

Ag(I) –C–H Activation Enables Near-Room-Temperature Direct α -Arylation of Benzo[*b*]thiophenes

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I. Experimental

General Information. Reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40-63 μL). AgNO_3 impregnated silica gel was prepared by absorbing a solution of AgNO_3 in MeCN (10% wt of AgNO_3 to silica) on silica. The MeCN was removed under reduced pressure on a rotary evaporator and the silica was further dried at 90 $^\circ\text{C}$ and < 1 mbar for 1-2 h. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on pre-coated aluminium-backed silica gel F₂₅₄ plates with visualization under UV light ($\lambda = 254$ nm). GC-MS analysis was carried out using an AGILENT 7820A-GC and 5975-MS. Melting points were obtained using a SMP 11 Stuart Scientific apparatus. NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on Bruker AV-400/AV-500 instrument at a constant temperature of 300 K (unless otherwise specified). Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million from low to high field and referenced to residual solvent (CDCl_3 : δ 7.26/7.26/77.16, $^1\text{H}/^2\text{H}/^{13}\text{C}$ NMR; DMSO: δ 2.50/39.52, $^1\text{H}/^{13}\text{C}$ NMR); ^{19}F -NMR are referred to C_6F_6 (δ -164.9). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). Standard abbreviations indicating multiplicity were used as follows: m = multiplet, q = quartet, t = triplet, d = doublet, s = singlet, br = broad. ATR-IR spectra were recorded using a Thermo-Scientific Nicolet iS5 machine and are quoted in cm^{-1} . High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy (HRMS) were recorded on Thermo Finnigan MAT95XP or Thermo Scientific Exactive Plus EMR. High performance liquid chromatography was performed on Agilent Technologies chromatographs (Series 1260; G1315D-1260 DAD VL) using Chiralpak OD-H column. Optical rotations were measured using a Rudolph Research Analytical Autopol I Polarimeter.

II. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

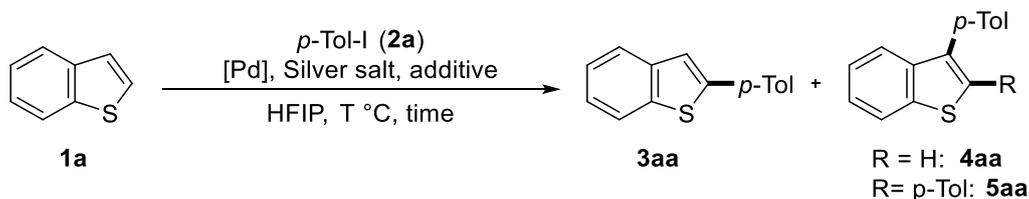


Table S.1: Screening of Catalyst Loading at 80 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | [Pd] (x mol%) | time | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| 1 | 2.5 | 1 h | <i>Nd</i> | 21 | <i>traces</i> | 91 | <i>traces</i> |
| 2 | 1.0 | 16 h | 6 | 15 | ~3 | 67 | ~20 |
| 3 | 0.5 | 16 h | 17 | 31 | 14 | 47 | 18 |
| 4 | 0.2 | 16 h | 40 | 68 | 34 | 12 | 9 |
| 5 | 0.05 | 16 h | 56 | 95 | 26 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 0.05 | 3 days | 52 | 94 | 27 | 5 | 2 |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃:CHCl₃ (x mol %), Ag₂CO₃ (0.375 mmol), HFIP (0.5 mL).

Table S.2: Screening of Silver Salts at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | [Ag] | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 1 ^c | Ag ₂ CO ₃ | 65 | 94 | - | 21 | - |
| 2 ^d | AgOPiv | 75 | 107 | 6 | 3 | - |
| 3 ^c | Ag ₂ O | 45 | 66 | 26 | 10 | 4 |
| 4 ^d | AgOAc | 85 | 122 | <i>traces</i> | 5 | - |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃:CHCl₃ (0.2 mol %), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h. [c] Ag salt (0.188 mmol). [d] Ag salt (0.375 mmol).

Table S.3: Screening of Additives at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | Additive | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 ^c | XantPhos | 83 | 104 | 9 | 3 | - |
| 2 ^d | PPh ₃ | 48 | 43 | 17 | 22 | 5 |
| 3 ^c | BINAP | 79 | 106 | 10 | 5 | traces |
| 4 ^c | dppe | 78 | 99 | - | - | - |
| 5 ^d | PCy ₃ | 33 | 42 | 16 | 12 | 3 |
| 6 ^c | 2,2'- Bipyridine | 86 | 112 | - | - | - |
| 7 ^d | TMP | 52 | 74 | 27 | 12 | 5 |
| 8 ^d | NaOAc | 39 | 74 | 45 | 1 | 1 |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃CHCl₃ (0.2 mol %), Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h. [c] Additive (0.063 mmol). [d] Additive (0.125 mmol).

Table S.4: Screening of Equivalents of NaOAc at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | Additive (equiv) | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 0.25 | 42 | 76 | 41 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 0.5 | 39 | 74 | 45 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 0.75 | 44 | 80 | 42 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 48 | 82 | 38 | 2 | 1 |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃CHCl₃ (0.2 mol %), Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), NaOAc (x equiv), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h.

Table S.5: Screening of Acetate Salts at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | Additive | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | NaOAc | 39 | 74 | 45 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | KOAc | 45 | 84 | 39 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | LiOAc | 46 | 80 | 38 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | CsOAc | 56 | 93 | 29 | 3 | 1 |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃CHCl₃ (0.2 mol %), Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), MOAc (0.125 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h.

Table S.6: Screening of Palladium Catalysts at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | [Pd] catalyst | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|--|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Pd ₂ dba ₃ CHCl ₃ | 39 | 74 | 45 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | PdI ₂ | 24 | 36 | 54 | 6 | 5 |
| 3 | PdCl ₂ | 80 | 113 | 8 | traces | traces |
| 4 | Pd(TFA) ₂ | 20 | 34 | 52 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ | 28 | 48 | 47 | 6 | 4 |
| 6 | Pd(OAc) ₂ | 26 | 36 | 54 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | Pd/C | 88 | 117 | - | - | - |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.375 mmol), [Pd] (0.4 mol %), Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), NaOAc (0.125 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h.

Table S.7: Screening of Different Stoichiometry at 30 °C.

| Entry ^[a,b] | mmol 1a : mmol 2a | 1a (%) | 2a (%) | 3aa (%) | 4aa (%) | 5aa (%) |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 0.25 : 0.375 | 26 | 36 | 54 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 0.25 : 0.75 | 42 | 133 | 32 | 15 | 4 |
| 3 | 0.5 : 0.25 | 92 | 10 | 73 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 ^c | 0.5 : 0.25 | 83 | 5 | 83 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 ^{c,d} | 0.5 : 0.25 | 123 | 41 | 57 | 2 | 1 |

[a] Yield determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. [b] Pd(OAc)₂ (0.4 mol %), Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), NaOAc (0.125 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL), 16 h. [c] Ag₂O (0.25 mmol). [d] Pd(OAc)₂ (0.2 mol %).

III. Experimental Details, Spectroscopic and Analytical Data

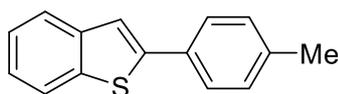
III-1. Experimental Details

General procedure A. Pd(OAc)₂ (0.4 mol %), silver oxide (1.0 equiv), NaOAc (0.5 equiv), aryl iodide (1.0 equiv) and (substituted) benzo[*b*]thiophene (2.0 equiv) were stirred in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol [1 M] at 30 °C for 16 h. After this time, the resultant mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc (30 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using the specified eluent to afford the product.

General procedure B. Pd(OAc)₂ (0.8 mol %), silver oxide (1.0 equiv), NaOAc (0.5 equiv), aryl iodide (1.0 equiv) and substituted thiophene (2.0 equiv) were stirred in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol [1 M] at 50 °C for 16 h. After this time, the resultant mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc (30 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using the specified eluent to afford the product.

General procedure C. Pd(OAc)₂ (0.8 mol %), silver oxide (1.0 equiv), NaOAc (0.5 equiv), aryl iodide (2.0 equiv) and substituted thiophene (1.0 equiv) were stirred in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol [1 M] at 50 °C for 16 h. After this time, the resultant mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc (30 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using the specified eluent to afford the product.

III-2. Spectroscopic and Analytical Data



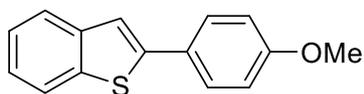
2-(p-tolyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3aa)

The product **3aa** was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 84% yield (141 mg, 0.63 mmol).

The same reaction on a 20 mmol scale afforded 71% yield of product **3aa** (3.18 g, 14.2 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.47. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 144.7, 141.1, 140.0, 138.6, 131.8, 130.0, 126.7,

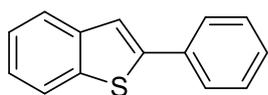
124.8, 124.4, 123.7, 122.6, 119.2, 21.6. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂S (M⁺), 224.0654; found, 224.0654. **Mp**: 166-168 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹



2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene (**3ab**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodoanisole **2b** (180 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:CH₂Cl₂ = 4:1) as a white solid in 81% yield (146 mg, 0.61 mmol).

R_f (hexane:CH₂Cl₂ = 4:1): 0.30. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 160.1, 144.5, 141.2, 139.5, 128.1, 127.4, 124.8, 124.3, 123.6, 122.5, 118.5, 114.7, 55.7. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂OS, 241.0682 (MH⁺); found, 241.0681. **Mp**: 180-190 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹

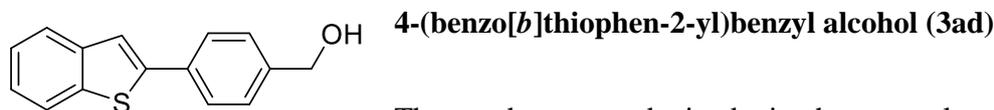


2-phenylbenzo[b]thiophene (**3ac**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and iodobenzene **2c** (87 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 84% yield (132 mg, 0.63 mmol).

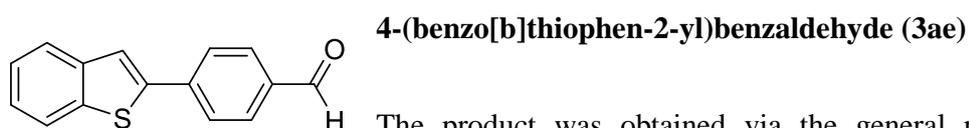
R_f (hexane): 0.43. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 144.6, 141.0, 139.8, 134.6, 129.3, 128.6, 126.8, 124.8, 124.7, 123.9,

122.6, 119.8. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₁₀S (M⁺), 210.0498; found, 210.0498. **Mp**: 170-172 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodobenzyl alcohol **2d** (181 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 7:3) as a white solid in 84% yield (151 mg, 0.63 mmol).

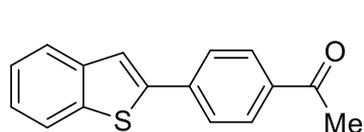
R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 7:3): 0.29. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 2H), 5.31 (t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 143.3, 143.2, 140.6, 138.5, 131.9, 127.2, 125.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.7, 122.5, 119.7, 62.5. **IR**: ν = 3923, 3056, 3024, 2913, 2860, 1456, 1432, 1362, 1301, 1179, 1070, 1006, 937, 824, 808, 740, 725 cm⁻¹. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂OS, 240.0603 (M⁺); found, 240.0600. **Mp**: 206-208°C.



