

Supporting Information

Copper-mediated radical alkylarylation of unactivated alkenes with acetonitrile leading to fluorenes and pyrroloindoles

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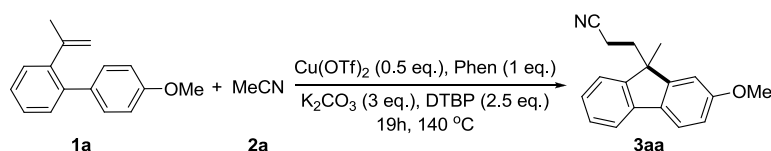
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Experimental Section:

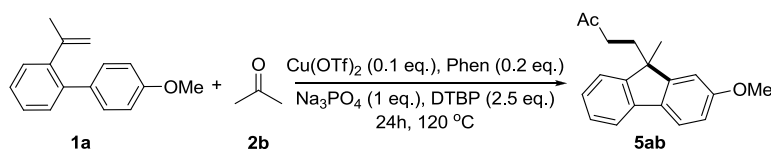
General

Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. All reactions were carried out in air and using undistilled solvent, without need of precautions to exclude air and moisture unless otherwise noted. Melting points were recorded on an Electrothermal digital melting point apparatus. IR spectra were recorded on a FT-IR spectrophotometer using KBr optics. ^1H , ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 on 400 MHz spectrometers. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) served as internal standard for ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR. High resolution mass spectra were obtained using a commercial apparatus (ESI or EI Source).

General procedure for rapid assembly of fluorene and pyrroloindole derivatives

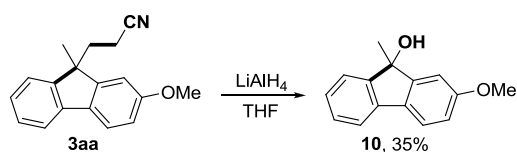


Alkene **1a** (0.2 mmol), acetonitrile **2a** (2 mL), $\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ (0.1 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.2 mmol), K_2CO_3 (0.6 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (0.5 mmol) was stirred at 140 °C under air in a pressure-tight tube. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent, affording pure product **3aa**.



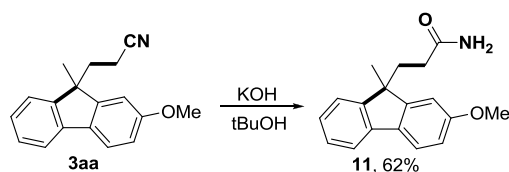
Alkene **1a** (0.3 mmol), acetone **2a** (2 mL), $\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$ (0.03 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.06 mmol), Na_3PO_4 (0.3 mmol) and di-*tert*-butyl peroxide (0.75 mmol) was stirred at 120 °C under air in a pressure-tight tube. Upon completion of the reaction (indicated by TLC), solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent, affording pure product **5ab**.

General procedure for the synthesis of compound **10**



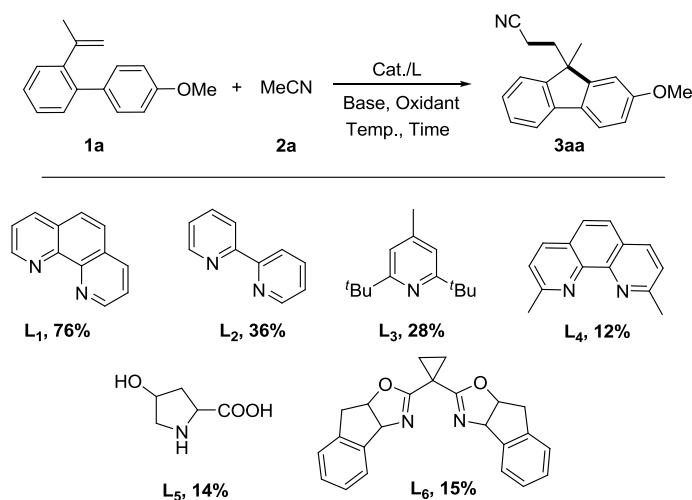
0.25 mmol of 3-(2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile **3aa** was dissolved in 2.0 mL dry THF. Then 1 mmol of LiAlH₄ was added slowly at 0 °C. After 10 minutes, the cold bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The desired product 2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-ol **10** was obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (white solid, 35%).

General procedure for the synthesis of compound **11**



0.5 mmol of 3-(2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile **3aa** and 2 mmol of KOH was dissolved in 2.0 mL of 2-methyl-2-propanol. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 48 h. The desired product 3-(2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanamide **11** was obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (white solid, 62%).

Table S1: Optimization of the reaction conditions^a



Entry	Catalyst (equiv)	Ligand (equiv)	Oxidant (x equiv)	Base (x equiv)	Time (h)	Temp. (°C)	GC-Yield ^b	
							3aa	1a ^c
1	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	76	0
2	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₂ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	36	42
3	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₃ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	28	20
4	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₄ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	12	43
5	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₅ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	14	50
6	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₆ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	15	88
7	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	--	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	0	--
8	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.2)	L ₁ (0.4)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	10	38
9	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (0.5)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	20	28
10	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.2)	L ₁ (0.2)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₃ PO ₄ (3)	19	140	24	31
11	Cu(OTf)₂(0.5)	L₁(1)	DTBP(2.5)	K₂CO₃(3)	19	140	96(78)^d	0
12	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	CS ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	36	40
13	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	NaOAc(3)	19	140	49	0
14	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	ButOK(3)	19	140	67	trace
15	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	KOH(3)	19	140	48	18
16	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	--	19	140	trace	78
17	Cu(OAc) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	61	0
18	CuOAc(0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	56	trace
19	Cu ₂ O(0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	33	9
20	Cu(NO ₃) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	83	trace
21	--	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	0	--
22	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DCP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	62	trace
23	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	TBPB(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	51	0
24	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	BPO(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	140	23	17
25	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	19	130	87	0
26	Cu(OTf) ₂ (0.5)	L ₁ (1)	DTBP(2.5)	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	12	140	79	0

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (2 mL), catalyst (0.5 equiv), ligand (1 equiv), base (3 equiv) and oxidant (2.5 equiv) at 140 °C under air; DTBP = di-*tert*-butyl peroxide; DCP = dicumyl peroxide; TBPB = *tert*-butylperoxybenzoate; BPO = benzoyl peroxide. ^bYields were determined by GC with an internal standard (biphenyl) on the basis of the ratio between the formed products and the initial amount of limiting reactant. ^cThe recovery of **1a**. ^dIsolated yields.

