

Site-selective C–H Activation and Regiospecific Annulation Using Propargylic Carbonates

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Supporting Information

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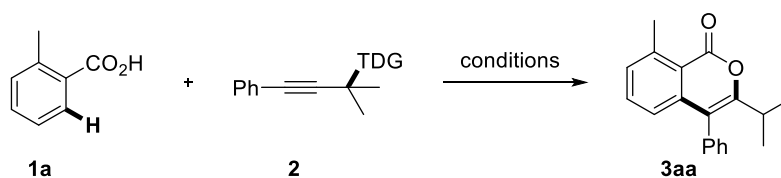
General information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon in oven-dried glassware cooled down under vacuum. Reaction temperatures are reported as the temperature of the heat transfer medium surrounding the vessel unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous solvents were purchased from ROTH and stored over molecular sieves under argon. Commercially available chemicals were obtained from Acros Organics, Aldrich Chemical Co., Alfa Aesar, ABCR, TCI Europe and used as received unless otherwise stated. $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Rh}(\text{MeCN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ ^[1], $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Co}(\text{MeCN})_3](\text{SbF}_6)_2$ ^[1-2], propargylic alcohol,^[3] propargylic acetate,^[4] (*S*)-methyl (3-methyl-1-phenylpent-1-yn-3-yl) carbonate (*S*)-**2e**,^{[5],[6]} propargylic carbonate,^[5, 7] 4-(Methylcarbamoyl)benzoic acid,^[8] 4-(1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridin-1-yl)benzoic acid,^[9] and 4-(pyridin-2-yloxy)benzoic acid^[10] were prepared following literature procedures. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on Polygram SIL G/UV254 plates. TLC plates were visualized by exposure to short wave ultraviolet light (254 nm, 366 nm). Flash chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (40-63 mesh) by standard techniques using appropriate mixtures of *n*-pentane and ethyl acetate. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 300 or AV 400, Varian 500 MHz INOVA or Varian Unity plus 600 in solvents as indicated. Chemical shifts (δ) for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are given in ppm relative to TMS. The residual solvent signals were used as references for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (TMS: $\delta\text{H} = 0.00$ ppm; CDCl_3 : $\delta\text{H} = 7.26$ ppm, $\delta\text{C} = 77.16$ ppm; CD_3OD : $\delta\text{H} = 3.31$ ppm, $\delta\text{C} = 49.00$ ppm; $\text{DMSO-}d_6$: $\delta\text{H} = 2.50$ ppm, $\delta\text{C} = 39.52$ ppm.). Exact ESI mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker Daltonics MicroTof. Mass Calibration was carried out directly before the measurement of the sample using clusters of sodium formate.

Experimental section

1) Optimization of the reaction conditions.

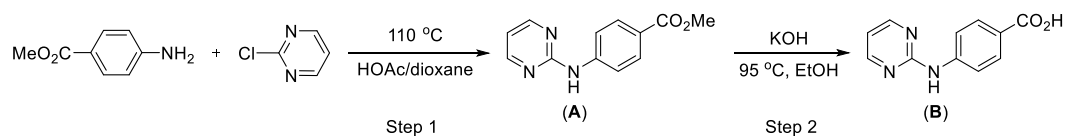
Table S1 | Optimization of the reaction conditions.^[a]



Entry	Catalyst	TDG	Additive	Time / h	Temp. / °C	1a / 2	Yield / 3a
1	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OH	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	24
2	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OAc	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	58.
3	[Ru(<i>p</i>-cymene)Cl₂]₂	OCO₂Me	K₃PO₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	88
4	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OBoc	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	88
5	-	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.5	n.d.
6	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	15	100	1 : 1.5	91
7	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₂ CO ₃	15	100	1 : 1.5	78
8	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	Cs ₂ CO ₃	15	100	1 : 1.5	84
9	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	KOAc	15	100	1 : 1.5	60
10	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	15	100	1 : 1.2	92
11	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	-	15	100	1 : 1.5	n.d.
12	[MnBr(CO) ₅]	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	n.d.
13	[Cp* <i>Rh</i> (MeCN) ₃](SbF ₆) ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	7
14	[Cp* <i>Co</i> (MeCN) ₃](SbF ₆) ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	n.d.
15	[(C ₆ H ₅) ₃ P] ₃ RuCl ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	trace
16	Ru(cod)Cl ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	21
17	[Ru(C ₆ Me ₆)Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄	6	110	1 : 1.2	77
18	[Cp* <i>Ir</i> Cl ₂] ₂	OCO ₂ Me	K ₃ PO ₄ , Ag ₂ CO ₃ (10 mol%)	6	110	1 : 1.2	29

[a] Unless otherwise specified, all reactions was carried out using **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2**, [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol %), additives (0.5 equiv.) in DMA (1.0 mL) under different conditions. Yields was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. TDG: traceless directing groups. n.d. = not detected.

2) Synthesis of 4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)benzoic acid.



General procedure, Step 1:^[11] To an oven-dried flask containing methyl 4-aminobenzoate (4.53 g, 30.0 mmol), a solution of 2-chloro-pyrimidine (2.29 g, 20.0 mmol) and acetic acid (20.0 mL) in 1,4-dioxane (50.0 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×100 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solid was filtered off through a thin pad of Celite, and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuum to give the crude product which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel.

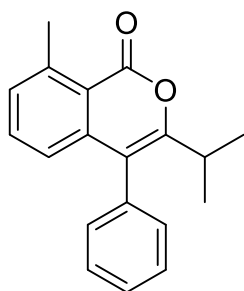
Step 2:^[10] KOH (3.1 g, 55 mmol) was added to a solution of methyl 4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)benzoate (**A**) (2.29 g, 10 mmol) in EtOH (25 mL) and refluxed for 3 h. The volatiles were removed in vacuo, dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL), and acidified by 1 M HCl (aq). The desired 4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)benzoic acid (**B**) was precipitated out from the solution. Then the solid was filtered and washed with EtOAc, giving the pure 4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)benzoic acid without further purification.

4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)benzoic acid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 11.12 (s, 1H), 10.09 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.94 – 7.80 (m, 4H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 167.17, 159.58, 158.17, 144.75, 130.31, 122.95, 117.59, 113.39; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₁H₉N₃NaO₂ (M + Na) 238.0587, found 238.0585.

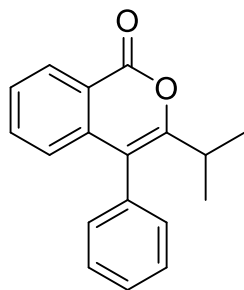
3) Procedure and analytical data of compounds 3-4.

General procedure: In a 10 mL dry Schlenk tube with a stirring bar, benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol) and K₃PO₄ (0.15 mmol) were added under air. Then the tube was transferred into the glove box. [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) were added. After moving out, propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.36 mmol) and *N,N*-dimethylacetamide (DMA) (1 mL) was added under argon atmosphere. The tube was sealed and the mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 6 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture

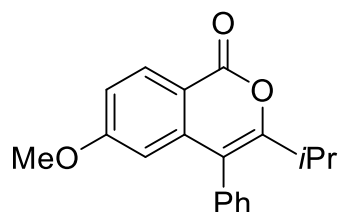
was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄. After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, washed with 5 mL trimethylamine in 300 mL pentane) or basic Aluminum oxide using pentane/EtOAc as eluent.



3-isopropyl-8-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding 2-methylbenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 40.8 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3aa** was isolated as colorless solid (86%, 71.6 mg); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.57 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.23, 158.57, 143.42, 140.64, 135.25, 133.65, 130.67, 130.37, 129.07, 128.04, 123.26, 118.78, 114.72, 30.12, 23.66, 20.32; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈NaO₂ (M + Na) 301,1199, found 301,1199.



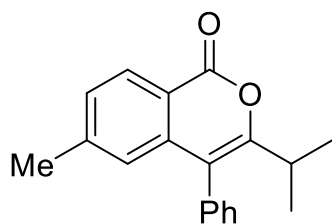
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 36.6 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ba** was isolated as colorless solid (76%, 60.0 mg); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 6.96 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.94, 158.93, 139.04, 134.56, 134.53, 130.56, 129.50, 129.10, 128.19, 127.45, 125.02, 120.26, 114.72, 30.25, 20.39; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆NaO₂ (M + Na) 287,1043, found 287,1045.