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodobenzaldehyde **2e** (181 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 92:8) as a white solid in 80% yield (142 mg, 0.60 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 92:8): 0.30. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 10.03 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 3H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.34 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 191.8, 142.7, 140.7, 140.4, 140.4, 136.0, 130.7, 127.1, 125.5, 125.2,

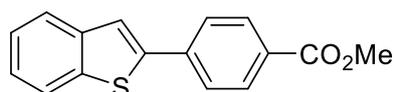
124.4, 122.7, 122.0. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₀OS (M⁺), 238.0447; found, 238.0447. **Mp**: 174-176 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.²



2-(4-acetophenone)benzo[b]thiophene (3af)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (68 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4'-iodoacetophenone **2f** (65 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 9:1) as a white solid in 84% yield (53 mg, 0.21 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 9:1): 0.34. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.82-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 2H), 2.64 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 197.6, 142.9, 140.7, 140.1, 139.0, 136.6, 129.3, 126.6, 125.3, 125.0, 124.2, 122.6, 121.4, 26.9. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₆H₁₂OS, 252.0603 (M⁺); found, 252.0601. **Mp**: 208-210°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.³

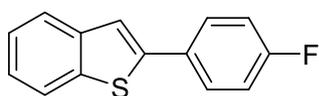


Methyl 4-(benzo[b]thiophene-2-yl)benzoate (3ag)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (68 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and methyl-4-iodobenzoate **2g** (67 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 95:5) as a pale yellow solid in 70% yield (47 mg, 0.18 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 95:5): 0.26. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.84-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.33 (m, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 166.8, 142.9, 140.6, 140.0, 138.7, 130.4, 129.7, 126.3, 125.1, 124.9, 124.1, 122.5, 121.2,

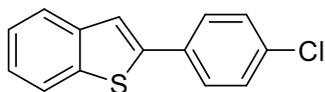
52.4. **HRMS** calcd for C₁₆H₁₂O₂S, 268.0553 (M⁺); found, 268.0551. **Mp**: > 250°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁴



2-(4-fluorophenyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3ah)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-fluoro-4-iodobenzene **2h** (87 μ l, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 80% yield (137 mg, 0.60 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.45. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 8.7 and 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 162.8 (d, J = 250.1 Hz), 143.4, 141.0, 139.8, 130.9 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 128.5 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 125.0, 124.7, 123.9, 122.6, 119.8 (d, J = 1.2 Hz), 116.3 (d, J = 22.0 Hz). **¹⁹F-NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) -113.3. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₉FS (M⁺), 228.0404; found, 228.0404. **Mp**: 180-182 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁵

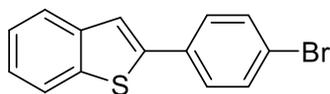


2-(4-chlorophenyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3ai)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene **2i** (181 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 82% yield (150 mg, 0.61 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.48. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 143.2, 140.9, 139.8, 134.4, 133.2, 129.5, 128.0, 125.0,

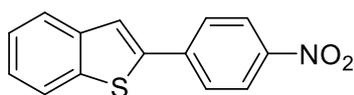
124.9, 124.0, 122.6, 120.2. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₉ClS (M⁺), 244.0107; found, 244.0108. **Mp**: 196-198 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁵



2-(4-bromophenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3aj)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene **2j** (216 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 83% yield (180 mg, 0.62 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.50. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 5H), 7.39-7.31 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 143.2, 140.9, 139.8, 133.6, 132.4, 128.3, 125.0, 125.0, 124.0, 122.6, 122.6, 120.3. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₉BrS (M⁺), 287.9603; found, 287.9601. **Mp**: 210-212 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁶

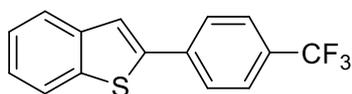


2-(4-nitrophenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3ak)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-iodo-4-nitrobenzene **2k** (191 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:CH₂Cl₂ = 75:25) as a yellow solid in 48% yield (91 mg, 0.36 mmol).

R_f (hexane:CH₂Cl₂ = 75:25): 0.33. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.88-7.82 (m, 4H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 147.3, 141.3, 140.7, 140.4, 140.3, 126.9, 125.7, 125.2, 124.5, 124.4, 122.6, 122.6. **HRMS**: calcd

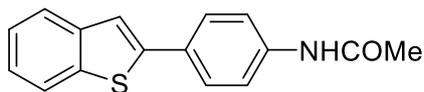
for C₁₄H₉NO₂S, 255.0349 (M⁺); found, 255.0348. **Mp**: 212-214°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁷



2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3al)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodobenzotrifluoride **2l** (111 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 79% yield (164 mg, 0.59 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.51. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.87-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 142.4, 140.6, 140.0, 137.9, 129.9 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 126.7, 126.1 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 125.1, 125.0, 124.9 (q, *J* = 272.0 Hz), 124.1, 122.8, 121.2. **¹⁹F-NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) -62.6. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₉F₃S, 278.0372 (M⁺); found, 278.0371. **Mp**: 214-216°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁸

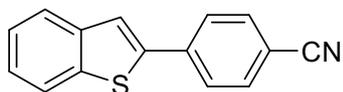


2-(4-phenylacetamide)benzo[b]thiophene (3an)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4'-iodoacetanilide **2n** (196 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 1:1) as a white solid in 38% yield (76 mg, 0.28 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 1:1): 0.29. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 10.13 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.32 (m, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ (ppm) 168.5, 143.2, 140.6, 139.7, 138.3, 128.1, 126.6, 124.8, 124.4, 123.5, 122.4, 119.3, 118.9, 24.1. **IR**: ν = 3305, 2914, 2850, 1736, 1659,

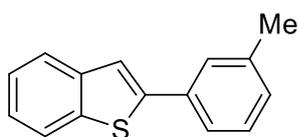
1598, 1542, 1433, 1408, 1368, 1323, 817, 739, 727 cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NOS}$, 268.0791 (MH^+); found, 268.0789. **Mp**: 136-138°C.



4-(benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)benzonitrile (3ao)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodobenzonitrile **2o** (174 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:Et₂O = 9:1) as a white solid in 63% yield (111 mg, 0.47 mmol).

R_f (hexane:Et₂O = 9:1): 0.18. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.85-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.70-7.68 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 141.8, 140.4, 140.1, 138.7, 132.9, 126.9, 125.5, 125.1, 124.3, 122.5, 121.9, 118.8, 111.4. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{NS}$, 235.0450 (M^+); found, 235.0449. **Mp**: 182-184°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.²

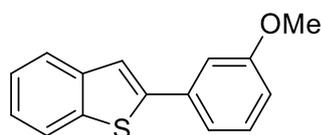


2-(*m*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3ap)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 3-iodotoluene **2p** (99 μl , 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 86% yield (145 mg, 0.65 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.47. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.85 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 144.8, 141.0, 139.8, 139.0, 134.5, 129.4, 129.2, 127.5, 124.8,

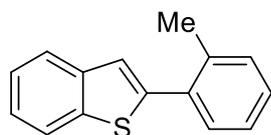
124.6, 124.0, 123.8, 122.6, 119.7, 21.8. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂S (M⁺), 224.0654; found, 224.0654. **Mp**: 114-116 °C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹



2-(3-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**3aq**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 3-iodoanisole **2q** (90 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EOAc = 98:2) as a white solid in 78% yield (140 mg, 0.58 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 98:2): 0.25. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 6.90 (dt, *J* = 7.2 and 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 160.1, 144.2, 140.7, 139.6, 135.8, 130.1, 124.7, 124.5, 123.7, 122.4, 119.8, 119.2, 113.9, 112.2, 55.5. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂OS, 241.0682 (MH⁺); found, 241.0680. **Mp**: 62-64°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁵



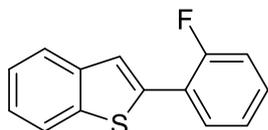
2-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**3ar**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2-iodotoluene **2r** (98 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as an inseparable mixture C2:C3 = 4:1 in overall yield of 71% yield (120 mg, 0.53 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.48. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.30 (m, 6H), 2.55 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 143.6, 140.3, 140.2, 136.5, 134.3, 130.9, 130.8, 128.4, 126.0, 124.5, 124.2, 123.6, 123.1,

122.1, 21.2. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₂S, 225.0729 (MH⁺); found, 225.0732. Data is in accordance with the literature.²

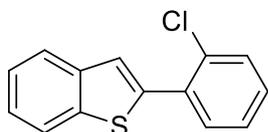
2-(2-fluorophenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3as)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-fluoro-2-iodobenzene **2s** (87 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 81% yield (139 mg, 0.61 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.34. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.89-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.72 (dt, *J* = 7.7 and 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 159.4 (d, *J* = 251.3 Hz), 140.5, 139.6 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 137.4 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.6 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 129.6 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 124.8, 124.7 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 124.6, 124.0, 123.5 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 122.3 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 122.1, 116.5 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz). **¹⁹F-NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) -113.0. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₄H₉FS, 228.0404 (M⁺); found, 228.0403. **Mp**: 60-62°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁹

2-(2-chlorophenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3at)

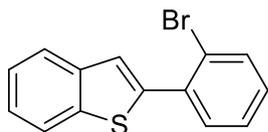


The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-chloro-2-iodobenzene **2t** (92 μL, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO₃ impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 70% yield (129 mg, 0.53 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.30. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.86 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H),

7.41-7.28 (m, 4H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 140.4, 140.3, 140.0, 133.4, 133.0, 132.0, 130.7, 129.4, 127.1, 124.7, 124.6, 124.6, 124.0, 122.2. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{ClS}$, 244.0113 (M^+); found, 244.0109. **Mp**: 56-58°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁹

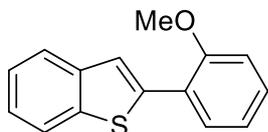
2-(2-bromophenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3au)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-bromo-2-iodobenzene **2u** (96 μL , 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO_3 impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 75% yield (162 mg, 0.56 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.30. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.86 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 142.1, 140.4, 139.9, 135.5, 133.8, 132.4, 129.7, 127.6, 124.7, 124.6, 124.6, 124.0, 123.2, 122.2. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{BrS}$, 287.9608 (M^+); found, 287.9600. **Mp**: 64-67°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.⁹

2-(2-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3av)

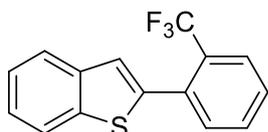


The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2-iodoanisole **2v** (98 μL , 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO_3 impregnated silica (hexane:Et₂O = 98:2) as a colorless oil in 80% yield (144 mg, 0.60 mmol).

R_f (hexane:Et₂O = 96:4): 0.4. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.72 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.06-7.02 (m, 2H), 3.98 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 156.5, 140.3, 140.1, 139.9, 129.7,

129.4, 124.3, 124.2, 123.6, 123.3, 122.6, 122.0, 121.1, 111.8, 55.8. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₃OS, 241.0687 (MH⁺); found, 241.0676. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹⁰

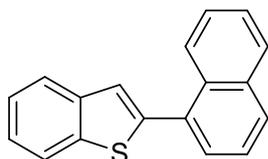
2-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3aw)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2-iodobenzotrifluoride **2w** (105 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO₃ impregnated silica (hexane) as a colorless oil in 48% yield (75 mg, 0.36 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.35. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) δ 140.5, 139.9, 139.8, 133.6 (q, *J* = 2.0 Hz), 133.3, 131.5, 129.4 (q, *J* = 30.1 Hz), 128.6, 126.6 (q, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 124.8 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 124.7, 124.7, 124.0 (q, *J* = 274.0 Hz), 124.0, 122.1. **¹⁹F-NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) -57. 6. **IR**: ν = 3059, 2361, 1603, 1576, 1487, 1446, 1432, 1312, 1267, 1170, 1126, 1110, 1061, 1035, 766, 745 cm⁻¹. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₅H₁₀F₃S, 279.0455 (MH⁺); found, 279.0462.

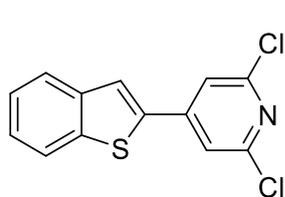
2-(naphthalen-1-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3ax)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 1-iodonaphthalene **2x** (114 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography on 10% AgNO₃ impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 77% yield (150 mg, 0.58 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.34. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.87 (m, 4H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (101

MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 142.2, 140.4, 140.3, 133.9, 132.5, 131.9, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.7, 126.3, 125.9, 125.3, 124.6, 124.4, 124.2, 123.7, 122.2. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₈H₁₂S, 260.0654 (M⁺); found, 260.0654. **Mp**: 100-102°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.²

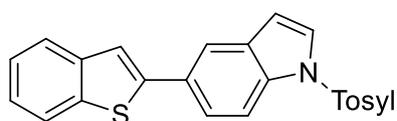


4-(benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-2,6-dichloropyridine (**3ay**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2,6-dichloro-4-iodopyridine **2y** (212 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 9:1) as a white solid in 28% yield (58 mg, 0.21 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 9:1): 0.32. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.87-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 2H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 151.4, 146.9, 140.3, 139.8, 138.0, 126.5, 125.4, 124.8, 124.1, 122.7, 119.5. **IR**: ν = 3097, 3061, 3038, 1576, 1533, 1516, 1408, 1372, 1337, 1165, 1109, 1020, 981, 815, 738, 721 cm⁻¹. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₃H₇NCl₂S, 279.9749 (MH⁺); found, 279.9747. **Mp**: 154-156°C.

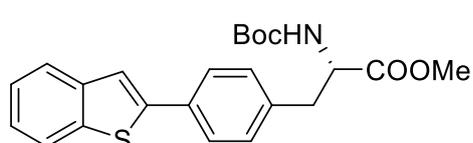
5-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-1-tosyl-1H-indole (**3az**)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 5-iodo-1-tosyl-1H-indole **2z** (297 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv), previously synthesized in 95% yield according to the procedure reported in *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2009**, 57, 591. The product was isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 67% yield (203 mg, 0.50 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.12. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.70 (m, 5H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.34-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.19

(m, 2H), 6.67 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 145.3, 144.4, 140.9, 139.5, 135.2, 134.7, 131.4, 130.1, 129.9, 127.4, 126.9, 124.7, 124.3, 123.6, 123.5, 122.3, 119.5, 119.4, 114.1, 109.3, 21.7. **IR**: $\nu = 3126, 3054, 2925, 1594, 1460, 1360, 1274, 1189, 1168, 1154, 1122, 994, 884, 810, 763, 726, 705\text{ cm}^{-1}$. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$ 403.0695 (M^+); found, 403.0695. **Mp**: 204-206°C.