Figure S1: The fluorescence spectra of prepared polycyclic **3va**, **3ta**, **5ba** and **5fa**

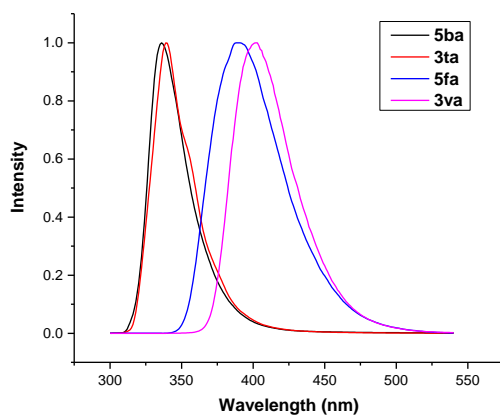
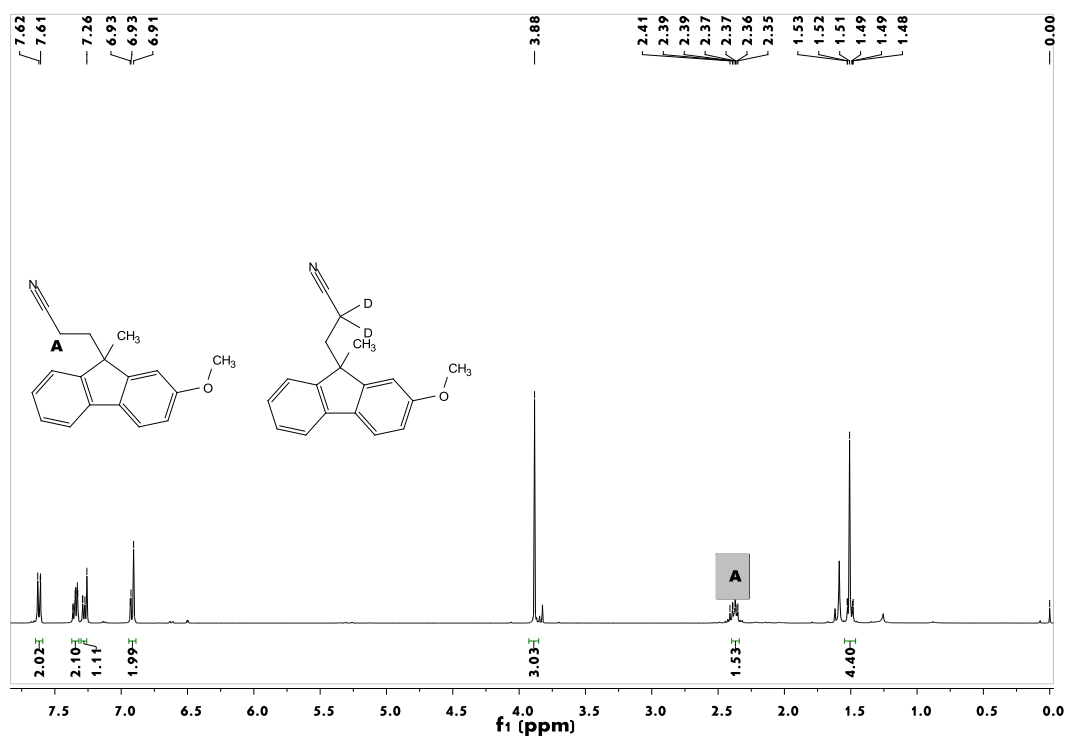
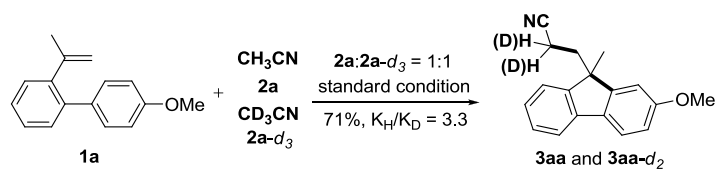


