# AIBN for Ru-catalyzed meta- $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{Ar}}-\mathrm{H}$ alkylation 

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## Supporting Information

1. General information ..... S-1
2. Experimental section ..... S-2
2.1. Synthesis of arenes substrates ..... S-2
2.2. Typical experimental procedure of ruthenium-catalyzed meta-C-H bond alkylation of arenes with AIBN ..... S-2
2.3. Typical procedure of intermolecular competition experiments. ..... S-2
3. References ..... S-3
4. Data and spectra of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ..... S-3

## 1. General Information

All commercial reagents and solvents were used directly without additional purification. Column chromatography were performed on silica gel 200-300 mesh. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were registered on a Bruker Ascend ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}} 400$ spectrometer (Germany). Chemical shifts were reported in units (ppm) referenced to 0.0 ppm of TMS in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ spectrum and 77.0 ppm of $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ in the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ spectrum. All coupling constants were reported in Hertz (Hz). HRMS data were obtained on a Waters LCT Premierxe ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ (USA), Single-crystal X-ray crystallography was carried out on a Bruker Smart Apex II diffractometer system.

## 2. Experimental Section

### 2.1. Synthesis of arenes substrates

The pyridine derivatives were prepared via Suzuki coupling of the corresponding arylboronic acids and 2-bromopyridine according to literature report. ${ }^{1}$

The pyrimidine derivatives were prepared via Suzuki coupling of the corresponding arylboronic acids and 2-bromopyrimidine according to literature report. ${ }^{2}$

### 2.2. Typical experimental procedure of $\mathrm{Ru}($ III $)$-catalyzed meta-C-H bond alkylation of arenes with AIBN

2-Phenylpyridine ( 0.2 mmol ), AIBN ( $0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv.), $\mathrm{RuCl}_{3}(0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 10$ $\mathrm{mol} \%$ ), dry DMF ( 0.5 mL ) were charged into a pre-dried $30-\mathrm{mL}$ pressure tube sealed with rubber plugs under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h . The reaction was cooled down to room temperature, and saturated salt water $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 5$ ). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide the crude product. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography ( $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}$ as eluent) on silica gel.

### 2.3. Typical experimental procedure of intermolecular competition experiments

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyridine ( 0.2 mmol ), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)pyridine ( 0.2 mmol ), AIBN ( 0.2 mmol ), $\mathrm{RuCl}_{3}$ ( $0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 10 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), dry DMF ( 0.5 mL ) were charged into a pre-dried $30-\mathrm{mL}$ pressure tube sealed with rubber plugs under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h . The reaction was cooled down to
room temperature, and saturated salt water $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 5$ ). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide the crude product. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc as eluent) on silica gel.

2-Phenylpyridine ( 0.2 mmol ), AIBN ( $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv.), 2,2'-azobis-(2,4dimethylvaleronitrile) ( $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv.), $\mathrm{RuCl}_{3}$ ( $0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 10 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), dry DMF $(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$ were charged into a pre-dried $30-\mathrm{mL}$ pressure tube sealed with rubber plugs under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h . The reaction was cooled down to room temperature, and saturated salt water ( 10 mL ) was added. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc ( $5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 5$ ). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to provide the crude product. The purification was performed by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc as eluent) on silica gel.

## 3. References

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## 4. Data and Spectra of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR

2-methyl-2-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (3a, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=$ 3:1 as eluent, $32.3 \mathrm{mg}, 73 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.71$ (d, $J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 8.13(\mathrm{t}, J=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.81-7.67(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.59-7.45$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.28-7.24(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.79(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 156.78$, $149.74,142.03,140.18,136.91,129.35,126.38,125.77,124.55,123.65,122.49$, 120.78, 37.34, 29.18. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 223.1230, Found: m/z 223.1234.

2-methyl-2-(2-methyl-5-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (3b, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $26.9 \mathrm{mg}, 57 \%$ yield $):{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.70$ (d, J = $4.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), $8.04(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.27-7.22 (m, 1H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 6H). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 101 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 156.94,149.69,138.56,137.66,137.24,136.83,133.15,126.20,124.52$, 123.56, 122.18, 120.42, 35.10, 28.24, 20.98. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}$ :
$[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 237.1386$, Found: m/z 237.1388.
2-methyl-2-(4-(pyridin-2-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)propanenitrile (3c, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $31 \mathrm{mg}, 52 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.75(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.29(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.82(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.48-$ $7.36(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.32(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.71(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ $156.67,149.76,141.18,138.33,137.07,133.38,130.04,128.71,127.83$ (d), 126.67, 125.64, 125.18, 122.56, 120.84, 115.75, 37.22, 29.98. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{21} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 299.1543$, Found: m/z 299.1544.