3-isopropyl-6-methoxy-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 45.6 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol, 78.6 mg)

were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 6 h, product **3ca** was isolated in 90% yield (79.5 mg) as a pale yellow solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.28 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.28– 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.99 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.69 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.62, 162.69, 159.53, 141.44, 134.62, 131.89, 130.53, 129.12, 128.21, 115.01, 114.64, 113.53, 108.12, 55.52, 30.35, 20.37. **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 317.1148, found 317.1161.

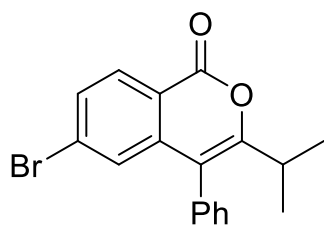
3-isopropyl-6-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the



corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 27.2 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.3 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 15 h, product **3da** was isolated in 75%

yield (42.0 mg) as a pale yellow solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.19 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 2.65 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.16 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CD_3Cl_1): δ 163.03, 158.97, 145.68, 139.10, 134.69, 130.58, 129.54, 129.07, 128.84, 128.12, 124.97, 117.86, 114.63, 30.24, 22.23, 20.39; **HRMS**: m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2$ ($M+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 301.1204, found 301.1204; R_f (Pentane/EtOAc = 20/1): 0.37.

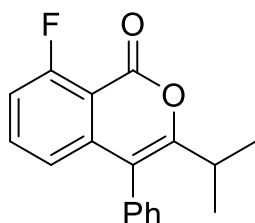
6-bromo-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the



corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (5.0 mol%, 6.12 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.45 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 15 h, product **3ea** was isolated in 65% yield (66.9 mg)

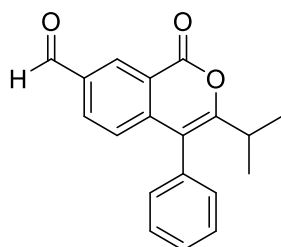
as a white solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.46 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H) 2.72 (hept, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CD_3Cl_1): δ 162.28, 160.43, 140.58, 133.72, 131.18, 130.87, 130.45, 130.37, 129.35, 128.55, 127.74, 118.94, 113.89, 30.40, 20.32; **HRMS**: m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{BrNaO}_2$ ($M+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 365.0153, found 365.0149; R_f (Pentane/EtOAc = 20/1): 0.39.

8-fluoro-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the



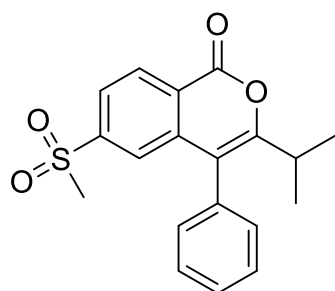
corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 6 h, product **3fa** was isolated in 78% yield (66.4 mg) as a white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (hept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.42, 161.78, 160.14, 158.33, 141.68, 135.73, 135.63, 134.42, 130.54, 129.23, 128.39, 120.98, 120.94, 114.69, 114.48, 114.10, 109.34, 109.27, 30.32, 20.25; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₈H₁₅FN₂O₂ (M + Na) 305.0948, found 305.0954.

3-isopropyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1H-isochromene-7-carbaldehyde: Following the general procedure,



the corresponding 3-formylbenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 45.0 mg) K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ga** was isolated in 49% yield (42.7 mg) as a solid; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.01 (s,

1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.57, 162.41, 161.89, 143.80, 135.16, 133.69, 133.58, 132.78, 130.42, 129.40, 128.85, 128.65, 126.06, 120.45, 114.86, 30.61, 20.30; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆NaO₃ (M + Na) 315.0992, found 315.0993.

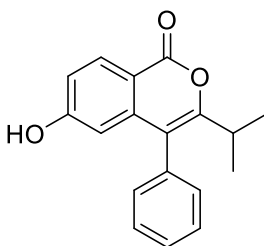


3-isopropyl-6-(methylsulfonyl)-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one:

Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 40.0 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.30 mmol) were used to react in

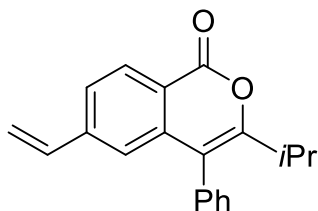
DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ha** was isolated in 67% yield (46.1 mg) as colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dt, *J* = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 2.67 (hept, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.19 – 1.11 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.42, 161.31, 146.03, 140.00, 133.01, 131.23, 130.33, 129.63, 128.97, 125.12, 124.27, 123.72, 114.38, 44.20, 30.47, 20.30; HRMS *m/z* (ESI):

calcd. for C₁₉H₁₈NaO₄S (M + Na) 365,0818, found 365,0824.



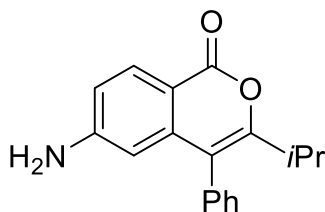
6-hydroxy-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding 4-hydroxybenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 41.4 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 6 h. Product **3ia** was isolated in 69%

yield (58.3 mg) as white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.61 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 6.93 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 163.84, 161.69, 158.65, 141.29, 134.63, 132.01, 130.71, 129.53, 128.57, 117.27, 114.41, 111.55, 109.77, 30.14, 20.43; HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆NaO₃ (M + Na) 303.0992, found 303.0995.



3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-6-vinyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 44.4 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol, 78.6 mg) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 6 h, product **3ja** was

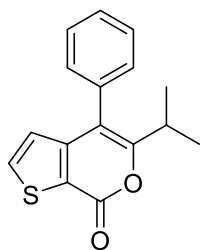
isolated in 42% yield (36.2 mg) as a pale yellow solid; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.64 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.77, 159.32, 143.56, 139.49, 136.06, 134.50, 130.62, 129.89, 129.15, 128.26, 124.71, 123.09, 119.41, 117.80, 114.72, 30.33, 20.41. HRMS *m/z* (ESI): calcd. for C₂₀H₁₈NaO₂ (M + Na) 313.1199, found 313,1197.



6-amino-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 41.1 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol, 78.6 mg) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for 6 h, product **3ka** was

isolated in 44% yield (36.6 mg) as a pale yellow solid; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.13 (d, *J* =

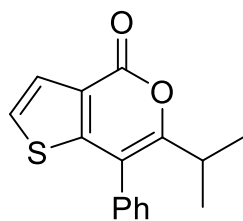
8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 4.11 (bs, 2H), 2.65 (hept, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.19 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.97, 159.19, 152.26, 141.33, 135.08, 131.82, 130.66, 129.00, 127.99, 114.99, 114.38, 110.78, 107.74, 30.30, 20.36. **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NaO}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 302.1151, found 302.1165.



5-isopropyl-4-phenyl-7H-thieno[2,3-c]pyran-7-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding thiophene-2-carboxylic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 38.4 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react

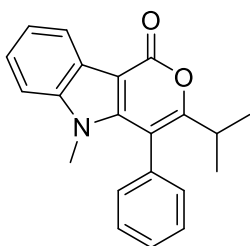
in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3la** was isolated in 64% yield (52.1 mg) as yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.63 (dd, $J = 5.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 5.2, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dh, $J = 6.9, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.16 (dd, $J = 6.9, 1.7$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.54, 159.00, 149.45, 136.12, 134.78, 129.87, 129.04, 128.30, 124.85, 121.97, 114.12, 29.81, 20.76; **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 293.0607, found 293.0614.

