Supporting Information

Direct Oxidation of Aryl Malononitriles Enabling a Copper-Catalyzed Intermolecular Alkene Carbochlorination

Prakash Basnet, Gang Hong, Charles E. Hendrick, and Marisa C. Kozlowski*

Table of Contents

1.	General Considerations	2
2.	Experimental Procedures and characterization	3
3.	Mechanistic Study	25
4.	X-ray Structure Determination of Compound 3d	33
5.	X-ray Structure Determination of Compound 3s	36
6.	References	40
7.	NMR Spectra	41

1. General Considerations

All non-aqueous reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon unless otherwise noted. Commercial reagents were used as received without additional purification unless otherwise noted. MeCN was distilled from CaH₂. All glassware including 8 mL microwave vials were cleaned and dried in oven before use. CuCl₂ was acquired from Lancaster. Cu(OTf)₂ and 4,4'-ditert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine were acquired from Aldrich. All the alkenes were acquired from commercial vendors and used as received unless noted otherwise. KCl was acquired from Fisher scientific which was dried under vacuum at 100 °C for 2 h and stored inside a glovebox.

¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR, spectra were recorded on a Fourier transform NMR spectrometer at 500 MHz or 600 MHz, and 126 MHz or 151 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported relative to the solvent resonance peak δ 7.26 (CDCl₃) for ¹H NMR spectra and δ 77.16 (CDCl₃) for ¹³C NMR spectra. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, b = broad singlet, m = multiplet), coupling constants, and number of protons. Accurate mass measurement analyses were conducted on either a GCMS with electron ionization (EI) or an LCMS with electrospray ionization (ESI). The signals were mass measured (TOF) against an internal lock mass reference of perfluorotributylamine (PFTBA) for EI-GCMS, and leucine enkephalin for ESI-LCMS. Waters software calibrates the instruments, and reports measurements, by use of neutral atomic masses; the mass of the electron is not subtracted (positive ions) or added (negative ions). Unless otherwise noted, yields refer to isolated material based on product purity (≥95%) determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy following silica gel chromatography with Silica-P flash silica gel (50-63 µm mesh particle size).

2. Experimental Procedures and characterization

Preparation of starting materials: 1-(But-3-en-1-yl)-4-methoxybenzene¹, arylmalononitriles^{2,3}, 2-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)malononitrile⁴ and 2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione⁵ were prepared following literature procedures.

General procedure for optimization (Table 1)

A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with aryl malononitrile (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where copper salt or FeCl₃ was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, alkene (0.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and the solvent (0.5 ml, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap with ca rimper and placed in a heating block preheated to 100 °C with stirring. After the indicated time, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (3 mL) followed by water (2 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 2 mL). The combined ethyl acetate layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant material was analyzed by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy with CH₂Br₂ (7 μ L) as internal standard.

General procedure A for Scheme 2

A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with aryl malononitrile (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where CuCl₂ (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, alkene (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (1 ml, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap using crimper and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture

was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) followed by water (3 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 2 mL). The combined ethyl acetate layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant material was purified by silica gel column chromatography using EtOAc/hexanes as eluent.

General procedure for optimization of catalytic condition

A flame dried 8 ml microwave vial equipped with stirbar was charged with aryl malononitrile (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv), $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv). The vial was brought into a glovebox where copper salt, ligand and KCl (0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) were added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, alkene (0.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (0.5 mL, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap with a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated to 100 °C with stirring. After the indicated time, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (3 mL) followed by water (2 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 2 mL). The combined organiclayers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant material was analyzed by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy with CH₂Br₂ (7µL) as internal standard.



3	None	$Cu(OTf)_2(10)$	x (15)	18	51
4	None	$Cu(OTf)_2(20)$	y (25)	18	37
5	None	$Cu(OTf)_2(20)$	z (20)	18	48
6	None	CuCl ₂ (20)	x (25)	18	60
7	None	Cu(OTf) ₂ (15)	-	24	38
8	None	CuCl (20)	-	20	33
9	DTBP instead of K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	$Cu(OTf)_2(20)$	y (20)	20	28
10	NaCl instead of KCl	Cu(OTf) ₂ (20)	y (20)	22	38
11	LiCl instead of KCl	$Cu(OTf)_2(20)$	y (20)	20	<10
12	1 equiv KCl	Cu(OTf) ₂ (15)	x (20)	24	37
13	BnEt3NCl instead of KCl	$Cu(OTf)_2(20)$	y (20)	24	<10
14	Toluene instead of MeCN	$Cu(OTf)_2(15)$	x (20)	24	55



General procedure B for Scheme 3

A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with aryl malononitrile (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The vial was brought into a glovebox where $Cu(OTf)_2$ (0.03 mmol, 0.15 equiv) 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (0.04 mmol, 0.20 equiv) and KCl (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed

from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, alkene (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (1 ml, 0.2 M) were added into the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap with a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated to 100 °C with stirring. After the indicated time, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) followed by water (3 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using EtOAc/hexanes as eluent.

General Procedure for 1 mmol scale reaction

A flame dried 50 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stirbar was charged with 2-(4methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (172.2 mg, 1.0 mmol), K₂S₂O₈ (540 mg, 2.0 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (54.3 mg, 0.15 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (53.7 mg, 0.2 mmol) and KCl (149.1 mg, 2.0 mmol). The Schlenk tube was put under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Under an argon atmosphere, but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (375 μ L, 2.5 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (5 ml) wre added to the Schlenk tube sealed with a PTFE cap. The Schlenk tube was then placed in an oil bath preheated to 100 °C with stirring. After 28 h, the reaction vessel was removed from the oil bath and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) followed by water (10 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using 5% EtOAc/hexanes as eluent to get **3a** (156 mg, 46% yield) as a pale-yellow oil.

Characterization of new compounds



2-(1-Chloro-3-phenylpropyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3a) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3a** (58.3 mg) in 86% yield as a pale yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.96-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.87 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.77 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (q, *J* = 8.1, 7.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 140.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.3, 126.5, 123.2, 115.3, 115.1, 114.6, 56.4, 55.6, 49.5, 40.0, 39.7, 32.1.

IR (film) 2935, 2980, 2250, 1608, 1584, 1258, 1185, 1029, 830, 751 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉ClN₂O 338.1186; found 338.1189.



2-(2-Chloro-3-phenylpropyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3b) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), allylbenzene (66.2 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3b** (43.5 mg) in 67% yield as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.39 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.15-4.08 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.13-3.00 (m, 2H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.7, 135.7, 129.2, 128.7, 127.4, 127.2, 122.9, 115.1, 115.0, 114.3, 56.6, 55.5, 48.0, 44.8, 39.6.

IR (film) 2936, 2840, 2250, 1608, 1511, 1258, 1185, 1030, 830, 633 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₇ClN₂O 324.1029; found 324.1050.



2-(2-Chloro-2-phenylethyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3c) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), styrene (57.4 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3c** (50.2 mg) in 81% yield as a white amorphous solid.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.38 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.02 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 138.7, 129.7, 129.2, 127.4, 127.3, 123.2, 115.3, 114.6, 114.0, 58.0, 55.7, 50.6, 39.8.

IR (film) 2950, 2850, 2250, 1608, 1585, 1510, 1456, 1442, 1305, 1257, 1185, 1029 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₅ClN₂O 310.0873; found 310.0886.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3d) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-methoxybenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3d** (60.2 mg) in 82% yield as a white crystalline solid.

mp 73-75 °C

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.92 – 3.88 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.91 – 2.59 (m, 3H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.06-2.00 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 158.3, 132.0, 129.5, 127.3, 123.2, 115.3, 115.1, 114.6, 114.2, 56.3, 55.6, 55.4, 49.5, 40.3, 39.8, 31.2.

IR (film) 2935, 2837, 2250, 1609, 1584, 1510, 1463, 1442, 1421, 1301, 1244, 1182, 1111, 1030 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₂ClN₂O₂ 369.1370; found 369.1363.



2-(4-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2-chlorobutyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3e) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-tert-butylbenzene (94.2 mg, 0.5 mmol), and $CuCl_2$ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3e** (55.3 mg) in 70% yield as a colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.00-3.94 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.87-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.77-2.67 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 149.4, 136.9, 128.2, 127.3, 125.6, 123.3, 115.3, 115.1, 114.6, 56.6, 55.7, 49.5, 40.1, 40.09, 34.5, 31.6, 31.5.

IR (film) 2960, 2867, 2249, 1608, 1511, 1258, 1185, 1030, 830, 796 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₂₇ClN₂O 394.1812; found 394.1826.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(p-tolyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (**3f**) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-methylbenzene (73.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3f** (44.5 mg) in 63% yield as a colorless oil.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.88 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.83 (dt, J = 14.1, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.63 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, J = 14.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.16 – 1.93 (m, 2H).
¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 136.9, 136.0, 129.4, 128.4, 127.3, 123.2, 115.2, 115.1, 114.6, 56.4, 55.6, 49.5, 40.2, 39.8, 31.7, 21.1.

IR (film) 2935, 2840, 2249, 1608, 1511, 1258, 1185, 1031, 830, 809 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁ClN₂O 352.1342; found 352.1349.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(m-tolyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (**3g**) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-3-methylbenzene (73.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3g** (59.9 mg) in 85% yield as a colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 4H), 3.97-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.80 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.66 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 139.9, 138.4, 129.4, 128.6, 127.3, 127.2, 125.6, 123.2, 115.3, 115.1, 114.6, 56.4, 55.7, 49.6, 40.1, 39.8, 32.1, 21.5.

IR (film) 2934, 2841, 2250, 1608, 1511, 1259, 1185, 1031, 830, 785 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₂ClN₂O 353.1421; found 353.1422.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile

(**3h**) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-trifluoromethylbenzene (100.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3h** (54.5 mg) in 67% yield as yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.93-3.89 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.94 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.3, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.86 – 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.53 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.25 – 2.01 (m, 2H).

¹³**C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 161.0, 144.1, 129.25, 128.88 (q, 2*J*_{C-F} = 32.5 Hz), 128.92, 127.3, 125.6 (q, 3*J*_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz), 124.3 (q, 1*J*_{C-F} = 272.3 Hz), 123.0, 115.3, 115.0, 114.6, 56.1, 55.6, 49.5, 39.7, 39.6, 32.0.

¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –62.4.

IR (film) 2937, 2843, 2248, 1609, 1512, 1260, 1186, 1031, 830 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₁₈ClF₃N₂O 406.1060; found 406.1045.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(4-fluorophenyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3i) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-fluorobenzene (75.1 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3i** (45.7 mg) in 64% yield as light yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (q, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.98-6.94 (m, 4H), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.87-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.07-2.02 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.4 (d, 1*J*_{C-F} = 243.1 Hz), 160.7, 135.3 (d, 3*J*_{C-F} = 3.1 Hz), 129.7 (d, 2*J*_{C-F} = 7.9 Hz), 127.3, 123.1, 115.6, 115.5, 115.3, 114.5 (d, *J* = 54.0 Hz), 56.1, 55.7, 49.6, 40.1, 39.7, 31.3.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –116.7.

IR (film) 2937, 2249, 1608, 1509, 1258, 1185, 1030, 829 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₈ClFN₂O 356.1092; found 356.1083.



2-(4-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-chlorobutyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3j) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-bromobenzene (105.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3j** (60.9 mg) in 73% yield as light yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.91-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.79 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.66 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.07-2.02 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 138.9, 131.8, 130.3, 127.3, 123.0, 120.3, 115.3, 115.0, 114.6, 56.1, 55.7, 49.6, 39.8, 39.7, 31.6.

IR (film) 2935, 2840, 2248, 1608, 1511, 1259, 1185, 1031, 830, 805 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₈BrClN₂O 416.0291; found 416.0285.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(4-chlorophenyl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3k) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-chlorobenzene (83.3 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3k** (56.0 mg) in 75% yield as a colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.91 – 3.86 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.84 (dt, *J* = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 1.97 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 138.4, 132.3, 129.9, 128.8, 127.3, 123.0, 115.3, 115.0, 114.6, 56.1 55.7, 49.5, 39.8, 39.7, 31.5.

IR (film) 2936, 2840, 2249, 1608, 1511, 1259, 1185, 1031, 830 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉Cl₂N₂O 373.0874; found 373.0866.

MeO NC CN c

2-(2-Chloroheptyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (31) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), hept-1-ene (70.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **31** (39.6 mg) in 65% yield as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.01-3.96 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.79-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.36 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.20 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 127.3, 123.5, 115.3, 115.2, 114.7, 57.3, 55.7, 49.7, 39.9, 38.5, 31.1, 25.6, 22.5, 14.1.

IR (film) 2956, 2860, 2250, 1608, 1511, 1258, 1185, 1030, 829 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₂₁ClN₂O 304.1342; found 304.1357.



2-(2-Chlorooctyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3m) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), oct-1-ene (77.9 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3m** (49.7 mg) in 78% yield as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.02-3.96 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.71 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.79-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.22 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 127.4, 123.5, 115.3, 115.2, 114.7, 57.3, 55.7, 49.7, 39.9, 38.5, 31.7, 28.6, 25.9, 22.6, 14.1.

IR (film) 2930, 2858, 2250, 1608, 1511, 1258, 1185, 1031, 830 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₃ClN₂O 318.1499; found 318.1501.



2-(2-Chlorooct-7-en-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3n) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), octa-1,7-diene (73.8 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (4% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3n** (38.0 mg) in 60% yield as colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.50 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.82-5.73 (m, 1H), 5.03-4.94 (m, 2H), 4.02-3.96 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.71 (dd, J = 15.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, J = 15.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.82-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.34 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 138.4, 127.3, 123.5, 115.3, 115.1, 115.0, 114.7, 57.2, 55.7, 49.6, 39.9, 38.3, 33.5, 28.2, 25.4.

IR (film) 2936, 2860, 2250, 1640, 1608, 1585, 1512, 1259, 1185, 1031, 830 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₁ClN₂O 316.1342; found 316.1337.



Ethyl 2-chloro-4,4-dicyano-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)butanoate (30) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), ethyl acrylate (53.2 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (9% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **30** (28.2 mg) in 46% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.36 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25-4.18 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 161.2, 127.5, 122.4, 115.4, 114.4, 114.0, 63.2, 55.7, 51.7, 45.7, 39.5, 14.0.

IR (film) 2983, 2842, 2250, 1744, 1609, 1512, 1260, 1186, 1028, 832 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₅ClN₂O₃ 306.0771; found 306.0775.



2-(2-Chloro-4-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)butyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3p) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2-(but-3-en-1-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (50.3 mg, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3p** (53.6 mg) in 66% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.83 (dd, J = 5.4, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (dd, J = 5.3, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.01-3.96 (m, 1H), 3.91 – 3.69 (m, 5H), 2.75 (dd, J = 14.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (dd, J = 14.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.07 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.2, 160.9, 134.3, 132.0, 127.4, 123.5, 123.1, 115.3, 115.0, 114.4, 55.6, 54.3, 48.9, 39.7, 36.9, 34.9.

IR (film) 3050, 2850, 2300, 1773, 1711, 1609, 1511, 1468, 1442, 1396, 1379, 1305, 1263, 1186, 1121, 1031 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₁₈ClN₃O₃Na 430.0934; found 430.0963.



2-(1-Chloro-1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3q) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), β-methylstyrene (64.8 μ L, 0.5 mmol), abd CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 24 h.

Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3q** (33.5 mg) in 51% yield (10:1 dr) as a colorless oil.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) major diastereomer δ 7.60 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.24 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.95 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.59 (qd, J = 6.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) major diastereomer δ 161.0, 138.6, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.1, 122.7, 115.3, 115.1, 113.8, 62.2, 55.7, 52.0, 46.4, 10.4; minor diastereomer δ 160.9, 136.4, 129.7, 128.8, 128.1,127.1, 122.9, 115.14,115.06, 114.8, 62.6, 56.1, 51.2, 45.5, 11.7
IR (film) 2950, 2850, 2250, 1608, 1585, 1511, 1451, 1386, 1304, 1257, 1185, 1084, 1030, 1003

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₉H₁₈ClN₂O 325.1108; found 325.1106.



cm⁻¹.

2-(2-Chlorocyclohexyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3r) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), cyclohexene (50.6 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3r** (19.4 mg) in 34% yield (dr =10:3) as a colorless oil.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** major diastereomer δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (m, 4H), 2.47 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.78 – 1.69 (m, 4H), 1.28 – 1.10 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) major diastereomer δ 160.8, 128.3, 122.9, 116.0, 115.0, 114.3, 60.3, 55.6, 53.5, 45.5, 38.0, 28.8, 25.5, 24.9.

IR (film) 2940, 2863, 2250, 1608, 1511, 1449, 1301, 1257, 1220, 1185, 1030 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₇ClN₂O 288.1029; found 288.1014.



2-(1-Chloro-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (3s) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1H-indene (34.4 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 80 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) followed by recrystallization (10% EtOAc/hexanes provided) **3s** (24.4 mg) in 38% (dr = 5:1) yield as a white crystalline solid.

mp 108-110 °C.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.42 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.46 (q, *J* = 7.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.1, 140.7, 138.5, 129.8, 128.4, 127.9, 125.5, 124.7, 122.1, 115.3, 114.2, 113.9, 62.0, 59.3, 55.7, 44.6, 34.7.

IR (film) 2950, 2850, 2250, 1608, 1585, 1510, 1462, 1442, 1421, 1303, 1256, 1230, 1207, 1184, 1028, cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₅ClN₂O 322.0873; found 322.0876.



2-(2-Chloro-4-phenylbutyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)malononitrile (3t) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)malononitrile (42.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), but-3-en-1ylbenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (7% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3t** (69.3 mg) in 92% yield as yellow oil. ¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.91-3.89 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.86 (m, 1H), 2.82 – 2.69 (m, 2H), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.14-2.05 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.7, 135.4, 132.7 (q, $2J_{C-F} = 33.3$ Hz), 128.8 (2C), 128.50, 127.1 (q, $1J_{C-F} = 3.7$ Hz), 126.6, 123.4 (q, $3J_{C-F} = 272.6$ Hz) 114.2, 113.8, 56.1, 49.2, 40.2, 40.0, 32.0. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.0.

IR (film) 3029, 2932, 2249, 1619, 1325, 1171, 1070, 839 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₆ClF₃N₂ 376.0954; found 376.0967.



2-(2-Chloro-4-phenylbutyl)-2-(p-tolyl)malononitrile (3u) General procedure A was followed using 2-(4-methylphenyl)malononitrile (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), and CuCl₂ (53.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (6% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **3u** (58.1 mg) in 90% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.07 – 3.85 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.80 – 2.67 (m, 2H), 2.53 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.07 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 6.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.6, 140.0, 130.6, 128.7, 128.63, 128.55, 126.5, 125.8, 115.0, 114.5, 56.4, 49.5, 40.10, 40.05, 32.1, 21.2.

IR (film) 3028, 2925, 2250, 1603, 1511, 1236, 1194, 1031, 813, 750 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉ClN₂ 322.1237; found 322.1211.



2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(2-chloro-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)butyl)malononitrile (4a) General procedure B was followed using 2-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)malononitrile (36.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-(but-3-en-1-yl)-4-methoxybenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 4a (56.3 mg) in 68% yield as an off white amorphous solid.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.35 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.85-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.69 (m, 1H), 2.58 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 2.03 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.3, 143.3, 139.3, 131.9, 130.3, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 127.3, 126.4, 114.9, 114.4, 114.1, 56.3, 55.3, 49.4, 40.2, 40.1, 31.2.

IR (film) 2930, 2250, 1611, 1464, 1409, 1300, 1076, 1007, 627, 559 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₃ClN₂O 414.1499; found 414.1491.



2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(2-chloro-3-phenoxypropyl)malononitrile (4b) General procedure B was followed using 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)malononitrile (43.6 mg, 0.2 mmol),(allyloxy)benzene (68.4 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **4b** (43.2 mg) in 56% yield as a white amorphous solid.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.85 – 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 17.0, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.42 – 4.29 (m, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.3 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.6, 143.6, 139.4, 130.2, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 127.3, 126.5, 122.1, 114.9, 114.8, 114.2, 70.6, 53.2, 46.2, 40.1.

IR (film) 3033, 2926, 2250, 1816, 1588, 1466, 1408, 1290, 1173, 1044, 1008, 884, 730 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₄H₁₉ClN₂O 386.1186; found 386.1194.



2-(2-Chloro-3-phenoxypropyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)malononitrile (4c) General procedure B was followed using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)malononitrile (35.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), (allyloxy)benzene (68.4 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 4c (37.2 mg) in 54% yield as white amorphous solid.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.30 – 4.23 (m, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.4 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.5, 136.9, 130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 127.5, 122.2, 114.8, 114.5, 113.9, 70.5, 53.0, 46.2, 39.9.

IR (film) 3030, 2950, 2250, 1588, 1468, 1291, 1154, 1078, 720, 649 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₄Cl₂N₂O 344.0483; found 344.0482.



2-(2-Chloro-3-phenylpropyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)malononitrile (4d) General procedure B was followed using 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)malononitrile (42.0 mg, 0.2 mmol),

allylbenzene (66.2 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **4d** (38.3 mg) in 53% yield as a yellow oil:

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 4.33 – 4.04 (m, 1H), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.6, 135.5, 132.8 (q, 2*J*_{CF} = 33.3 Hz), 129.4, 129.1, 127.8, 127.1 (q, 3*J*_{CF} = 3.7 Hz), 126.7, 123.4 (q, 1*J*_{CF} = 272.7 Hz), 114.3, 113.6, 56.6, 48.0, 45.0, 40.3. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –63.02.

IR (film) 2910, 2250 1712, 1455, 1324, 1267, 1222, 1031, 910, 643, 569 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M -H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₃ClF₃N₂ 361.0719; found 361.0722.



2-(2-Chlorooct-7-en-1-yl)-2-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)malononitrile (4e) General procedure B was followed using 2-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)malononitrile (37.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), octa-1,7-diene (73.8 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **4e** (37.8 mg) in 57% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.77 (m, 1H), 5.01 – 4.95 (m, 2H), 4.01-3.97 (m, 1H), δ 2.71 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.48 (m, 4H), 2.05 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.80-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.50 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.34 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.4, 138.4, 127.9, 127.0, 126.3, 115.0, 114.8, 114.4, 57.1, 49.5, 40.1, 38.3, 33.5, 28.2, 25.4, 15.3.

IR (film) 2923, 2854, 2250, 1639, 1596, 1461, 1405, 1266, 1233, 1014, 994, 719 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₁ClN₂S 332.1114; found 332.1105.



2-(2-Chloro-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)malononitrile (4f) General procedure B was followed using 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)malononitrile (38.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-methoxy-3-vinylbenzene (69.2 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **4f** (46.8 mg) in 65% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.1, 140.0, 133.5, 133.0, 130.4, 130.3, 128.5, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 126.1, 122.1, 119.6, 115.1, 114.5, 113.9, 113.1, 58.0, 55.5, 50.3, 40.7. IR (film) 2923, 2250, 1600, 1588, 1456, 1320, 1158, 894, 600 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₁₇ClN₂O 360.1029; found 360.1017.



2-(2-Chlorohexyl)-2-(4-chlorophenyl)malononitrile (4g) General procedure B was followed using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)malononitrile (35.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), hex-1-ene (62.8 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 4g (31.3 mg) in 53% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H** NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.02-3.98 (m, 1H), 2.71 (dd, J = 14.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (dd, J = 14.8, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 1.80 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.46 (m, 1H), 1.42 – 1.29 (m, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.8, 130.5, 130.3, 127.4, 114.5, 114.1, 57.2, 49.5, 40.1, 38.2, 28.0, 22.1, 13.9.

IR (film) 2958, 2930, 2863, 2250, 1595, 1466, 1434, 1380, 1322, 1232, 717, 683, 514 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: $[M]^+$ calcd for C₁₅H₁₆Cl₂N₂ 294.0691; found 294.0703.



2-(2-Chloro-4-phenylbutyl)-2-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)malononitrile (4h) General procedure B was followed using 2-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)malononitrile (36.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol) and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C for 24 h. Chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) provided **4h** (29.4 mg) in 42% yield as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.13 – 3.79 (m, 1H), 3.24 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.65 (m, 2H), 2.50 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.24 – 1.97 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.7, 140.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.6, 126.5, 126.3, 123.1, 122.7, 115.2, 114.7, 110.4, 72.1, 56.4, 49.7, 40.1, 39.9, 32.1, 29.6.

IR (film) 2920, 2853, 2250, 1615, 1454, 1439, 1365, 1297, 1030, 884, 570 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₁₉ClN₂O 350.1186; found 350.1172.



2-(2-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-chloroethyl)-2-(p-tolyl)malononitrile (4i) General procedure B was followed using 2-(p-tolyl)malononitrile (31.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1-bromo-3-vinylbenzene (65.0 μ L, 0.5 mmol), Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (1.0 mL) at 100 °C. Chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) provided 4i (52.2 mg) in 70% yield as a yellow oil

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 4.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.8, 132.7, 130.74, 130.67, 130.4, 128.3, 126.1, 125.8, 123.2, 114.5, 113.8, 57.0, 50.3, 40.1, 21.2.

IR (film) 2924, 2250, 1687, 1571, 1511, 1476, 1195, 1043, 878, 756, 586 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₄BrClN₂ 372.0029; found 372.0033.

3. Mechanistic Study

General Procedure for the Control Experiments



A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with dimer 5 (17.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where $CuCl_2$ (26.8 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (37.5 μ L, 0.25 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (0.5 ml, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap using a crimper

and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (3 mL) followed by water (2 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant material was analyzed by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy with CH₂Br₂ (7µL) as internal standard.

b) Ph MeCN, 100 °C, 24 h Ph
$$6$$
, 34%

A flame dried 8 mL microwave equipped with a stirbar was brought into a glovebox where CuCl₂ (53.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, but-3-en-1-ylbenzene (75.1 μ L, 0.5 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (1 mL, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap using a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) followed by water (3 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2x 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography with 5 % EtOAc/hexanes to obtain the product **6** (27.4 mg, 34% yield) as a yellow oil. The spectral data were in accordance with those in the literature.⁶

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, <u>2</u>H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 3H), 4.19 – 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.78 (dd, J = 11.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, J = 11.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.95-2.90 (m, 1H), 2.78-2.74 (m, 1H), 2.50 – 2.20 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.00 (m, 1H).



A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with 2-(4methoxyphenyl) malononitrile (17.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where CuCl₂ (13.4 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, compound **6** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (0.5 mL, 0.2 M) were added into the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap with a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (3 mL) followed by water (2 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant material was analyzed by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with CH₂Br₂ (7µL) as internal standard.

General Procedure for the Radical Probe experiment



A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stirbar was charged with 2-(4methoxyphenyl) malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and $K_2S_2O_8$ (0.4 mmol, 108 mg) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where Cu(OTf)₂ (10.8 mg, 0.03 mmol), 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'bipyridine (10.7 mg, 0.04 mmol), and KCl (29.8 mg, 0.4 mmol) were added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, (2vinylcyclopropyl)benzene (36 mg, 0.5 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (1 mL, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap using a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) followed by water (3 mL). The layers were separated and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 x 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant matereial was purified by silica gel column chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) to obtain 7 (17 mg, 24%) which was contaminated with 9 (~10%) as yellow oil.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.70 (dt, *J* = 14.6, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (dt, *J* = 15.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.07 – 2.77 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.8, 140.9, 135.1, 128.9, 128.6, 127.4, 127.2, 124.0, 123.3, 115.1, 115.0, 114.9, 62.3, 55.7, 45.7, 43.0, 42.1.

IR (film) 2935, 2250, 1608, 1585, 1455, 1442, 1421, 1306, 972, 795, 761, 605 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₁₉ClN₂O 350.1186; found 350.1172.



A flame dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stir-bar was charged with 2-(4methoxyphenyl) malononitrile (34.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and the vial was brought into a glovebox where CuCl₂ (53.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added. The vial was capped with a rubber septum and removed from the glovebox. Under an argon atmosphere, (2-vinylcyclopropyl) benzene (36 mg, 0.5 mmol) and freshly distilled acetonitrile (1 mL, 0.2 M) were added to the vial. The vial was then carefully sealed with a Teflon cap using a crimper and placed in a heating block preheated at 100 °C with stirring. After 24 h, the reaction vial was removed from the heating block and allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (5 mL) followed by water (3 mL). The layers were separated, and the organic layer was transferred to another flask. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc ($2 \times 2 \text{ mL}$). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resultant residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) to yield **9** (12 mg, 19%) as off white amorphous solid.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.13 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (ddd, *J* = 15.6, 10.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (ddd, *J* = 15.0, 10.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.88 – 5.61 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.01 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.8, 138.4, 136.8, 134.7, 128.8, 128.2, 127.4, 127.4, 126.7, 123.3, 122.7, 115.09, 115.05, 55.6, 46.2, 42.3.

IR (film) 3025, 2250, 1607, 1584, 1463, 1421, 810, 795, 605, 530 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂O 315.1497; found 315.1501.

General procedure for the post-modification of alkene carbo-halogenation product



An oven dried 8 mL microwave vial equipped with a stir-bar was charged with $PdCl_2$ (6.8 mg, 0.04 mmol), **3a** or **3c** (0.2 mmol), and acetamide (49.6 mg, 0.84 mmol) followed by addition of 3:1 THF/H₂O (0.8 mL). Under argon, the vial was capped with a rubber septum and stirred at room temperature. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (3 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The resultant material was purified by silica-gel column chromatography (20% EtOAc/Hexanes).



4-Chloro-2-cyano-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbutanamide (10) Obtained as a white amorphous solid as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers in 81% yield (53.1 mg).

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO)** δ 7.66 (s, 0.5H), 7.64 (s, 0.5H), 7.61 (s, 0.5H), 7.56 (s, 0.5H), 7.43 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 5.31 – 4.63 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1.5H), 3.76 (s, 1.5H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 8.8 Hz, 0.5H), 3.17 – 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 14.9, 5.4 Hz, 0.5H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) diastereomer 1 δ 167.6, 159.2, 140.5, 128.6, 128.6, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 119.1, 114.4, 60.2, 55.3, 51.6, 44.2 diastereomer 2 δ 167.4, 159.3, 140.4, 128.8, 128.6, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 118.8, 114.3, 59.9, 55.3, 51.4, 44.6.

IR (film) 3300, 3250, 2900, 2850, 2250, 1702, 1613, 1456, 1344, 1265, 825, 684 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for C₁₈H₁₇ClN₂NaO₂ 351.0876; found 351.0878.



4-chloro-2-cyano-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-phenylhexanamide (12) Obtained as a white amorphous solid as a 3:2 mixture of diastereomers in 83% yield (59.1 mg).

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO)** δ 7.68 (s, 0.4H), 7.65 (s, 0.4H), 7.59 (s, 0.6H), 7.57 (s, 0.6H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.09 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.00-3.96 (m, 0.40H), 3.84-3.80 (m, 0.60H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.90 – 2.59 (m, 4H), 2.24 – 1.89 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO) δ Major diastereomer 167.8, 159.2, 140.5, 128.3, 128.3, 127.4, 127.3, 126.0, 119.6, 114.3, 59.4, 55.3, 51.5, 44.1, 43.1, 31.5. Minor diastereomer δ 167.6, 159.2, 140.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 127.3, 126.0, 119.6, 114.3, 59.3, 55.3, 51.5, 44.1, 43.1, 31.5.

IR (film) 3250, 3200, 2950, 2850, 2250, 1701, 1607, 1510, 1453, 1293, 1121, 615 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M - HC1]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₀N₂O₂ 320.1525; found 320.1536.

The purified hydrolyzed product was then dissolved in DMSO (1 mL) in a 8 mL microwave vial, sealed with Teflon cap with a crimper, and heated at 100 °C. After 15 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 3 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-5-phenyltetrahydrofuran-3-carbonitrile **11**) Obtained as a white amorphous solid (41.6 mg, 71% yield) that is a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers.

Diastereomer 1

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.62 – 7.33 (m, 7H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 10.7 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 160.4, 136.4, 129.6, 129.3, 128.2, 125.8, 124.6, 116.8, 114.9, 79.2, 55.6, 49.3, 46.4.

Diastereomer 2

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.41 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.19 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 5.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (ddd, *J* = 12.6, 10.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 160.7, 136.3, 129.7, 129.3, 127.8, 125.9, 123.8, 117.9, 115.4, 79.5, 55.7, 49.0, 45.0.

IR (film) 2950, 2850, 2250, 1777, 1607, 1329, 1214, 940, 796, 742, 573 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₃ 293.1052; found two components 293.1057 and 293.1033.

3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-5-phenethyltetrahydrofuran-3-carbonitrile (13) Obtained as light-yellow oil (48.8 mg, 76%) that is a 1:2 mixture of diastereomers.

¹**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.40 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 0.60H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1.40H), 7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.60H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.40H), 4.80-4.76 (m, 0.30H), 4.49 – 4.45 (m, 0.60H), 3.82 (s, 0.90H), 3.82 (s, 2.10H), 3.06 (dd, J = 13.4, 5.3 Hz, 0.30H), 2.98 – 2.82 (m, 1.70H), 2.82– 2.72 (m, 1H), 2.69 (dd, J = 13.3, 9.7 Hz, 0.70H), 2.40 (dd, J = 13.4, 10.0 Hz, 0.30H), 2.25 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 1.95 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Major diastereomer δ 169.8, 160.5, 140.1, 128.8, 128.5, 127.6, 126.6,124.1, 118.2, 115.2, 78.0, 55.5, 48.4, 42.4, 36.6, 31.6. Minor diastereomer δ 169.4, 160.3, 140.1, 128.8, 128.4, 128.03, 126.6, 125.0, 116.9,114.8, 77.8, 55.5, 48.8, 44.0, 36.5, 31.6.
IR (film) 2950, 2850, 2250, 1775, 1608, 1496, 1347, 1123, 918, 796 cm⁻¹.

HRMS (EI-TOF) *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉NO₃ 321.1365; found 321.1378.

4. X-ray Structure Determination of Compound 3d General Procedure

In a 20 mL 4-dram vial, compound **3d** or **3s** were dissolved in a limited amount of 10 % EtOAc/Hexanes solution. The vial was sealed with a white screw cap and placed in a freezer (-30 °C). After 24 h, crystals of the compounds were observed which was then analyzed by X-ray Crystallography.



Compound 3d, C₂₁H₂₁ClN₂O₂, crystallizes in the monoclinic space group P2₁/n (systematic absences 0k0: k=odd and h0l: h+l=odd) with a=15.2765(7)Å, b=5.9467(3)Å, c=21.5897(9)Å, β =108.640(2)°, V=1858.43(15)Å³, Z=4, and d_{calc}=1.318 g/cm₃. X-ray intensity data were collected on a Bruker D8QUEST [1] CMOS area detector employing graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation (λ =0.71073Å) at a temperature of 100K. Preliminary indexing was performed from a series of twenty-four 0.5° rotation frames with exposures of 10 seconds. A total of 912 frames were collected with a crystal to detector distance of 33.0 mm, rotation widths of 0.5° and exposures of 20 seconds:

scan type	20	ω	φ	χ	Frames
ω	3.18	196.87	144.00	54.72	304
ω	3.18	196.87	216.00	54.72	304
ω	3.18	196.87	72.00	54.72	304

Rotation frames were integrated using SAINT [2], producing a listing of unaveraged F^2 and $\sigma(F^2)$ values. A total of 28465 reflections were measured over the ranges $5.732 \le 2\theta \le 50.812^\circ$, $-18 \le h \le 18$, $-7 \le k \le 7$, $-26 \le 1 \le 26$ yielding 3419 unique reflections (R_{int} = 0.0507). The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and for

absorption using SADABS [3] (minimum and maximum transmission 0.6737, 0.7452). The structure was solved by direct methods - ShelXT [4]. Refinement was by full-matrix least squares based on F² using SHELXL-2018 [5]. All reflections were used during refinement. The weighting scheme used was w=1/[$\sigma^2(F_o^2)$ + (0.0332P)² + 1.2712P] where P = (F_o² + 2F_c²)/3. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were refined using a riding model. Refinement converged to R1=0.0465 and wR2=0.0978 for 3007 observed reflections for which F > 4 σ (F) and R1=0.0557 and wR2=0.1018 and GOF =1.148 for all 3419 unique, non-zero reflections and 264 variables. The maximum Δ/σ in the final cycle of least squares was 0.000 and the two most prominent peaks in the final difference Fourier were +0.22 and -0.28 e/Å³.

Figure S1 illustrates the ORTEP at 50% thermal ellipsoids. Table S1 lists cell information, data collection parameters, and refinement data.



Figure S1. ORTEP drawing of the title compound with 50% thermal ellipsoids.

Table S1. Summary of Structure Determination of Compound 3d

Empirical formula	$C_{21}H_{21}ClN_2O_2$
Formula weight	368.85
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n
a	15.2765(7)Å
b	5.9467(3)Å
c	21.5897(9)Å
β	108.640(2)°
Volume	1858.43(15)Å ³
Z	4
d _{calc}	1.318 g/cm ³
μ	0.223 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	776.0
Crystal size, mm	$0.19 \times 0.11 \times 0.09$
2θ range for data collection	5.732 - 50.812°
Index ranges	$-18 \le h \le 18, -7 \le k \le 7, -26 \le l \le 26$
Reflections collected	28465
Independent reflections	3419[R(int) = 0.0507]
Data/restraints/parameters	3419/12/264
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.148
Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0465, \mathrm{wR}_2 = 0.0978$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0557, wR_2 = 0.1018$
Largest diff. peak/hole	0.22/-0.28 eÅ ⁻³

This report has been created with Olex2 [6], compiled on 2018.05.29 svn.r3508 for OlexSys.

5. X-ray Structure Determination of Compound 3s



Compound **3s**, C₁₉H₁₅ClN₂O, crystallizes in the triclinic space group PT with a=7.7845(4)Å, b=8.6499(4)Å, c=12.8267(6)Å, $\alpha=94.616(2)^{\circ}$, $\beta=105.960(2)^{\circ}$, $\gamma=103.582(2)^{\circ}$, V=797.39(7)Å³, Z=2, and d_{calc}=1.344 g/cm₃. X-ray intensity data were collected on a Bruker APEXII [1] CCD area detector employing graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda=0.71073$ Å) at a temperature of 100K. Preliminary indexing was performed from a series of thirty-six 0.5° rotation frames with exposures of 10 seconds. A total of 2670 frames were collected with a crystal to detector distance of 37.8 mm, rotation widths of 0.5° and exposures of 3 seconds:

scan type	20	Ŵ	φ	χ	Frames
ω	19.34	15.47	306.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	204.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	102.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	0.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	255.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	51.00	-54.74	225
ω	19.34	15.47	153.00	-54.74	225
ф	19.34	10.15	0.00	-24.00	720
ф	19.34	15.45	360.00	-57.50	375
Rotation frames were integrated using SAINT [2], producing a listing of unaveraged F^2 and $\sigma(F^2)$ values. A total of 24019 reflections were measured over the ranges $3.344 \le 2\theta \le 55.06^\circ$, $-10 \le h \le 10^\circ$ 9, $-9 \le k \le 11$, $-16 \le l \le 15$ yielding 3665 unique reflections (R_{int} = 0.0333). The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and for absorption using SADABS [3] (minimum and maximum transmission 0.7201, 0.7456). The structure was solved by direct methods - ShelXT [4]. Refinement was by full-matrix least squares based on F² using SHELXL-2018 [5]. All reflections were used during refinement. The weighting scheme used was w=1/[$\sigma^2(F_o^2)$ + (0.0364P)² + 0.4271P] where P = (F_o^2 + 2 F_c^2)/3. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were refined using a riding model. Refinement converged to R1=0.0345 and wR2=0.0812 for 3094 observed reflections for which $F > 4\sigma(F)$ and R1=0.0439 and wR2=0.0858 and GOF =1.024 for all 3665 unique, non-zero reflections and 209 variables. The maximum Δ/σ in the final cycle of least squares was 0.000 and the two most prominent peaks in the final difference Fourier were +0.38 and -0.25 e/Å³. Figure S2 shows the ORTEP at 50% thermal ellipsoids and Table S2 lists cell information, data collection parameters, and refinement data.



Figure S2. ORTEP drawing of the title compound with 50% thermal ellipsoids.

Empirical formula	C19H15CIN2O
Formula weight	322.78
Temperature/K	100
Crystal system	triclinic
	DT
Space group	r1
a	7.7845(4)Å
b	8.6499(4)A
c	12.8267(6)A
α	94.616(2)°
β	105.960(2)°
γ	103.582(2)°
Volume	797.39(7)A ³
Ζ	2
d _{calc}	1.344 g/cm ³
μ	0.245 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	336.0
Crystal size, mm	$0.22\times0.12\times0.06$
2θ range for data collection	3.344 - 55.06°
Index ranges	$-10 \le h \le 9, -9 \le k \le 11, -16 \le l \le 15$
Reflections collected	24019
Independent reflections	3665[R(int) = 0.0333]
Data/restraints/parameters	3665/0/209
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.024
Final R indexes [I>= 2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0345, wR_2 = 0.0812$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0439, wR_2 = 0.0858$
Largest diff. peak/hole	0.38/-0.25 eÅ ⁻³

Table S2. Summary of Structure Determination of Compound 3s

6. References

- (1) Kohler, D. G.; Gockel, S. N.; Kennemur, J. L.; Waller, P. J.; Hull, K. L. Palladium-Catalysed Anti-Markovnikov Selective Oxidative Amination. *Nat. Chem.* **2018**, *10* (3), 333–340. https://doi.org/10.1038/nchem.2904.
- (2) Peterson, J. P.; Winter, A. H. Solvent Effects on the Stability and Delocalization of Aryl Dicyanomethyl Radicals: The Captodative Effect Revisited. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2019, 141 (32), 12901–12906. https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.9b06576.
- (3) Peterson, J. P.; Geraskina, M. R.; Zhang, R.; Winter, A. H. Effect of Substituents on the Bond Strength of Air-Stable Dicyanomethyl Radical Thermochromes. *J. Org. Chem.* **2017**, *82* (12), 6497–6501. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.7b01188.
- (4) Peterson, J. P.; Ellern, A.; Winter, A. H. Spin Delocalization, Polarization, and London Dispersion Forces Govern the Formation of Diradical Pimers. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2020, 142 (11), 5304–5313. https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.0c00190.
- (5) Chen, X. M.; Ning, X. S.; Kang, Y. B. Aerobic Acetoxyhydroxylation of Alkenes Co-Catalyzed by Organic Nitrite and Palladium. Org. Lett. 2016, 18 (20), 5368–5371. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.orglett.6b02743.
- (6) Egami, H.; Yoneda, T.; Uku, M.; Ide, T.; Kawato, Y.; Hamashima, Y. Difunctionalization of Alkenes Using 1-Chloro-1,2-Benziodoxol-3-(1H)-One. J. Org. Chem. 2016, 81 (10), 4020–4030. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.6b00295.



SI-41



SI-42







SI-45



SI-46



SI-47







SI-50



SI-51





SI-53



SI-54





SI-56





SI-58











SI-61

















SI-68



SI-69



SI-70



SI-71




SI-73





SI-75





SI-77