Figure S2: Kinetic isotope effects (KIE) experiment



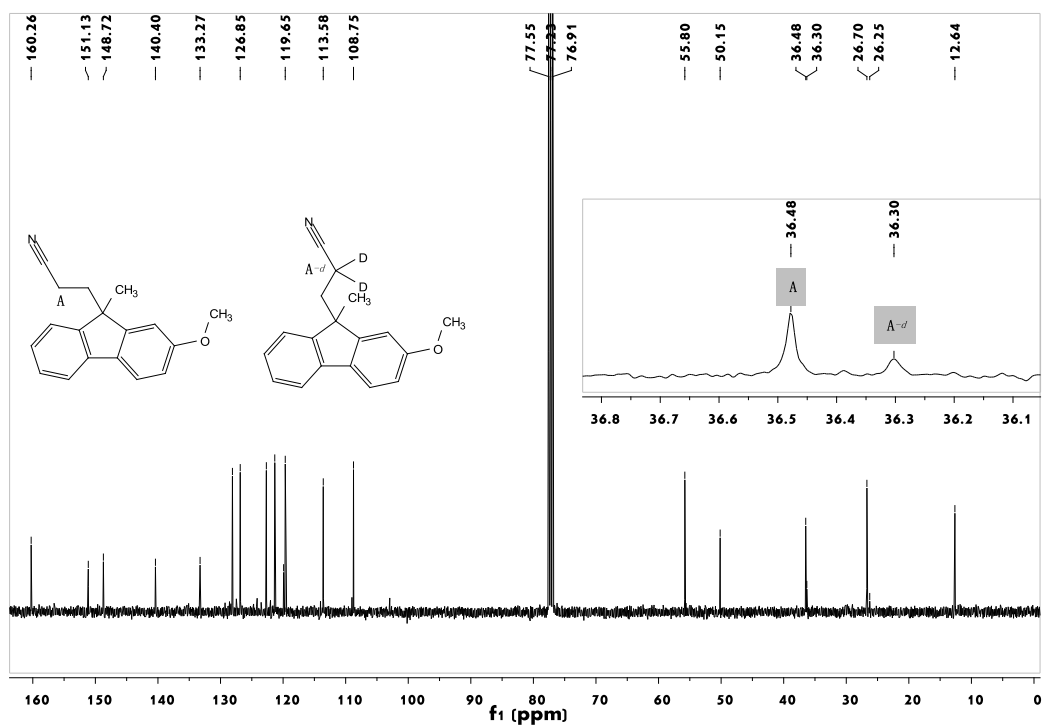
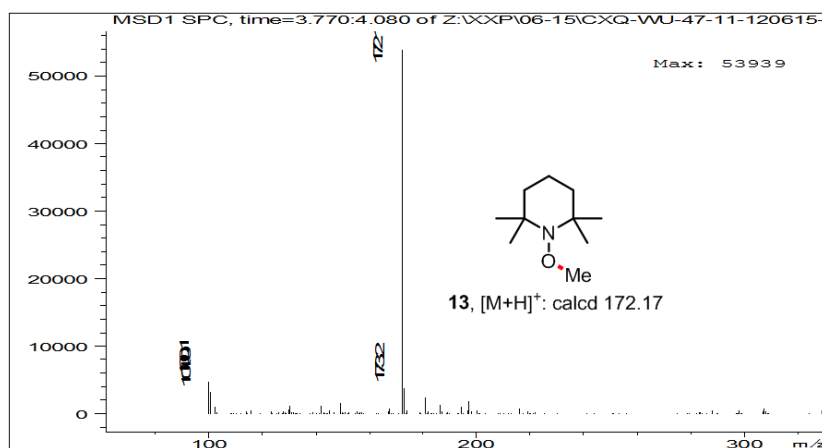
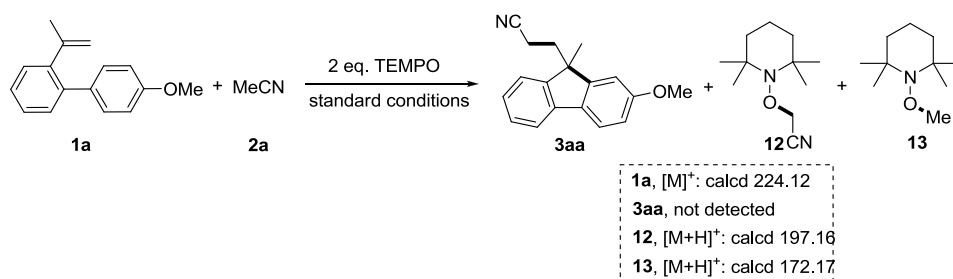
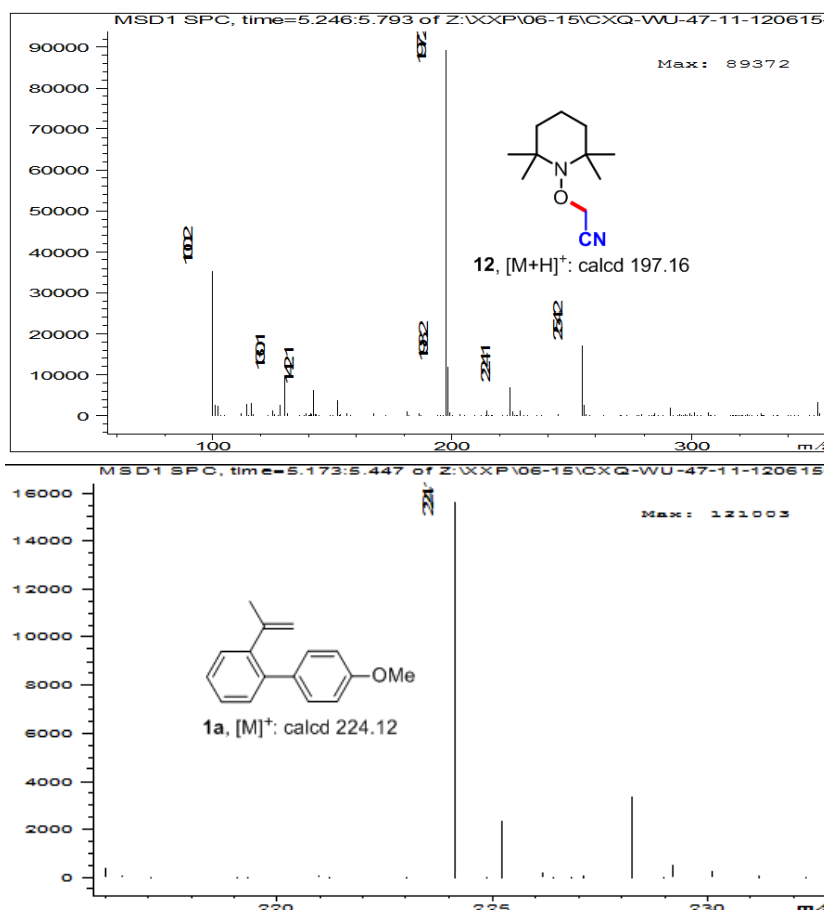
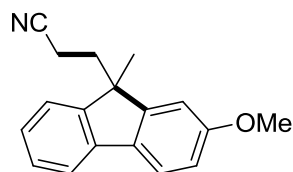


Figure S3: Trapping experiment with 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO).

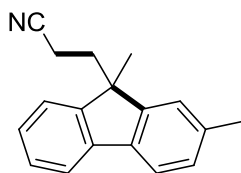




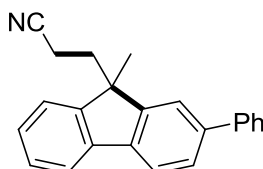
Analytical and spectral data of products:



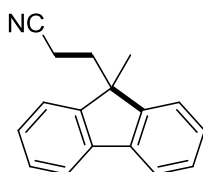
3-(2-Methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3aa): Yield = 78%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2960, 2925, 2866, 2246, 1610, 1459, 1280, 1253, 1036, 822, 736 cm^{-1} . ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.64–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.45–2.31 (m, 2H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.50–1.47 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 160.3, 151.1, 148.7, 140.4, 133.3, 128.1, 126.8, 122.7, 121.3, 119.9, 119.6, 113.6, 108.8, 55.8, 50.2, 36.5, 26.7, 12.6 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 286.1202, found: 286.1205.



3-(2,9-Dimethyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ba): Yield = 72%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2959, 2923, 2863, 2245, 1446, 1214, 823, 778, 738 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.67 (dd, J = 5.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.42–2.36 (m, 2H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.51–1.46 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 149.4, 149.1, 140.5, 138.1, 137.8, 128.9, 128.0, 127.5, 123.5, 122.8, 120.2, 120.2, 120.0, 50.0, 36.4, 26.7, 22.0, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 270.1253, found: 270.1262.