6-isopropyl-7-phenyl-4H-thieno[3,2-c]pyran-4-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding thiophene-3-carboxylic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 38.4 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react

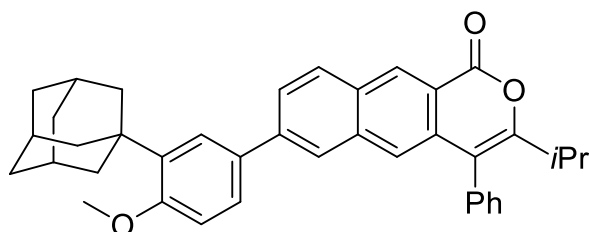


in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h, product **3ma** was isolated in 75% yield (60.7 mg) as pale yellow solid; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.85 (hept, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CD_3Cl_1): δ 160.26, 159.10, 154.46, 134.58, 129.52, 129.25, 128.84, 126.00, 125.55, 122.94, 113.39, 29.90, 20.74; **HRMS**: m/z (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ ($M+\text{Na}$) $^+$: 293.0607, found 293.0619; R_f (Pentane/EtOAc = 20/1): 0.35.

3-isopropyl-5-methyl-4-phenylpyrano[4,3-b]indol-1(5H)-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding 1-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 52.6 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used



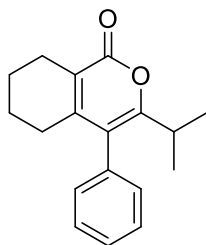
to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 6 h. Product **3na** was isolated in 92% yield (87.3 mg) as yellow solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.62 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.13 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 164.36, 160.00, 144.98, 139.45, 133.74, 130.86, 129.32, 128.88, 124.27, 123.94, 122.55, 121.18, 109.32, 108.20, 99.81, 31.63, 30.15, 20.60; **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 340.1308, found 340.1307.



7-(3-(adamantan-1-yl)-4-methoxyphenyl)-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-benzo[glisochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding adapalene (**1**)

(0.20 mmol, 82.5 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.30 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3oa** was isolated in 51% yield (56.4 mg) as colorless solid; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.97 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.77 (dd, $J = 8.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.45 (m, 5H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.73 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.04 (m, 9H), 1.79 (d, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 6H), 1.24 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.33, 159.20, 157.27, 142.27, 139.16, 136.96, 135.19, 134.56, 132.30, 131.56, 130.76, 129.91, 129.19, 128.16, 126.64, 126.02, 125.89, 124.72, 123.71, 118.55, 114.61, 112.19, 55.28, 40.72, 37.34, 37.24, 30.28, 29.22, 20.38; **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{38}\text{NaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 577,2713, found 577,2703.

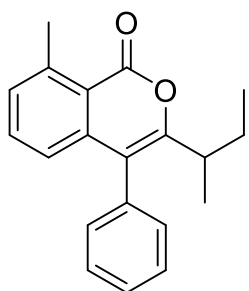
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general



procedure, the corresponding cyclohex-1-ene-1-carboxylic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 37.8 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3pa** was isolated in 40% yield (32.3 mg) as yellowish viscous; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44 – 7.33 (m,

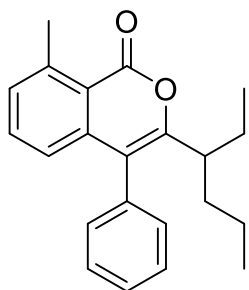
3H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 2.55 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.06 – 1.97 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.65 (m, 3H), 1.64 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.13 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.65, 161.99, 151.76, 135.09, 130.12, 128.86, 127.95, 120.17, 117.81, 30.24, 28.68, 23.78, 21.85, 21.67, 20.39; **HRMS**

m/z (ESI): calcd. for C₁₈H₂₀NaO₂ (M + Na) 291.1356, found 291.1356.



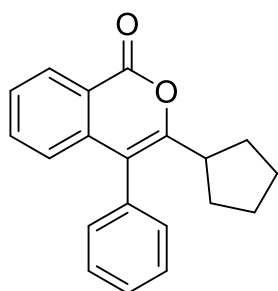
3-(sec-butyl)-8-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding 2-methylbenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 40.8 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ab** was isolated in 78%

yield (68.4 mg) as colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.39 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 1.78 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.44 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.25, 157.54, 143.45, 140.61, 135.30, 133.67, 131.09, 130.71, 130.41, 129.09, 128.95, 127.99, 123.28, 118.72, 116.22, 37.07, 27.28, 23.64, 19.00, 12.36; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for C₂₀H₂₀NaO₂ (M + Na) 315,1356, found 315,1358.



3-(hexan-3-yl)-8-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding 2-methylbenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 40.8 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ac** was isolated in 52%

yield (50.0 mg) as colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.18 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.23 (tt, *J* = 9.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.74 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.48 – 1.26 (m, 2H), 1.25 – 1.04 (m, 2H), 0.78 – 0.66 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.30, 156.44, 143.44, 140.59, 135.23, 133.70, 131.31, 130.43, 128.87, 127.94, 123.34, 118.64, 117.54, 42.35, 35.56, 26.44, 23.65, 20.93, 14.32, 12.38; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for C₂₂H₂₄NaO₂ (M + Na) 343,1669, found 343,1673.

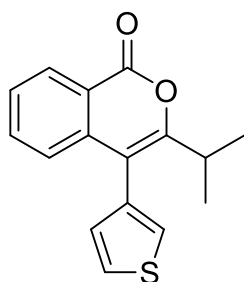


3-cyclopentyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding sodium benzoate (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 43.2 mg), K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.45 mmol) in DMA (1.0 mL) were used to react for 15 h. Product **3ad** was isolated in 75% yield

(65.3 mg) as colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* =

7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.69 (p, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.91 – 1.63 (m, 6H), 1.51 – 1.33 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.99, 157.22, 138.98, 134.77, 134.56, 130.74, 129.51, 129.03, 128.13, 127.34, 124.91, 120.20, 115.64, 41.08, 31.42, 26.33; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 313,1199, found 313,1197.

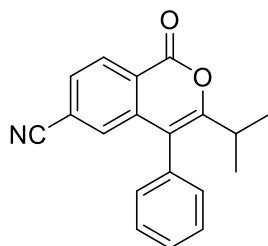
3-isopropyl-4-(thiophen-3-yl)-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the



corresponding sodium benzoate (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 28.8 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.12 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.30 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ae** was isolated in 70% yield (37.6 mg) as solid;

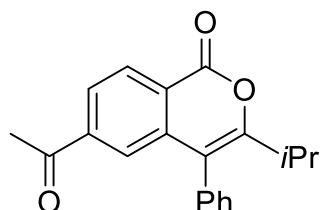
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.32 (dd, $J = 7.9, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, $J = 4.9, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.11 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 2.81 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.80, 159.61, 139.04, 134.69, 134.08, 129.58, 129.52, 127.55, 126.57, 125.16, 124.84, 120.20, 109.70, 30.33, 20.46; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 293.0607, found 293.0618.

3-isopropyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1H-isochromene-6-carbonitrile: Following the general procedure,



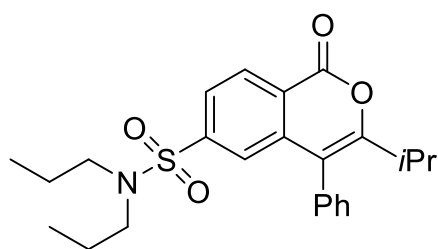
the corresponding 4-cyanobenzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 44.1 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 6 h. Product **3qa** was isolated in 74% yield

(64.6 mg) as yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.33 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dt, $J = 8.1, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.17 (dq, $J = 10.1, 2.3, 1.8$ Hz, 3H), 2.66 (dh, $J = 6.9, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.14 (dd, $J = 6.9, 1.5$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.31, 161.18, 139.55, 133.04, 130.46, 130.34, 129.60, 129.36, 128.91, 122.93, 118.07, 117.78, 113.74, 30.46, 20.25; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 312.0995, found 312.1005.



6-acetyl-3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30

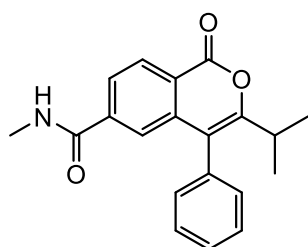
mmol, 49.2 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.36 mmol, 78.6 mg) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 6 h, product **3ra** was isolated in 54% yield (49.7 mg) as a pale yellow solid; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.43 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.29 (dd, $J = 6.1, 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.75 (dt, $J = 13.7, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 197.55, 162.17, 159.94, 141.61, 139.33, 133.78, 130.45, 130.13, 129.36, 128.60, 126.33, 125.05, 123.11, 114.72, 30.34, 27.03, 20.36. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{20}H_{18}NaO_3$ (M + Na) 329.1148, found 329.1157.