2-(2-chloro-5-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (3d, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $23.6 \mathrm{mg}, 46 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.71$ (d, $J=4.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.21$ (d, $J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.87$ (m, 1H), 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J=$ $7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.32-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.96(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (101 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 155.71,149.86,138.45,137.41,136.93,134.02,132.18,127.47$, 125.77, 123.22, 122.65, 120.40, 36.73, 27.27. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{ClN}_{2}$ : $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 257.0840$, Found: m/z 257.0843.

2-(2-bromo-5-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (3e, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $28.2 \mathrm{mg}, 47 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.70$ $(\mathrm{d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.20(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.86-7.68(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.37-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.98(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H})$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 155.72,149.87,139.16,138.67,137.04,135.91$, 127.64, 125.93, 123.38 (d), 122.78, 120.47, 37.47, 27.56. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{BrN}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 301.0335$, Found: m/z 301.0330.

2-(2-fluoro-5-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (3f, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $20.6 \mathrm{mg}, 43 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.70$ $(\mathrm{d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.16(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.95(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.72(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 1H), 7.28-7.18 (m, 2H), $1.88(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 162.18,160.15$, $155.92,149.77,136.93,136.13,128.43$ (d), 125.96 (d), 123.51, 122.37, 120.38, $117.24,117.01,35.14,27.22(d)$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{FN}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 241.1136, Found: m/z 241.1132.

2-(2-methoxy-5-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (3g, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $34.3 \mathrm{mg}, 68 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.70-$ $8.61(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.05(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.92(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.04$ (d, $J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.98(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.84(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 158.09$,
156.74, 149.61, 136.78, 132.10, 129.02, 127.82, 124.74(d), 121.71, 119.97, 112.08, 55.73, 34.46, 27.03. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 253.1335$, Found: m/z 253.1331.

2-methyl-2-(3-(4-methylpyridin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (3h, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $30.2 \mathrm{mg}, 64 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.56$ (d, $J=5.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.10(\mathrm{t}, J=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.90(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65-7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.10(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=4.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.44(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.81(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 156.73$, 149.51, 147.99, 141.92, 140.35, 129.30, 126.44, 125.63, 124.62, 123.59 (d), 121.76, 37.35, 29.21, 21.27. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 237.1386, Found: m/z 237.1383.

2-methyl-2-(3-(5-methylpyridin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (3i, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $33.5 \mathrm{mg}, 71 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.53$ $(\mathrm{s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.10(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.88(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.51(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.38(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.80(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 154.12$, $150.17,141.94,140.20,137.44,132.08,129.31,126.16,125.42,124.62,123.39$, 120.27, 37.35, 29.20, 18.22. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}$ : $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 237.1386, Found: m/z 237.1384.

2-(3-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (3j, colorless oil, PE/EtOAc $=3: 1$ as eluent, $19.4 \mathrm{mg}, 46 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.97$ ( $\mathrm{d}, J=2.4$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.86(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.76(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $6.51(\mathrm{t}, J=2.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.80(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ 143.17, 141.40, $140.78,130.07,126.93,124.25,123.31,118.43,116.16,107.98,37.30,29.10$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{~N}_{3}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 212.1182$, Found: $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z} 212.1185$.

2-methyl-2-(3-(pyrimidin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (3k, colorless oil, PE/EtOAc $=3: 1$ as eluent, $30.3 \mathrm{mg}, 68 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.83$ (d, $J=4.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.58(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.41(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.66(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.54(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.23(\mathrm{t}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.82(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 164.10,157.31$, 141.92, 138.33, 129.27, 127.69 (d), 124.58 (d), 119.43, 37.30, 29.19. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{14} \mathrm{~N}_{3}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 224.1182$, Found: m/z 224.1187.

2-methyl-2-(2-methyl-5-(pyrimidin-2-yl)phenyl)propanenitrile (31, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $26.1 \mathrm{mg}, 55 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 8.81$ (d, $J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.46(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.31(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.37(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$,
$7.21(\mathrm{t}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.74(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.90(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ $164.53,157.24,139.36,138.42,135.86,133.13,127.61,124.54$ (d), 119.10, 34.98, 28.31, 21.15. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{16} \mathrm{~N}_{3}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 238.1339, Found: m/z 238.1336.

2-methyl-2-(3-(pyrimidin-2-yl)naphthalen-1-yl)propanenitrile (3m, white solid, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $30.6 \mathrm{mg}, 56 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 9.00$ (s, 1H), $8.88(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.62(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.09(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.60(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.26(\mathrm{t}, J=5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.09(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 164.17,157.37,136.26,134.65,133.89,131.40,130.94,129.91$, 127.70, 126.27, 125.07, 124.57, 122.07, 119.38, 34.70, 28.91. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{16} \mathrm{~N}_{3}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 274.1339$, Found: m/z 274.1332 .

2-methyl-2-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)naphthalen-1-yl)propanenitrile (3n, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=3: 1$ as eluent, $28.3 \mathrm{mg}, 52 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.77$ (d, $J=4.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.59(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.41(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.29(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $8.03(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.90(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.82(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.67(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{t}$, $J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.36-7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.08(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ $156.80,149.82,136.94,136.46,135.83,134.80,130.30,127.57,127.00,126.25$, 125.03, 124.56, 122.44, 121.94, 120.83, 34.81, 28.86. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 273.1386$, Found: m/z 273.1381.

2-(benzo[h]quinolin-7-yl)-2-methylpropanenitrile (30, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=$ $3: 1$ as eluent, $31 \mathrm{mg}, 63 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 9.54-9.43(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $9.04(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.24(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.87(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.79-$ $7.70(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.04(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta$ 149.20, $146.73,135.79$ (d), 133.12, 130.59, 126.36, 125.77, 125.51 (d), 125.11, 124.78, 123.60, 122.30, 34.65, 29.15. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 247.1230$, Found: m/z 247.1233.

2-methyl-2-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)butanenitrile (3p, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=$ $3: 1$ as eluent, $31.2 \mathrm{mg}, 66 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.71(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 8.14-8.06 (m, 1H), 7.98-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.81-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.31$7.21(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.04(\mathrm{q}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.78(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.00(\mathrm{t}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 156.82,149.76,140.73,140.14,136.87,129.26,126.26$ (d), 124.05, 123.39, 122.46, 120.75, 43.40, 35.27, 27.31, 9.95. HRMS (ESI) Calcd.

For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 237.1386$, Found: m/z 237.1382.
2,4-dimethyl-2-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)pentanenitrile (3q, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}$ $=3: 1$ as eluent, $32.8 \mathrm{mg}, 62 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.72$ ( $\mathrm{d}, J=4.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), $8.11(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.93(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.61-7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $7.30-7.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.95(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.79(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.76-1.68(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.02(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.80(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 156.85$, $149.78,141.16,140.10,136.86,129.25,126.19$ (d), 123.98 (d), 122.44, 120.74, 50.36, 41.80, 29.32, 25.91, 23.77, 23.48. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$, 265.1699, Found: m/z 265.1692 .

1-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)cyclohexanecarbonitrile (3r, colorless oil, $\mathrm{PE} / \mathrm{EtOAc}=$ $3: 1$ as eluent, $29.3 \mathrm{mg}, 56 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.71$ (d, $J=4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 8.15(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.82-7.71(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.50(\mathrm{t}, J=7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.93-1.84(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 1.32(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 156.91,149.74,142.07,140.10,136.88$, 129.30, 126.35 (d), 124.15, 122.73, 122.43, 120.77, 44.52, 37.36, 24.96, 23.62. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{~N}_{2}:[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 263.1543$, Found: m/z 263.1541.
methyl 2-methyl-2-(3-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)propanoate (3s, white solid, PE/EtOAc $=3: 1$ as eluent, $33.2 \mathrm{mg}, 65 \%$ yield): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.78-8.65(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 8.00(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.90-7.82(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.74(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.23(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 3.67(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.66(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $101 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 177.25,157.49,149.66$, $145.18,139.60,136.73,128.79,126.46,125.41,124.24,122.15,120.76,52.25,46.66$, 26.60. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{18} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$ : $[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}, 256.1332$, Found: m/z 256.1328.


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