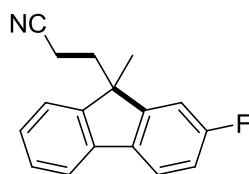


3-(9-methyl-2-phenyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ca): Yield = 50%. White solid. M.p. 108.2–109.3 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr) ν = 2987, 2972, 2246, 1435, 1407, 1251, 1075, 895, 760, 694 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.80–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.60 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 4H), 2.50–2.41 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.57–1.53 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 149.9, 149.5, 141.3, 140.1, 139.6, 129.1, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.4, 127.3, 122.9, 121.5, 120.8, 120.6, 119.8, 50.3, 36.4, 26.7, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 332.1410, found: 332.1407.

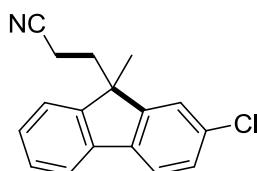


3-(9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3da): Yield = 59%. White solid. M.p. 72.2–74.5 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. IR (KBr) ν = 2955, 2920, 2852, 2242, 1443, 1260, 1076, 1025, 799, 731 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.72 (dd, J = 6.1, 2.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 6H), 2.47–2.37 (m, 2H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.51–1.45 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 149.2, 140.4, 128.1, 128.0, 122.8, 120.5, 119.9, 50.2, 36.4, 26.6, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 256.1097,

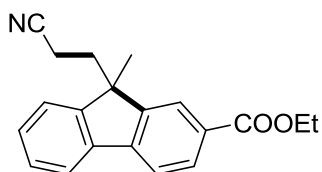
found: 256.1090.



3-(2-fluoro-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ea): Yield = 74%. White solid. M.p. 60.1–61.7 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2957, 2922, 2862, 2246, 1613, 1444, 1265, 1186, 898, 821, 776, 734 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.71–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 2H), 2.46–2.33 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.50 (m, 5H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 164.4, 162.0, 151.6, 151.6, 149.0, 149.0, 139.6, 136.4, 136.3, 128.3, 127.7, 122.8, 121.7, 121.6, 120.2, 119.6, 115.4, 115.2, 110.5, 110.3, 50.4, 50.4, 36.3, 26.5, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{FNNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ 274.1002, found: 274.1008.

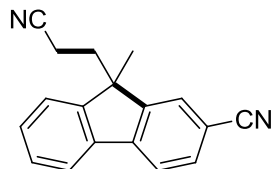


3-(2-chloro-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3fa): Yield = 53%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2959, 2920, 2850, 2245, 1632, 1443, 1263, 1083, 825, 789, 735 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.71–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.66–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 5H), 2.47–2.33 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.48 (m, 5H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 151.1, 149.0, 139.3, 139.0, 133.8, 128.4, 128.3, 123.4, 122.9, 121.5, 120.6, 119.49, 50.4, 36.2, 26.5, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNNa}$ [$\text{M}+\text{Na}$] $^+$ 290.0707, found: 290.0711.

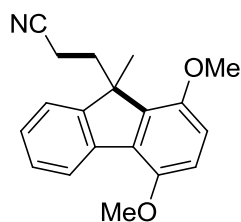


ethyl 9-(2-cyanoethyl)-9-methyl-9H-fluorene-2-carboxylate (3ga): Yield = 61%. White solid. M.p. 134.9–136.6 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2977, 2965, 2928, 2243, 1707, 1446, 1289, 1257, 1220, 1099, 1026, 860, 757, 740 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.11 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.07–8.05 (m, 1H), 7.80–7.85 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 3H), 4.46–4.39 (m, 2H), 2.55–2.40 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.53–1.47 (m, 2H), 1.47–1.40 (m, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ =

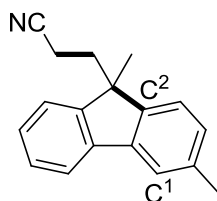
166.8, 150.3, 149.3, 144.9, 139.3, 130.1, 129.9, 129.2, 128.4, 124.0, 123.1, 121.4, 120.2, 119.5, 61.4, 50.3, 36.1, 26.5, 14.6, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₀H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 306.1489, found: 306.1499.



9-(2-cyanoethyl)-9-methyl-9H-fluorene-2-carbonitrile (3ha): Yield = 59%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2961, 2922, 2850, 2223, 1609, 1447, 1184, 837, 783, 738 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.85–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 3H), 2.45 (dd, J = 8.8, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.55–1.49 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 150.0, 149.8, 144.9, 138.5, 132.6, 129.9, 128.7, 126.6, 123.2, 121.7, 121.1, 119.3, 119.0, 111.0, 50.5, 35.8, 26.4, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺ 259.1230, found: 259.1231.

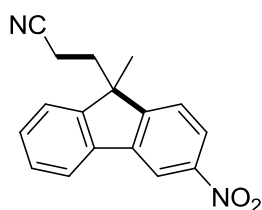


3-(1,4-dimethoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ia): Yield = 65%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2965, 2923, 2245, 1503, 1456, 1248, 1051, 1017, 756, 745, 668 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.10–8.04 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.29 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.95–2.85 (m, 1H), 2.30–2.20 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.55–1.45 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 151.0, 150.5, 149.6, 139.6, 136.4, 129.7, 127.9, 127.2, 124.4, 121.7, 120.3, 110.9, 110.2, 55.9, 55.8, 51.3, 33.4, 24.3, 12.9 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 316.1308, found: 316.1311.

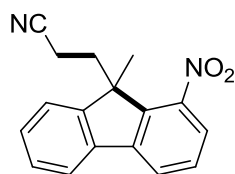


3-(3,9-dimethyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ja) and 3-(1,9-dimethyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ja'): Yield = 55% (C¹/C² isomers, 3ja/3ja' =

1:1). IR (KBr) ν = 2962, 2925, 2866, 2242, 1582, 1453, 1279, 1027, 821, 766, 741 cm^{-1} . The ^1H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 1:1 mixture of **3ja** and its isomer **3ja'**. ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3) **3ja** and its isomer **3ja'**: δ = 7.72–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.5H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.5H), 2.80–2.70 (m, 0.5H), 2.52 (s, 1.5H), 2.44 (s, 1.5H), 2.42–2.33 (m, 1.5H), 1.62 (s, 1.5H), 1.56–1.42 (m, 3.5H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) **3ja** and its isomer **3ja'**: δ = 149.9, 149.6, 146.3, 145.4, 141.0, 140.5, 140.5, 140.3, 137.9, 134.5, 130.6, 128.9, 128.2, 128.0, 128.0, 127.9, 122.8, 122.5, 122.3, 121.1, 120.4, 120.2, 120.0, 119.9, 118.2, 51.5, 49.8, 36.4, 34.0, 26.7, 24.5, 21.7, 19.2, 12.7, 12.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 270.1253, found: 270.1256.