3-isopropyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-*N,N*-dipropyl-1*H*-isochromene-6-sulfonamide: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.30 mmol, 85.6 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**)

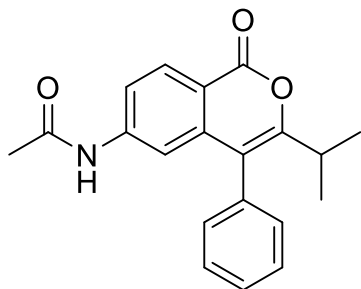
(0.36 mmol, 78.6 mg) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 6 h, product **3sa** was isolated in 93% yield (119.1 mg) as a pale yellow solid; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.21 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 2.83 – 2.70 (m, 4H), 2.52 (dt, $J = 13.7, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.23 (dd, $J = 15.2, 7.5$ Hz, 4H), 0.99 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 0.58 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 161.66, 160.70, 146.16, 139.74, 133.41, 130.71, 130.30, 129.46, 128.80, 125.03, 123.49, 122.52, 114.41, 49.81, 30.43, 21.82, 20.31, 11.21. HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{24}H_{29}NNaO_4S$ (M + Na) 450.1710, found 450.1708.

3-isopropyl-*N*-methyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1*H*-isochromene-6-carboxamide:



Following the general procedure, 4-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 35.8 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.30 mmol, 65.5 mg) in DMA (1.0 mL) were used to react for 15 h. Product **3ta** was isolated in 72% yield (46.2 mg) as yellowish white solid. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.3 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.7 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.4 (qd, $J = 8.4, 4.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.2 – 7.2 (m, 2H), 6.2 (s, 1H), 2.9 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 3H), 2.6 (hept,

$J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.1 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.24, 162.27, 159.97, 140.39, 139.29, 133.84, 130.50, 130.09, 129.37, 128.54, 125.39, 123.71, 122.02, 114.68, 30.32, 27.07, 20.35; **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_3$ ($M+\text{Na}$) 344.1257 found 344.1252.

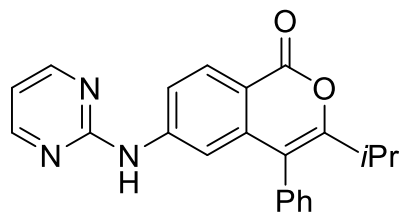


***N*-(3-isopropyl-1-oxo-4-phenyl-1H-isochromen-6-yl)acetamide:**

Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 35.8 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.3 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ua** was isolated in 80% yield

(51.3 mg) as colorless solid; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) 8.20 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 2.62 (hept, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.12 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.95, 162.66, 159.48, 144.06, 140.53, 134.37, 131.11, 130.48, 129.12, 128.29, 118.88, 115.70, 114.72, 113.91, 30.32, 24.80, 20.37; **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 344,1257, found 344,1258.

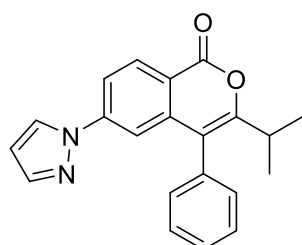
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-6-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-1H-isochromen-1-one:



Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 43.0 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (10 mol%, 12.2 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.3 mmol, 65.5 mg) were used to react in DMA (1 mL) for

15 h, product **3va** was isolated in 40% yield (28.3 mg) as a pale yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.40 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 8.30 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (bs, 1H), 7.55 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, $J = 4.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.69, 159.43, 159.32, 157.99, 145.41, 140.65, 134.88, 131.12, 131.05, 130.72, 129.03, 128.82, 128.09, 128.07, 118.05, 114.68, 114.18, 113.94, 112.87, 30.39, 20.42. **HRMS** m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NaN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 380.1369, found 380.1370.

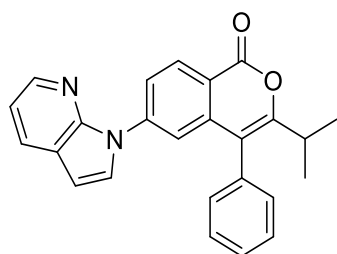
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-6-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-1H-isochromen-1-one:



Following the general procedure, the corresponding 4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)benzoic acid (**1**)

(0.20 mmol, 37.6 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg), and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.30 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3wa** was isolated in 50.0% yield (33.0 mg) as yellowish white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.41 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.44 (t, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (p, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.22 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.27, 160.19, 144.62, 142.37, 140.72, 134.08, 131.62, 130.53, 129.34, 128.51, 127.15, 118.13, 117.87, 114.63, 113.77, 108.84, 30.41, 20.36; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{21}H_{18}N_2NaO_2$ (M + Na) 353.1260, found 353.1275.

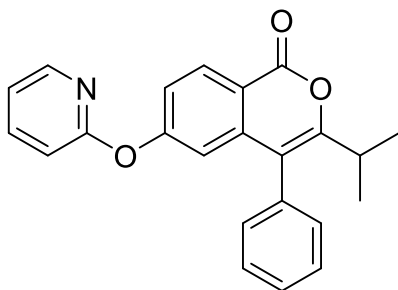
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-6-(1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-1-yl)-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the



general procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 47.7 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.3 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3xa** was isolated in 59% yield (44.9 mg) as colorless solid; 1H NMR (300

MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.47 (dd, $J = 8.7, 0.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, $J = 4.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.10 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.12 (dd, $J = 7.9, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.44, 159.81, 147.57, 143.83, 143.81, 140.52, 134.26, 131.16, 130.61, 129.42, 129.15, 128.33, 126.82, 122.22, 122.15, 118.16, 117.54, 117.28, 114.68, 103.42, 30.39, 20.41; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $C_{25}H_{20}N_2NaO_2$ (M + Na) 403.1417, found 403.1404.

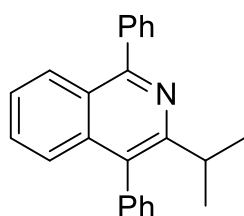
3-isopropyl-4-phenyl-6-(pyridin-2-yloxy)-1H-isochromen-1-one: Following the general



procedure, the corresponding benzoic acid (**1**) (0.20 mmol, 43.0 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[Ru(p\text{-cymene})Cl_2]_2$ (5 mol%, 6.1 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.3 mmol) were used to react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 15 h. Product **3ya** was isolated in 72% yield (51.3 mg) as

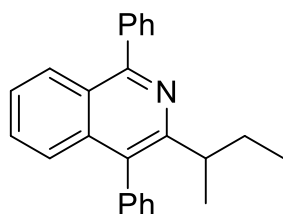
colorless solid; 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.28 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, $J = 8.3, 7.2, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09 (dd, $J = 8.7, 2.3$ Hz,

1H), 6.95 (ddd, $J = 7.3, 5.0, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dt, $J = 8.3, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (hept, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.13 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.52, 162.42, 159.70, 159.63, 147.78, 141.37, 139.89, 134.24, 131.65, 130.52, 129.09, 128.22, 120.56, 119.59, 116.46, 116.15, 114.58, 112.41, 30.32, 20.36; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNaO}_3$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 380,1257, found 380,1268.



3-isopropyl-1,4-diphenylisoquinoline:^[12] Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzophenone imine (**1**) (0.20 mmol), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2c**) (0.30 mmol) were used to react

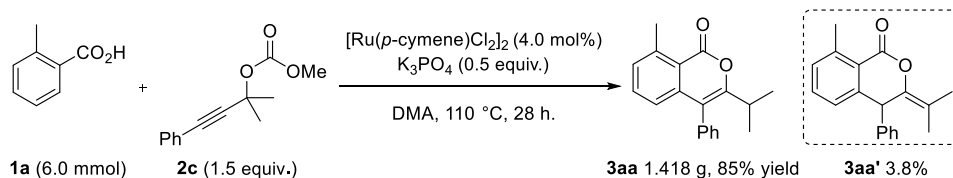
in DMA (1.0 mL) for 17 h. Product **4a** was isolated in 53% yield (34.3 mg) as white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.17 – 8.08 (m, 1H), 7.87 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.33 (m, 11H), 3.07 (p, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.51, 156.62, 140.48, 138.22, 137.04, 130.46, 129.44, 128.62, 128.49, 128.46, 128.33, 127.51, 127.31, 126.01, 125.77, 124.77, 32.29, 22.75; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ ($M + \text{H}$) 324.1747, found 324.1749.



