Electronic Supplementary Information

Sequential Sonogashira/intramolecular aminopalladation/cross-coupling of *ortho*ethynyl-anilines catalyzed by a single Palladium source: rapid access to 2,3diarylindoles

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General Information:

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions and manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were purified by distillation using standard methods. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification. NMR spectra were recorded by using a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (¹H NMR CDCl₃: 7.26 ppm; ¹³C NMR CDCl₃: 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on the HP-5989 instrument by EI/ESI methods.

Preparation and characterization

General procedure A for the synthesis of *o*-ethynyltrifluoroacetanilides 1a-1e:



The mixture of **S1** (10 mmol), CuI (95 mg, 0.5 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (210 mg, 0.3 mmol) under a nitrogen atmosphere was added anhydrous Et_3N (10 mL) and trimethylsilyl acetylene (1.47 g, 15 mmol) in order and the solution was stirred at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC and after completion, then the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) to afford pure **S2** as oil.

The solution of **S2** (5.0 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1.96 g, 7.5 mmol) at 0 °C, then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. The reaction was monitored by TLC and after completion, the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL \times 3) and washed with brine (10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, and then concentrated in vacuum to afford crude **S3** as oil.

The solution of **S3** (5.0 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added Et₃N (759 mg, 1.04 mL, 7.5 mmol) at -15 °C, followed by dropwise addition of trifluoroacetic anhydride (1.26 g, 6.0 mmol). After stirring for 1 h at -15 °C and then overnight at room temperature, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, then the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE) to afford pure **1a–1e** as solid.

N-(2-ethynylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (1a)



Following the general procedure A, **1a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a purple solid (2.0 g, 94 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.75 (brs, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.19 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.¹

N-(2-ethynyl-4-methylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (1b)



Following the general procedure A, **1b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a brown solid (1.63 g, 68 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.67 (brs, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 154.3 (q, *J* = 37.1 Hz), 135.3, 134.3, 132.5, 131.0, 119.5, 117.1, 114.2, 112.0, 85.2 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 78.0, 20.6 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -75.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M–H][–] calcd. for C₁₁H₇F₃NO[–]: 226.0480; Found: 226.0480.

N-(2-ethynyl-4-fluorophenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (1c)



Following the general procedure A, **1c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale pink solid (1.6 g, 70 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.65 (brs, 1H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (ddd, *J* = 9.6, 7.6, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 160.4, 157.9, 154.5 (q, *J* = 37.5 Hz), 133.2 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 121.6 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 118.9 (d, *J* = 24.6 Hz), 117.6 (d, *J* = 22.3 Hz), 117.0, 114.1, 113.9 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 86.6 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -75.9, -115.0. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M-H]⁻ calcd. for C₁₀H₄F₄NO⁻: 230.0229; Found: 230.0224.

N-(2-ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (1d)



Following the general procedure A, **1d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (PE) as a brown solid (2.2 g, 78 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.84 (brs, 1H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 154.9 (q, *J* = 37.9 Hz), 139.5, 129.4 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 127.8,127.4, 127.3 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.5, 121.8, 119.7, 116.8, 113.9, 112.6, 87.3 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 76.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -62.7 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), -75.9 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz). HRMS (ESI): m/z [M–H][–] calcd. for C₁₁H₄F₆NO[–]: 280.0197; Found: 280.0178.

N-(4-cyano-2-ethynylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (1e)



Following the general procedure A, **1e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 100:1) as a white solid (0.85 g, 60 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.86 (brs, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 154.8 (q, *J* = 38.1 Hz), 140.1, 135.8, 134.0, 119.9, 117.2, 113.1, 109.3, 88.1 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 75.7, 29.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -75.8. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M–H]⁻ calcd. for C₁₁H₄F₃N₂O⁻: 237.0276; Found 237.0275.

General procedure B for the synthesis of 2,3-diaryl indoles 3a-3u:



A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with **1** (0.47 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg, 0.047 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (238 mg, 0.33 mL, 2.35 mmol) and aryl iodides **2** (2.35 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for 24 h, the reaction was quenched with water (3 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EtOAc) to afford pure product **3a–3u**.

2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (3a)



Following the general procedure B, **3a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (115 mg, 91 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.24 (brs, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.37 (m, 7H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.²

2,3-di-o-tolyl-1H-indole (3b)



Following the general procedure B, **3b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (94 mg, 67 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.15 (brs, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.13 (m, 8H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.²

2,3-di-m-tolyl-1H-indole (3c)



Following the general procedure B, **3c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (118 mg, 85 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.24 (brs, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.21(m, 6H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-bis(2-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole (3d)



Following the general procedure B, **3d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (54 mg, 35 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.19 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.95 (m, 3H), 6.78 (td, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 157.3, 156.2, 135.3, 132.4, 132.0, 130.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 124.8, 122.0, 121.7, 120.7, 120.6, 119.9, 119.5, 111.6, 111.4, 111.2, 110.7, 55.7 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 55.1 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz). HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₂₂H₂₀NO₂⁺: 330.1494; Found 330.1488.

2,3-bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole (3e)



Following the general procedure B, **3e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (106 mg, 69 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.27 (brs, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.13(m, 1H), 7.06-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.99-6.95 (m, 1H), 6.87-6.82 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-di-p-tolyl-1H-indole (3f)



Following the general procedure B, **3f** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (106 mg, 59 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.12 (m, 5H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole (3g)



Following the general procedure B, **3g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (76 mg, 50 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.18 (brs, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-indole (3h)



Following the general procedure B and the reaction was reacted for 48 h, **3g** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (165 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.40 (brs, 1H), 7.69-7.60 (m, 5H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 5H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁴

2,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole (3i)



Following the general procedure B, **3i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (106 mg, 74 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.20 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.01 (m, 4H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-indole (3j)



Following the general procedure B, **3j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a white solid (93 mg, 59 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.24 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 1.4 Hz, 8H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-bis(4-bromophenyl)-1H-indole (3k)



Following the general procedure B, **3k** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a white solid (116 mg, 58 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.25 (brs, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁵

2,3-bis(4-iodophenyl)-1H-indole (31)



Following the general procedure B, **31** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (102 mg, 42 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.26 (brs, 1H), 7.73-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 137.8, 137.7, 135.9, 134.3, 133.1, 131.8,131.7, 129.7, 128.1, 123.2, 120.7, 119.4, 114.2, 111.1, 93.6, 91.8, 65.8. HRMS (ESI):

 $m/z [M+H]^+$ calcd. for $C_{20}H_{14}I_2N^+$: 521.9216; Found: 521.9202.

2,3-di(naphthalen-1-yl)-1H-indole (3m)



Following the general procedure B, **3m** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) as a pale yellow solid (55 mg, 32%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.44 (brs, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H),7.72 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H) 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.28 (m, 7H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.²

2,3-di(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-indole (3n)



Following the general procedure B, **3n** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (85 mg, 65%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.27 (brs, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁶

5-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (30)



Following the general procedure B, **30** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (105 mg, 84%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.14 (brs, 1H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 7H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

5-fluoro-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (3p)



Following the general procedure B, **3p** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (90 mg, 72%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.21 (brs, 1H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 6H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

2,3-diphenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indole (3q)



Following the general procedure B, **3q** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 400:1) as a pale yellow solid (60 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.46 (brs, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 4H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁷

2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole-5-carbonitrile (3r)



Following the general procedure B, **3r** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 100:1) as a pale yellow solid (40 mg, 32%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.47 (brs, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 4H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.³

The synthesis of internal alkyne 4a



A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with 1a (0.47 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg,

0.047 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (238 mg, 0.33 mL, 2.35 mmol) and PhI (479 mg, 0.26 mL, 2.35 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for 0.5 h, the reaction was quenched with water (3 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EtOAc) to afford pure product **4a** as pale yellow solid (117 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.90 (brs, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H). Our data are in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁸

The cyclization of 4a with PhI under the catalysis of Pd(PPh₃)₄

A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with **4a** (136 mg, 0.47 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg, 0.047 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (238 mg, 0.33 mL, 2.35 mmol) and PhI (479 mg, 0.26 mL, 2.35 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for 24 h, the reaction was quenched with water (3 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EtOAc) to afford pure product **3a** as pale yellow solid (109 mg, 86%).

General procedure C for the synthesis of 2,3-diaryl indoles 5a-5i:



A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with **1a** (100 mg, 0.47 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg, 0.047 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (95 mg, 0.13 mL, 0.94 mmol) and PhI (96 mg, 52 μ L, 0.47 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 50 °C for 9 h, another portion of Et₃N (143 mg, 0.2 mL, 1.41 mmol) and second aryl iodide (2.35 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for another 24 h, the reaction was quenched with water, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EtOAc) to afford pure products **5a–5h**.

General procedure D for the synthesis of 2,3-diaryl indoles 5i-5k:



A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with **1a** (100 mg, 0.47 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg, 0.047 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (95 mg, 0.13 mL, 0.94 mmol) and aryl iodide (0.94 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, another portion of Et₃N (143 mg, 0.2 mL, 1.41 mmol) and PhI (479 mg, 0.26 mL, 0.47 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for another 10 h, the reaction was quenched with water, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (PE/EtOAc) to afford pure products **5i-5k**.

3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5a)



Following the general procedure C, **5a** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (120 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.26 (brs, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.37-7.24 (m, 5H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.86 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 3.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁹

3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5b)



Following the general procedure C, **5b** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 400:1) as a pale yellow solid (70 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.31 (brs, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 2H),

7.14-7.10 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.96 (m, 2H), 3.55 (s, 3H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁹

4-(2-phenyl-1H-indol-3-yl)benzonitrile (5c)



Following the general procedure C, **5c** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (114 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.36 (brs, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41-35 (m, 5H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁹

3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5d)



Following the general procedure C, **5d** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (108 mg, 73%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.44 (brs, 1H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 16.4, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 4H), 7.09- 7.05 (m, 1H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.¹⁰

2-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-indole (5e)



Following the general procedure C, **5e** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 200:1) as a pale yellow solid (100 mg, 78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.28 (brs, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 2H). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.¹⁰

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5f)



Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) to afford a mixture of **5f** and **3a** in the ratio of 5 : 2 (118 mg, 89%). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.¹⁰

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5g)



Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) to afford a mixture of **5g** and **3a** in the ratio of 3 : 1 (122 mg, 88%). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.¹⁰

3-(4-bromophenyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole (5h)



Following the general procedure C, the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) to afford a mixture of **5h** and **3a** in the ratio of 3 : 1 (125 mg, 81%). Our data was in full agreement with previous reported in the literature.⁵

2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (5i)



Following the general procedure D, **5i** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 100:1) as a pale yellow solid (55 mg, 40%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.02 (brs, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 5.6 Hz, 3H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 156.7, 135.8, 135.4, 132.0, 131.1, 130.1, 129.0, 128.4, 127.8, 125.9, 122.4, 120.9, 120.8, 119.9, 119.4, 115.7, 111.6, 110.7, 55.7, 55.6, 26.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₂₁H₁₈NO⁺: 300.1388; found: 300.1383.

3-phenyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-indole (5j)



Following the general procedure D, **5j** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 100:1) as a pale yellow solid (64 mg, 41%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 136.1, 134.4, 132.2, 130.1, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7, 128.1, 126.7, 125.5 (q, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 125.4, 123.4, 122.7, 120.7, 220.0, 116.6, 111.1, 29.7. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -62.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for 338.1157; found: 338.1105.

2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-3-phenyl-1H-indole (5k)



Following the general procedure D, **5k** was purified by silica gel chromatography (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 100:1) as a pale yellow solid (57 mg, 38%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.93-7.87 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.40-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 135.8, 134.9, 133.6, 133.2, 132.2, 130.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 128.2, 127.5, 126.5, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7, 125.3, 122.5, 120.4, 119.7, 116.6, 110.9. HRMS (ESI): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd. for C₂₄H₁₈N⁺: 320.1439; found: 320.1438.

The synthesis of *N*-allyl-*N*-(2-ethynylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide 6:



In a round-bottom flask, Et₃N (1 mL) was added to a solution of **S4** (0.5 g, 3.18 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -15°C, followed by dropwise addition of trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.54 mL, 1.2 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h. Then the solution was quenched with water (10 mL) and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, and then the filtrate was concentrated to afford pure **6** as brown oil (773 mg, 96%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.60-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.15 (m, 1H), 5.90-5.80 (m, 1H), 5.19-5.09 (m, 2H), 4.87 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 156.6 (q, *J* = 36.3 Hz), 140.3, 134.4, 132.8, 131.4 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 5.0 Hz), 130.6, 129.8, 129.0, 128.3, 122.1, 121.6 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 120.0 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 5.7 Hz), 118.5 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 117.5, 114.7, 84.5, 82.0, 53.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -68.5. HRMS (EI): m/z M⁺⁺ calcd. for C₁₃H₁₀F₃NO⁺⁺: 253.0709; Found: 253.0692.

The domino Sonogashira coupling/cyclization to N-allyl o-ethynylaniline 6:



A nitrogen-filled round-bottom flask was charged with **6** (100 mg, 0.40 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (54 mg, 0.04 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (3 mL), and then Et₃N (0.11 mL, 0.80 mmol), PhI (0.044mL, 0.40 mmol) were added in order. After the solution was stirred at 50 °C for 9 h, another portion of Et₃N (0.165 mL, 1.20 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture. After the solution was stirred at 70 °C for another 24 h, the reaction was quenched with water, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, the volatile was removed under vacuum, and then the crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (v/v, PE/EtOAc = 300:1) to afford pure product **7** as a pale yellow solid (28 mg, 30%), along with the minor product **8** as a pale yellow solid (20 mg, 26%) and **4b** (32 mg, 28%). Product **7**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.07 (brs, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.20-6.10 (m, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dt, *J* = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, 2H). Product **8**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.68

(dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd, J = 2.0, 0.4 Hz, 1H). Our data of 7^{11} , 8^{12} and $4a^8$ were in full agreement with previous reported in the literatures.

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NMR Spectra Compound 1a





Compound 1c



90 f1 (ppm)











0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 f1 (ppm)

Compound 1e





9.5 9.0 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 0.0 8.5 8.0 4.0 3.5 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 3.0

Compound 3b



9.5 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 5.5 3.5 2.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0

Compound 3d

PROTON CDC13 {D:\data\research\new\2020-1-9} nmr 47







Compound 3e







9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 7.5 7.0 6.5 5.5 2.5 1.5 1.0 0.0 6.0 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.0 0.5

Compound 3i



Compound 3k

9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 f1 (ppm)

Compound 3n

Compound 3o

Compound 3p

0.5 0.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 7.0 3.0 1.5 1.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 4.0 3.5 2.5 2.0

Compound 5a

1.00-I

1.00 3.09 0.39 1.76 1.76 2.18

9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 4.0 3.5 0.0 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5

3.06-

Compound 5c

^{9.5} 9.0 5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 5.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 6.0

Compound 5d

Compound 5e

Compound 5f

Compound 5g

Compound 5h

Compound 5i

f1 (ppm)

Compound 5j

1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00

5.0 4.5 f1 (ppm) 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 0.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5