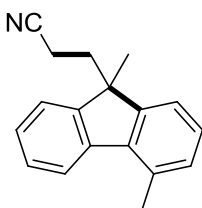


3-(9-methyl-3-nitro-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ja): Yield = 23%. Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2961, 2923, 2851, 2245, 1519, 1343, 1090, 1025, 782, 728 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.55 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.87–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 3H), 2.48 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.65–1.55 (m, 5H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 156.0, 149.4, 148.7, 142.1, 138.2, 129.7, 128.8, 123.6, 123.2, 123.1, 121.4, 119.1, 115.6, 50.7, 35.9, 26.5, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 301.0947, found: 301.0941.

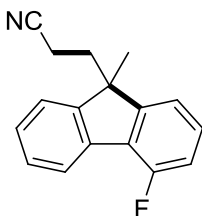


3-(9-methyl-1-nitro-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ja'): Yield = 40%. Yellow oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2970, 2921, 2245, 1528, 1458, 1346, 1066, 762, 728 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.02 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.73 (m, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.41 (m, 3H), 3.27–3.17 (m, 1H), 2.42–2.32 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.61–1.49 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 150.5, 148.4, 144.6, 141.1, 137.6, 129.8, 129.7, 128.5, 125.3, 123.8, 122.7, 120.6, 119.1, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 53.2, 34.5, 23.9, 13.0 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd

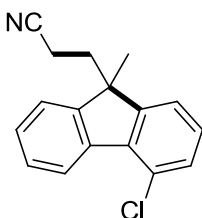
for: C₁₇H₁₄N₂NaO₂ [M+Na]⁺ 301.0947, found: 301.0938.



3-(4,9-dimethyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3la): Yield = 57%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2958, 2924, 2862, 2246, 1453, 1376, 1031, 792, 734 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.86 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.15 (dd, J = 6.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.44–2.37 (m, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.49–1.43 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 149.6, 141.4, 138.4, 133.7, 130.4, 128.0, 127.7, 127.3, 123.6, 122.7, 120.2, 119.9, 49.7, 36.5, 27.0, 21.2, 12.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for C₁₈H₁₇NNa [M+Na]⁺ 270.1253, found: 270.1245.

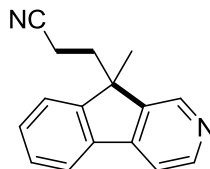


3-(4-fluoro-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3ma): Yield = 76%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2961, 2921, 2850, 2246, 1580, 1454, 1243, 1223, 951, 795, 729 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10–7.04 (m, 1H), 2.45–2.39 (m, 2H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.53–1.48 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 159.9, 157.4, 152.2, 148.6, 137.5, 137.5, 129.3, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 124.1, 124.0, 122.6, 119.6, 118.5, 118.5, 115.3, 115.1, 50.9, 36.4, 26.7, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for C₁₇H₁₄FNNa [M+Na]⁺ 274.1002, found: 274.1009.

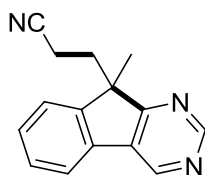


3-(4-chloro-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3na): Yield = 49%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2961, 2925, 2864, 2246, 1570, 1443, 1424, 1128, 797, 730 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.43–8.37 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.35 (dd, J = 6.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.26 (m,

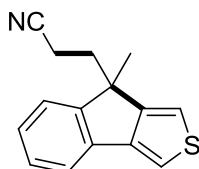
2H), 2.44–2.39 (m, 2H), 1.52 (s, 3H), 1.51–1.46 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 151.8, 149.3, 139.1, 137.2, 129.7, 129.5, 128.6, 128.6, 128.2, 124.4, 122.5, 121.1, 119.6, 50.3, 36.4, 26.9, 12.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 290.0707, found: 290.0716.



3-(9-methyl-9H-indeno[2,1-c]pyridin-9-yl)propanenitrile (3oa): Yield = 56%. White solid. M.p. 93.2–94.7 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2987, 2971, 2901, 2237, 1600, 1407, 1251, 1075, 742 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.65 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.43 (m, 3H), 2.58–2.42 (m, 2H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.59–1.49 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 150.1, 149.5, 148.2, 145.0, 143.9, 138.0, 130.6, 128.6, 123.2, 122.2, 119.2, 115.3, 49.9, 35.9, 26.3, 12.8 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 257.1049, found: 257.1050.

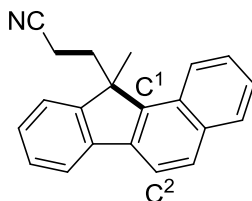


3-(9-methyl-9H-indeno[2,1-d]pyrimidin-9-yl)propanenitrile (3pa): Yield = 68%. White solid. M.p. 89.3–90.7 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2967, 2927, 2867, 2246, 1585, 1557, 1396, 1292, 1123, 1000, 809, 755 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 9.16 (s, 1H), 9.04 (s, 1H), 7.85–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.44 (m, 3H), 2.70–2.60 (m, 1H), 2.34–2.24 (m, 1H), 1.88–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.56 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 177.3, 157.2, 148.4, 147.6, 134.9, 132.2, 130.0, 128.8, 123.5, 122.0, 119.0, 50.8, 34.0, 24.3, 12.9 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 236.1182, found: 236.1192.



3-(8-methyl-8H-indeno[1,2-c]thiophen-8-yl)propanenitrile (3qa): Yield = 37%. White solid. M.p. 62.4–64.3 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2955, 2922, 2853, 2242, 1605, 1447, 1277, 1117, 1019, 751, 715

cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.50–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34–9.29 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 2H), 2.46–2.31 (m, 2H), 1.75–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.57 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 152.8, 151.3, 145.4, 138.2, 129.6, 128.0, 125.7, 122.5, 119.8, 119.7, 119.2, 50.0, 36.6, 26.8, 12.8 ppm. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NNaS [M+Na]⁺ 262.0661, found: 262.0669.