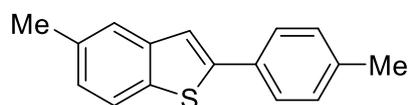
Methyl (S)-3-(4-(benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)propanoate (3aa')

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a** (205 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and methyl (*S*)-2-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-3-(4-iodophenyl)propanoate (**S**)-**2a'** (304 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv), previously synthesized enantiomerically pure in 90% yield according to the procedure reported in *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 4171. Product (**S**)-**3aa'** was isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 80:20) as a white solid in 83% yield (255 mg, 0.62 mmol).

Rf (hexane:EtOAc = 80:20): 0.26. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.77 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 0.9 H, conformer 1), 4.82 (br, 0.1 H, conformer 2), 4.59 (m, 0.9 H, conformer 1), 4.38 (br, 0.1 H, conformer 2), 3.7 (s, 3H), 3.18-2.84 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 172.3, 155.2, 143.9, 140.7, 139.5, 136.4, 133.1, 130.0, 126.6, 124.6, 124.4, 123.6, 122.3, 119.4, 80.1, 54.4, 52.4, 38.1, 28.4. **IR**: $\nu = 3369, 1734, 1695, 1509, 1435, 1365, 1338, 1290, 1246, 1166, 1013, 818, 746\text{ cm}^{-1}$. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$, 412.1577 (MH^+); found, 412.1579. **Mp**: 130-132°C. $[\alpha]_D^{25}$: +38 ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3).

The enantiomeric excess of compound (**S**)-**3aa'** was determined by **HPLC** with a Chiralcel OD-H column, hexane-isopropanol 92:8, $0.8\text{ mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$, 310-280-254-210 nm: $t_R = 14.88\text{ min}$

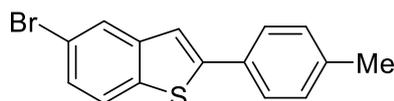
[enantiomerically pure]. As reference, compound (**R**)-**3aa**' presented $[\alpha]_D^{25} : -35$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3) and $t_R = 13.68$ min.



5-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3ba)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 5-methylbenzo[b]thiophene **1b** (222 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 86% yield (153 mg, 0.64 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.26. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 144.6, 141.3, 138.3, 136.7, 134.3, 131.8, 129.7, 126.5, 126.0, 123.5, 122.0, 118.7, 21.6, 21.4. **IR**: $\nu = 3014, 2911, 2855, 2722, 1422, 1407, 1121, 1015, 889, 809, 796, 727$ cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{S}$, 238.0811 (M^+); found, 238.0810. **Mp**: 160-162°C.

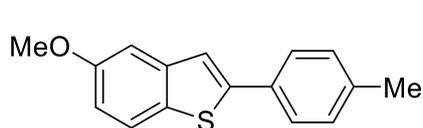


5-bromo-2-(p-tolyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3ca)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 5-bromobenzo[b]thiophene **1c** (320 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 66% yield (150 mg, 0.49 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.35. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.5$ and 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 146.5, 142.5, 138.9, 138.0, 131.1, 129.9, 127.2, 126.6, 126.1, 123.7, 118.6, 118.1, 21.4. **IR**: $\nu = 2912, 2853, 1735, 1574,$

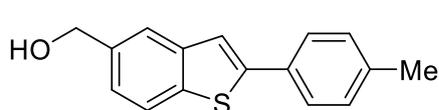
1511, 1432, 1414, 1168, 1120, 1069, 883, 808, 799, 720 cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrS}$, 302.9838 (MH^+); found, 302.9836. **Mp**: 202-204°C.



5-methoxy-2-(p-tolyl)benzo[b]thiophene (3da)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 5-methoxybenzo[b]thiophene **1d** (246 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane: CH_2Cl_2 = 92:8) as a white solid in 90% yield (171 mg, 0.67 mmol).

R_f (hexane: CH_2Cl_2 = 92:8): 0.23. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.66 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.22 (m, 3H), 6.95 (m, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 157.7, 145.8, 141.9, 138.4, 131.8, 131.7, 129.7, 126.4, 123.0, 118.8, 114.4, 105.7, 55.6, 21.4. **IR**: ν = 3014, 2968, 2913, 2855, 1593, 1452, 1421, 1331, 1214, 1157, 1120, 1025, 1017, 948, 856, 825, 803, 766, 721, 703 cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{OS}$, 255.0838 (MH^+); found, 255.0828. **Mp**: 142-144°C.



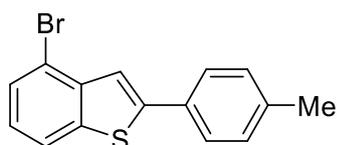
(2-(p-tolyl)benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl)methanol (3ea)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using benzo[b]thiophen-5-ylmethanol **1e** (246 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:EtOAc = 7:3) as a white solid in 75% yield (144 mg, 0.57 mmol).

R_f (hexane:EtOAc = 7:3): 0.26. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ (ppm) 7.88 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.29 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, DMSO-d_6): δ (ppm) 143.5,

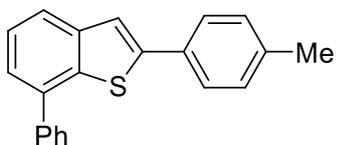
140.6, 139.4, 138.1, 136.8, 130.9, 129.8, 125.9, 123.6, 122.0, 121.2, 119.4, 62.9, 20.8. **IR**: $\nu = 3308, 2912, 2854, 1501, 1441, 1360, 1306, 1259, 1121, 1068, 1024, 947, 892, 808, 772, 729, 687$ cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{OS}$, 255.0838 (MH^+); found, 255.0838. **Mp**: 182-184°C.

4-bromo-2-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3fa)



The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 4-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **1f** (320 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 86% yield (196 mg, 0.65 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.33. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.74 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 145.5, 140.6, 140.0, 138.9, 131.1, 129.8, 127.8, 126.5, 125.0, 121.4, 119.1, 117.2, 21.4. **IR**: $\nu = 3044, 3018, 2909, 2852, 1498, 1446, 1408, 1325, 1178, 1083, 945, 880, 802, 755$ cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrS}$, 302.9838 (MH^+); found, 302.9845. **Mp**: 80-82°C.

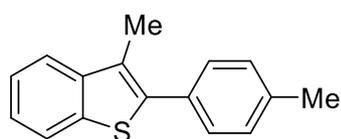


7-phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (3ga)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 7-phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene **1g** (315 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as an inseparable mixture C2:C3 = 6:1 in overall yield of 78% (176 mg, 0.59 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.19. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.89 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 144.7, 141.6,

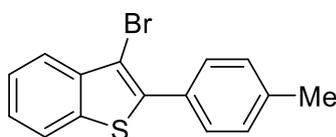
140.7, 138.4, 138.3, 136.6, 131.5, 129.7, 128.9, 128.3, 128.0, 126.4, 125.3, 124.3, 122.6, 119.3, 21.3. **IR**: $\nu = 3054, 3024, 2917, 1573, 1505, 1493, 1461, 1445, 1388, 1181, 1029, 953, 838, 811, 785, 754, 726, 698 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{S}$, 301.1038 (MH^+); found, 301.1045.



3-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (5ba)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 3-methylbenzo[*b*]thiophene **4a** (210 μL , 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 92% yield (164 mg, 0.69 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.26. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.41 (dt, $J = 7.0$ and 1.0 Hz , 1H), 7.34 (dt, $J = 7.0$ and 1.0 Hz , 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.0$, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 141.4, 139.0, 138.3, 137.8, 132.0, 129.7, 129.4, 127.2, 124.3, 124.2, 122.2, 122.2, 21.4, 12.8. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{S}$, 238.0811 (M^+); found, 238.0810. **Mp**: 78-80°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹¹

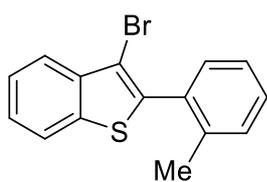


3-bromo-2-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (5ca)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 3-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **4c** (207 μl , 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 92% yield (208 mg, 0.69 mmol).

R_f (hexane:): 0.34. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.92 (d, $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.1 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.51 (dt, $J = 8.1$ and 1.1 Hz , 1H), 7.43 (dt, $J = 8.1$ and 1.2

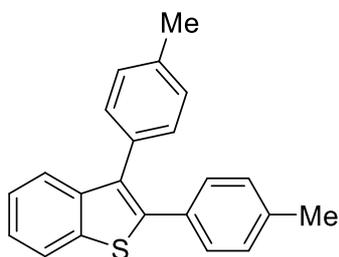
Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 139.3, 139.0, 138.5, 137.7, 130.2, 129.6, 129.4, 125.4, 125.3, 123.6, 122.2, 104.7, 21.5. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrS}$, 301.9759 (M^+); found, 301.9758. **Mp**: 62-64°C. Data is in accordance with the literature.¹²



3-bromo-2-(*o*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (5cr)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 3-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **4c** (207 μL , 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 2-iodotoluene **2r** (98 μL , 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography on 10% AgNO_3 impregnated silica (hexane) as a colorless oil in 87% yield (197 mg, 0.65 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.28. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.90 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.29 (m, 4H), 2.34 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 138.5, 138.4, 138.3, 138.0, 132.5, 131.0, 130.4, 129.4, 125.8, 125.5, 125.3, 123.5, 122.4, 107.8, 20.3. **IR**: $\nu = 3059, 2920, 1480, 1456, 1432, 1250, 1069, 1018, 974, 891, 810, 742$ cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrS}$, 301.9759 (M^+); found, 301.9759.

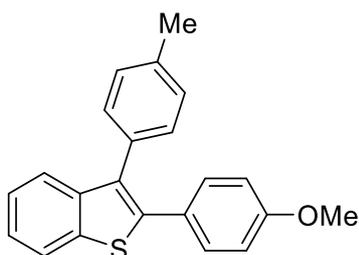


2,3-di-*p*-tolylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (5aa)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 3-*p*-tolylbenzo[*b*]thiophene **4a** (336 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a white solid in 93% yield (219 mg, 0.70 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.19. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.75-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.07 (m, 6H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H). ^{13}C -

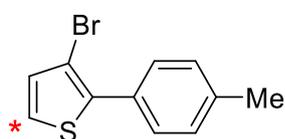
NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 141.3, 139.5, 138.8, 137.6, 137.1, 132.9, 132.8, 131.6, 130.4, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 124.4, 124.4, 123.4, 122.1, 21.5, 21.3. **IR**: ν = 3028, 2919, 2858, 1514, 1433, 1231, 1182, 1070, 1022, 892, 845, 822, 761, 733 cm⁻¹. **HRMS**: calcd for C₂₂H₁₈S, 315.1202 (MH⁺); found, 315.1200. **Mp**: 130-132°C.



2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**5ab**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure A using 3-(*p*-tolyl)benzo[*b*]thiophene **4a** (336 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodoanisole **2b** (180 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane:Et₂O = 98:2) as a white solid in 78% yield (193 mg, 0.58 mmol).

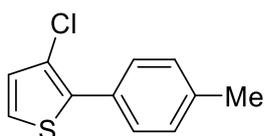
R_f (hexane:Et₂O = 98:2): 0.28. **¹H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.87-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.19 (m, 8H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 159.3, 141.3, 139.3, 138.7, 137.0, 132.8, 132.4, 130.9, 130.4, 129.5, 126.9, 124.4, 124.3, 123.3, 122.1, 113.9, 55.3, 21.5. **HRMS**: calcd for C₂₂H₁₈OS, 331.1151 (MH⁺); found, 311.1148. **Mp**: 104-106°C. Data in accordance with the literature.¹³



3-bromo-2-(*p*-tolyl)thiophene (**7aa**)

The product was obtained via the general procedure B using 3-bromothiophene **7a** (141 μ L, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated by column chromatography (hexane) as a colorless oil in 62% yield in a mixture with the corresponding bis-arylated product (¹H NMR ratio mono:bis = 71:29).

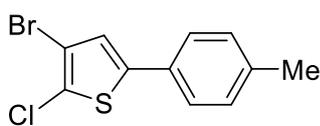
R_f (hexane): 0.35. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 138.5, 138.4, 131.7, 130.1, 129.4, 129.1, 124.8, 107.4, 21.5. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₁H₉BrS, 251.9608 (M⁺); found, 251.9602. Data in accordance with the literature.¹⁴



3-chloro-2-(*p*-tolyl)thiophene (7ba)

The product was obtained via the general procedure B using 3-chlorothiophene **7b** (139 μL, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO₃ impregnated silica (hexane) as a colorless oil in 60% yield (94mg, 0.45mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.41. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) δ 138.2, 136.4, 129.4, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 123.6, 121.1, 21.4. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₁H₉ClS, 208.0113 (M⁺); found, 208.0110. Data in accordance with the literature.¹⁴

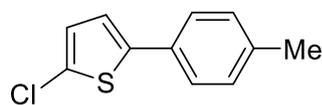


3-bromo-2-chloro-5-(*p*-tolyl)thiophene (7ca)

The product was obtained via the general procedure B using 3-bromo-2-chlorothiophene **7e** (164 μL, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (165 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO₃ impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 50% yield (108 mg, 0.38 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.49. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 142.5, 138.8, 130.1, 129.9, 125.5, 125.1, 124.5, 111.2, 21.4. **IR**: ν = 3019, 2913, 2851, 1500, 1439, 1377, 1325,

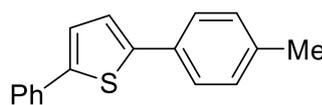
1309, 1119, 1103, 1015, 954, 821, 797 cm^{-1} . **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{BrClS}$, 285.9218 (M^+); found, 285.9222. **Mp**: 85-87°C.