3-(sec-butyl)-1,4-diphenylisoquinoline: Following the general procedure, the corresponding benzophenone imine (**1**) (0.20 mmol), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg) and the corresponding propargylic carbonate (**2**) (0.30 mmol) were used to

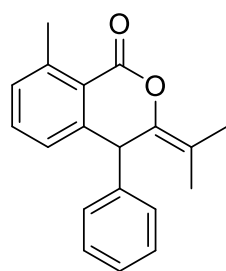
react in DMA (1.0 mL) for 17 h. Product **4b** was isolated in 54% yield (36.5 mg) as white solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.16 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.36 (m, 11H), 2.93 – 2.75 (m, 1H), 2.11 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.64 – 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.58, 155.66, 140.50, 138.24, 136.97, 130.81, 130.45, 130.42, 129.62, 129.44, 128.62, 128.50, 128.43, 128.32, 127.44, 127.30, 126.04, 125.78, 124.66, 39.29, 29.47, 21.40, 12.66; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNa}$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 360,1723, found 360,1718.

4) Gram-scale synthesis of **3aa**.

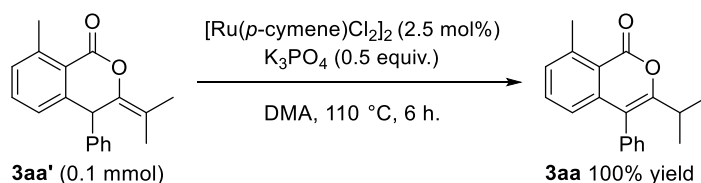


Following the standard procedure, **1a** (6.0 mmol, 816.9 mg), **2a** (1.5 equiv., 9.0 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (4.0 mol%, 146.9 mg) and K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv., 636.9 mg) were dissolved in DMA (20 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 28 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (100 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . The product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO_2 , washed with 10 mL trimethylamine in 500 mL pentane) using pentane/EtOAc (100:1 to 50:1) as eluent. Product **3aa** was isolated in 85%, (1.418 g), **3aa'** was observed in 3.8% yield by NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

8-methyl-4-phenyl-3-(propan-2-ylidene)isochroman-1-one: ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ



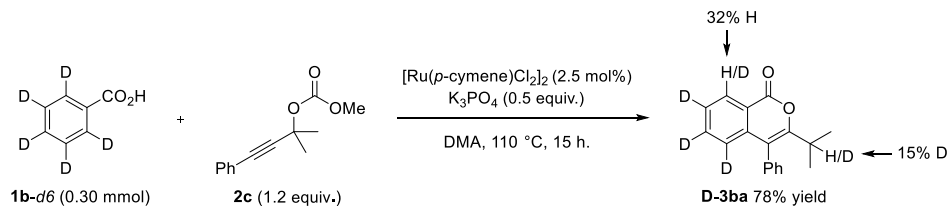
7.37 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 7.06 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.76, 142.99, 141.71, 141.53, 140.45, 133.22, 131.43, 128.82, 127.30, 127.21, 125.96, 123.20, 114.46, 44.25, 22.21, 18.62, 17.14; HRMS m/z (ESI): calcd. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_2$ ($M + \text{Na}$) 301,1199, found 301,1199.



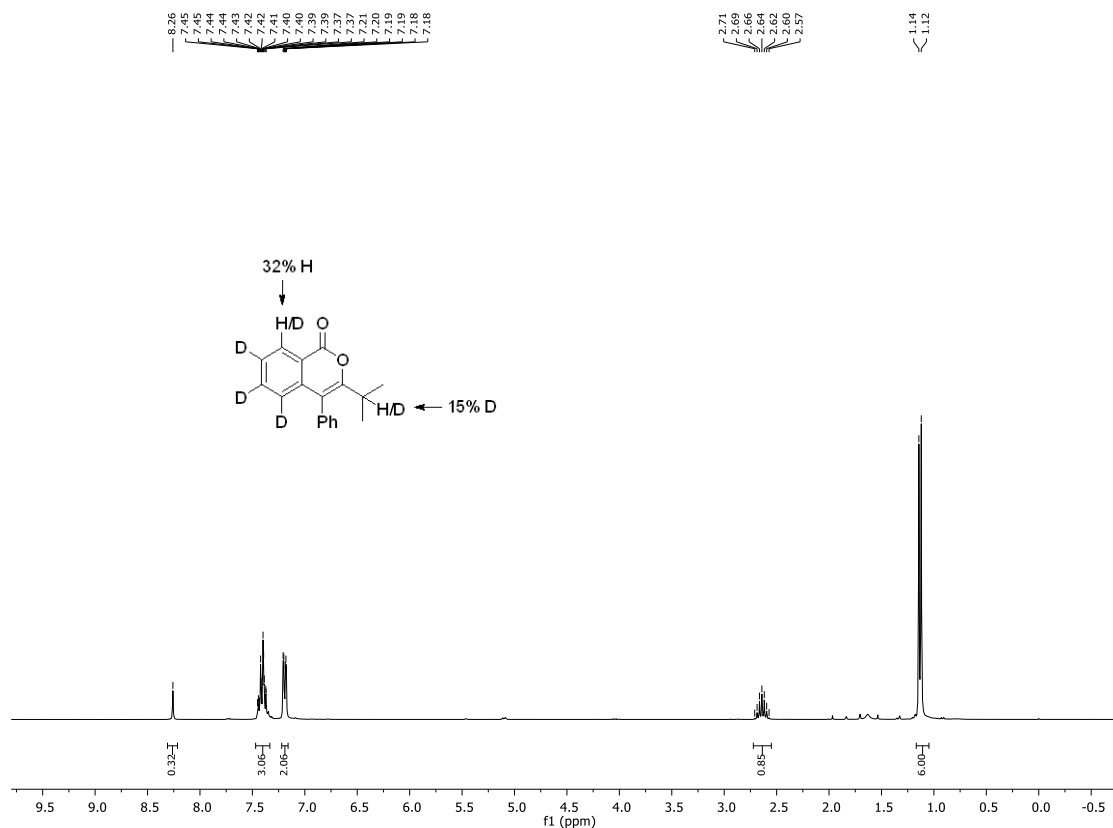
Following the standard procedure, **3aa'** (0.1 mmol, 27.8 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv.) and $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 1.5 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1.0 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 6 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and analyzed by NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. **3aa'** was stoichiometrically transformed into product **3aa**.

5) Isotope labeling experiment.

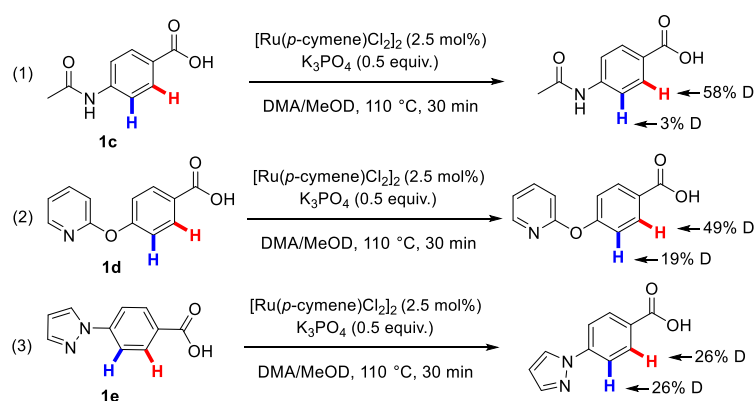
5.1) The reaction of isotopically-labeled [D₅]-benzoic acid with 2c.



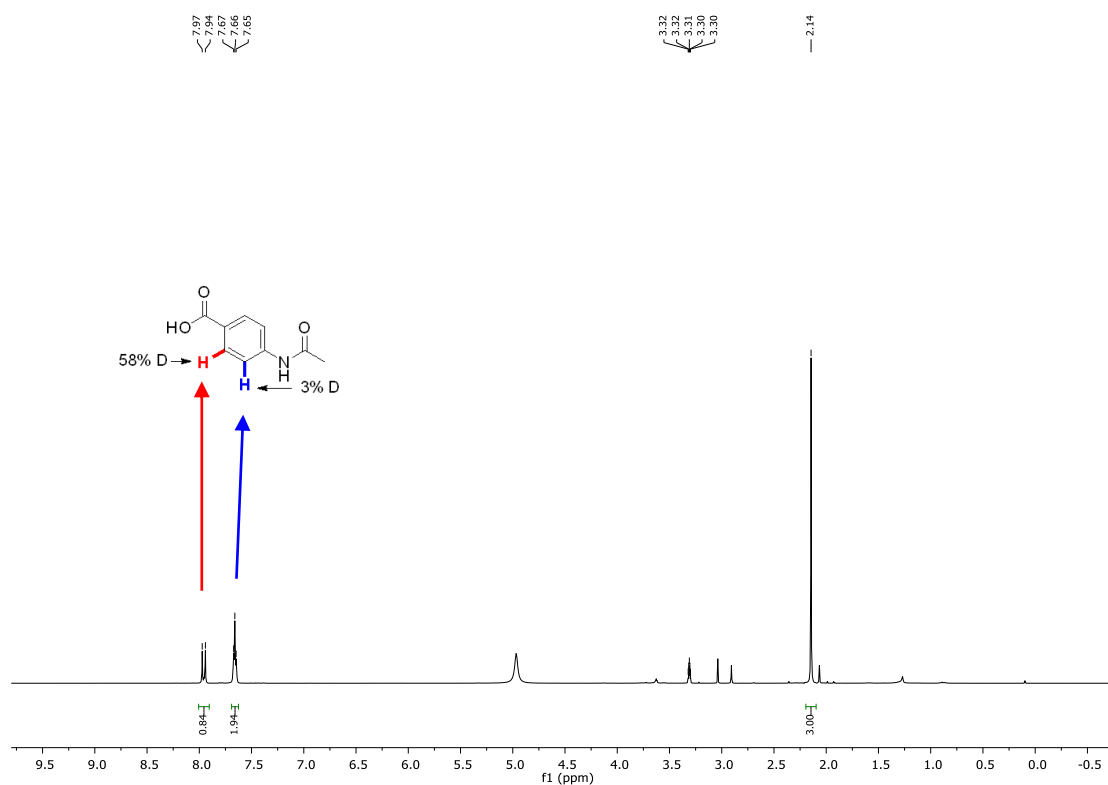
Following the standard procedure, **1b-d6** (0.30 mmol, 38.1 mg), **2c** (1.2 equiv., 0.36 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv., 31.8 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 15 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . The product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO_2 , washed with 5 mL trimethylamine in 300 mL pentane) using pentane/EtOAc (100:1 to 50:1) as eluent. Product **D-3ba** was isolated in 78% yield (63.0 mg).

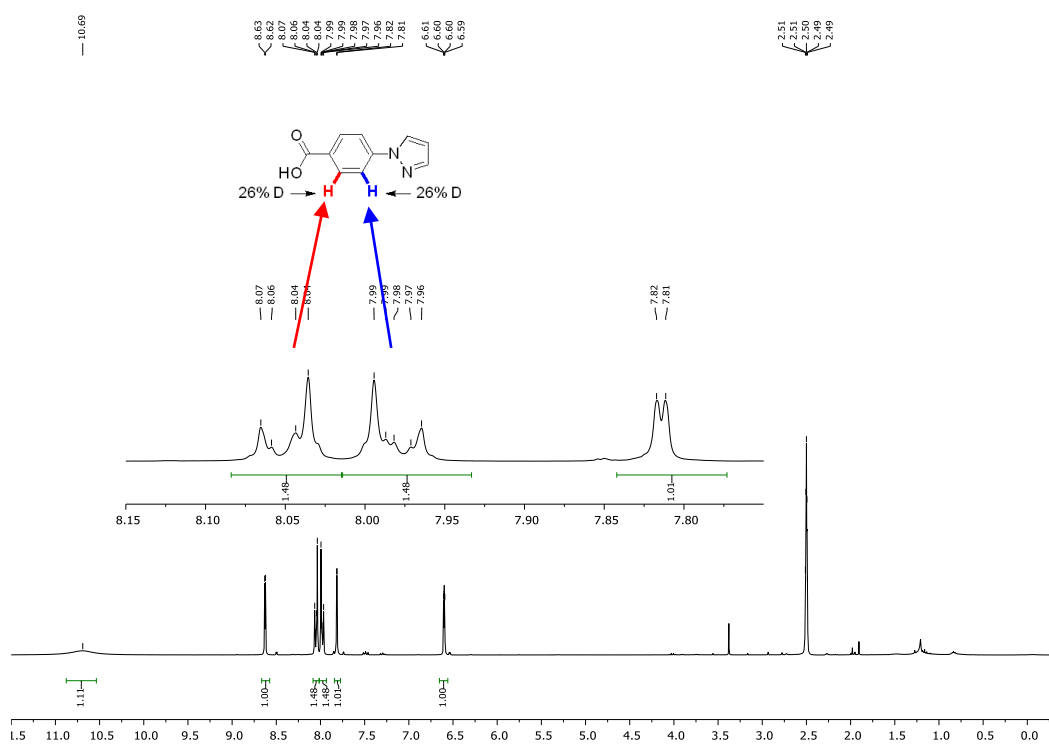
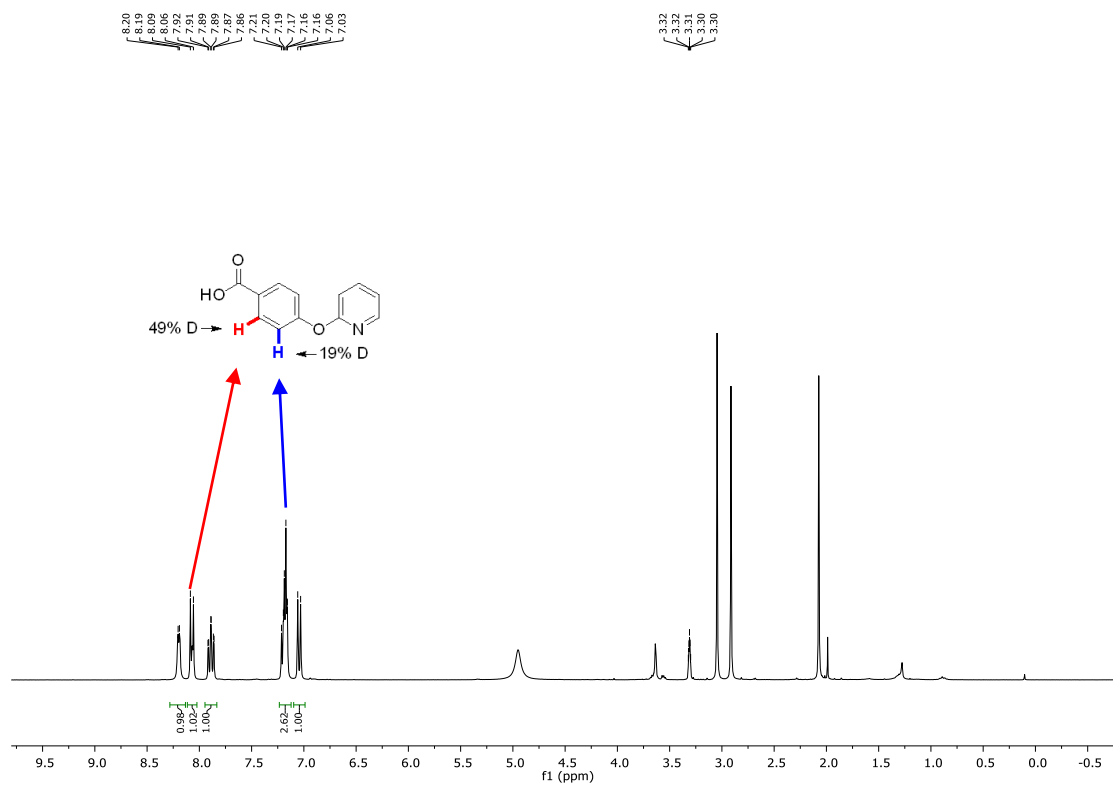


5.2) H/D scrambling experiments.



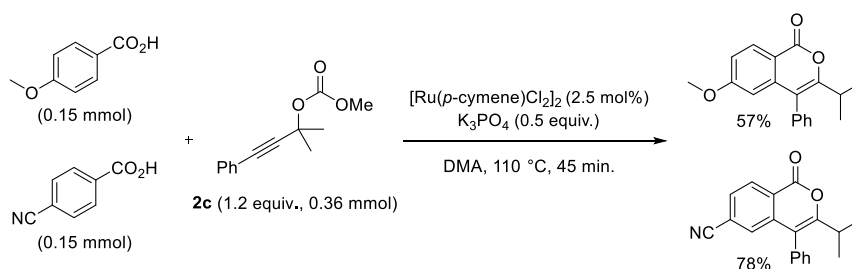
Following the standard procedure, the corresponding starting material **1** (0.20 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg) and K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv.) were dissolved in DMA (0.9 mL) and CD₃OD (0.1 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C for 30 min. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄. After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the reaction mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR.



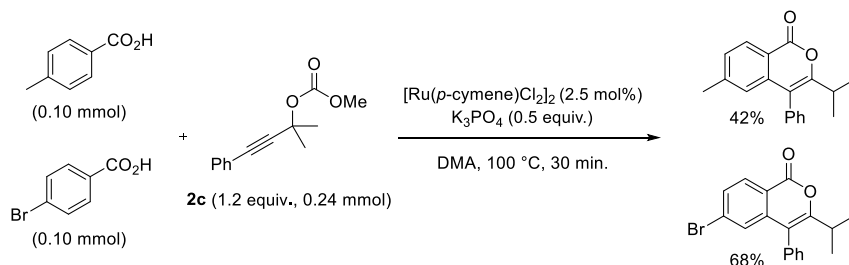


6) Intermolecular competition experiments.

6.1) Competition experiments between different compounds 1.

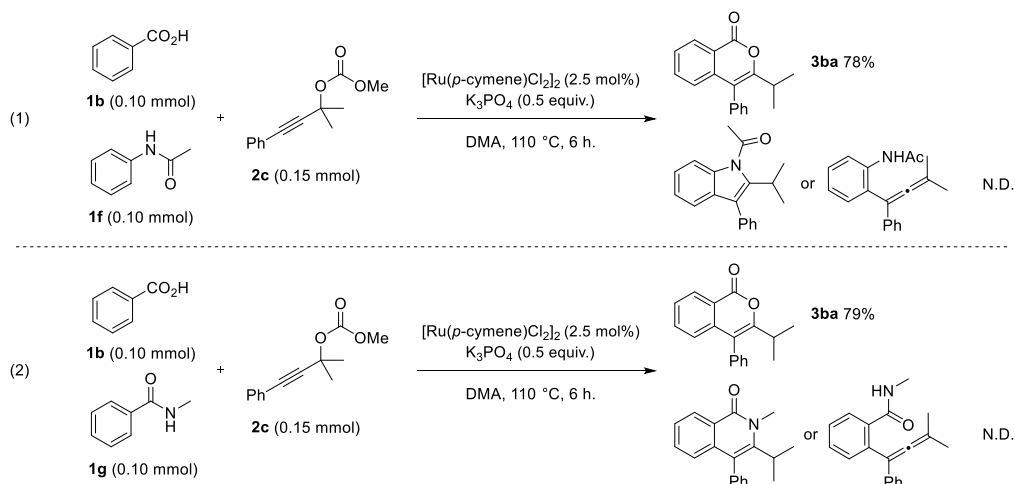


Following the standard procedure, 4-methoxybenzoic acid (0.15 mmol, 22.8 mg), 4-cyanobenzoic acid (0.15 mmol, 22.1 mg), **2c** (1.2 equiv., 0.36 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg) and K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv., 31.8 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 45 minutes. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the reaction mixture was analyzed by ^1H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard (the yield was based on the corresponding benzoic acid).



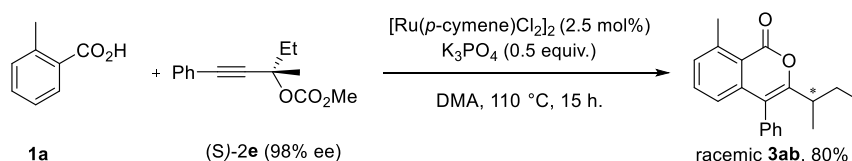
Following the standard procedure, 4-methylbenzoic acid (0.10 mmol, 13.6 mg), 4-bromobenzoic acid (0.10 mmol, 20.1 mg), **2c** (1.2 equiv., 0.24 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.06 mg) and K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv., 21.2 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1 mL) and heated to 100 °C for 30 minutes. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the reaction mixture was analyzed by ^1H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard (the yield was based on the corresponding benzoic acid).

6.2) Competition experiments between compounds **1** with different directing groups.



Following the standard procedure, benzoic acid (**1b**, 0.10 mmol, 13.6 mg), *N*-phenylacetamide **1f** or *N*-methylbenzamide **1g** (0.10 mmol), **2c** (0.15 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 3.06 mg) and K₃PO₄ (0.10 mmol, 21.2 mg) were dissolved in DMA (0.5 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 6 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄. After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the reaction mixture was analyzed by GC-MS and the yield was determined by ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard (the yield was based on the corresponding benzoic acid).

7) Chirality transfer experiment.

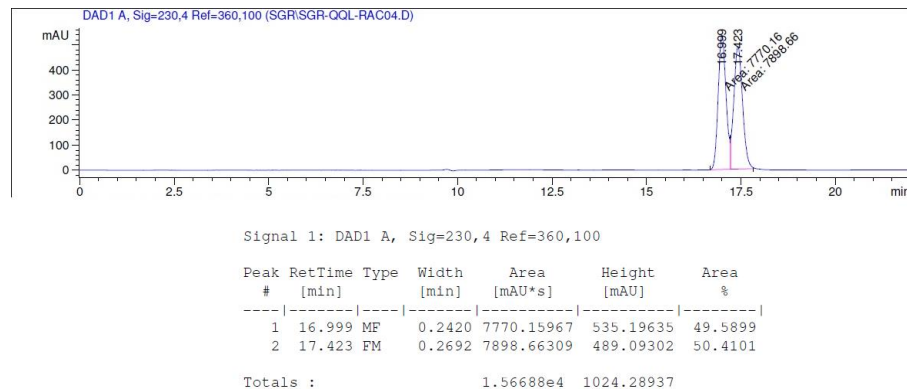


Following the standard procedure, **1a** (0.20 mmol, 27.2 mg), (*S*)-**2e** (98% ee, 1.2 equiv., 0.24 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mol%, 3.1 mg) and K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv., 21.2 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 15 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄. The product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO₂, washed with 5 mL trimethylamine in 300 mL pentane)

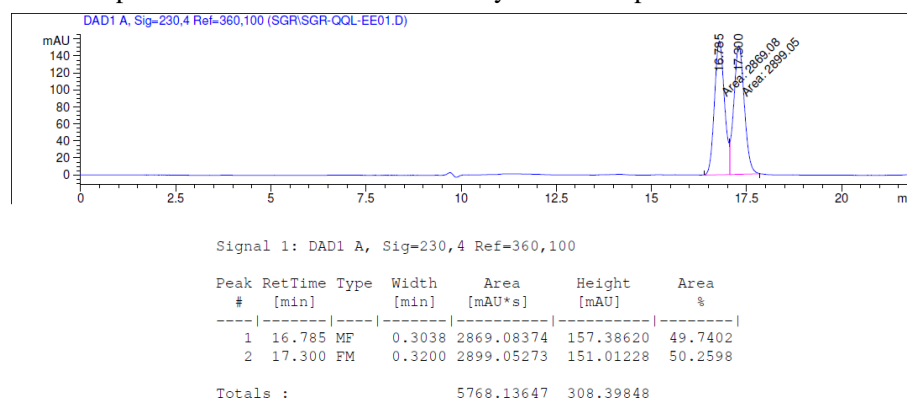
using pentane/EtOAc (100:1 to 50:1) as eluent. Product **3ac** was isolated in 80% yield (47.1 mg), which is racemic.

Conditions: OD-H column, 99/1 *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH, 0.3 mL/min flow rate, 18 bar pressure.

For standard racemic product **3ab**:

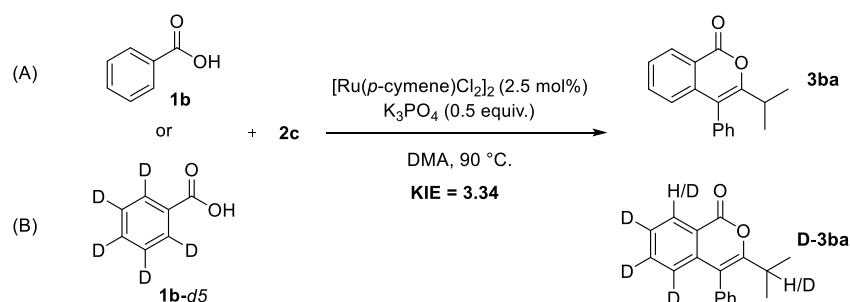


Racemic product **3ab** isolated from chirality transfer experiment:



8) KIE experiments.

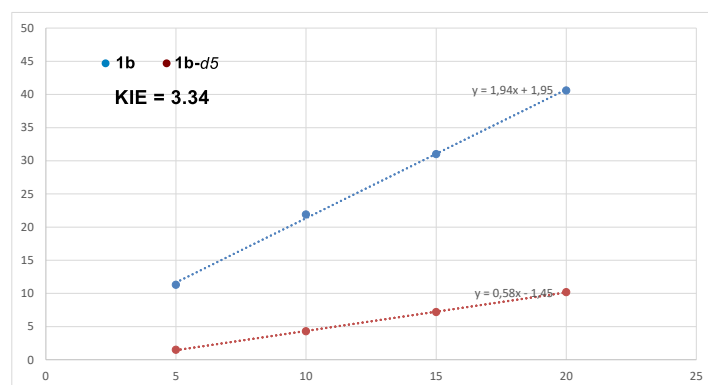
Parallel experiments for the synthesis of **3ba**.



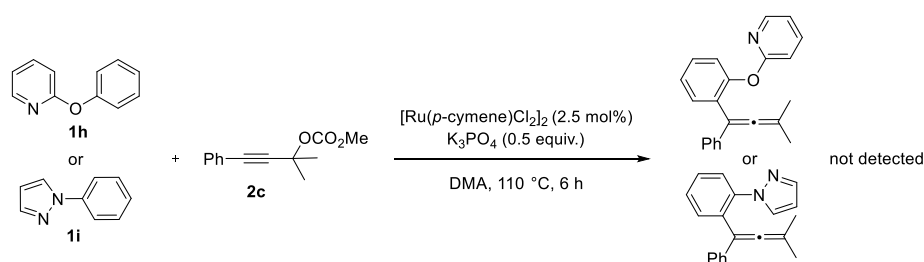
Following the standard procedure, **1a** (0.30 mmol, 38.1 mg), **1a-d6** (0.30 mmol, 38.1 mg), **2c** (1.2 equiv., 0.36 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 4.6 mg), K_3PO_4 (0.5 equiv., 31.8 mg) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (11.2 mg) as internal standard were dissolved in DMA (2.0 mL) and heated to 90 °C. After 5, 10, 20 and 30 minutes 75 μL of the reaction mixture were filtered over

silica gel and submitted to GC-FID analysis.

Time (min)	Yield of 3ba (%)	Yield of D-3ba (%)
5	11.3	1.5
10	21.9	4.3
15	31.0	7.2
20	40.6	10.2



9) Failed N-directing C–H functionalization.



Following the standard procedure, 1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole **1h** or 2-phenoxypyridine **1i** (0.20 mmol), **2c** (0.30 mmol), $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mol%, 3.06 mg) and K_3PO_4 (0.10 mmol, 21.2 mg) were dissolved in DMA (1.0 mL) and heated to 110 °C for 6 h. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, brine and EtOAc were added (50 mL) each. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc for 4 times. The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 . After rotary evaporation to remove solvent, the reaction mixture was analyzed by GC-MS and ^1H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Propargylic carbonate **2c** was fully decomposed, and the recovery for **1h** and **1i** is 34% and 13% respectively (they might be stable under present basic condition).

10) X-ray data.

X-Ray diffraction: Data sets for compound **3aa** were collected with a Bruker APEX II CCD diffractometer. Programs used: data collection: APEX3 V2016.1-0 (Bruker AXS Inc., **2016**); cell refinement: SAINT V8.37A (Bruker AXS Inc., **2015**); data reduction: SAINT V8.37A (Bruker AXS Inc., **2015**); absorption correction, SADABS V2014/7 (Bruker AXS Inc., **2014**); structure solution SHELXT-2015 (Sheldrick, **2015**); structure refinement SHELXL-2015 (Sheldrick, **2015**). R -values are given for observed reflections, and wR^2 values are given for all reflections.

X-ray crystal structure analysis of 3aa (glo9287): A colorless plate-like specimen of $C_{19}H_{18}O_2$, approximate dimensions 0.030 mm x 0.140 mm x 0.140 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured. A total of 1554 frames were collected. The total exposure time was 30.29 hours. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a wide-frame algorithm. The integration of the data using a triclinic unit cell yielded a total of 10704 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 66.64° (0.84 \AA resolution), of which 2564 were independent (average redundancy 4.175, completeness = 97.9%, $R_{\text{int}} = 3.91\%$, $R_{\text{sig}} = 3.33\%$) and 2025 (78.98%) were greater than $2\sigma(F^2)$. The final cell constants of $a = 8.2948(3) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.5359(3) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 10.0158(3) \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 75.291(2)^\circ$, $\beta = 74.899(2)^\circ$, $\gamma = 86.594(2)^\circ$; volume = $739.79(4) \text{ \AA}^3$, are based upon the refinement of the XYZ-centroids of 4486 reflections above $20 \sigma(I)$ with $9.439^\circ < 2\theta < 133.1^\circ$. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multi-scan method (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.828. The calculated minimum and maximum transmission coefficients (based on crystal size) are 0.9170 and 0.9810. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL Software Package, using the space group $P-1$, with $Z = 2$ for the formula unit, $C_{19}H_{18}O_2$. The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 193 variables converged at $R1 = 4.12\%$, for the observed data and $wR2 = 11.13\%$ for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.065. The largest peak in the final difference electron density synthesis was $0.173 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^3$ and the largest hole was $-0.207 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^3$ with an RMS deviation of $0.043 \text{ e}^-/\text{\AA}^3$. On the basis of the final model, the calculated density was 1.249 g/cm^3 and $F(000)$, 296 e^- . CCDC Nr.: 1866187.

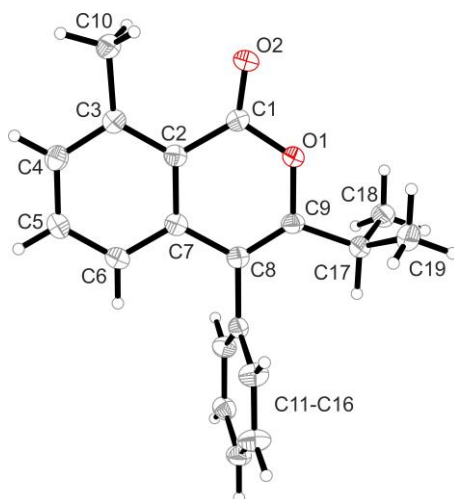


Figure S1. Crystal structure of compound **3aa**.
(Thermal ellipsoids are shown with 50% probability.)

1. *APEX3* (2016), *SAINT* (2015) and *SADABS* (2014), Bruker AXS Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, USA.
2. *SHELX* software: Sheldrick, G. M. *Acta Cryst.*, **2015**, *A71*, 3-8.

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NMR Spectra of Products