3-(11-methyl-11H-benzo[a]fluoren-11-yl)propanenitrile (3ra) and

3-(11-methyl-11H-benzo[b]fluoren-11-yl)propanenitrile (3ra'): Yield = 81% (C¹/C² isomers,

3ra/3ra' = 4:1). White solid. IR (KBr) ν = 2965, 2924, 2851, 2244, 1455, 1255, 1021, 824, 752

cm⁻¹. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the isolated product showed a 4:1 mixture of **3ra** and its isomer

3ra'. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) **3ra** and its isomer **3ra'**: δ = 8.16–8.07 (m, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.1

Hz, 1H), 7.93–7.84 (m, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.40 (m, 2H),

7.45–7.36 (m, 2H), 3.01–2.91 (m, 0.8H), 2.68–2.55 (m, 0.8H), 2.53–2.45 (m, 0.4H), 1.77 (s, 2.4H),

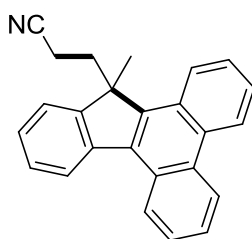
1.61 (s, 0.6H), 1.58–1.50 (m, 0.4H), 1.37–1.31 (m, 1.6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) **3ra** and

its isomer **3ra'**: δ = 151.1, 149.6, 147.5, 142.6, 140.5, 139.8, 138.9, 138.4, 134.2, 133.8, 133.6, 130.2,

129.9, 129.7, 128.8, 128.4, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.8, 127.1, 126.2, 126.1, 125.5, 123.2, 123.1, 122.2,

121.6, 121.1, 120.2, 119.8, 119.8, 118.9, 118.7, 52.0, 49.8, 37.2, 35.6, 27.7, 26.0, 12.8, 12.7 ppm.

HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₂₁H₁₇NNa [M+Na]⁺ 306.1253, found: 306.1251.



3-(13-methyl-13H-indeno[1,2-l]phenanthren-13-yl)propanenitrile (3sa): Yield = 76%. Coless

oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2987, 2971, 2243, 1732, 1455, 1374, 1241, 1066, 885, 776, 749 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR

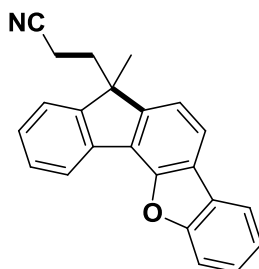
(400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.70–8.63 (m, 2H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.33–8.27 (m, 1H), 7.98–7.92 (m, 1H),

7.79–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.40 (m, 2H), 2.64–2.44 (m, 2H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.75–1.58

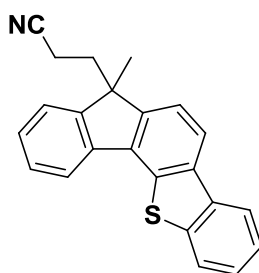
(m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 139.7, 139.1, 132.1, 131.9, 130.7, 130.5, 129.1,

129.1, 127.7, 127.4, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 124.6, 123.6, 123.0, 121.9, 120.6, 119.9, 43.8,

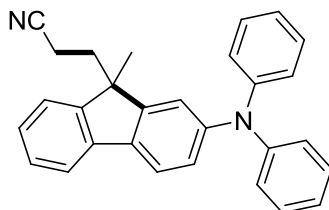
42.4, 34.5, 13.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $C_{25}H_{19}NNa$ $[M+Na]^+$ 356.1410, found: 356.1405.



3-(7-methyl-7H-benzo[d]fluoreno[4,3-b]furan-7-yl)propanenitrile (3ta): Yield = 82%. White solid. M.p. 45–47 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2987, 2971, 2901, 2244, 1579, 1442, 1184, 1075, 826, 731 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.37 (m, 4H), 2.54–2.47 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.55–1.49 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 156.9, 151.1, 149.3, 149.0, 138.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.4, 124.8, 124.6, 124.2, 123.8, 123.3, 122.6, 120.8, 120.0, 119.8, 117.2, 112.2, 51.3, 36.6, 26.9, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $C_{23}H_{17}NNaO$ $[M+Na]^+$ 346.1202, found: 346.1210.

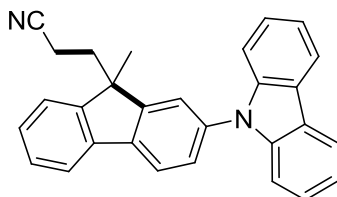


3-(7-methyl-7H-benzo[d]fluoreno[4,3-b]thiophen-7-yl)propanenitrile (3ua): Yield = 70%. White solid. M.p. 45–47 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2967, 2923, 2245, 1473, 1396, 1021, 1022, 824, 767, 736 cm^{-1} . 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 8.26–8.18 (m, 2H), 8.00–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.58–7.41 (m, 6H), 2.58–2.49 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.54–1.49 (m, 2H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 149.8, 148.2, 139.7, 139.7, 136.6, 135.2, 134.5, 132.7, 128.4, 128.0, 127.1, 125.0, 123.3, 122.7, 122.7, 121.9, 121.2, 119.8, 119.0, 50.9, 36.4, 26.8, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $C_{23}H_{17}NNaS$ $[M+Na]^+$ 362.0974, found: 362.0985.

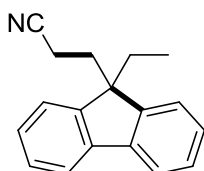


3-(2-(diphenylamino)-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3va): Yield = 63%. White

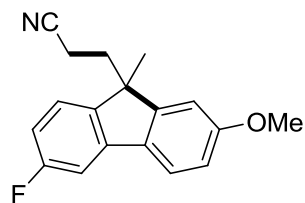
solid. M.p. 120.0–121.5 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2956, 2923, 2244, 1584, 1486, 1446, 1273, 1024, 756, 739, 696 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.62 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.26 (m, 7H), 7.16–7.10 (m, 5H), 7.08–7.02 (m, 3H), 2.37–2.20 (m, 2H), 1.59–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 150.6, 149.1, 148.3, 148.0, 140.3, 134.8, 129.6, 128.1, 127.1, 124.6, 123.8, 123.3, 122.7, 121.1, 119.9, 119.8, 118.1, 50.1, 36.2, 26.5, 12.7 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 423.1832, found: 423.1817.