2-chloro-5-(p-tolyl)thiophene (7da)

The product was obtained via the general procedure C using 2-chlorothiophene **7c** (69 μL , 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (330 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO_3 impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 50% yield (78 mg, 0.37 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.44. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.40 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, $J = 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 143.2, 137.9, 131.1, 129.8, 128.6, 127.1, 125.6, 121.8, 21.3. **HRMS**: calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClS}$, 209.0191 (MH^+); found, 209.0184. **Mp**: 86-88°C. Data in accordance with the literature.¹⁵



2-phenyl-5-(p-tolyl)thiophene (7ea)

The product was obtained via the general procedure C using 2-phenylthiophene **7d** (120 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-iodotoluene **2a** (330 mg, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and isolated on 10% AgNO_3 impregnated silica (hexane) as a white solid in 45% yield (85 mg, 0.34 mmol).

R_f (hexane): 0.5. **¹H-NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 7.65 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (app.t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). **¹³C-NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) δ 144.0, 143.2, 137.6, 134.5, 131.7, 129.7, 129.0,

127.5, 125.7, 125.7, 124.1, 123.6, 21.4. **HRMS**: calcd for C₁₇H₁₅S, 251.0894 (MH⁺); found, 251.0888. **Mp**: 138-140°C. Data in accordance with the literature.¹⁶

IV. Application to Other Heterocycles

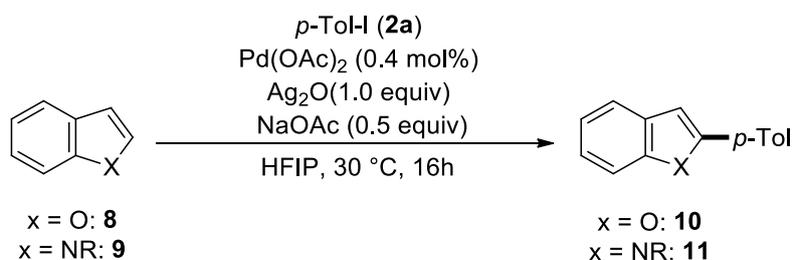


Table S.8: Heterocycles screening

| Entry ^[a,b] | Heterocycles | 10 / 11 ^c |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | | 25 |
| 2 | | - |
| 3 | | - |
| 4 | | traces |

[a] Yield determined by quantitative ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. [b] **8/9** (0.25 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL). [c] No relevant side products formed with complete recovery of the starting materials.

V. Mechanistic Studies

V-1. D/H Scrambling Experiments

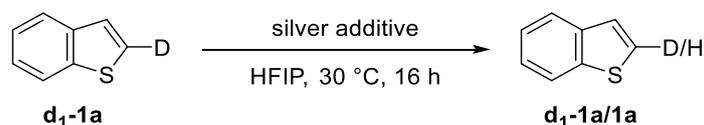


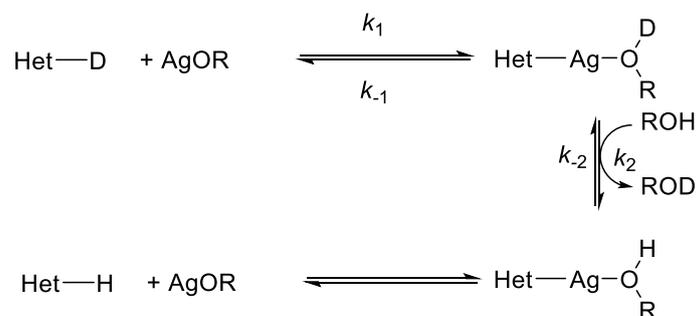
Table S.9: D/H scrambling with different Ag additives

| Entry ^[a,b] | Additive | ratio d ₁ -1a : 1a |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 ^c | Ag ₂ CO ₃ | >99:1 |
| 2 ^d | AgOPiv | >99:1 |
| 3 ^d | AgOAc | >99:1 |
| 4 ^c | Ag ₂ O | 90:10 |
| 5 ^e | Ag ₂ O + NaOAc | 66:34 |

[a] Yield determined by quantitative ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. [b] **1a** (0.25 mmol), HFIP (0.25 mL). [c] Ag salt (0.188 mmol). [d] Ag salt (0.375 mmol). [e] Ag₂O (0.188 mmol), NaOAc (0.125 mmol).

Role of NaOAc in D/H Scrambling experiment

D/H exchange experiments do not necessarily measure the rate of C–H activation, if a slower step is involved in the D/H exchange itself. As outlined in the scheme below, after initial C–D activation of benzo[*b*]thiophene (Het), the deuterated ‘base’ (ROD) remains bound to Het–Ag (*R would be CH(CF₃)₂ in our case*). This can either go back to the original Het–D or can exchange with ROH in the medium, which would subsequently form the Het–H. If *step 2* is slow (ie $k_2 \ll k_{-1}$), we will observe a D/H exchange rate much slower than the actual C–H activation itself. We hypothesised that the effect of NaOAc in our D/H exchange experiments could be to accelerate the exchange of ROD with ROH (*step 2*), thus providing an overall faster D/H exchange rate in those experiments, without affecting the rate of Ag C–H activation.

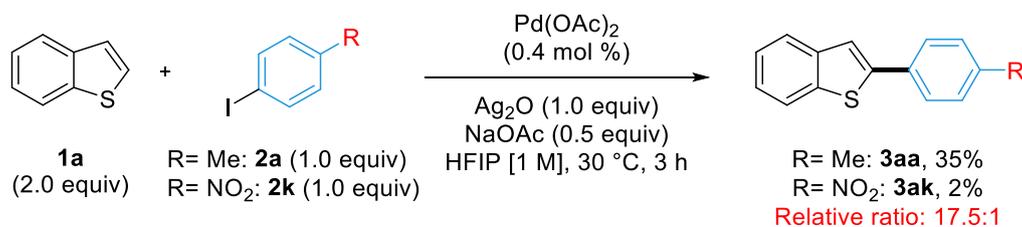


Scheme 1: D/H scrambling with Ag₂O

V-2. Competition Experiments

Competition Experiment Between 4-Iodotoluene 2a and 1-Iodo-4-nitrobenzene 2k

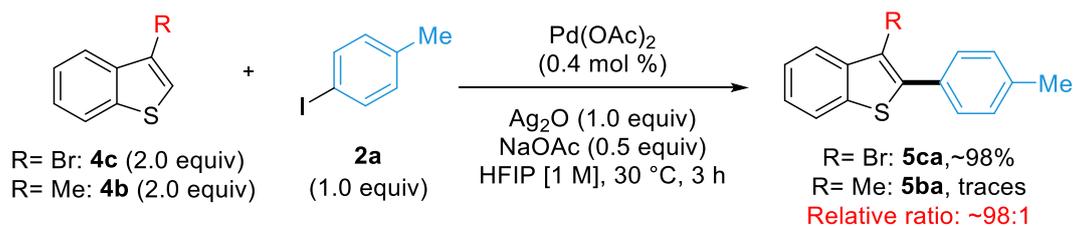
Pd(OAc)₂ (0.4 mol %), silver oxide (57.9 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaOAc (10.2 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.5 equiv), 4-iodotoluene **2a** (55 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1-iodo-4-nitrobenzene **2k** (63 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and benzo[*b*]thiophene (68 mg, 0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were stirred in hexafluoro-2-propanol (0.25 mL) at 30 °C for 3 h. After this time, the resultant mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc (5 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. Yields were calculated by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.



The higher reactivity of iodoarenes **2a** suggests that the oxidative addition is reversible and happening before the rate-limiting step.¹⁷

*Competition Experiment Between 3-Bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene 4c and 3-Methylbenzo[*b*]thiophene 4b*

Pd(OAc)₂ (0.4 mol %), silver oxide (57.9 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NaOAc (10.2 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.5 equiv), 4-iodotoluene **2a** (55 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 3-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **4c** (69 μL, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 3-methylbenzo[*b*]thiophene **4b** (70 μL, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were stirred in hexafluoro-2-propanol (0.25 mL) at 30 °C for 3 h. After this time, the resultant mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) and filtered through a plug of silica. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc (5 mL) and the filtrate was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. Yields were calculated by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

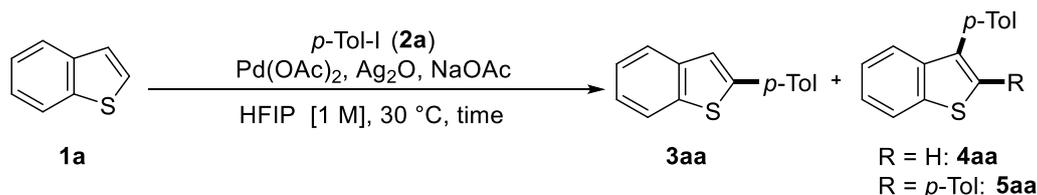


The higher reactivity of the most acidic **4c** suggests that the C–H activation is rate-limiting and proceeding via a concerted metalation-deprotonation step.¹⁸

V-3. Kinetic Experiments

V-3.1. Kinetic Experiments Employing Benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a**

General procedure



Silver oxide, 4-iodotoluene **2a**, benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a**, NaOAc, 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene were weighed in the glovebox into a microwave vial. The vial was sealed, transferred out of the glovebox and Pd(OAc)₂ was added as solution in hexafluoro-2-propanol. The vial was placed in an oil bath at 30 °C and aliquots of approximately 40 μL were taken. Each aliquot was diluted in EtOAc (400 μL), passed through a plug of silica into a GC-MS vial, and washed with additional EtOAc (400 μL). The reaction was monitored by GC analysis, using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

General consideration

The temporal reaction profiles were determined using two different methods:

Method 1) Assuming that **5aa** is coming only from a C-2 arylation of **4aa**, we compared the reaction profiles considering only the C-2 arylated product **3aa**.

Method 2) Assuming that **5aa** is coming only from a C-3 arylation of **3aa**, we compared the reaction profiles considering the sum of C-2 arylated product **3aa** and bis-arylated product **5aa**.

The situation that corresponds to the ‘real’ kinetic is intermediate between the ones described in method 1 and 2. Nonetheless, these two extremes led to the same conclusions (*vide infra*) and they can therefore fully represent the ‘real’ catalytic system.

V-3.1.1. Reproducibility of Kinetic Data

Standard condition

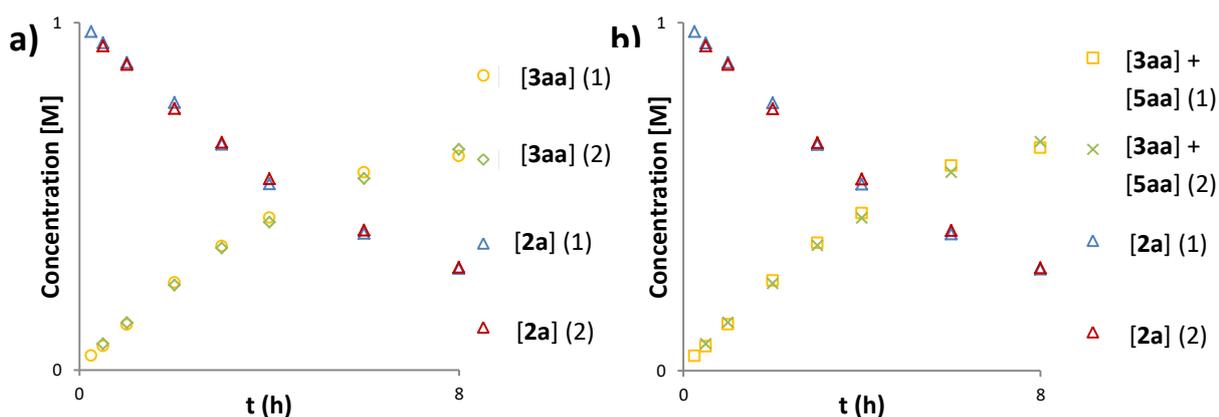
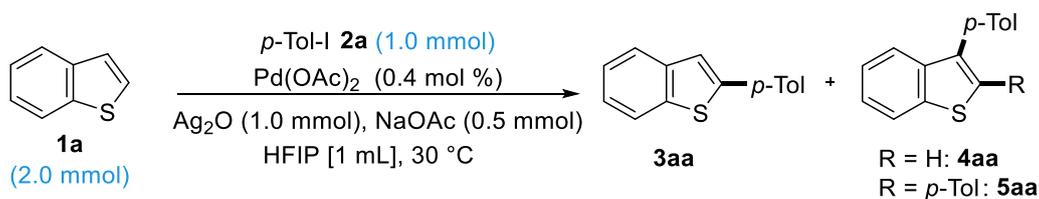


Figure S.1: Reproducibility of temporal reaction profiles carried out under the standard condition applying method 1 (a) and method 2 (b).

