9, 136.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.3, 128.5, 122.6, 122.3, 119.7, 109.5, 31.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 209.1079, found 209.1076.

¹⁶ J. Huang, J. Chan, Y. Chen, C. J. Borths, K. D. Baucom, R. D. Larsen and M. M. Faul, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2010, **132**, 3674.



3Ba: 53% (C–H/C–O coupling) 69% (C–H/C–Cl coupling)

1-Benzyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ba)**¹⁷: Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ba** as a white solid (60.5 mg, 53% yield by C–H/C–O coupling: 78.1 mg, 69% yield by C–H/C–Cl coupling). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.35–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 5.44 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.1, 143.2, 136.3, 136.0, 130.1, 129.8, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.7, 125.9, 123.0, 122.6, 119.9, 110.5, 48.3; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 285.1392, found 285.1390



3Ca: 88% (C–H/C–O coupling) 86% (C–H/C–Cl coupling)

1,2-Diphenyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole** (**3Ca**)¹⁸: Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ca** as a white solid (95.0 mg, 88% yield by C–H/C–O coupling: 93.2 mg, 86% yield by C–H/C–Cl coupling). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.22 (m, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.3, 143.0, 137.2, 136.9, 129.9, 129.8, 129.39, 129.36, 128.5, 128.2, 127.3, 123.3, 122.9, 119.8, 110.4; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 271.1235, found 271.1230.



¹⁷ M. M. Guru, M. A. Ali and T. Punniyamurthy, J. Org. Chem., 2011, 76, 5295.

¹⁸ P. Saha, T. Ramana, N. Purkait, M. A. Ali, R. Paul and T. Punniyamurthy, J. Org. Chem., 2009, 74, 8719.

4-(2-(2-Phenyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)morpholine (3Da):** Purification by PTLC (EtOAc) afforded **3Da** as a yellow oil (103.3 mg, 84% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.43–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.26 (m, 2H), 4.35 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 2.70 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.0, 143.0, 135.4, 130.5, 129.7, 129.4, 128.6, 122.7, 122.4, 119.9, 109.9, 66.6, 57.4, 53.7, 42.2; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O [M+H]⁺: 308.1763, found 308.1767



1-(Methoxymethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ea):** Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded **3Ea** as a yellow solid (50.1 mg, 53% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.86–7.81 (m, 1H), 7.55–7.47 (m, 4H), 7.35–7.29 (m, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 3.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.4, 142.8, 136.0, 130.0, 129.7, 129.5, 128.6, 123.2, 122.9, 119.9, 110.0, 75.0, 56.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₂O [M+H]⁺: 239.1184, found 239.1183



3Fa: 65%

1,5,6-Trimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Fa):** Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to 1:1) afforded **3Fa** as a white solid (69.1 mg, 65% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.8, 141.5, 135.1, 131.8, 131.1, 130.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5, 119.7, 109.8, 31.5, 20.5, 20.2; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 237.1392, found 237.1396.



3Ga: 64% (C–H/C–O coupling) 81% (C–H/C–Cl coupling)

1-Methyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-imidazole (3Ga)**¹⁹**:** The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by PTLC (EtOAc) afforded **3Ga** as a colorless oil (40.5 mg, 64% yield by C–H/C–O coupling: 51.8 mg, 81% yield by C–H/C–Cl coupling).

¹⁹ H.-Q. Do, R. M. K. Khan and O. Daugulis, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2008, 130, 15185.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.7, 130.5, 128.51, 128.47, 128.4, 128.3, 122.2, 34.4; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₁N₂ [M+H]⁺: 159.0922, found 159.0920.



1-Benzyl-2-phenyl-1*H***-imidazole (3Ha):** The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by PTLC (EtOAc) afforded **3Ha** as a yellow solid (59.8 mg, 64% yield by C–H/C–O coupling: 60.4 mg, 64% yield by C–H/C–Cl coupling). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.59–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.25 (m, 6H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.1, 136.9, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.68, 128.66, 128.4, 127.8, 126.4, 121.2, 50.2; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 235.1235, found 235.1230.



3lb: 49%

1-Butyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H***-imidazole (3Ib):** The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ib** as a yellow solid (48.7 mg, 49% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.95–7.81 (m, 3H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.79–1.70 (m, 2H), 1.33–1.21 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6, 133.0, 128.6, 128.3, 128.22, 128.17, 128.1, 127.7, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 120.5, 46.6, 33.1, 19.2, 13.5 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺: 251.1548, found 251.1542.



3Ja: 82%

1-Methyl-5-(naphthalen-2-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H***-imidazole (3Ja):** The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ja** as a white solid (93.3 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95–7.84 (m, 4H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.46 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.6, 135.4, 133.3, 132.6, 130.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 126.6, 126.44, 126.36, 33.9 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 285.1392, found 285.1397.



3Ka: 65%

1-Methyl-2-phenyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole (3Ka): The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1 to 1:1) afforded **3Ka** as a white solid (65.0 mg, 65% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.1, 137.7, 135.4, 131.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.52, 128.50, 128.4, 127.3, 127.2, 33.6, 21.2; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 249.1392, found 249.1395.



3La: >95%

1-Methyl-2-phenyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H***-imidazole (3La)** ²⁰ **:** The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1) afforded **3La** as a white solid (122.4 mg, >95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74–7.67 (m, 4H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.4, 134.0, 133.8, 130.5, 129.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.5 Hz), 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 125.7 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 4.0 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 273 Hz), 33.9; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₄F₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 303.1109, found 303.1108.

²⁰ F. Shibahara, E. Yamaguchi and T. Murai, J. Org. Chem., 2011, 76, 2680.



3Ma: 82%

1-Methyl-5-phenyl-1*H***-1,2,4-triazole (3Ma)**¹⁹: The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h. Purification by PTLC (EtOAc) afforded **3Ma** as a white solid (52.2 mg, 82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 3H), 3.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.5, 150.6, 130.0, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 36.9; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₁₀N₃ [M+H]⁺: 160.0875, found 160.0875.





1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4,5-diphenyl-1*H***-imidazole (3Nb): The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) and dcypt (22.9 mg, 0.050 mmol, 12 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂/dcype for 36 h. Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3Nb** as a white solid (125.1 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.85 (m, 4H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.41 (m, 7H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.9, 138.0, 134.7, 133.2, 133.1, 131.2, 130.9, 130.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.33, 128.26, 128.1, 127.8, 127.0, 126.6, 126.52, 126.49, 126.3, 33.3 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺: 361.1705, found 361.1708.



30b: 72%

4-(1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H***-imidazol-4-yl)benzonitrile** (**3Ob**): The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) and dcypt (22.9 mg, 0.050 mmol, 12 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂/dcype for 36 h. Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ob** as a yellow solid (89.2 mg, 72% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.86 (m, 5H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.39 (s,

1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.9, 139.4, 138.6, 133.3, 133.0, 132.4, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 127.3, 126.9, 126.7, 126.0, 125.1, 120.1, 119.3, 109.6, 34.9; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₃ [M+H]⁺: 310.1344, found 310.1349.



93% (combined yield)

Ethyl 1-methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (3Pb), *tert*-Pentyl 1-methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (3Pb'): The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) and dcypt (22.9 mg, 0.050 mmol, 12 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂/dcype and 1P as a starting material for 36 h. Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3Pb (37.5 mg, 33% yield, white solid) and 3Pb' (77.6 mg, 60% yield, white solid).

3Pb: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 2H), 4.41 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 148.8, 133.2, 132.9, 132.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 126.9, 126.8, 126.6, 126.0, 60.4, 35.0, 14.4 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O₂[M+H]⁺: 281.1290, found 281.1289.

3Pb': ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.85 (m, 3H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 1.94 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.57 (s, 6H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.1, 148.6, 134.2, 133.3, 132.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 126.6, 126.2, 83.2, 35.0, 33.6, 25.8, 8.4; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 323.1760, found 323.1757.



2-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3Ac): Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded 3Ac** as a white solid (69.6 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.22 (m, 4H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.324 (s, 3H), 2.317 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.9, 142.8, 138.4, 137.0, 136.5, 130.5, 129.6, 127.5, 126.5, 122.4, 122.1, 119.5, 109.4, 31.5, 19.6 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₇N₂[M+H]⁺: 237.1392, found 237.1387.



2-(3-(*tert***-Butyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3Ad): Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded 3Ad as a white solid (78.0 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta 7.87–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.77 (m, 1H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.46 (dd,** *J* **= 8.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta 154.4, 151.7, 143.0, 136.6, 129.9, 128.3, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 122.6, 122.3, 119.8, 109.5, 34.9, 31.6, 31.3; HRMS (DART)** *m/z* **calcd for C₁₈H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺: 265.1705, found 265.1700**



3Ae: 58%

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ae):** Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1) afforded **3Ae** as a white solid (57.2 mg, 58% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.6, 153.6, 142.8, 136.4, 130.7, 122.4, 122.3, 122.1, 119.4, 114.0, 109.4, 55.2, 31.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₂O [M+H]⁺: 239.1184, found 239.1181.



3Af: 81%

tert-Pentyl 3-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzoate (3Af): Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) and GPC afforded 3Af as a colorless liquid (69.1 mg, 81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.30 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.94 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.8, 152.7, 142.8, 136.4, 133.3, 132.4, 130.4, 130.3, 129.9, 128.6, 122.8, 122.4, 119.7, 109.6, 83.9, 33.5, 31.5, 25.5, 8.2; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 323.1760, found 323.1756.



3Ag: 67%

N,*N*-Dimethyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)aniline (3Ag): Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to 1:2) afforded 3Ag as a yellow oil (67.0 mg, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86–7.80 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.27 (m, 4H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.7, 150.7, 142.9, 136.5, 130.8, 129.0, 122.5, 122.2, 119.7, 117.2, 113.6, 113.4, 109.5, 40.5, 31.6; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₈N₃ [M+H]⁺: 252.1501, found 252.1501.



3Ah: 95%

1-Methyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ah):** Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ah** as a white solid (79.6 mg, 95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 8.75 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85–7.80 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.30 (m, 4H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.6, 149.8, 143.0, 136.8, 136.5, 126.5, 123.5, 123.3, 122.7, 120.0, 109.7, 31.6; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₂N₃ [M+H]⁺: 210.1031, found 210.1025.



3Ai: 92%

2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3Ai) ²¹ : Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 5:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3Ai** as a white solid (105.2 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98–7.80 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.27 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.4, 142.9, 142.3, 140.0, 136.6, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 127.8, 127.2, 127.1, 122.7, 122.4, 119.7, 109.6, 31.7; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 285.1392, found 285.1393.

²¹ J. Sluiter and J. Christoffers, Synlett, 2009, 63.



3Ab: >95%

1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole** (**3Ab**): Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Ab** as a white solid (103.0 mg, >95% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.91–7.78 (m, 5H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.24 (m, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.5, 142.9, 136.5, 133.4, 132.7, 129.1, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 127.3, 127.0, 126.5, 126.1, 122.6, 122.3, 119.6, 109.5, 31.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 259.1235, found 259.1235.



3Aj: 91%

1-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Aj):** Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 20:1 to EtOAc) afforded **3Aj** as a white solid (98.6 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92–7.87 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.32 (m, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.9, 143.2, 135.9, 133.5, 132.1, 130.2, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.2, 126.3, 125.4, 125.0, 122.7, 122.3, 120.0, 109.5, 31.0; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺: 259.1235, found 259.1230.



pilocarpine derivative 3Qb: 69%

(3*S*,4*R*)-3-Ethyl-4-((1-methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)methyl)dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)one (3Qb): Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3Qb as a colorless oil (92.2 mg, 69% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.47 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 2.92 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81–2.63 (m, 2H), 2.33 (q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.85–1.73 (m, 2H), 1.08 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 178.1, 148.8, 133.3, 133.2, 129.8, 128.34, 128.28, 128.1, 127.8, 126.81, 126.76, 126.7, 126.6, 126.3, 71.1, 46.7, 39.2, 32.0, 28.5, 22.6, 11.1; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 335.1760, found 335.1762.



3As: 66%

4-(1-Methyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazol-2-yl)benzonitrile (3As): The reaction was performed by using Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(OTf)₂ for 36 h with 4-chlorobenzonitrile. Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3As** as a white solid (62.0 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.86–7.78 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.31 (m, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.4, 142.9, 136.7, 134.6, 132.4, 129.9, 123.6, 123.0, 120.2, 118.2, 113.3, 109.8, 31.8; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₃ [M+H]⁺: 234.1031, found 234.1038.



tert-Pentyl 2-(5-methoxy-2-methyl-1-(4-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzoyl)-1*H*-indol-3 -yl)acetate (3At): Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 100:1 to EtOAc) afforded 3At as a white solid (55.0 mg, 26% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.87–7.82 (m, 3H), 7.45–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.00–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.76 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 6H), 0.82 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.0, 168.6, 156.0, 152.2, 142.9, 136.7, 135.6, 134.2, 130.8, 129.9, 129.7, 123.4, 122.8, 120.1, 115.1, 113.6, 111.7, 109.7, 101.4, 83.5, 55.6, 33.3, 31.8, 31.6, 25.5, 13.4, 8.1 (two peaks are overlapping); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃₂H₃₃N₃O₄Na [M+Na]⁺: 546.2363, found 546.2360.





A 50-mL glass Schlenk tube containing a magnetic stirring bar and K_3PO_4 (670.3 mg, 3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was dried with a heatgun for 3 min *in vacuo* and filled with argon after cooling to room temperature. Ni(OTf)₂ (35.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol%), imidazole **1** (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), alkenyl carbamate **2** (1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and 3,4-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)thiophene (dcypt: 57.2 mg, 0.12 mmol, 12 mol%) were placed in a 20-mL glass Schlenk tube under an argon atmosphere. Then, to it was added dry degassed *t*-AmylOH (4.0 mL) under a stream of argon. The resultant *t*-AmylOH solution was transferred into the 50-mL Schlenk tube under a stream of argon via cannula. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 36 h. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc, and the organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash silica-gel column chromatography to afford 2-alkenylimidazole **3**.



2-(3,4-Dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ak):** Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) afforded **3Ak** as a white solid (225.7 mg, 87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.20 (m, 7H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.08–2.97 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.8, 142.7, 136.6, 135.6, 133.1, 131.1, 129.1, 128.3, 127.6, 127.3, 126.7, 122.8, 122.3, 119.6, 109.4, 32.1, 27.8, 26.3; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 261.1392, found 261.1392.



2-(7-Methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Al):** Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1) afforded **3Al** as a white solid (249.2)

mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (dd, J = 6.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.81–6.75 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.00–2.90 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.4, 153.8, 142.6, 136.6, 134.0, 131.1, 129.7, 128.4, 127.7, 122.9, 122.3, 119.6, 113.4, 112.9, 109.4, 55.3, 32.1, 26.9, 26.8; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂O [M+H]⁺: 291.1497, found 291.1496.



2-(3,4-Dihydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Am):** Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1) afforded **3Am** as a pale brown solid (134.7 mg, 52% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.94 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60–2.50 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.0, 143.0, 135.8, 135.4, 134.6, 132.8, 129.7, 127.8, 127.7, 126.8, 124.7, 122.6, 122.1, 119.9, 109.4, 31.0, 27.5, 23.4; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺: 261.1392, found 261.1391.



2-(7-Methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3An): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1) afforded 3An** as a yellow oil (193.4 mg, 67% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.56–2.48 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.4, 152.7, 142.8, 135.7, 135.2, 133.7, 129.5, 128.4, 127.4, 122.5, 122.0, 119.7, 112.2, 111.0, 109.3, 55.2, 30.9, 26.5, 23.7; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂O [M+H]⁺: 291.1497, found 291.1493.



2-(7-Fluoro-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1-methyl-1*H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3Ao): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1) afforded 3Ao** as a white solid (184.9 mg, 66% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.60–6.53 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.59–2.51 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.8 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 241.8 Hz), 152.2, 142.8, 135.7, 134.5 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 7.6 Hz), 130.80, 130.78, 129.1, 128.9 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 7.6 Hz), 122.8, 122.2, 119.9, 114.1 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 21.0 Hz), 111.8 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 22.9 Hz), 109.5, 31.0, 26.7, 23.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₁₆FN₂ [M+H]⁺: 279.1298, found 279.1293.



1-Methyl-2-(4-methyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1-yl)-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole (3Ap):** Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1) afforded **3Ap** as a yellow oil (187.9 mg, 69% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.20 (m, 5H), 7.11 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.08 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 6.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 6.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.0, 142.9, 140.2, 135.8, 133.1, 131.9, 129.2, 128.0, 126.6, 126.4, 124.8, 122.5, 122.0, 119.8, 109.3, 31.6, 31.2, 30.9, 20.0; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺: 275.1548, found 275.1545



3Bk: 87%

1-Benzyl-2-(3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3Bk): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) afforded 3Bk as a white solid (293.1 mg,

87% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.22 (m, 7H), 7.20–7.10 (m, 4H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 5.54 (s, 2H), 3.00–2.93 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3, 143.0, 136.7, 136.5, 135.6, 133.1, 130.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 126.6, 125.9, 123.2, 122.6, 119.8, 110.1, 48.7, 27.8, 26.4; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺: 337.1705, found 337.1705.



4-(2-(2-(3,4-Dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1*H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazol-1-yl)ethyl)morpholine** (3Dk): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 24:1) afforded **3Dk** as a pale yellow oil (288.6 mg, 80% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82–7.76 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.19–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 4.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.08–2.94 (m, 4H), 2.85 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.9, 142.9, 135.8, 135.5, 133.1, 130.7, 129.2, 128.4, 127.7, 127.1, 126.7, 122.8, 122.4, 119.8, 109.7, 66.8, 57.5, 54.0, 42.9, 27.8, 26.7; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₂₃H₂₆N₃O [M+H]⁺: 360.2076, found 360.2077.



1-((Benzyloxy)methyl)-2-(3,4-dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3Rk): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) afforded **3Rk** as a yellow oil (314.4 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87–7.83 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.30 (m, 9H), 7.25–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 3.03–2.99 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.4, 142.4, 136.5, 136.1, 135.6, 133.1, 131.9, 131.8, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.4, 126.5, 123.3, 122.8, 119.6, 109.6, 72.9, 70.3, 27.6, 26.1; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for $C_{25}H_{23}N_2O$ [M+H]⁺: 367.1810, found 367.1817.



3Aq: 75%

2-(4-(*tert***-Butyl)cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (3Aq): Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to EtOAc) and GPC afforded 3Aq** as a white solid (80.4 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.19 (m, 3H), 6.18 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.77 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.10–1.97 (m, 2H), 1.50–1.28 (m, 2H), 0.93 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.0, 142.5, 136.1, 133.4, 128.6, 122.2, 121.9, 119.4, 109.2, 43.5, 32.2, 31.4, 29.3, 27.4, 27.1, 23.9; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₅N₂[M+H]⁺: 269.2018, found 269.2018.



(*E*)-1-Methyl-2-(2-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3Ar): Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 3:1) afforded **3Ar** as a pale yellow solid (72.8 mg, 29% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83–7.78 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45–7.27 (m, 6H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.0, 147.4, 143.1, 143.0, 135.0, 128.4, 128.2, 126.1, 122.4, 122.0, 119.5, 112.7, 108.9, 29.8, 18.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂[M+H]⁺: 249.1392, found 249.1391.

6. Ni-Catalyzed C-H Coupling of Thiazoles and Oxazoles



General Procedure: A 20-mL glass vessel equipped with a J. Young[®] O-ring tap containing a magnetic stirring bar and K_3PO_4 (255.0 mg, 1.20 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was dried with a heatgun for 3 min *in vacuo* and filled with N₂ after cooling to room temperature. To this vessel were added 1,3-azole **5** (0.40 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and aryl carbamate **2** (0.60 mmol, 1.5 equiv). Then the vessel was introduced into an argon-atmosphere glovebox. To the reaction vessel were added Ni(cod)₂ (11.0 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) and 1,2-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)ethane (dcype: 20.6 mg, 0.050 mmol, 12 mol%). The

vessel was taken out of the glovebox, then dry *t*-AmylOH (1.6 mL) was added under a stream of N₂. The vessel was sealed with an O-ring tap and then heated at 110 °C for 18–36 h in an 8-well reaction block with stirring. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, the mixture was passed through a silica gel pad with EtOAc as an eluent. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was subjected to PTLC or flash silica-gel column chromatography to afford 2-arylated azole **6**.



6Ab: 90%

4,5-Dimethyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)thiazole (6Ab): Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 20:1) afforded **6Ab** as a pale yellow solid (86.0 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91–7.78 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.3, 149.4, 133.7, 133.3, 131.2, 128.50, 128.46, 127.7, 126.7, 126.5, 125.1, 123.8, 14.8, 11.5 (one peak is overlapping); HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₄NS [M+H]⁺: 240.0847, found 240.0846.



6Aa: 91%

4,5-Dimethyl-2-phenylthiazole (6Aa)¹⁹: Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) afforded **6Aa** as a colorless liquid (69.1 mg, 91% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.33 (m, 3H), 2.38 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.3, 149.3, 133.9, 129.3, 128.8, 126.5, 126.1, 14.8, 11.4; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₂NS [M+H]⁺: 190.0690, found 190.0686.



6Ba: 54%

4-Methyl-2-phenylthiazole (6Ba)²²: Purification by Isolera[®] (hexane/EtOAc = 100:1 to 10:1) afforded **6Ba** as a yellow liquid (37.8 mg, 54% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45–7.35 (m, 3H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.5, 153.8,

²² T. Yamamoto, K. Muto, M. Komiyama, J. Canivet, J. Yamaguchi and K. Itami, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2011, **17**, 10113.

133.8, 129.7, 128.8, 126.4, 113.4, 17.2; HRMS (DART) m/z calcd for $C_{10}H_{10}NS[M+H]^+$: 176.0534, found 176.0535.



6Ak: 59%

2-(3,4-Dihydronaphthalen-2-yl)-4,5-dimethylthiazole (6Ak): Reaction was performed by using Ni(OTf)₂ (35.7 mg, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol%) and 3,4-bis(dicyclohexylphosphino)thiophene (dcypt: 57.2 mg, 0.12 mmol, 12 mol%) instead of Ni(cod)₂/dcype. Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/Et₂O = 6:1) afforded **6Ak** as a yellow solid (141.8 mg, 59% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.19–7.14 (m, 5H), 2.97–2.83 (m, 4H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.3, 148.9, 135.7, 133.7, 132.7, 127.7, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 126.2, 125.9, 27.8, 25.0, 14.8, 11.5; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₆NS [M+H]⁺: 242.1003, found 242.1002.



6Ca: 56%

2-Phenyloxazole (6Ca)²²: Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 20:1) afforded **6Ca** as a colorless liquid (32.6 mg, 56% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.9, 138.5, 130.3, 128.7, 128.3, 127.4, 126.3; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₈NO [M+H]⁺: 146.0606, found 146.0603.



6Ci: 63%

2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)oxazole (6Ci): Purification by PTLC (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) afforded **6Ci** as a white solid (55.8 mg, 63% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.8, 142.9, 140.1, 138.5, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 126.7, 126.3; HRMS (DART) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₂NO [M+H]⁺: 222.0919, found 222.0920.



6Da: 74%

4,5-Dimethyl-2-phenylthiazole (6Da)²³: Reaction was performed by using Ni(OTf)₂ (14.2 mg, 0.040 mmol, 10 mol%) instead of Ni(cod)₂. Purification by flash silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1 to 4:1) afforded **6Da** as a white solid (78.9 mg, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.5, 151.0, 148.1, 147.8, 130.1, 128.7, 127.4, 126.1, 122.3, 122,1, 118.2, 108.7, 104.7, 101.3; HRMS (DART) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 266.0817, found 266.0813.

²³ K. Muto, J. Yamaguchi and K. Itami, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2012, **134**, 169.

7. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra

¹H NMR of **1P** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)


















































¹H NMR of L1 (400 MH₇ CDCl.)



¹H NMR of L 2 (400 MHz CDCL)



















\$66




















































































\$108












































¹H NMR of **3Rk** (400 MH₇ CDCl₂)



¹³C NMR of **3Rk** (100 MH₇ CDCl₂)



¹H NMR of 3Dk (400 MHz CDCl₂)




























Supplementary Information (Muto, Hatakeyama, Yamaguchi, Itami) C–H Arylation and Alkenylation of Imidazoles by Nickel Catalysis: Solvent-accelerated Imidazole C–H Activation









\$150

Supplementary Information (Muto, Hatakeyama, Yamaguchi, Itami) C–H Arylation and Alkenylation of Imidazoles by Nickel Catalysis: Solvent-accelerated Imidazole C–H Activation



Supplementary Information (Muto, Hatakeyama, Yamaguchi, Itami) C–H Arylation and Alkenylation of Imidazoles by Nickel Catalysis: Solvent-accelerated Imidazole C–H Activation