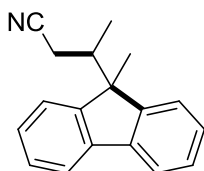
3-(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (3wa): Yield = 77%. White solid. M.p. 62.0–63.5 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2989, 2953, 2244, 1595, 1495, 1450, 1334, 1229, 833, 749, 739, 723 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.16 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.95–7.89 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 7H), 7.33–7.28 (m, 2H), 2.48–2.36 (m, 2H), 1.69–1.63 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 151.2, 149.4, 141.1, 139.7, 139.6, 137.4, 128.4, 128.4, 127.1, 126.3, 123.7, 123.0, 121.7, 121.7, 120.7, 120.6, 120.3, 119.5, 109.9, 50.5, 36.2, 26.6, 12.8 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{Na}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 421.1675, found: 421.1680.



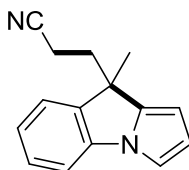
3-(9-ethyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (4aa): Yield = 46%. White solid. M.p. 78.2–80.1 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2964, 2924, 2853, 2245, 1448, 1363, 1169, 1081, 1021, 760, 733 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.74–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.33 (m, 6H), 2.45–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.06 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.55–1.46 (m, 2H), 0.33 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 147.4, 141.6, 128.0, 127.9, 122.9, 120.3, 120.0, 55.0, 35.8, 33.0, 12.4, 8.4 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 270.1253, found: 270.1250.



3-(6-fluoro-2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanenitrile (4ca): Yield = 66%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2988, 2963, 2926, 2245, 1614, 1584, 1487, 1431, 1284, 1172, 1037, 871, 823, 743 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.99–6.88 (m, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.40–2.33 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.51 (m, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 164.6, 162.2, 160.7, 151.9, 144.1, 144.0, 142.5, 142.4, 132.3, 123.8, 123.7, 121.7, 119.7, 113.8, 113.6, 113.4, 108.8, 107.0, 106.7, 55.8, 49.8, 36.4, 26.8, 12.6 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 304.1108, found: 304.1111.

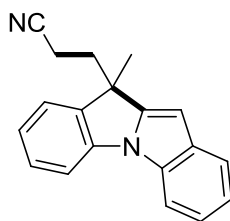


3-(9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)butanenitrile (4da): Yield = 57%. IR (KBr) ν = 2965, 2925, 2245, 1446, 1383, 1296, 1026, 940, 765, 735 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.76–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.29 (m, 5H), 2.56–2.47 (m, 1H), 1.81 (dd, J = 16.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.52–1.46 (m, 1H), 1.33 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 150.7, 140.7, 140.3, 128.1, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 124.5, 122.7, 120.5, 120.3, 119.7, 52.9, 40.1, 23.9, 20.4, 15.5 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 270.1253, found: 270.1262.

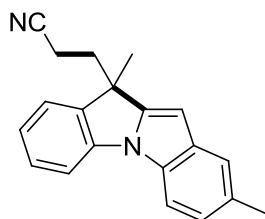


3-(9-methyl-9H-pyrrolo[1,2-a]indol-9-yl)propanenitrile (5aa): Yield = 35%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2969, 2922, 2245, 1712, 1614, 1491, 1379, 1258, 1066, 750, 708 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.35–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J = 2.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.32–2.24 (m, 2H), 1.92–1.84 (m, 1H), 1.76–1.69 (m, 1H), 1.55 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 141.8, 141.5, 140.2, 128.6, 124.1, 123.6, 119.7, 113.8, 110.5, 110.2, 101.3, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 44.9, 37.0, 26.7, 13.2 ppm.

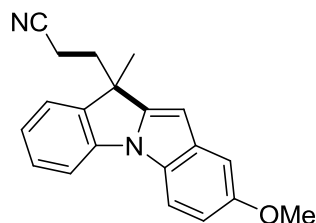
HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₅H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺ 223.1230, found: 223.1235.



3-(10-methyl-10H-indolo[1,2-a]indol-10-yl)propanenitrile (5ba): Yield = 60%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2963, 2924, 2865, 2245, 1601, 1489, 1453, 1180, 1010, 785, 744, 694 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.77–7.72 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.43 (s, 1H), 2.41–2.35 (m, 2H), 1.96–1.86 (m, 1H), 1.79–1.73 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.5, 140.5, 140.3, 133.4, 131.0, 129.1, 123.6, 123.4, 122.6, 121.6, 121.1, 119.5, 111.1, 110.8, 95.9, 44.7, 37.2, 27.3, 13.3 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₁₉H₁₆N₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 295.1206, found: 295.1210.

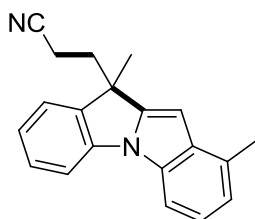


3-(2,10-dimethyl-10H-indolo[1,2-a]indol-10-yl)propanenitrile (5ca): Yield = 61%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2962, 2922, 2855, 2246, 1608, 1572, 1486, 1300, 1019, 790, 746, 693 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.40–2.33 (m, 2H), 1.94–1.84 (m, 1H), 1.77–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 148.6, 140.6, 140.2, 133.7, 130.5, 129.2, 129.0, 124.0, 123.5, 123.1, 121.4, 119.5, 110.7, 110.6, 95.4, 44.7, 37.2, 27.3, 21.7, 13.3 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 309.1362, found: 309.1374.

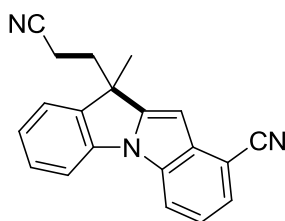


3-(2-methoxy-10-methyl-10H-indolo[1,2-a]indol-10-yl)propanenitrile (5da): Yield = 60%. White solid. M.p. 91.4–93.0 °C. IR (KBr) ν = 2958, 2928, 2243, 1573, 1485, 1186, 1039, 875, 776,

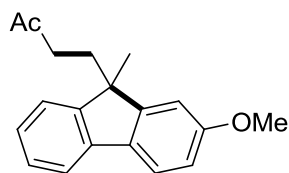
732 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.95 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.40–2.33 (m, 2H), 1.95–1.85 (m, 1H), 1.79–1.73 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 155.0, 149.2, 140.5, 140.1, 134.1, 129.0, 126.1, 123.5, 123.1, 119.5, 112.2, 111.6, 110.3, 103.9, 95.6, 56.1, 44.8, 37.1, 27.2, 13.3 ppm. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂NaO [M+Na]⁺ 325.1311, found: 325.1318.