The overlap between the two reaction profiles assessed the reproducibility of the kinetics.

V-3.1.2. Same [“Excess”] Reaction

In Reaction Progress Kinetic Analysis (RPKA), the term [“excess”] indicates the difference between the initial concentration of the substrates of the reaction (in our case **1a**-**2a**).¹⁹ The same [“excess”] reaction has been obtained keeping the [“excess”] constant but varying the initial concentration of **1a** and **2a**.

Standard condition vs Same [“excess”]

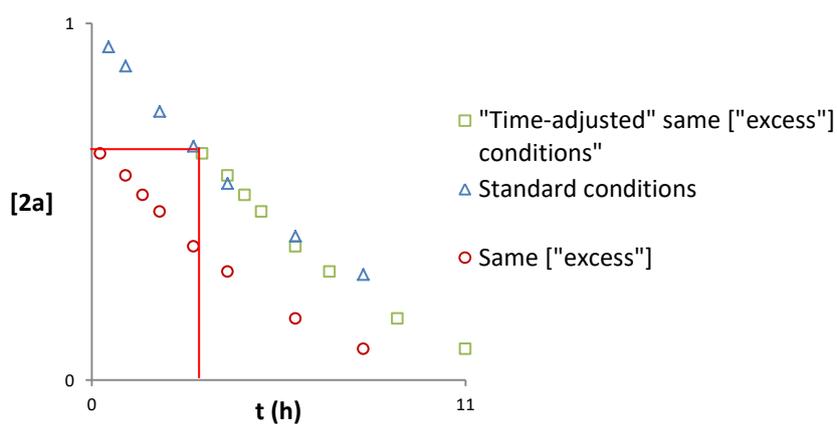
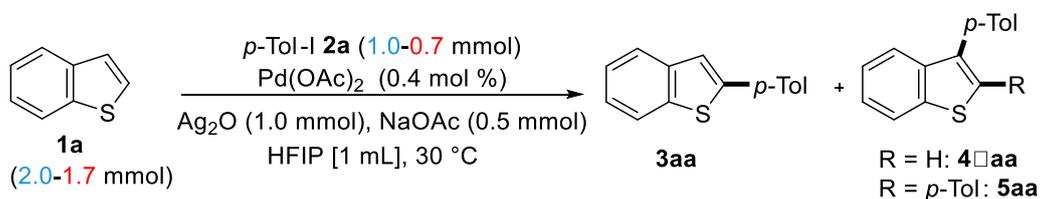


Figure S.2: Same [“excess”] reaction.

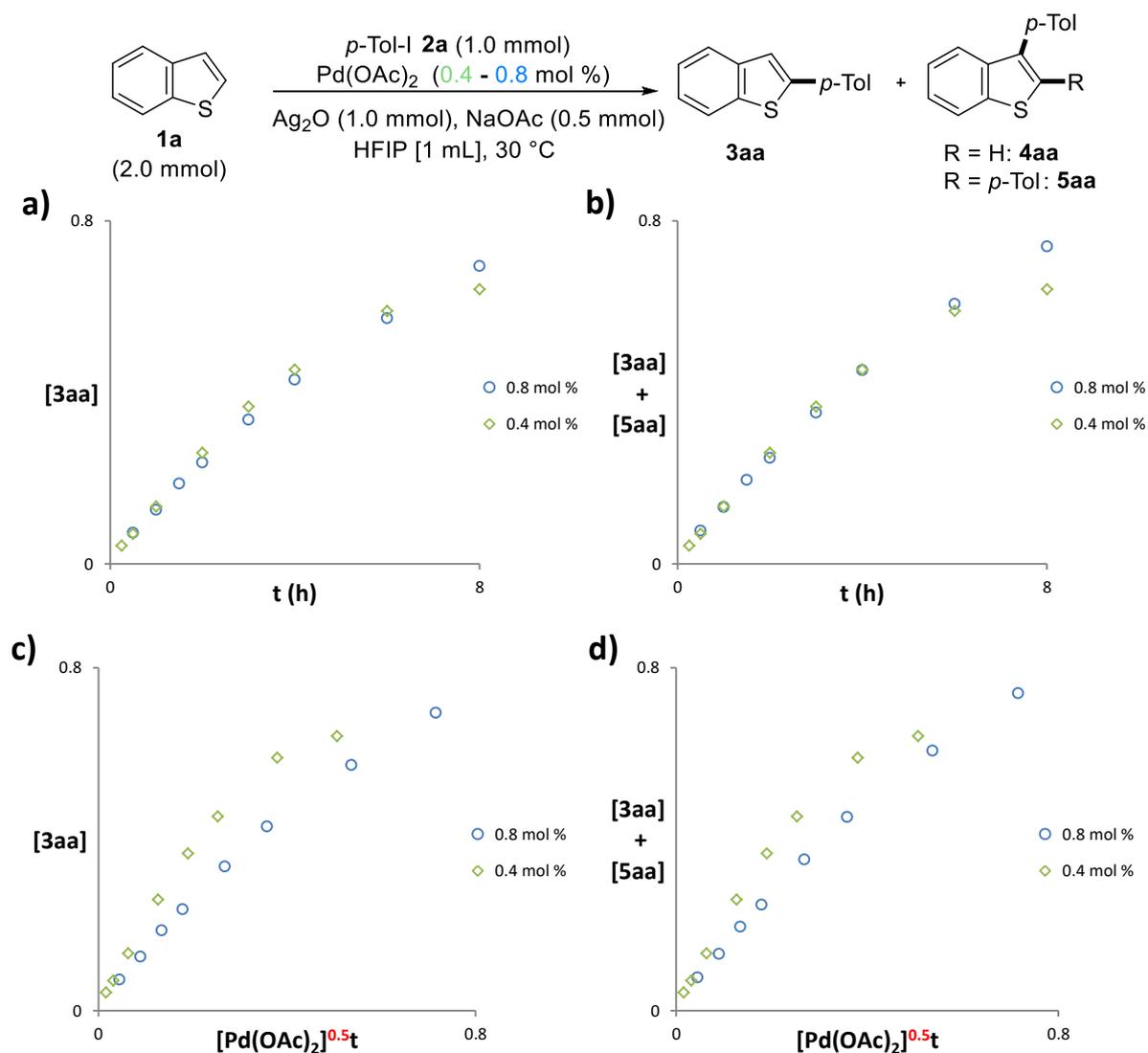
The overlap between the standard conditions and the “time-adjusted” same [“excess”] conditions indicates that neither significant catalyst decomposition or product inhibition occur during the reaction.¹⁹

V-3.1.3. Determination of the Order in Catalyst

General consideration

The order in catalyst has been determined using normalized time scale analysis.²⁰ Reactions were carried out with different concentrations of catalyst and their temporal profiles were normalized according to the catalyst loading raised to the power of the order in the catalyst. All the resulting curves were plotted together and the correct order in catalyst corresponds to the one that causes all the curves to overlay.

Determination of order in Pd(OAc)₂



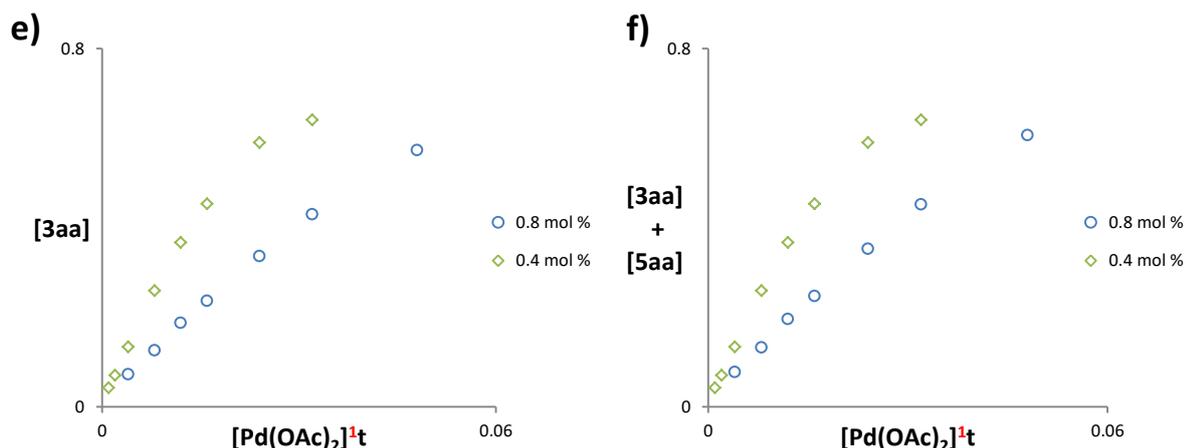


Figure S.3: Temporal reaction profiles of reactions carried out with 0.4-0.8 mol % of Pd(OAc)₂ applying method 1 (a) and 2 (b). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in Pd(OAc)₂ applying method 1 (c) and 2 (d). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in Pd(OAc)₂ applying method 1 (e) and 2 (f).

The overlap between the temporal reaction profiles with catalyst loadings of 0.4 and 0.8 mol % suggests that the order in Pd(OAc)₂ is 0 at these concentrations, which implies that an external process to the catalytic cycle is rate-limiting.²¹

V-3.1.4. Determination of the Orders of Reactants

General considerations

The order in reactants has been determined with a catalyst loading of 0.8 mol % using the variable time normalisation analysis.²² The method compares reactions carried out with different concentrations of one reactant and normalises the time between each pair of data points with the average of the concentration of the reactant at these points raised to the power of the order in the reactant itself.

$$\int_{t=0}^{t=n} [A]^{\alpha} dt = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{[A]_i + [A]_{i-1}}{2} \right)^{\alpha} (t_i - t_{i-1})$$

All the resulting curves were plotted together and the correct order in the reactant corresponds to the one that causes all the curves to overlay.

