

## *Supporting Information*

# **Rhodium (III)-catalyzed C4-Amidation of Indole-Oximes with Dioxazolones via C–H Activation**

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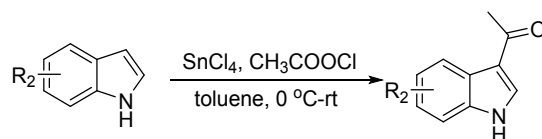
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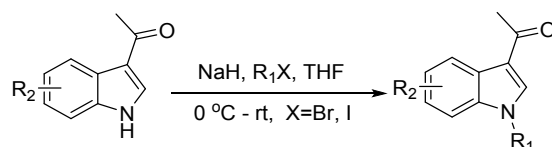
## 1. Synthetic of starting material: <sup>1</sup>

### 1.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 3-acetyl indole derivatives:



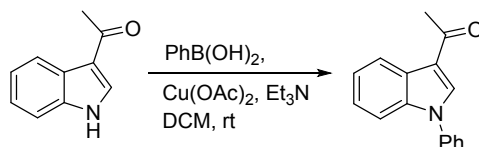
To a stirred solution of indole derivative (1 equiv) in dry toluene, acid chloride (2 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and stirred for 10 min. Next, stannic chloride (2 equiv) was added drop wise to the reaction mixture and stirred for 12 h. After completion of reaction (as monitored by TLC), it was cooled to 0 °C quenched by saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide desired product.

### 1.2. General procedure for preparation of *N*-substituted 3-acetyl indole:



To a stirred suspension of NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.5 equiv) in dry THF, solution of 3-acetyl indole derivative (1 equiv) was added at 0 °C and stirred for 15 min. Then corresponding alkyl halide (1.1 equiv) was added drop wise to the reaction mixture and stirred overnight at rt. After completion of the reaction (as monitored by TLC), it was cooled to 0 °C and quenched by addition of water and extracted with ethyl acetate. Combined organic layers were washed with water, brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography to obtain desired *N*-alkylated 3-acetyl indole derivatives.

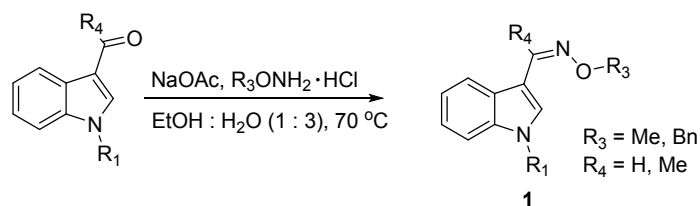
### 1.3. Procedure for synthesis of *N*-phenyl indole:



In a flame-dried sealed tube, 3-acetyl indole (1 equiv) dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL), phenylboronic acid (2 equiv), anhydrous copper (II) acetate (2 equiv), and triethylamine (2 equiv) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days, concentrated in *vacuo*, diluted with chloroform and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated in *vacuo*, and purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane) to obtain pure

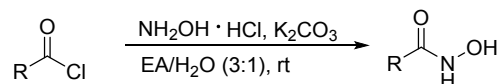
product.

#### 1.4. General procedure for preparation of ketoximes:

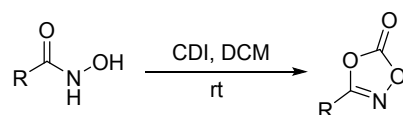


To a 50 mL round bottom flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with ketone (1equiv),  $\text{R}_3\text{ONH}_2\cdot\text{HCl}$  (2.7 equiv), NaOAc (4.4 equiv), and EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (1:3). The reaction mixture was heated at 70 °C. After completion of reaction (as monitored by TLC), it was cooled to rt and EtOH was removed under vacuum. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography to yield the desired analytically pure ketoxime **1** in moderate to good yield.

## 2. Synthetic of dioxazolones: <sup>2</sup>

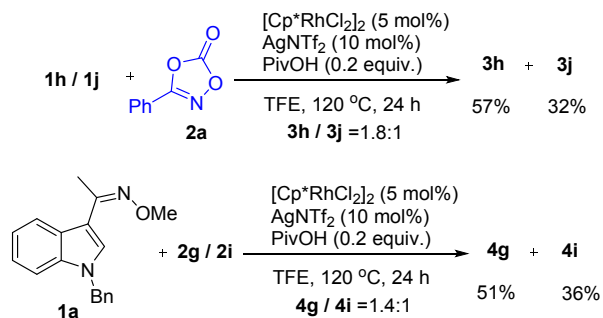


In a 250 mL flask, hydroxylamine hydrochloride (20.0 mmol), ethyl acetate (60 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL) and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (20.0 mmol) were added at 0 °C. Then acyl chloride (10.0 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL ethyl acetate was added to the resulting mixture dropwise. The solution was warmed up to room temperature and stirred overnight. After that, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, washed with water and brine and dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was evaporated under the reduced pressure to afford the desired product(s) for the next step without further purification.



To a stirred solution of hydroxamic acid (8 mmol) in freshly distilled dichloromethane (60 mL) in a 250 mL flask was added 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (8.4 mmol) in one portion at room temperature. After stirring for 20-30 min, the reaction mixture was quenched with 1N aqueous solution of HCl (50 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and then concentrated in vacuo. The resulting residue was further purified by recrystallization with ethyl acetate and hexane to give the desired 3-substituted-1,4,2-dioxazol-5-ones.

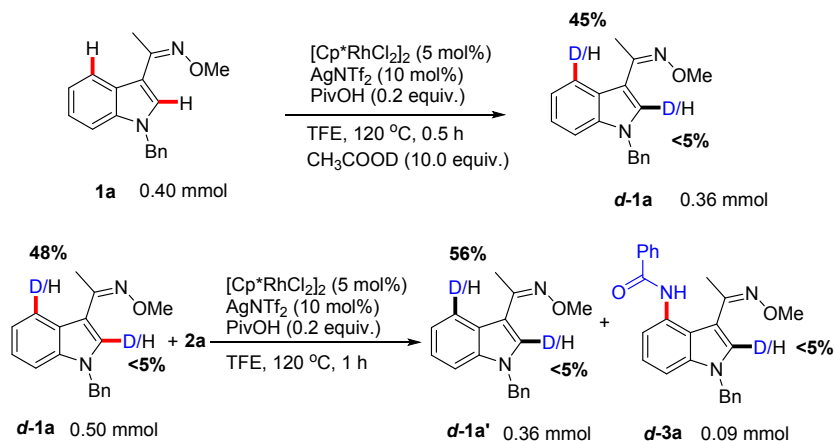
### 3. Intermolecular Competitive Reactions:



**Procedure (A):** A mixture of substrate **1h** (64.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.5 equiv), **1j** (62.56 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.5 equiv), dioxazolone **2a** (130.5 mg, 0.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (12.4 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (15.5 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{PivOH}$  (8.2 mg, 0.2 equiv) in solvent (5.0 mL) was charged in a glass sealed tube and stirred under air atmosphere at 120 °C for 24 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, water (30 mL) and dichloromethane (15 mL) were added to the mixture, then the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL  $\times$  2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Finally, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, which was further purified *via* a column chromatography on silica gel to supply the product **3h** (100.2 mg, 57%) and **3j** (55.3 mg, 32%).

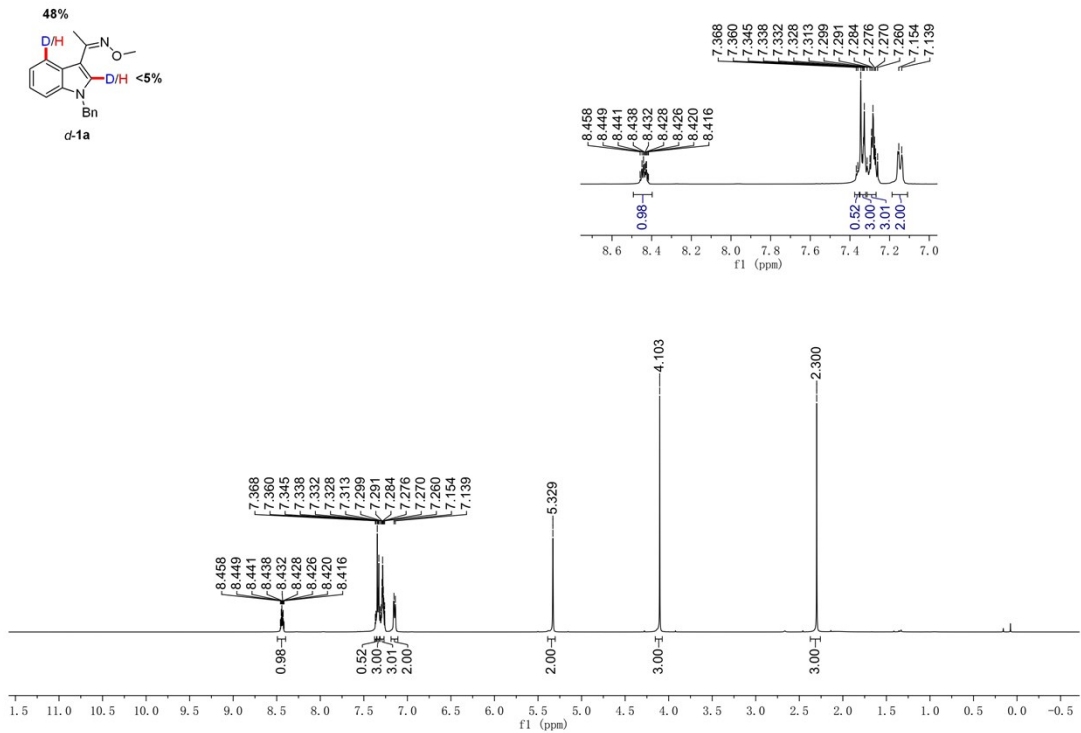
**Procedure (B):** A mixture of substrate **2g** (70.9 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2i** (72.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), substrate **1a** (111.3 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (12.4 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (15.5 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{PivOH}$  (8.2 mg, 0.2 equiv) in solvent (5.0 mL) was charged in a glass sealed tube and stirred under air atmosphere at 120 °C for 24 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, water (30 mL) and dichloromethane (15 mL) were added to the mixture, then the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL  $\times$  2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Finally, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, which was further purified *via* a column chromatography on silica gel to supply the product **4g** (83.9 mg, 51%) and **4i** (59.9 mg, 36%).

#### 4. Deuterium incorporation studies:

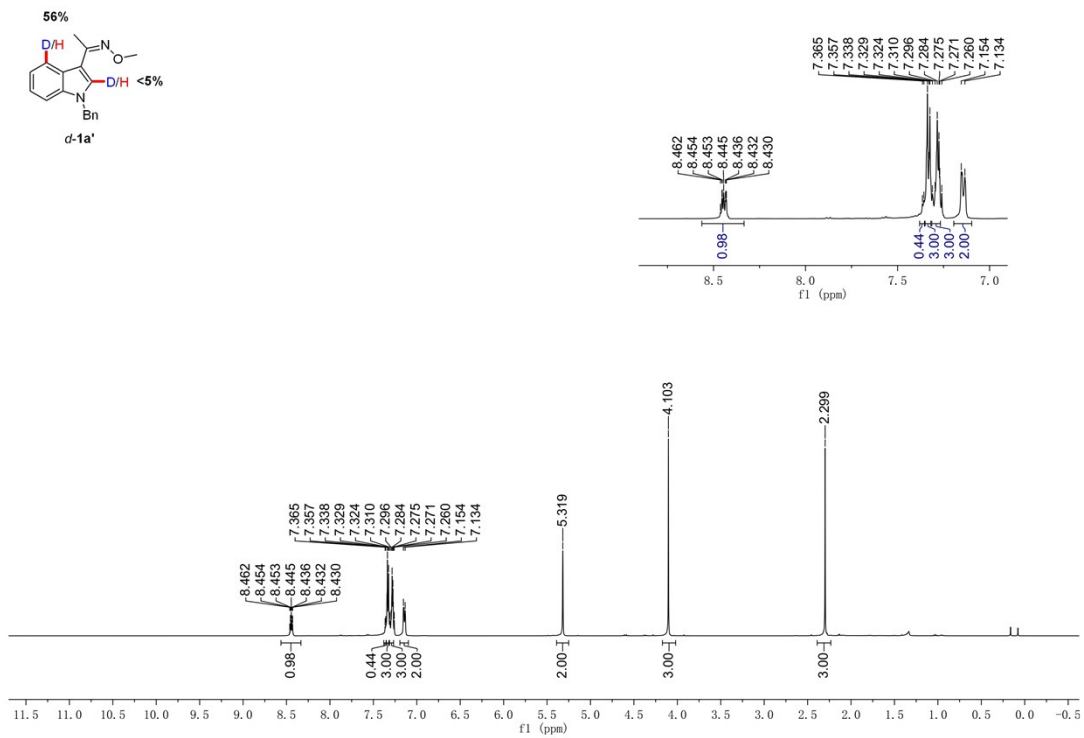


**Procedure (A)** : A mixture of substrate **1a** (167.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (18.6 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (23.3 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{PivOH}$  (12.3 mg, 0.2 equiv),  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOD}$  (0.38 ml, 6 mmol, 10 eq) in solvent (6.0 mL) was charged in a glass sealed tube and stirred under air atmosphere at 120 °C for 0.5 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was concentrated in vacuo to provide a crude product, water (30 mL) and dichloromethane (20 mL) were added to the mixture, then the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Finally, the solution was concentrated in vacuo to provide a crude product, which was further purified via a column chromatography on silica gel (eluents: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 25:1) to supply the product **d-1a**. The purified product **d-1a** was analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR which showed that 48% deuterium incorporation at C-4 position of indole **1a** was happened under above reaction conditions.

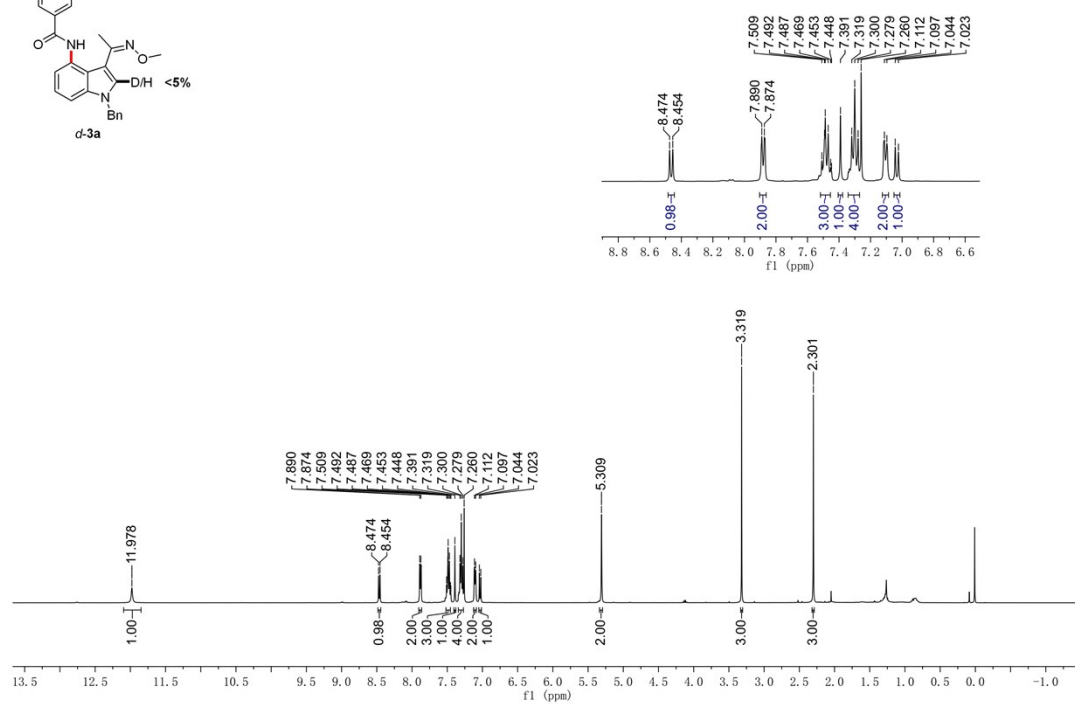
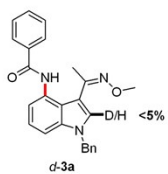
**Procedure (B)**: A mixture of substrate **d-1a** (139.3 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (15.5 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (19.4 mg, 10 mol%),  $\text{PivOH}$  (10.3 mg, 0.2 equiv),  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOD}$  (0.31 ml, 5 mmol, 10 eq) in solvent (6.0 mL) was charged in a glass sealed tube and stirred under air atmosphere at 120 °C for 1.0 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was concentrated in vacuo to provide a crude product, water (30 mL) and dichloromethane (15 mL) were added to the mixture, then the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (15 mL  $\times$  2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Finally, the solution was concentrated in vacuo to provide a crude product, which was further purified via a column chromatography on silica gel to supply the product **d-1a'** and **d-3a**. The purified product **d-1a'** and **d-3a** was analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of substrate *d-1a*

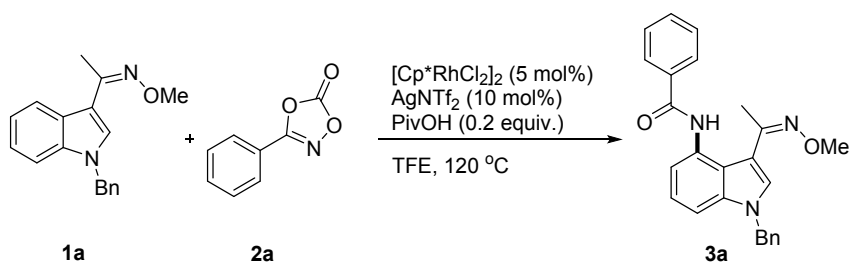


<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of substrate *d-1a'*



## 5. Kinetic studies

The influence of concentration of indole substrate and dioxazolone were roughly explored under the standard conditions (Table 1 and Table 2). When the concentration of **2a** was decreased to 1.0 equiv., the rate was slightly reduced (Table 1, entry 1). However, unknown by-product was formed when **2a** increased to 3.0 equiv., so the generation rate of **3a** was reduced (Table 1, entry 3). Therefore, the reaction rate may be related to the concentration of **2a** within a certain range. Next, the reaction rate was not significantly changed with different concentration of **1a** (Table 2, entries 1-3). Therefore, the reaction rate may have no obvious correlation with the concentration of **1a**. In summary, these results showed that this transformation was approximate to first-order kinetic reaction.



**Table 1** The influence of concentration of **2a**.

Entry	1a:2a T(h)	0.5	4	12	24
		approximate yield of <b>3a</b> based on <b>1a</b>			
1	1:1	12 %	50 %	65 %	75 %
2	1:2	15 %	65 %	75 %	90 %
3	1:3	10 %	45 %	55 %	65 %

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1 equiv = 0.3 mmol), **2a** (1 equiv = 0.3 mmol),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (0.0015 mmol),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (0.003 mol), PivOH (0.06 mmol.), TFE (3.0 mL), 120 °C, 24 h.

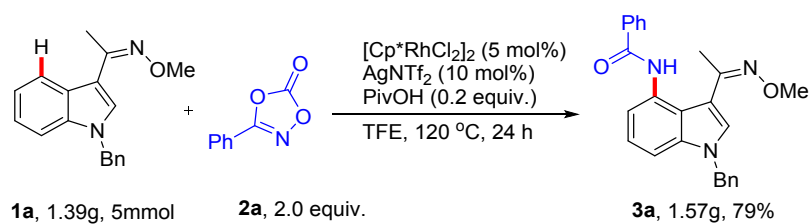
**Table 2** The influence of concentration of **1a**.

Entry	1a:2a T(h)	0.5	4	12	24
		approximate yield of <b>3a</b> based on <b>2a</b>			
1	2:1	<15 %	20 %	60 %	70 %
2	3:1	<15 %	25 %	60 %	75 %
3	4:1	<15%	25 %	55 %	65 %

Reaction conditions: **1a** (1 equiv = 0.3 mmol), **2a** (1 equiv = 0.3 mmol),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (0.0015 mmol),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (0.003 mol), PivOH (0.06 mmol.), TFE (3.0 mL), 120 °C.

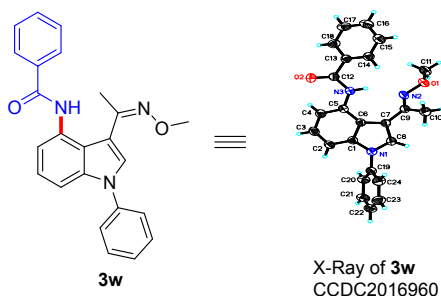


## 6. Synthetic utilities



**Procedure :** A mixture of substrate **1a** (1.39g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dioxazolone **2a** (10.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv),  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$  (155 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{AgNTf}_2$  (194 mg, 10 mol%), PivOH (103 mg, 0.2 equiv) in TFE (50.0 mL) was charged in 100 mL round bottom flask condensate reflux and stirred under air atmosphere at 120 °C for 24 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, water (80 mL) and dichloromethane (250 mL) were added to the mixture, then the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (250 mL $\times$ 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Finally, the solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to provide a crude product, which was further purified *via* a column chromatography on silica gel (eluents: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to supply the product **4k** (1.57g, 79%).

## 7. X-ray single crystal structures of product 3w



Identification code	mo_d8v20272_0m	
Empirical formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	
Formula weight	383.44	
Temperature	293(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	P 21/c	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.5144(5) Å	α = 90°.
	b = 13.3582(7) Å	β = 102.194(2)°.
	c = 16.0144(10) Å	γ = 90°.
Volume	1989.43(19) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.280 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.083 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
F(000)	808	
Crystal size	0.200 x 0.160 x 0.130 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	2.602 to 25.499°.	
Index ranges	-11 ≤ h ≤ 10, -16 ≤ k ≤ 14, -19 ≤ l ≤ 18	
Reflections collected	9340	
Independent reflections	3682 [R(int) = 0.0519]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.3 %	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.7456 and 0.5169	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>	
Data / restraints / parameters	3682 / 0 / 265	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.046	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0487, wR2 = 0.1096	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0751, wR2 = 0.1292	
Extinction coefficient	0.048(5)	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.133 and -0.149 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	

## 8. References

- (1) (a) S. Maity, U. Karmakar and R. Samanta, *Chem. Commun.*, **2017**, 53, 12197; (b) X.-P. Fu, S.-B. Tang, J.-Y. Yang, L.-L. Zhang, C.-C. Xia, Y.-F. Ji, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, 5974.
- (2) J. Ding, W. Jiang, H.-Y. Bai, T.-M. Ding, D.-F. Gao, X.-G. Bao and S.-Y. Zhang, *Chem. Commun.*, **2018**, 54, 8889.

## 9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of the products