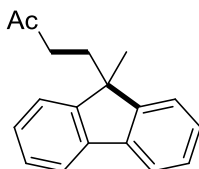
3-(1,10-dimethyl-10H-indolo[1,2-a]indol-10-yl)propanenitrile (5ea): Yield = 65%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2968, 2922, 2245, 1598, 1499, 1476, 1225, 1076, 1046, 761, 693 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.61–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.04–6.99 (m, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.43–2.34 (m, 2H), 1.96–1.86 (m, 1H), 1.78–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 147.9, 140.6, 140.3, 133.1, 131.1, 130.6, 129.0, 123.6, 123.4, 122.7, 121.4, 119.6, 110.8, 108.7, 94.3, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 44.8, 37.2, 27.4, 19.0, 13.4 ppm. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 309.1362, found: 309.1373.



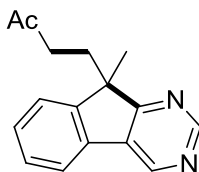
10-(2-cyanoethyl)-10-methyl-10H-indolo[1,2-a]indole-1-carbonitrile (5fa): Yield = 61%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 2987, 2971, 2901, 2218, 1617, 1493, 1227, 1074, 774, 748 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.53 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.23 (m, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.49–2.39 (m, 2H), 1.98–1.90 (m, 1H), 1.84–1.76 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 151.4, 140.2, 139.7, 134.7, 130.6, 129.3, 126.0, 124.6, 124.0, 122.3, 118.9, 118.4, 115.5, 111.2, 104.1, 95.0, 45.2, 36.8, 27.1, 13.4 ppm. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₂₀H₁₆N₃ [M+H]⁺ 298.1339, found: 298.1343.



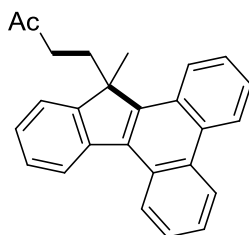
4-(2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)butan-2-one (5ab): Yield = 46%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 1712, 1456, 1253, 1036, 823, 736 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.63 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.23 (dd, J = 7.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.34–2.24 (m, 2H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.66 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.48 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 209.2, 160.0, 153.0, 150.5, 140.4, 133.3, 127.5, 126.5, 122.9, 121.0, 119.3, 113.2, 108.8, 55.8, 50.1, 38.9, 34.0, 30.1, 27.2 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1536, found: 281.1539.



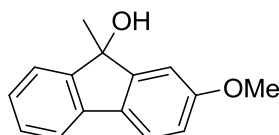
4-(9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)butan-2-one (5db): Yield = 50%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 1713, 1444, 1359, 1158, 765, 735 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.73 (dd, J = 6.8, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 3H), 2.37–2.30 (m, 2H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 209.1, 151.0, 140.4, 127.6, 127.5, 123.0, 120.1, 50.1, 38.8, 33.9, 30.1, 27.1 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 251.1430, found: 251.1430.



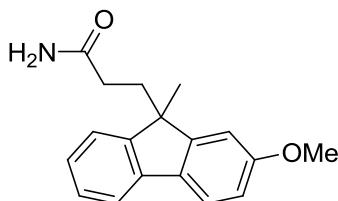
4-(9-methyl-9H-indeno[2,1-d]pyrimidin-9-yl)butan-2-one (5pb): Yield = 47%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) ν = 1711, 1585, 1556, 1395, 1161, 809, 754 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 9.15 (s, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd, J = 5.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.41 (m, 3H), 2.52–2.42 (m, 1H), 2.34–2.25 (m, 1H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.84–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.54 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 207.9, 178.8, 157.0, 149.2, 148.0, 134.8, 132.2, 129.7, 128.2, 123.7, 121.6, 50.8, 38.6, 32.1, 30.0, 24.5 ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 253.1335, found: 253.1344.



4-(13-methyl-13H-indeno[1,2-l]phenanthren-13-yl)butan-2-one (5sb): Yield = 54%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 1710, 1455, 1159, 776, 750 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.67\text{--}8.61$ (m, 2H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.34–8.25 (m, 1H), 7.95 (dd, $J = 5.9, 3.3 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 7.74 (dd, $J = 8.5, 6.6 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.65–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 2.56–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.46–2.37 (m, 1H), 1.90–1.82 (m, 1H), 1.82 (d, $J = 4.4 \text{ Hz}$, 3H), 1.80–1.75 (m, 1H), 1.74 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 209.1, 141.5, 140.9, 132.1, 131.7, 130.5, 130.5, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 127.2, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 124.7, 123.3, 123.0, 121.2, 120.1, 42.0, 41.3, 39.9, 35.4, 30.1$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 351.1743, found: 351.1736.



2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-ol (10): Yield = 35%. White solid. M.p. 121.2–123.0 °C. IR (KBr) $\nu = 3314, 2922, 2852, 1609, 1459, 1261, 1092, 1033, 803, 735 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.53$ (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.6 \text{ Hz}$, 3H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J = 2.4 \text{ Hz}$, 1H), 6.92–6.88 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 1H), 1.73 (s, 3H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 160.5, 152.0, 149.7, 139.1, 131.6, 129.2, 127.1, 123.3, 121.2, 119.5, 114.9, 109.1, 76.9, 55.8, 26.5$ ppm. HRMS m/z : calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}$ $[\text{M}-\text{OH}]^+$ 209.0961, found: 209.0959.



3-(2-methoxy-9-methyl-9H-fluoren-9-yl)propanamide (11): Yield = 62%. Colourless oil. IR (KBr) $\nu = 3449, 3334, 3189, 2956, 2923, 2854, 1660, 1611, 1458, 1272, 1036, 776, 736 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.61$ (d, $J = 8.3 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 7.39–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 6.97–6.86 (m, 2H), 5.08 (d, $J = 99.6 \text{ Hz}$, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.44–2.31 (m, 2H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.47–1.39 (m, 2H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 175.5, 160.1, 152.9, 150.4, 140.3, 133.2, 127.5,$

126.6, 122.9, 120.9, 119.3, 113.3, 108.8, 55.8, 50.3, 35.6, 30.7, 27.1 ppm. HRMS m/z: calcd for $C_{18}H_{19}NNaO_2$ $[M+Na]^+$ 304.1308, found: 304.1317.

The ^1H , ^{13}C spectra of compounds:

