

Supporting Information

Mechanochemical Activation of Zinc and Application to Negishi Cross-Coupling

Qun Cao, Joseph L. Howard, Emilie Wheatley, and Duncan L. Browne*

anie_201806480_sm_miscellaneous_information.pdf

Supporting Information

Table of Contents

1.	General Information	S2
2.	Experimental Procedures	S4
3.	Mechanochemical Organozinc Generation	S7
4.	Characterization Data for Ligands and Pd(II) Complexes	.S10
5.	Product Characterization Data	S16
6.	NMR data	S28
7.	References	.S77

1 General Information

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial source and used without further purification. The following palladium salts were purchased from Sigma Aldrich: palladium(II) acetate (≥99.9% trace metal basis), palladium(II) chloride (≥99.9%), Pd-PEPPSI-N.N-Dimethylacetamide (DMA, anhydrous 99.8%), N.N-IPent catalyst (7) (\geq 95%). dimethylformamide (DMF, anhydrous, 99.8%), 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP, anhydrous, 99.5%), 1-methylimidazole (NMI, 99%), tetrahydrofuran (THF, anhydrous, ≥99.9%), 1,4dioxane (anhydrous, 99.8%) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Different zinc forms were purchased from different companies as listed below: (1) Zinc granular (20-30 mesh, ACS reagent, ≥98.8%; Sigma-Aldrich). (2) Zinc granular (20 mesh, Sigma-Aldrich). (3) Zinc foil (thickness 0.25 mm, 99.9%; Sigma-Aldrich). (4) Zinc dust (< 10 µm, ≥98%; Sigma-Aldrich). (5) Zinc puriss.p.a. (ACS reagent, ≥99.9%; Sigma-Aldrich). (6) Zinc shot, (10 mm (0.4 in) dia x 2 mm (0.08 in) thick, 99.99%; Alfa Aesar) (7) Zinc flake (-325 mesh, 99,9%; Alfa Aesar). (8) Zinc wire (1.0 mm (0.04 in) dia, 99.95%; Alfa Aesar). (9) Zinc powder (average 6-9 micro, 97.5%; Alfa Aesar). (10) Zinc Powder (Certified AR for Analysis, metal; Fisher Chemical). (11) Zinc mossy (+99%, ACROS Organics). (12) Zinc foil (about 0.38 mm, Fisher Scientific).

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using Merck TLC silica gel 60 sheet, and visualized with ultraviolet light or potassium permanganate stain. Flash column chromatography (FCC) was performed with Sigma Aldrich silica gel 40-60 Å as the stationary phase and solvents employed were analytical grade. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVX500 (500 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVX500 (125 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVX500 (471 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker and a Bruker AVX500 (471 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVX500 (471 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature.

High resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) data was obtained on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL by the EPSRC UK National Mass Spectrometry Facility at Swansea University or on a Waters MALDI-TOF mx in Cardiff University. Spectra were obtained using electron impact ionization (EI), chemical ionization (CI), positive electrospray (ES), pneumatically-assisted electrospray (pNSI) or atmospheric solids analysis probe (ASAP+). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR-Affinity-1S FTIR spectrometer.

Gas chromatography analysis was carried out using a Bruker Scion 456 gas chromatograph. An Agilent 19091J-413HP-5 column (30.0 m × 320 μ m × 0.25 μ m nominal) was employed for all of the separations using the following conditions: initial column temperature, 40 °C; initial hold time, 2 min; next temperature, 100 °C; hold time, 5 min; rate of temperature ramp 1, 4 °C/min, final temperature 300 °C; hold time, 5 min; rate of temperature ramp 2, 15 °C/min; injection temperature, 250 °C; injection volume 1 μ L; detection temperature, 300 °C, split mode. The effluent was combusted in an H₂/air flame and detected using FID (flame ionization detector).

The ball mill used was a Retsch MM 400 mixer mill. Unless otherwise stated, mechanochemical reactions were performed in 10 mL stainless steel jars from Retsch with one stainless steel ball of mass 4 g. The longest time that this mill can be programmed to run for is 99 minutes. In order to run longer reaction times the mill was started, and then additional time added to the timer in order to ensure that the mill was running continuously for the desired reaction time.

The GC yield of products and conversion of substrates were determined by using the internal standard method. The response factor (RF) of analytes was determined by analyzing known quantities of internal standard (trifluorotoluene) against known quantities of substrate and product:

The quantity of an analyte was then calculated according to the following equation:

2 **Experimental Procedures**

General method for evaluation of types of zinc, additives and time for mechanochemical organozinc generation



To a 10 mL Retsch stainless steel milling jar was added the organohalide (2 mmol), zinc (2.2 mmol, 0.148 g), and DMA (3 mmol, 0.261 g) under air atmosphere. A stainless steel ball of mass 4.0 g was added and the mixture was milled at 30 Hz for 4 hours.

(1) For analysis of organohalide conversion and its corresponding hydrolyzed product:

After the reaction was finished, the resulting grey color paste was transferred to a 50 mL flask, washing the residue with dichloromethane (20 mL). Internal standard trifluorotoluene (0.041 mL, 0.33 mmol) and 2 M HCl solution (10 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred for 20 min to hydrolyze any organozinc. The organic layer was washed through a pipette containing a small plug of silica gel using diethyl ether as eluent to remove leftover salts. The filtrate was collected and submitted for GC analysis.

(2) For analysis organozinc yield using iodolysis under air:

The iodolysis method used here was adjusted from the reported literature.¹ Anhydrous LiCl (0.636 g, 15 mmol) was added in a N₂ flushed 50 mL round bottom flask and dried under high vacuum for 4 hours at 140 °C. After the flask was cooled to room temperature, anhydrous THF (30 mL) was added and stirred for 4 hours to fully dissolve LiCl under N₂, resulting in a 0.5 M solution of LiCl in THF. Then to an oven dried flask, iodine (0.635 g, 2.5 mmol) was added and dissolved in 4 mL premade LiCl solution (0.5 M) under N₂ gas protection.

After the mechanochemical organozinc generation was finished, 4 mL of the previously made iodine solution was added immediately via syringe to the mix mill jar under air and the jar was shaken by hand for 1 min to allow iodine to fully react with the organozinc. Then Internal standard trifluorotoluene (0.041 mL, 0.33 mmol) was then added. Then the collected organic solution was washed through a silica plug with diethyl ether to remove salt. The filtrate was collected and submitted for GC analysis.

General Method 1: one-jar two-step Negishi cross coupling using mechanochemically generated organozinc



To a Retsch 10 mL stainless steel milling jar was added the organohalide **A** (2 mmol), Zn granular (20 - 30 mesh, 2.2 mmol, 0.148 g), and dimethylacetamide (3 mmol, 0.261 g) under air atmosphere. A stainless steel ball of mass 4.0 g was added and the mixture was milled at 30 Hz for 4 hours. After the formation of organozinc reagent under mechanochemical conditions, the milling jar was opened under air. Subsequently, TBAB (3 mmol, 0.967 g), Pd-PEPPSI-IPent (0.01 mmol, 0.008 g), and organohalide **B** (1 mmol) were added. Then the milling jar was closed and the reaction mixture was milled at 30 Hz for 4 hours. When the reaction was finished, the resulting grey color paste was transferred into a 50 mL flask by washing with dichloromethane (20 mL). Then 2 M HCl solution (10 mL) was added and the mixture was transferred to a separating funnel. The aqueous layer was separated and back extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) twice. Then the combined organic layers were then dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was then purified by silica gel flash chromatography using the noted solvent systems.

Note: For the generation of C(Sp²) organozinc using aryl hailides, Zn granular (20-30 mesh, 5 mmol, 0.327 g) was used. For cross coupling product bearing heteroaryl or acid sensitive groups, deionised water should be use to hydrolyze the leftover organozincs rather than 2 M HCl solution.

General Method 2: one-jar one-step Negishi cross coupling using mechanochemically generated organozinc



To a Retsch 10 mL stainless steel milling jar was added the organohalide **A** (2 mmol), the zinc (powder/granular/puriss, 2.2 mmol, 0.148 g), dimethylacetamide (3 mmol, 0.261 g), Pd-PEPPSI-IPent (0.01 mmol, 0.008 g), and organohalide **B** (1 mmol) under air atmosphere. A stainless steel ball of mass 4.0 g was added and the mixture was milled at 30 Hz for 8 hours. When reaction was finished, the milling jar was opened under air. When the reaction was finished, the resulting grey color paste was transferred into a 50 mL flask by washing with dichloromethane (20 mL). Then 2 M HCl solution (10 mL) was added and the mixture was transferred to a separating funnel, the aqueous layer was separated and back extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) twice. The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material was then purified by silica gel flash chromatography using the noted solvent systems.

3 Mechanochemical Organozinc Generation



2 mmol		Zn granular (20-30 mesh) DMA (3 mmol) time as specified		$\bullet \bigcirc \overset{\text{ZnBr}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{H}^{*}}{\longrightarrow} \bigcirc \overset{\text{H}}{\longrightarrow}$	
	Α			В	С
Entry	Х	Zn [equivs]	Time [h]	Conv. [wrt% A] ^[a]	Hydrolysis Yield [%C] ^[a]
1	Cl	1.1	3	7	0
2	Br	1.1	3	29	19
3	I	1.1	3	63	50
4	I	1.5	4	82	66
5	1	2.5	4	95	80

		Table S2: Scope of mecha	nochemically	generated C(Sp ³) org	anozinc reagents
		R ¹ -Br Zn (2 mmol mixer DMA	1.1 equiv) mill, 30 Hz (1.5 equiv)	→ BrZn-R ¹	$H^+ \rightarrow H-R^1$
		A		В	С
•	Entry	Substrate	Time [h]	Conv. [wrt% A] ^[a]	Hydrolysis Yield [%C] ^[a]
	1	EtO ₂ C Br	3 h 4 h	76 100	60 76 (52) ^[b]
	2	EtO ₂ C	4 h	100	73
	3	Br	3 h	95	48
	4	Br	4 h	85	47
	5	Br	3 h 4 h	86 95	76 82
	6	CI	4 h	3	0
	7	Br	4 h	100	41
	8	CI	4 h	2	0
	9	NC Br	3 h	93	64
	10	CI	4h	90	87

Reaction conditions: alkyl halide (2 mmol), 20-30 mesh Zn granular (2.2 mmol), DMA (3 mmol), mixer mill, 30 Hz, time as specified [a] Conversion and hydrolysis yield were determined by GC using trifluorotoluene as internal standard [b] Yield of ethyl 4-iodobutanoate was determined by GC after iodometric titration

	R ¹ –I – 2 mmol A	mixer m DMA (1	hill, 30 Hz	IZn-R ¹	→ H-R ¹ C
Entry	Subst	rate	Time [h]	Conv. [wrt% A] ^[a]	Hydrolysis Yield [%C] ^{[a}
1			4 h	100	84
2	EtO ₂ C		4 h 6 h	87 95	63 69
3		<u></u>	4 h	100	83
4	F		4 h	91	61
5	NC		4 h	80	48
6		∽I °OMe	4 h	93	92
7	MeO		4 h	94	90
8	CI		4 h	100	58
9		F I	4 h	100	82

4 Characterization Data for Ligands and Pd(II) Complexes

1,4-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)diazabuadiene (IPr)



The title compound was synthesized using a method adapted from the literature.² To a 50 mL round-bottom flask, a solution of glyoxal (4.2 mmol, 0.603 g, 40 wt% in water), n-propanol (7 mL), 2,6-diisopropylaniline (1.62 g, 9.2 mmol) and H₂O (2 mL) were added. Then the reaction mixture was heated at 70 °C for 2 h. When the reaction was finished, 10 mL H₂O was added resulting in a bright yellow precipitate. Then the solid was filtered, washed with methanol (20 mL) and dried under *vacuo*. Yield: 0.312 g, 20%. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (s, 2H), 7.26 - 7.12 (m, 6H), 2.97 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 1.24 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 24H) ¹³**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.2, 148.2, 136.9, 126.3, 123.3, 28.2, 23.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.² HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₂₆H₃₇N₂: 377.2951, found: 377.2953.

IPr imidazolium chloride



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.³ **IPr** (0.753 g, 2 mmol) and methoxy(methyl)chloride (3.220 g, 40 mmol) were added to a glass vial. The vessel was sealed and stirred at 40 °C for 16 hours. When the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and subsequent addition of diethylether (Et₂O, 15 mL) resulted a bright yellow precipitate. The bright yellow solid was then filtered off and washed with 50 mL Et₂O and dried in *vacuo*. Yield: 0.440 g, 52%. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.58 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 4H), 2.43 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 1.28 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12 H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 12H) ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.1, 138.1, 132.4, 129.9, 127.0, 124.9, 29.3, 24.9, 24.0. NMR data is consistent with literature values.² HRMS (ES+) calcd for [M-Cl]⁺ C₂₇H₃₇N₂: 389.2957, found: 389.2961.

Pd-PEPPSI-IPr (6)



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.⁴ To a thick wall glass vial PdCl₂ (0.088 g, 0.5 mmol), IPr imidazolium chloride (0.254 g, 0.6 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.345 g, 2.5 mmol), 3-chloropyridine (2.5 mL) and a stirrer bar were added. Then the vial was sealed and the reaction mixture was then heated at 90 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with 15 mL DCM and passed through a short pad of silica and washed with DCM (40 mL). The DCM in the solution was evaporated using rotary evaporator and 3-chloropyridine was distilled for reuse. Then the solid material was dissolved using a minimum amount of DCM and precipitated in hexane. The resulting yellow powder was filtered and dried under *vacuo*. Yield: 0.160 g, 47%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (dd, J = 5.5 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.16 (s, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (hept, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.50 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 12 H), 1.15 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.6, 150.6, 149.6, 146.8, 137.6, 135.1, 132.1, 130.5, 125.3, 124.5, 124.2, 28.9, 26.5, 23.4. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁴ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M-CI]⁺ C₃₂H₄₀N₃Cl₂Pd: 642.1634, found: 642.1638.

2,6-dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyaniline



The title compound was synthesized using a method modified from the literature.⁵ A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with *p*-anisidine (2.980 g, 240 mmol) and diphenylmethanol (8.920 g, 480 mmol) and heated to 160 °C open to air. After the reaction mixture became homogeneous, a premade solution of anhydrous zinc chloride (1.62 g, 120 mmol) in concentrated HCl acid (37% in H₂O, 2 mL) was added dropwise. After 30 min, the reaction mixture became solid, the mixture was then cooled to room temperature and dissolved in 50 mL DCM. The DCM solution was washed with water (50 mL) multiple times, then dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was evaporated, and the purple solid was crystalized using methanol to form white crystal. Yield: 7.42 g, 68%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 12 H), 7.17 – 7.06 (m, 8H), 6.22 (s, 2H), 5.51 (s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 3.16 (br s, 2H) ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.0, 142.6, 136.0, 131.0, 129.6, 128.7, 126.8, 114.5, 55.3, 52.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁵ HRMS (AP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺C₃₃H₃₀NO: 456.2327, found: 456.2327.

N,N'-Bis(2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-p-anisidyl)diazabutadiene (IPr*(OMe))



The title compound was synthesized using a method modified from the literature.⁵ A solution of 2,6-dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyaniline (4.55 g, 10 mmol) in DCM (100 mL) was treated with anhydrous MgSO₄ (2.450 g, 20 mmol) followed by an aqueous solution of glyoxal (0.740 g, 5.1 mmol, 40 wt% in H₂O) and formic acid (0.05 mL, 1.3 mmol). The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 4 days before filtering and concentrating under vacuum to afford a brown solid. The crude solid was then recrystallized from boiling toluene to provide a pure diimine as bright yellow solid. Yield: 3.385 g, 73%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 - 7.12 (m, 26 H), 7.03 - 6.94 (m, 16H), 6.42 (s, 4H), 5.26 (s, 4H), 3.51 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.3, 156.3, 143.7, 143.0, 133.8, 129.6, 128.4, 126.6, 114.3, 55.2, 51.4. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁵ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺C₆₈H₅₇N₂O₂: 933.4415, found: 933.4410.

IPr*(OMe) imidazolium chloride



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.³ **IPr***OMe (1.745 g, 2 mmol) and ethoxy(methyl)chloride (1.860 g, 20 mmol) were added to a glass vial. The vessel was sealed and stirred at 100 °C for 16 hours. Once the reaction is finished, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and subsequent addition of diethylether (Et₂O, 15 mL) resulted a white precipitate. The white solid was then filtered off and washed with 50 mL Et₂O and dried in *vacuo*. Yield: 1.191 g, 61%. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.88 (s, 1H), 7.32 - 7.24 (m, 18H), 7.23 - 7.11(m, 16H), 6.68 - 6.80 (m, 8H), 6.49 (s, 4H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 5.32 (s, 4H), 3.54 (s, 6H) ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7, 142.6, 142.3, 141.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 126.8, 125.2, 123.3, 115.5, 55.1, 51.4. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁵ HRMS (EI+) calcd for [M-CI]⁺ C₆₉H₅₇N₂O₂: 945.4420, found: 945.4421.

Pd-PEPPSI-IPr*(OMe) (8)



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.⁶ To a thick wall glass vial PdCl₂ (0.088 g, 0.5 mmol), IPr^{*(OMe)} imidazole chloride (0.539 g, 0.55 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.345 g, 2.5 mmol), 3-chloropyridine (2.5 mL) and a stir bar were added. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with 15 mL DCM and passed through a short pad of silica and washed with DCM (40 mL). The DCM in the solution was evaporated using rotary evaporator and 3-chloropyridine was distilled for reuse. The solid material was dissolved using a minimum amount of DCM and precipitated with hexane. The resulting off white powder was filtered and dried under *vacuo*. Yield: 0.127 g, 21%. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.20 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 9.07 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 8H), 7.35 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 5.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 12 H), 7.10 - 7.02 (m, 12H), 6.80 - 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.50 (s, 4H), 6.34 (s, 4H), 4.85 (s, 2H), 3.53 (s, 6H). ¹³**C NMR** (126

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 151.0, 150.3, 149.9, 144.4, 143.9, 143.8, 138.1, 132.7, 130.9, 130.6, 129.5, 128.3, 128.0, 126.4, 126.3, 124.8, 124.3, 115.6, 55.0, 51.2. HRMS (ES+) calcd for [M-Cl-pyCl]⁺ C₆₉H₅₆N₂O₂ClPd: 1085.3065, found: 1085.3087. **IR** v 1597, 1493, 1464, 1094, 698 cm⁻¹

1,2-bis[(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imino]acenaphthene (BIAN)



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.⁷ In a 500 mL round bottom flask, acenaphthenequinone (3.500 g, 19.2 mmol) was suspended in acetonitrile (200 mL) and heated under reflux for 60 min. Then acetic acid (80 mL) was added and the mixture was refluxed for another 60 min. Following this 2,6-diisopropylphenylaniline (8.000 g, 45 mmol) was added dropwise to the hot solution. The mixture was further heated under reflux for another 5 hours. Once the reaction was finished, the reaction was cooled to room temperature. The resulting orange-yellow solid was filtered and washed with hexane (40 mL) three times, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 7.698 g, 80%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.34 - 7.21 (m, 6H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.14 - 2.91 (m, 4H), 2.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 12H) ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 147.6, 140.9, 135.6, 131.3, 129.7, 129.0, 128.0, 124.4, 123.6, 123.5, 28.8, 23.6, 23.3. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁸ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₃₆H₄₁N₂: 501.3270, found: 501.3253.

IPr(BIAN) imidazolium chloride



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.³ BIAN (1.000 g, 2 mmol) and methoxy(methyl)chloride (3.220 g, 40 mmol) were added to a glass vial. The vessel was sealed and stirred at 100 °C for 16 hours. Once the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and whereupon addition of diethylether (Et₂O 15 mL)

resulted a yellow precipitate. Then the yellow solid was filtered off and washed with 50 mL Et₂O and dried in *vacuo*. Yield: 0.850 g, 78%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 12.2 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 7.1 Hz), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.96 (s, 4H), 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12 H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 145.1, 144.6, 137.6, 132.3, 130.8, 130.4, 130.2, 129.5, 128.4, 125.1, 123.6, 122.9, 29.63, 24.9, 23.7. NMR data is consistent with literature values.³ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M-CI]⁺ C₃₇H₄₁N₂: 513.3264, found: 513.3254.

Pd-PEPPSI-IPr^(BIAN) (9)



The title compound was prepared using a method modified from the literature.⁶ To a thick wall glass vial PdCl₂ (0.355 g, 2 mmol), IPr(BIAN) imidazolium chloride (1.316g, 2.4 mmol), K₂CO₃ (2.760 g, 20 mmol), 3-chloropyridine (5 mL) and a stirrer bar were added. Then the vial was sealed and the reaction mixture was heated at 90 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with 15 mL DCM and passed through a short pad of silica and washed with DCM (40 mL). The DCM in the solution was evaporated using rotary evaporator and 3-chloropyridine was distilled for reuse. Then the solid material was dissolved using a minimum amount of DCM and precipitated with hexane. The resulting yellow powder was filtered and dried under vacuo. Yield: 0.917 g, 58%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.68 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (dd, J = 5.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.4, 1.4Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.3, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.8 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (hept, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.46 (d, J = 6.6Hz, 12 H), 0.92 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 12H) ¹³**C** NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 150.6, 149.6, 147.3, 140.4, 137.4, 133.8, 131.9, 130.7, 129.6, 129.1, 128.1, 127.3, 126.1, 124.8, 124.3, 122.2, 28.9, 25.8, 24.3. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁶ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M-Cl]⁺ C₄₂H₄₄N₃Pd: 766.1951, found: 766.1936.

5 Product Characterization data

Ethyl 4-phenylbutanoate (5)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 20%) to give the product (0.142 g, 74%) as a colourless oil. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 - 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26 - 7.17 (m, 3H), 4.16 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.05 - 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 141.5, 128.5, 128.4, 126.0, 60.3, 35.2, 33.7, 26.6, 14.3. NMR data is consistent with literature values.⁹ **HRMS** (FTMS+) calc. for [M+H]⁺ C₁₂H₁₇O₂: 193.1228 found: 193.1222.

Note: The title compound could also be prepared using a one-pot one-step method with different zinc forms (General Method 2). **20-30 mesh zinc granular:** Yield = 80%, 0.154 g; **zinc powder:** Yield = 78%, 0.150 g; **zinc puriss** Yield = 79%, 0.151 g.

4-(3-phenylpropyl)benzonitrile (10)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.211 g, 94%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 - 7.20 (m, 4H), 7.13 (m, 3H), 2.69 - 2.57 (m, 4H), 1.97 - 1.87 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 141.7, 132.3, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5, 126.1, 119.3, 109.8, 35.6, 35.4, 32.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁰ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₆H₁₆N: 222.1283, found: 222.1281.

Note: The title compound could also be prepared using a one-pot one-step method with different zinc forms (General Method 2). **20-30 mesh zinc granular:** Yield = 76%, 0.168 g; **zinc powder:** Yield = 74%, 0.164 g; **zinc puriss** Yield = 84%, 0.186 g.

Ethyl 4-(3-phenylpropyl)benzoate (11)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.239 g, 89%) as colourless oil. ¹H NMR

(500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.3, 2H), 7.30 (ddd, J = 18.4, 8.6, 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.24 - 7.18 (m, 3H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.76 - 2.64 (m, 4H), 2.01 (ddt, J = 13.6, 9.2, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 147.8, 142.1, 129.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.0, 60.9, 35.6, 35.5, 32.8, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁰ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₈H₂₀O₂: 269.1536, found: 269.1538.

Note: The title compound could also be prepared using a one-pot one-step method with different zinc forms (General Method 2). **20-30 mesh zinc granular:** Yield = 85%, 0.228 g; **zinc powder:** Yield = 96%, 0.257 g; **zinc puriss** Yield = 99%, 0.267 g.

2-(3-phenylpropyl)phenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (12)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 20%) to give the product (0.353 g, 95%) as a colourless sticky oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 - 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25 - 7.15 (m, 4H), 7.09 - 7.05 (m, 1H), 6.87 - 6.83 (m, 1H), 6.82 - 6.79 (m, 1H), 2.58 (dt, *J* = 10.9, 7.7 Hz, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.95 - 1.77 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.8, 145.4, 144.4, 142.0, 132.6, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 128.5, 128.5, 127.4, 126.0, 122.5, 119.9, 35.3, 35.1, 21.8. HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₂₂H₂₃O₃S: 367.1368, found: 367.1369. IR v 2361, 1599, 1371, 1177, 550, 365 cm⁻¹.

2-fluoro-4-(3-phenylpropyl)benzonitrile (13)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.218 g, 88%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 - 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 2.73 - 2.63 (m, 4H), 1.97 (dq, *J* = 15.4, 7.7, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.4 (d, *J* = 259 Hz), 151.4 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 141.4, 133.4, 128. 6, 128.5, 126.2, 125.1 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 116.4 (d, *J* = 19 Hz), 114.4, 98.9 (d, *J* = 16 Hz), 35.5 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 35.3, 32.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -107.0. HRMS (FTMS) calcd for [M+NH₄]⁺ C₁₆H₁₄FN: 257.1449, found: 257.1451. IR v 2932, 2230, 1620, 1566, 1497, 1427.32, 1250, 1111, 826, 748, 694 cm⁻¹.

4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-(4-(3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (14)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.202 g, 63%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.9, 2H), 7.31 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 7.8, 5H), 2.70 - 2.62 (m, 4H), 1.97 (dq, *J* = 15.4, 7.7, 2H), 1.35 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.9, 142.4, 135.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 125.9, 83.8, 35.8, 35.5, 32.9, 25.0. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹¹ HRMS (ES+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₃H₉N: 323.2182, found: 323.2186. **IR** v 2976, 2930, 1611, 1398, 1360, 1319, 1271, 1144, 1090, 737, 700, 660 cm⁻¹.

4-cyclohexyl-2-fluorobenzonitrile (15)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5%) to give the product (0.095 g, 46%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, *J* = 11.7, 9.2, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 4H), 1.80 - 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.46 - 1.32 (m, 4H), 1.31 - 1.19 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5 (d, *J* = 258 Hz), 157.0 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 133.3, 123.7 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 114.8 (d, *J* = 19 Hz), 114.5, 98.7 (d, *J* = 16 Hz), 44.8 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 33.9, 26.6, 25.9. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -107.0. HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+NH₄]⁺ C₁₃H₁₈N₂F: 221.1449, found: 221.1449. IR v 2926, 2853, 2236, 1618, 1566, 1497, 1449, 1429, 1250, 1111, 949, 824 cm⁻¹.





Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5%) to give the product (0.138 g, 54%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 5.12 - 5.07 (m, 1H), 2.71 (ddd, *J* = 15.5, 10.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.66 - 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.07 - 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.66 - 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.52 - 1.34 (m, 3H), 1.24 - 1.15 (m, 1H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.0, 149.2, 135.0, 131.4, 128.7, 128.6, 124.9, 38.6, 37.0, 33.7, 32.3, 26.7, 25.9, 25.6, 19.6, 17.8. HRMS (FTMS) calcd for [M+H]⁺

C₁₈H₂₆O: 257.1449, found: 257.1451. **IR** v 2959, 2911, 2853, 1682, 1605, 1570, 1412, 1375, 1356, 1265, 1180, 1016, 955, 818 cm⁻¹.

4-cyclohexylbenzonitrile (17)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.133 g, 72%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.61 - 2.50 (m, 1H), 1.86 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 1.80 - 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.40 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.32 - 1.20 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.6, 132.3, 127.8, 119.4, 109.7, 44.9, 34.1, 26.7, 26.0. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹² HRMS (FTMS) calcd for [M+NH₄]⁺ C₁₃H₁₉N₂: 203.1543, found: 203.1543.

4-(4-chlorophenethyl)-3-fluorobenzonitrile (18)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl acetate/Petroleum = 0 - 10%) to yield the product as a white solid (0.201 g, 0.77 mmol, 77%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.04 - 6.86 (m, 4H), 2.94 - 2.73 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.2 (d, *J* = 259 Hz), 150.1 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 138.6, 133.4, 132.3, 129.8, 128.7, 125.2 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 116.5 (d, *J* = 19 Hz), 114.2, 99.1 (d, *J* = 16 Hz), 37.7 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 36.2. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -106.82 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 6.2 Hz). HRMS (EI+) calc. for C₁₅H₁₁NFCI: 259.0564, found 259.0560. IR: 2936, 2234, 1620, 1566, 1493, 1431, 1288, 1250, 1111, 1092, 1015, 953, 891, 826, 748, 660, 617, 536, 501 cm ⁻¹. Melting point: (ethyl acetate) 82 - 83 °C.

ethyl 4-(6-cyanohexyl)benzoate (19)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 20%) to give the product (0.215 g, 82%) as colourless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.23 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.63 - 1.51 (m, 4H), 1.47 - 1.37 (m, 2H), 1.33 - 1.20 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 147.9, 129.8, 128.5, 128.3, 119.8, 60.9, 35.9, 30.9, 28.6, 28.4, 25.4, 17.2, 14.5. **IR** v 2932, 2859, 1711, 1611, 1271, 1103 cm⁻¹

1-(4-(4-chlorophenethyl)phenyl)ethanone (20)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl acetate/Petroleum ether = 0 - 10%) to yield the product as a white solid (0.122 g, 47%). ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.21 - 7.08 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.96 - 2.77 (m, 4H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 147.0, 139.5, 135.3, 131.9, 129.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 37.7, 36.7, 26.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹³ **IR** v 1674, 1601, 1489, 1406, 1360, 1263, 1090, 1013, 955, 828, 579, 517 cm⁻¹. **HRMS** (EI+) calc. for C₁₆H₁₅OCI: 258.0811, found: 258.0811. Melting point (chloroform): 104 -105 °C.

Ethyl 4-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)butanoate (21)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5-10%) and Kugelrhor distillation (200 °C. 4 mbar) to give the product (0.076 g, 33%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.34 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 2.62 - 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.32 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.00 - 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.7, 160.9, 144.0, 106.7, 98.1, 60.4, 55.4, 35.6, 33.8, 26.5, 14.4. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁴ HRMS (ES+) calc. for [M+Na]⁺C₁₄H₂₀O₄: 275.1259, found: 275.1272. IR v 2940, 2839, 2361, 1728, 1597, 1458, 1427, 1204, 1150, 1057, 833 cm⁻¹.

2-(3-phenylpropyl)thiophene (22)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5-10%) to give the product (0.085 g, 42%) as a colourless oil. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 - 7.07 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 - 6.68 (m, 1H), 2.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.93 (dt, *J* = 15.2, 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.3, 142.1, 128.6, 128.5, 126.8, 126.0, 124.3, 123.1, 35.3, 33.4, 29.5. **HRMS** (EI+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₃H₁₄S: 202.0816, found: 202.0813. **IR** v 3024, 2928, 2855, 1493, 1454, 1238.30, 1076, 1030, 849, 822, 741, 691, 490 cm⁻¹.

Ethyl-4-benzylbenzoate (23)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5%) to give the product (0.132 g, 55%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.36 - 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.22 - 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 146.5, 140.3, 129.9, 129.08, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 126.5, 61.0, 42.1, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁵ HRMS (ES+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₆H₁₆O₂: 241.1229, found: 241.1228.

Ethyl (S)-4-(3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl)benzoate (24)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Initial purification by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 0 - 10%). Further purified by Kugelrohr distillation (120 °C, 4 mbar) to yield the product as a colourless oil (0.148 g, 51%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.19 – 4.85 (m, 1H), 4.26 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.75 - 2.44 (m, 2H), 1.97 - 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.56 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.38 - 1.32 (m, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.15 - 1.04 (m, 1H), 0.84 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 148.6, 131.2, 129.7, 128.4, 128.0, 124.8, 60.8, 38.6, 37.0, 33.6, 32.1, 25.8, 25.5, 19.5, 17.7, 14.4. HRMS (EI+) calc. for C₁₉H₂₈O₂: 288.2089, found: 288.2097. IR v 2916, 1713, 1612, 1458, 1373, 1273, 1173, 1103, 1026, 849, 764, 702 cm⁻¹.

4-(4-chlorophenethyl)benzonitrile (25)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5 - 10%) to give the product (0.223 g, 92%) as a white solid. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.00 - 2.93 (m, 2H), 2.92 - 2.86 (m, 2H). ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.9, 139.1, 132.4, 132.2, 129.9, 129.5, 128.7, 119.1, 110.2, 37.9, 36.7. **HRMS** (EI+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₅H₁₂CIN: 241.0658, found: 241.0660. **IR** v 2928, 2862, 2226, 1605, 1505, 1489, 1456, 1406, 1177, 1090, 1013, 828, 557, 519. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 107 - 111 °C.

[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (26)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 20%) to give the product (0.125 g, 87%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 - 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.45 - 7.40 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.8, 139.3, 132.7, 129.3, 128.8, 127.9, 127.4, 119.1, 111.1. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁶ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₃H₉N: 180.0813, found: 180.0814. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 84 - 86 °C.

Ethyl [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (27)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5%) to give the product (0.216 g, 98%) as a white crystalline solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 - 7.60 (m, 4H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 - 7.37 (m, 1H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 166.7, 145.7, 140.2, 130.2, 129.4, 129.1, 128.3, 127.4, 127.2, 61.1, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁶ HRMS (ES+) calcd for [M+H]⁺C₁₅H₁₄O₂: 227.1072, found: 227.1070. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 49 - 51 °C.

(4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)(methyl)sulfane (28)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.094 g, 42%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 137.9, 136.8, 133.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.2, 114.4, 55.5, 16.2. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁷ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₄H₁₄OS: 231.0838, found: 231.0839. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 149 - 153 °C.

Ethyl 4'-cyano-3'-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (29)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.156 g, 57%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 163.6 (d, *J* = 259 Hz), 147.5 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 142.2 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 134.1, 131.3, 130.6, 127.3, 123.7 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 115.3 (d, *J* = 20 Hz), 114.0, 100.9 (d, *J* = 16 Hz), 61.5, 14.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -105.64. NMR data is consistent with literature values. ¹⁸ HRMS (EI+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₆H₁₆O₂: 269.0852, found: 269.0848. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 131 - 134 °C.

Ethyl 4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (30)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 1 - 3%) to give the product (0.182 g, 71%) as a white solid. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 160.0, 145.4, 132.6, 130.2, 128.8, 128.5, 126.6,

114.5, 61.1, 55.5, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.¹⁹ **HRMS** (EI+) calcd for $[M]^+ C_{16}H_{16}O_3$: 256.1099, found: 256.1105. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 100 - 103 °C.

1-(3'-fluoro-2'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (31)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Initially purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 0 - 10%) to give a mixture containing the desired product. The impurity was removed by Kugelrohr distillation (120 °C, 4 mbar) to yield the product as a pale yellow solid (0.140 g, 61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 - 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.11 - 6.99 (m, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.17 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 161.6 (d, *J* = 245 Hz), 145.6 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 143.1 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 136.0, 129.6, 128.4, 126.9 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 125.1 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 122.8 (d, *J* = 17 Hz), 114.5 (d, *J* = 23 Hz), 26.8, 12.2 (d, *J* = 5 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -115.22. HRMS (EI+) calc. for C₁₅H₁₃OF: 228.0950, found 228.0959. IR v 1674, 1605, 1566, 1458, 1404, 1350, 1265, 1234, 1111, 841, 787, 594 cm⁻¹. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 85 - 87 °C.

4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (32)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.107 g, 51%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.4, 145.4, 132.7, 131.7, 128.5, 127.3, 119.2, 114.7, 110.3, 55.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²⁰ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₄H₁₁NO: 210.0913, found: 210.0912. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 100 - 102 °C.

2-(p-tolyl)thiophene (33)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 0 - 5%) to give the product (0.137 g, 72%) as a blue solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 - 7.05 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 137.5, 131.8, 129.7, 128.1, 126.0, 124.4, 122.7, 21.3. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²¹ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₁H₁₀S: 174.0503, found: 174.0505. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 64 - 66 °C.

4-(thiophen-2-yl)benzonitrile (34)

Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 1 - 5%) to give the product (0.157 g, 85%) as a yellow solid. ¹H **NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (dd, *J* = 22.2, 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.41 (ddd, *J* = 6.1, 4.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.2, 138.8, 132.9, 128.7, 127.2, 126.2, 125.3, 119.0, 110.7. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²² HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺C₁₁H₇NS: 186.0377, found: 186.0383. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 92 - 94 °C.

Ethyl 4'-chloro-2'-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (35)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.122 g, 45%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 - 8.09 (m, 2H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1.7, 2H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 12.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.19 (m, 2H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 159.6 (d, *J* = 253 Hz), 139.3 (d, *J* = 1 Hz), 134.9 (d, *J* = 10 Hz), 131.5 (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 130.1, 129.9, 129.0 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 126.9 (d, *J* = 13 Hz), 125.1 (d, *J* = 4 Hz), 117.2 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 61.2, 14.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.764. HRMS (EI+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₅H₁₂CIFO₂: 278.0510, found: 278.0515. IR v 2361, 1705, , 1265, 1211, 1180, 1096, 1026, 1003, 895, 856, 818, 764, 718, 702 cm⁻¹. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 37 - 38 °C.

Ethyl 4'-chloro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (36)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 2.5%) to give the product (0.167 g, 63%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 144.4, 138.6, 134.5, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.7, 127.0, 61.2, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²³ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺C₁₅H₁₃ClO₂: 261.0687, found: 261.0687. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 66 - 69 °C.

4'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (37)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.130 g, 62%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.4, 145.4, 132.7, 131.7, 128.5, 127.3, 119.2, 114.7, 110.3, 55.6. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²⁰ HRMS (FTMS+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₄H₁₁NO: 210.0913, found: 210.0912. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 100 - 102 °C.

Ethyl 4'-cyano-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate (38)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 10%) to give the product (0.227 g, 90%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 144.6, 143.5, 132.9, 130.7, 130.5, 128.1, 127.3, 118.8, 111.9, 61.4, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²⁴ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M]⁺ C₁₆H₁₃NO₂: 251.0946, found: 251.0947. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 117 - 120 °C

2'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carbonitrile (39)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 7.5%) to give the product (0.148 g, 71%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.5, 143.5, 131.9, 130.8, 130.4, 130.1, 128.8, 121.2, 119.3, 111.5, 110.6, 55.7. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²⁵ HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₄H₁₁NO: 210.0913, found: 210.0912. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 77 - 78 °C.

Ethyl 4-(thiophen-2-yl)benzoate (40)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography (Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 5%) to give the product (0.195 g, 86%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 143.3, 138.7, 130.4, 129.3, 128.5, 126.4, 125.6, 124.6, 61.1, 14.5. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²² HRMS (ASAP+) calcd for [M+H]⁺ C₁₃H₁₂O₂S: 233.0631, found: 233.0631. Melting point (ethyl acetate): 64 - 66 °C.

3-phenylpyridine (41)



Prepared according to General Method 1. Purified by column chromatography ((Ethyl Acetate/Petroleum ether = 0 - 10%) to yield the product as a brown oil (0.150 g, 97%).¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 8.85 (s, 1H), 8.60 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 2.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 - 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.51 - 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.43 - 7.35 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCI₃) δ 148.6, 148.5, 138.0, 136.8, 134.5, 129.2, 128.2, 127.3, 123.7. NMR data is consistent with literature values.²⁶ **HRMS** (EI+) calc. for C₁₁H₉N: 155.0735, found 155.0737.

6 NMR data














































80 60 40 20 0 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -120 -150 f1 (ppm) -270

















90 70 50 30 10 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 -210 -230 -250 -270 -290 f1 (ppm)































	210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290











60 40 20 0 -20 -40 -60 -80 -100 -120 -140 -160 -180 -200 -220 -240 -260 -280 f1 (ppm)












7 References

¹⁰ Chen, B.-Z.; Zhi, M.-L.; Wang, C.-X.; Chu, X.-Q.; Shen, Z.-L.; Loh, T.-P. *Org. Lett.* **2018**, 20, 1902

¹¹ Rasina, D.; Otikovs, M.; Leitans, J.; Recacha, R.; Borysov, O. V.; Kanepe-Lapsa, I.; Domraceva, I.; Pantelejevs, T.; Tars, K.; Blackman, M. J.; Jaudzems, K.; Jirgensons, A. *J. Med. Chem.* **2015**, *59*, 374.

¹² Liu, Z.; Dong, N.; Xu, M.; Sun, Z.; Tu, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 7436.

¹³ Basnet, P.; Thapa, S.; Dickie, D. A.; Giri, R. *Chem. Commun.* **2016**, *52*, 11072.

¹⁴ Saphier, S.; Hu, Y.; Sinha, S. C.; Houk, K. N.; Keinan, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 132.

¹⁵ Whitaker, L.; Harb, H. Y.; Pulis, A. P. *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, *53*, 9364.

¹⁶ Mäsing, F.; Nüsse, H.; Klingauf, J.; Studer, A. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 752.

¹⁸ Haag, B. A.; Sämann, C.; Jana, A.; Knochel, P. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 7290.

¹⁹Liang, Q.; Xing, P.; Huang, Z.; Dong, J.; Sharpless, K. B.; Li, X.; Jiang, B. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, *17*, 1942.

²⁰ Shi, S.; Szostak, M. *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 3095.

²¹ Vila, C.; Hornillos, V.; Giannerini, M.; Fañanás-Mastral, M.; Feringa, B. L. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 13078.

²² Sévigny, S.; Forgione, P. Chem. Eur. J. 2013, 19, 2256.

²³ Ueura, K.; Satoh, T.; Miura, M. Org. Lett. 2005, 7, 2229.

²⁴ Sase, S.; Jaric, M.; Metzger, A.; Malakhov, V.; Knochel, P. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 7380.

²⁵ Papoian, V.; Minehan, T. J. Org. Chem. **2008**, 73, 7376.

²⁶ Ackermann, L.; Gschrei, C. J.; Althammer, A.; Riederer, M. *Chem. Commun.* **2006**, *41*, 1419.

¹ Krasovskiy, A.; Knochel, P. *Synthesis.* **2006**, 5, 890.

² Huang, J.; Nolan, S. P. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1999**, 121, 9889.

³ Vasudevan, K. V.; Butorac, R. R.; Abernethy, C. D.; Cowley, A. H. *Dalton Trans.* **2010**, *39*, 7401.

⁴ O'Brien, C. J.; Kantchev, E. A. B.; Valente, C.; Hadei, N.; Chass, G. A.; Lough, A.; Hopkinson, A. C.; Organ, M. G. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2006**, *12*, 4743.

⁵ Meiries, S.; Speck, K.; Cordes, D. B.; Slawin, A. M. Z.; Nolan, S. P. *Organometallics* **2013**, *32*, 330.

⁶ Liu, Z.; Dong, N.; Xu, M.; Sun, Z.; Tu, T. *J. Org. Chem.* **2013**, *78*, 7436.

⁷ Dastgir, S.; Coleman, K. S.; Cowley, A. R.; Green, M. L. H. *Organometallics* **2010**, *29*, 4858. ⁸ Cao, Q.; Bailie, D. S.; Fu, R.; Muldoon, M. J. *Green Chem.* **2015**, *17*, 2750.

⁹ Everson, D. A.; Shrestha, R.; Weix, D. J. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 920.

¹⁷ Otsuka, S.; Fujino, D.; Murakami, K.; Yorimitsu, H.; Osuka, A. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 13146.