Determination of order in ArI 2a

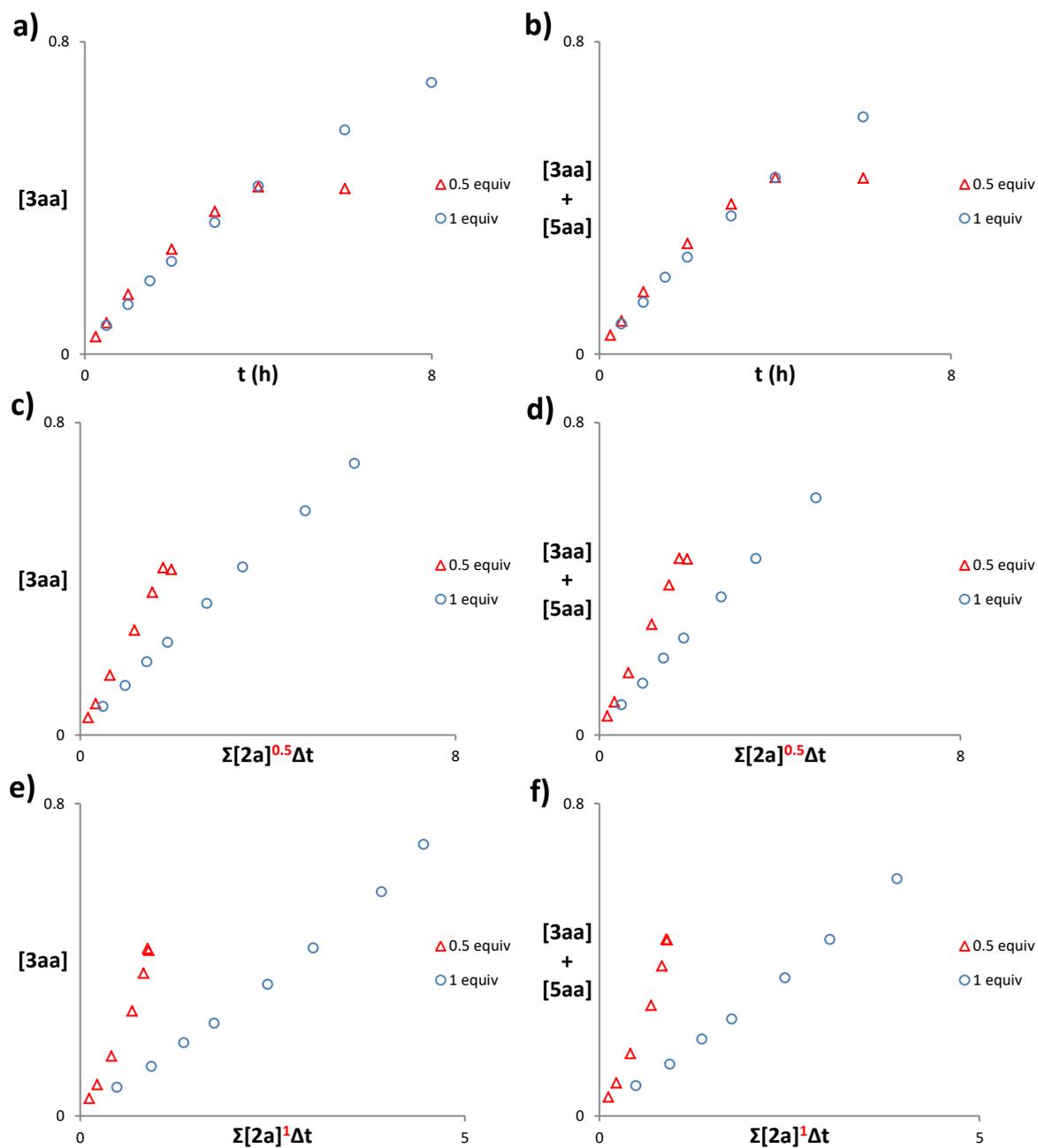
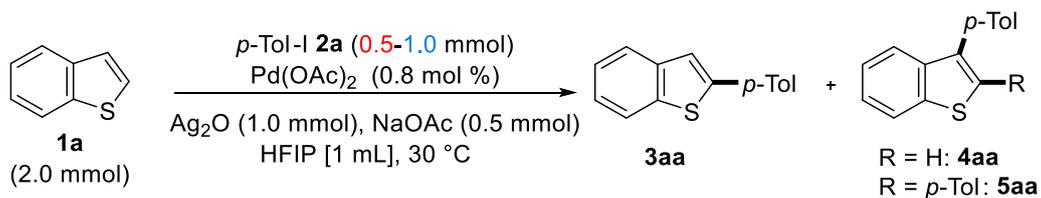
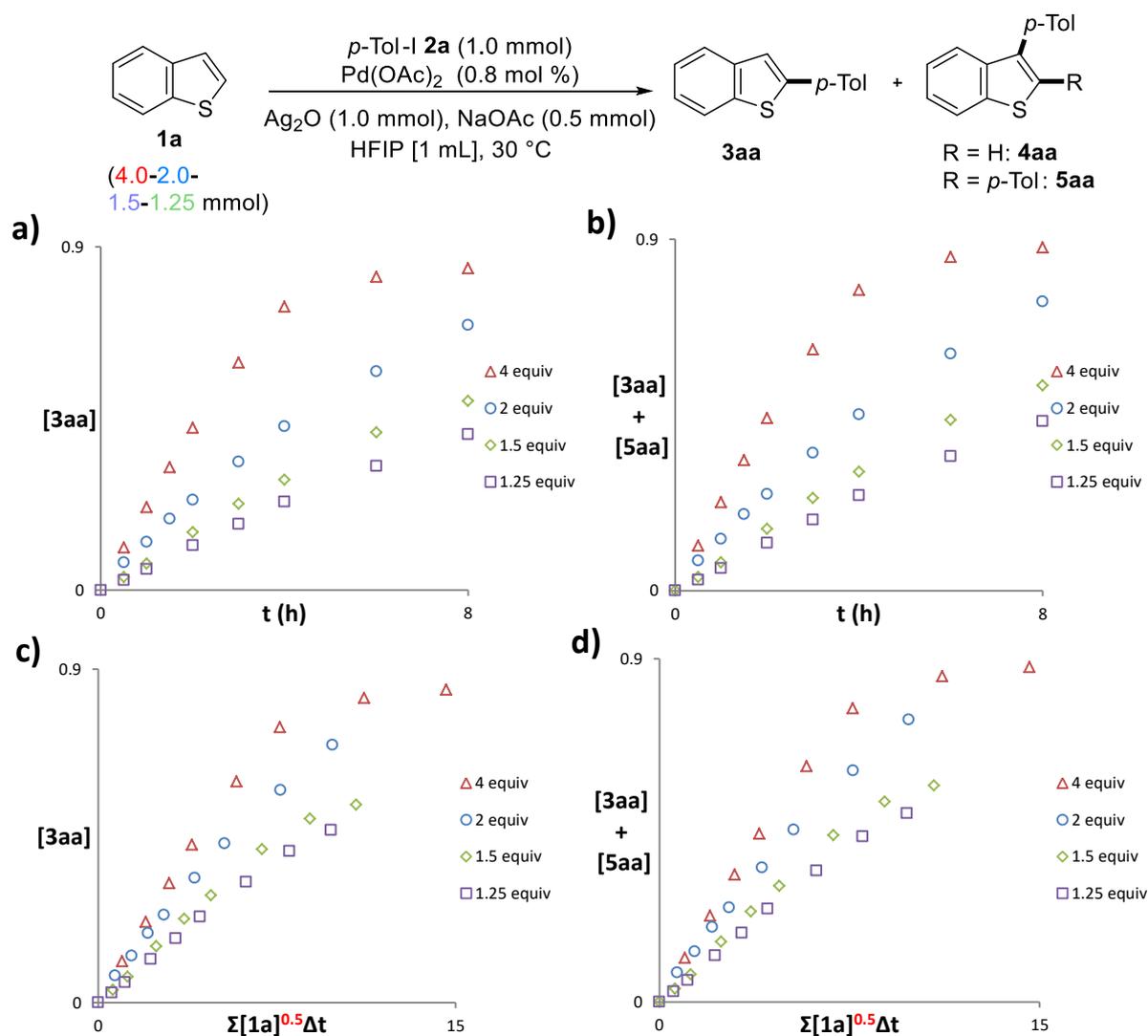


Figure S.4: Temporal reaction profiles for reactions carried out with 0.5-1.0 equiv of **2a** applying method 1 (a) and 2 (b). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in **2a** applying method 1 (c) and 2 (d). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in **2a** applying method 1 (e) and 2 (f).

The overlap between the temporal reaction profiles of reactions using 0.5 and 1 equiv of **2a** indicates an order 0 in this reagent, which therefore doesn't appear in the rate equation. In agreement with the 0 order in Pd and the competition experiment between electronically different iodoarenes, this ruled out the oxidative addition as rate-limiting step. The points at 6 h don't overlay due to the fact that the reaction with 0.5 equiv reached full conversion ~4 h.

Determination of order in Benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a**



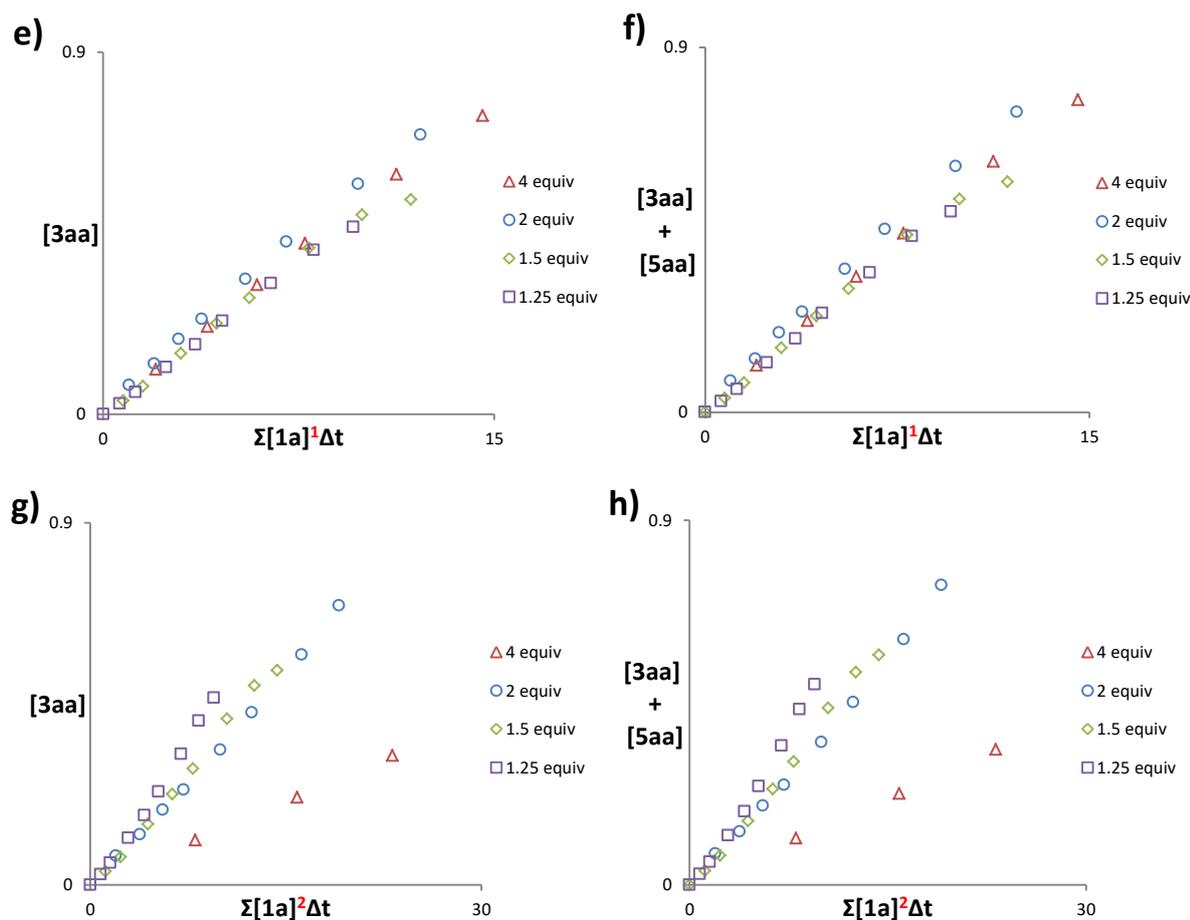


Figure S.5: Temporal reaction profiles for reactions carried out with 4.0-2.0-1.5-1.25 equiv of **1a** applying method 1 (**a**) and 2 (**b**). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in **1a** applying method 1 (**c**) and 2 (**d**). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in **1a** applying method 1 (**e**) and 2 (**f**). Normalized time scale profiles for order 2 in **1a** applying method 1 (**g**) and 2 (**h**).

Applying the variable time normalization analysis, significant overlap between the curves was obtained for an order of **1a** equal to 1, which suggests that this reagent is involved in the rate-limiting step. Considering the high solubility of Pd(OAc)₂ in HFIP and the 0 order seen on this catalyst, this experiment points towards a Ag mediated C–H activation of benzo[*b*]thiophene **1a**.

Kinetic profiles with different loading of Ag₂O

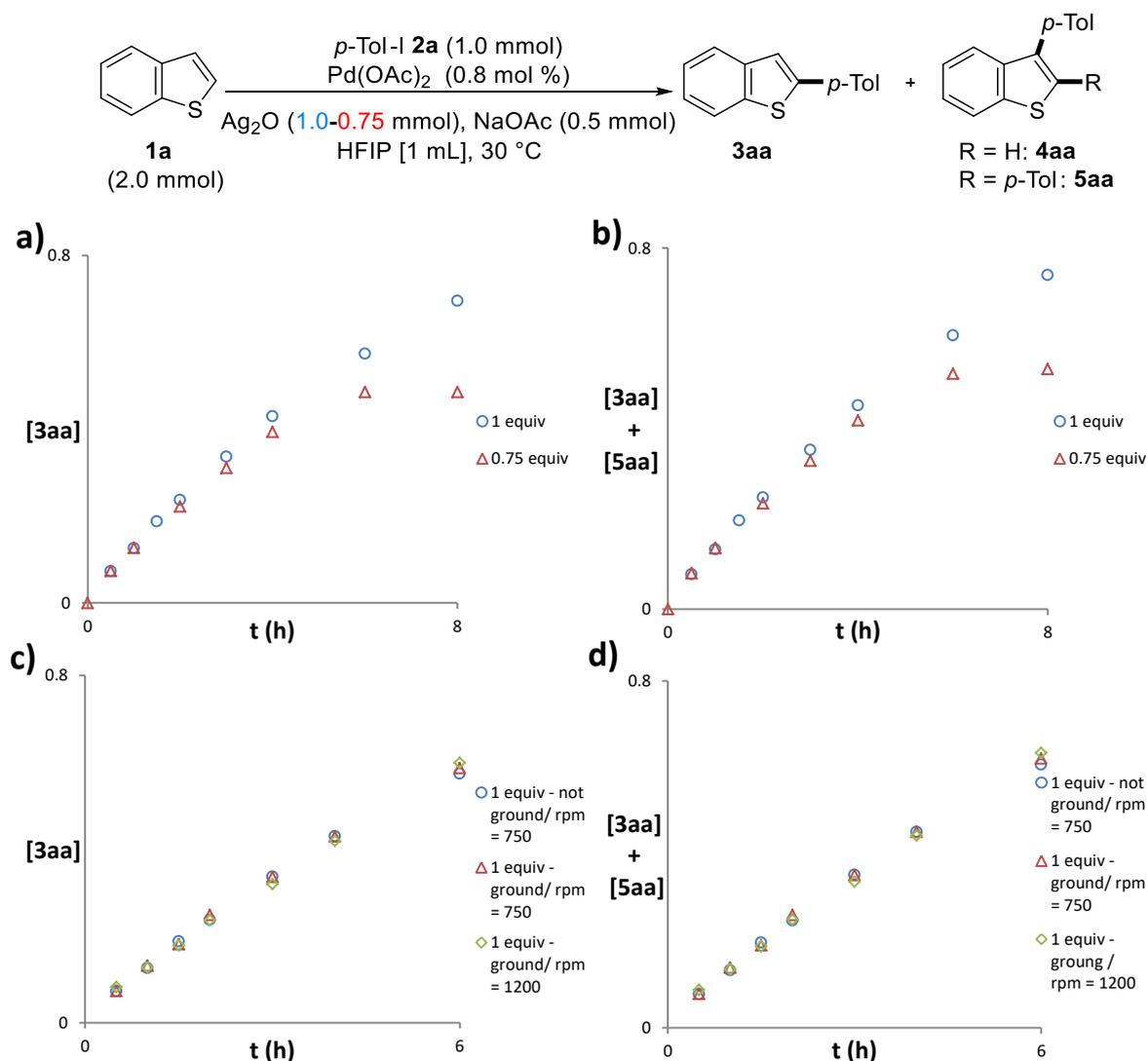


Figure S.6: Temporal reaction profiles for reactions carried out with 1.0-0.75 equiv of Ag₂O applying method 1 (a) and 2 (b). Effect of grinding Ag₂O into fine nanoparticles and stirring rate have been investigated (c-d).

The poor solubility of Ag₂O in HFIP prevents determination of the order in this reagent with any accuracy at these concentrations. Indeed, reactions carrying out with 0.75 and 1.0 equiv of Ag₂O overlay. Nonetheless, higher loadings in Ag₂O led to higher formation of product **3aa** over time. Additionally, reactions run with different stirring rates and with different particle sizes of Ag₂O gave identical temporal concentration profiles, suggesting that there is no kinetic dependency on this reagent within this range. On the other hand, lowering the

amount to Ag_2O to 0.5 equiv, produced a mixture of C2 and C3 product (**3aa** and **4aa** respectively).

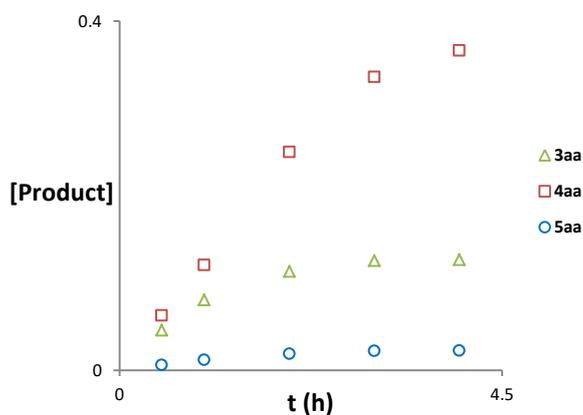
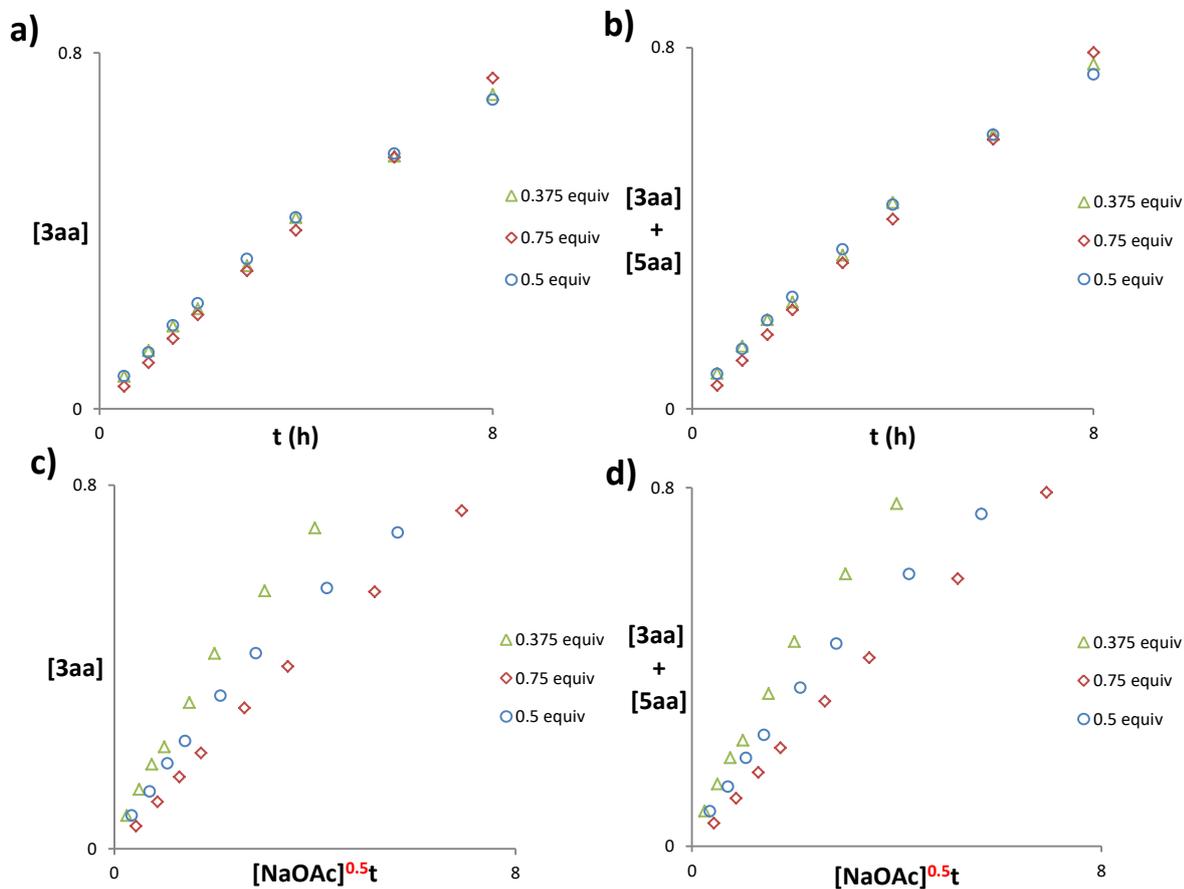
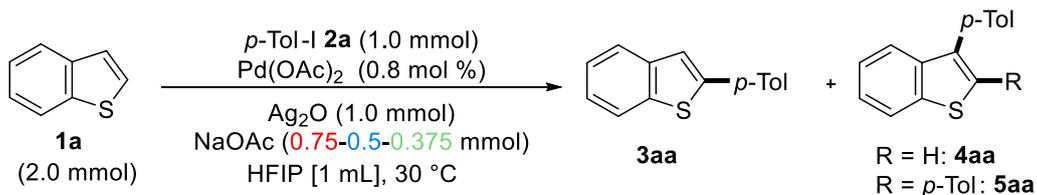


Figure S.7: Temporal reaction profile of reaction carried out with 0.5 equiv of Ag_2O

Determination order in NaOAc



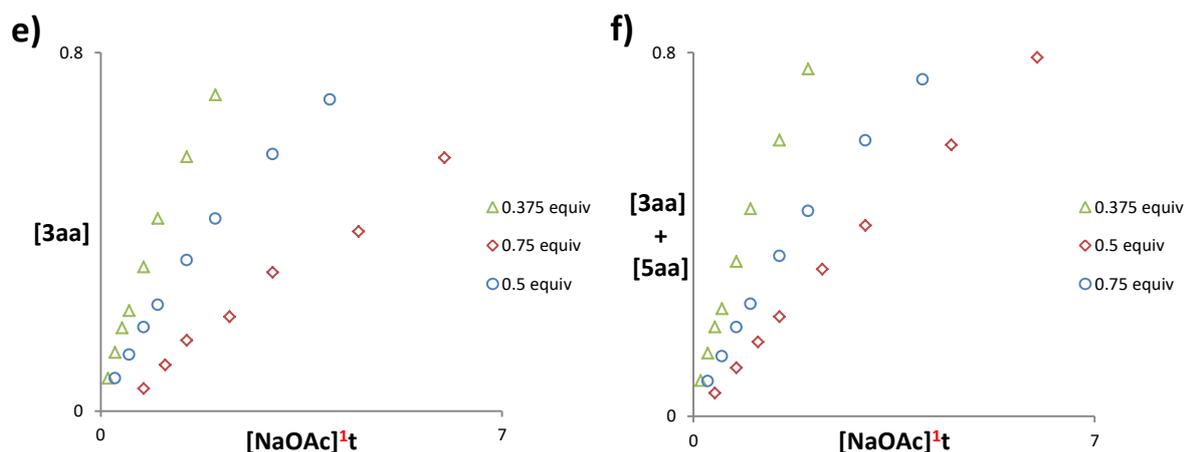
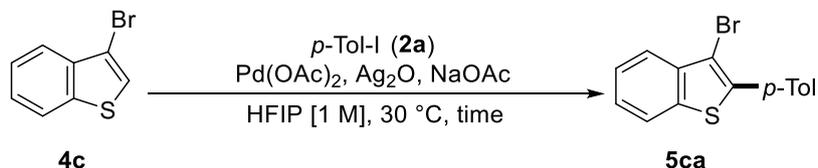


Figure S.8: Temporal reaction profiles for reaction carried out with different loadings of NaOAc applying method 1 (a) and 2 (b). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in NaOAc applying method 1 (c) and 2 (d). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in NaOAc applying method 1 (e) and 2 (f).

The overlap between the temporal reaction profiles of reactions using 0.375, 0.5 and 0.75 equiv of NaOAc indicates an order 0 in this reagent.

V-3.2. Kinetic Experiments Employing 3-Bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **4c**

General procedure



Silver oxide, 4-iodotoluene **2a**, NaOAc, 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene were weighed in the glovebox into a microwave vial. The vial was sealed, transferred out of the glovebox and 3-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophene **5c** and Pd(OAc)₂ (as solution in hexafluoro-2-propanol) were added. The vial was placed in an oil bath at 30 °C and aliquots of approximately 40 μL were taken. Each aliquot was diluted in EtOAc (400 μL), passed through a plug of silica into a GC-MS vial, and washed with additional EtOAc (400 μL). The reaction was monitored by GC analysis, using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

V-3.2.1. Determination of the Order in Catalyst

Determination of order in Pd(OAc)₂

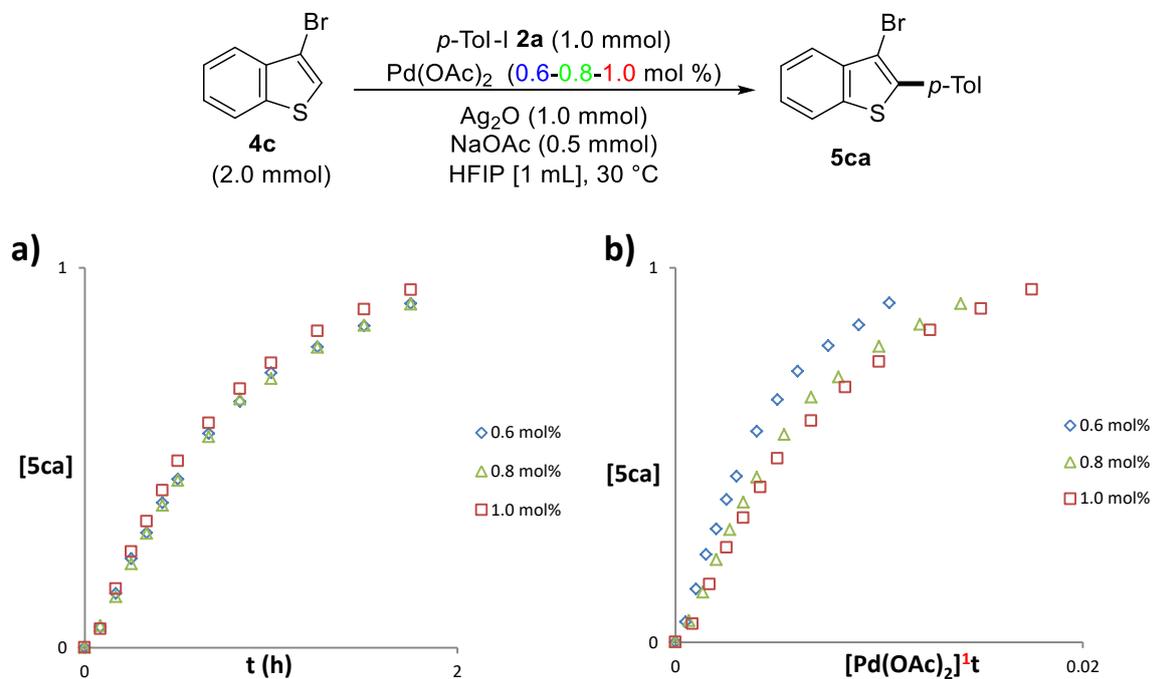


Figure S.9: Temporal reaction profiles for reaction carried out with different loadings of Pd(OAc)₂ (a). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in Pd(OAc)₂ (b).

The overlap between the temporal reaction profiles with catalyst loadings of 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 mol % suggests that the order in Pd(OAc)₂ is 0 at these concentrations, which implies that an external process to the catalytic cycle is rate-limiting.²¹

V-3.2.2. Determination of the Order in Reactants

Determination of order in 3-bromo[*b*]benzothiophene **4c**

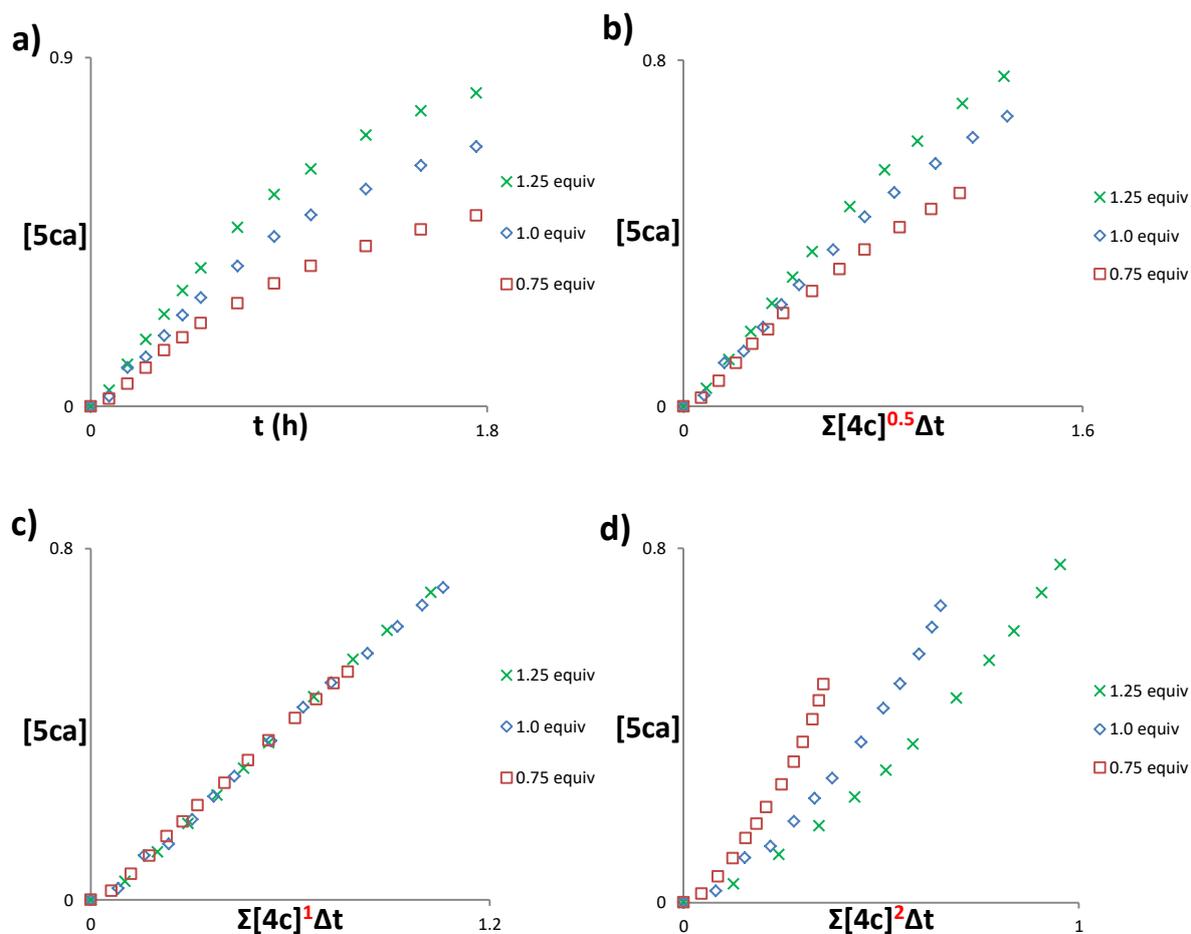
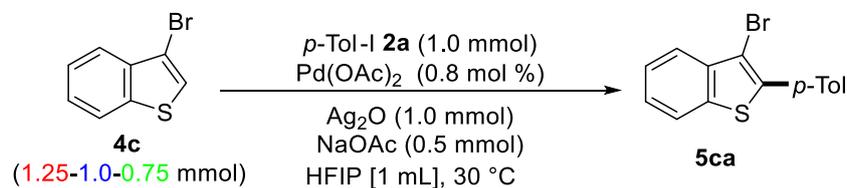


Figure S.10: Temporal reaction profiles for reaction carried out with different loadings of Ag_2O (a). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in **4c** (b). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in **4c** (c). Normalized time scale profiles for order 2 in **4c** (d).

Applying the variable time normalization analysis, significant overlap between the curves was obtained for an order of **4c** equal to 1, which suggests that this reagent is involved in the rate-limiting step. Considering the high solubility of Pd(OAc)_2 in HFIP and the 0 order seen

on this catalyst, this experiment points towards a Ag mediated C–H activation of 3-bromothianaphthene **4c**.

Determination of order in Ag₂O

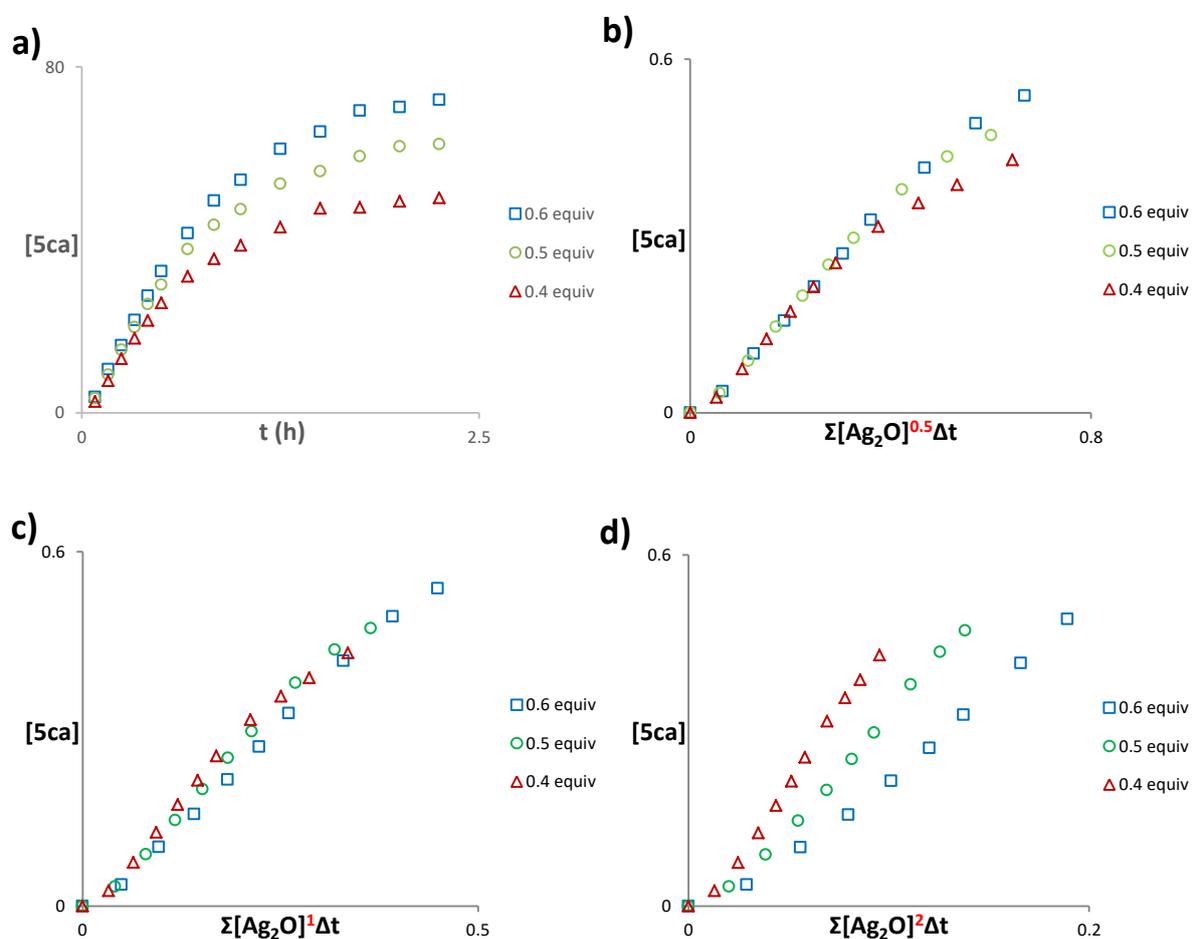
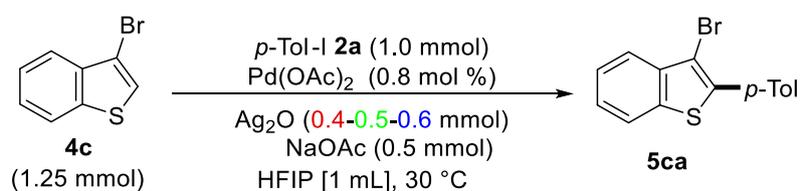


Figure S.11: Temporal reaction profiles for reaction carried out with different loadings of Ag₂O (a). Normalized time scale profiles for order 0.5 in Ag₂O (b). Normalized time scale profiles for order 1 in Ag₂O (c). Normalized time scale profiles for order 2 in Ag₂O (d).

Applying the variable time normalization analysis, significant overlap between the curves was obtained for an order of Ag₂O equal to 0.5, which suggests that this reagent is present as an inactive dimeric resting state of the type [Ag₂X_n] in equilibrium with the active

monomeric species AgX. Moreover, we speculate that a plausible monomeric $\text{AgOCH}(\text{CF}_3)_2$ species, formed in situ by acid-base reaction with HFIP could be responsible for the observed reactivity and is present in a low concentration.

V-4. Determination of ^2H KIE

KIE at the α -position of benzo[*b*]thiophene was calculated as ratio of the rate constants ($k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$) determined by kinetic analysis.²³ k_{H} and k_{D} have been obtained with the linearisation method reported by Burés.²²

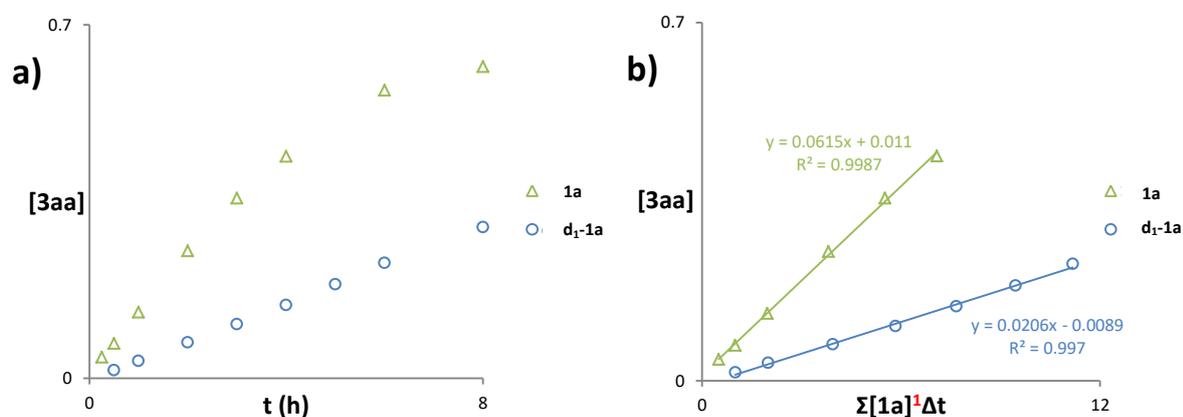
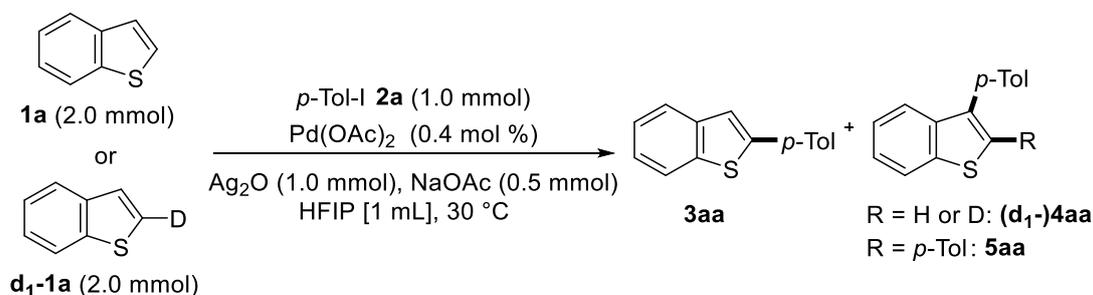


Figure S.12: Temporal reaction profiles for reaction carried out with **1a** and **d₁-1a** (a). Normalized time scales enable the determination of k_{H} and k_{D} (b).

$$k_{\text{H}} = 0.062$$

$$k_{\text{D}} = 0.021$$

$$\text{KIE} = k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}} = 0.0615/0.0206 = 3.0$$

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VII. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectra

