NHC-Catalyzed Truce-Smiles Rearrangement of *N*-Aryl Methacrylamides Enabling the Cleavage of an Inert Aryl C-N Bond

Yuanyuan Hu,^[a] Zhen Wang,^[a] Honggen Luo,^[a] Hongwei Jin,^[a] Yunkui Liu^[a] and Bingwei Zhou^{*[a]}

^[a]College of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, 310014, China. E-mail: zhoubw@zjut.edu.cn

Table of Contents

1.	General Information	S2
2.	Preparation of N-Aryl Methacrylamides	S3
3.	NHC-Catalyzed Truce-Smiles Rearrangement of N-Aryl Methacrylamides	S7
	3.1 Optimization of reaction conditions	S7
	3.2 Typical procedure and characterization of products	S10
	3.3 Gram-scale reaction	S17
4.	Mechanistic Experiments	S18
5.	X-Ray Crystallography Data for 2e	S20
6.	References	S22
7.	¹ H ¹³ C and ¹⁹ F NMR Spectra	S23

1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps under nitrogen. Solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. All commercially available reagents were obtained from chemical suppliers and used after proper purification if necessary. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) with the indicated solvent mixtures. TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with UV light.

The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 AV spectrometers. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 AV spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) were reported as parts per million (ppm) downfield from tetramethylsilane and the following abbreviations were used to identify the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, dq = doublet of quartets, br = broad and all combinations thereof can be explained by their integral parts. Coupling constant (*J*) was reported in hertz unit (Hz). The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Bruker Apex IV FTMS spectrometer.

2. Preparation of N-Aryl Methacrylamides

The methacrylamides $1a^{[1]}$, $1b^{[2]}$, $1c^{[3]}$, $1g^{[1]}$, $1j^{[4]}$, $1k^{[4]}$, $1o^{[5]}$, $1q^{[6]}$, $1r^{[7]}$ were prepared according to the known literature^[8].1d, 1e, 1f, 1h, 1i, 1l, 1m, 1n, 1p, 1s are new compounds.



Under N₂, to a 100 mL Schleck tube with a stir bar was added amine (10 mmol), DCM (30 mL) and Et₃N (15 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, then methacryloyl chloride (12 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h. The mixture was poured into brine and extracted with DCM. The combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated under vacuo. The corresponding N–H enamide was obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with PE/EA as the eluent or used without further purification.

Under N₂, to a 100 mL Schleck tube with a stir bar was added the above N–H enamide (5 mmol) and dry THF (20 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, then NaH (7.5 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Then MeI (6 mmol) were added to above solution and stirred for another 5 h. The mixture was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and evaporated under vacuo. The corresponding Methacrylamides was obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with PE/EA as the eluent. The **1s** was obtained with 2-phenylacryloyl chloride instead of methacryloyl chloride.



Characterization of new compounds

N-methyl-N-(2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)methacrylamide (1d)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.21 (m, 4H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.9, 144.5, 140.0, 136.9, 129.1, 128.5, 127.3, 120.9, 120.2 (q, J = 257.5 Hz),

118.7, 37.0, 19.7. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for $C_{12}H_{13}O_2NF_3^+$ ([M+H]⁺): 260.0893, found: 260.0896.

N-(2-bromo-4-chlorophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1e)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 142.4, 140.0, 134.2, 133.4, 130.5, 128.8, 123.5, 119.0, 36.4, 20.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for

C₁₁H₁₂ONBrCl⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 287.9785, found: 287.9789.

N-(2,4-dibromophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1f)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 142.6, 139.7, 135.9,

131.6, 130.7, 123.5, 121.6, 118.8, 36.1, 20.0. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONBr₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 331.9280, found: 331.9283.

N-(2-bromo-4-cyanophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1h)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.3, 148.0, 139.6, 137.2, 132.2, 130.5, 123.5, 119.6, 116.5, 112.9, 36.6, 20.0. HRMS(ESI)

Calculated for C₁₂H₁₂ON₂Br⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 279.0128, found: 279.0133.

N-(2-bromo-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1i)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.25-7.13 (m, 2H), 4.99 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.7, 148.2, 142.3, 139.9, 130.6, 127.7, 126.0, 123.5, 120.7, 119.0, 120.2 (q, J = 257.4 Hz), 36.4, 20.1. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for

C₁₂H₁₂O₂BrNF₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 337.9998, found: 338.0001.

N-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (11)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 140.8, 139.9, 134.0, 133.3, 130.4, 130.3, 128.1, 118.7, 36.2, 20.0.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONCl₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 244.0291, found: 244.0293.

N-(4-bromo-2-chlorophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1m)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 141.3, 139.9, 133.6, 133.2, 131.1, 130.8, 121.6, 118.9, 36.2, 20.1. HRMS(ESI)

Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONBrCl⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 287.9785, found: 287.9789.

N-methyl-N-(2-(4-methylquinolin-2-yl)phenyl)methacrylamide (1n)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H).
¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 156.4, 148.0, 144.8, 142.9, 140.0, 137.9, 131.3, 130.4, 129.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.9, 126.6, 123.6, 121.9,

119.7, 38.2, 19.9, 19.0. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for $C_{21}H_{21}ON_2^+$ ([M+H]⁺): 317.1648, found: 317.1652.

N-(4-bromonaphthalen-1-yl)-N-methylmethacrylamide (1p)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 141.3, 140.2, 133.1, 131.5, 130.7, 127.5, 127.4, 126.9, 126.2,

123.6, 122.6, 118.1, 37.7, 20.3. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₁₅H₁₅ONBr⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 304.0332, found: 304.0335.

N-methyl-N-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenylacrylamide (1s)



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H),
7.50-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.03 (m, 5H), 7.00 – 6.94 (m, 1H),
5.28 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5,
145.7, 139.7, 136.9, 134.3, 129.8, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 126.3,

126.2, 126.0, 125.2, 122.9, 122.8, 116.7, 116.5, 116.3, 37.3, 37.3. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₂₀H₁₈ON⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 288.1383, found: 288.1386.

3. NHC-Catalyzed Truce-Smiles Rearrangement of N-Aryl

Methacrylamides

3.1 Optimization of reaction conditions

Survey of the reaction parameters^a



Entry	NHC/mol%	Base/equiv.	Temp/ °C	Solvent/ml	Yield/%
1	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	74
2	NHC 2 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	Trace
3	NHC 3 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	35
4	NHC 4 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
5	NHC 5(20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	68
6	NHC 6 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
7	NHC 7 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	36
8	NHC 8 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	Trace
9	NHC 9 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
10	NHC 10 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
11	NHC 11 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
12	NHC 12 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0

13	_c	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
14	NHC 1 (20)	NaOt-Bu (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	47
16	NHC 1 (20)	Na ₂ CO ₃ (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	34
17	NHC 1 (20)	NaOMe (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	54
18	NHC 1 (20)	NaH (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	48
19	NHC 1 (20)	K ₃ PO ₄ (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	53
20	NHC 1 (20)	Et ₃ N (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
21	NHC 1 (20)	DBU (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
22	NHC 1 (20)	DABCO (0.3)	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
23	NHC 1 (20)	b	150	Toluene (0.5)	0
24	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.5)	150	Toluene (0.5)	51
26	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	120	Toluene (0.5)	31
27	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	THF (0.5)	53
28	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Dioxane (0.5)	38
29	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	CH ₃ CN (0.5)	25
30	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	DMF (0.5)	Trace
31	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Xylene (0.5	48
32	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	DMSO (0.5)	0
33	NHC 1 (20)	NaOEt (0.3)	150	Toluene	56



^aReaction conditions unless otherwise noted: **1a** (0.2 mmol), NHC (0.04 mmol), Base (0.06 mmol), Solvent (0.5 mL), 150 °C, 36 h under N₂ atmosphere. ^bNo Base. ^cNo NHC. ^dfor 24 h.

3.2 Typical procedure and characterization of products



To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added IMes^{Me.}HCl (NHC 1, 20 mol%, 0.08 mmol, 29.4 mg), NaOEt (0.12 mmol, 8.2 mg), toluene (1 mL) and N-(2bromophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide **1a** (0.4 mmol, 101.2 mg) sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 36 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (5.0 mL) and filtered through a short pad silica gel washing with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The filtrate was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the product **2a** in 74% yield.

(E)-3-(2-bromophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2a)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (81 mg, 74% yield).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0, J_2 = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.95 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 1.97 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR

(**125 MHz, CDCl₃**) δ 169.8, 136.4, 134.0, 132.7, 132.5, 130.4, 129.2, 127.0, 124.1, 26.7, 14.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₃ONBr⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 254.0175, found: 254.0179.

(*E*)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*,2-dimethylacrylamide (2b)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (50 mg, 60% yield).

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 2.96 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.99 (d, *J*

= 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 134.6, 134.4, 134.0, 130.4, 130.4, 129.5,

129.0, 126.4, 26.7, 14.3. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₁₁H₁₃ONCl⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 210.0680, found: 210.0682.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylamide (2c)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (55 mg, 56% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.88 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ 169.5, 135.0 (q, J = 1.8 Hz), 134.9, 131.5, 130.5, 130.0, 128.5 (q, J = 30.0 Hz), 127.6, 125.8 (q, J = 5.3 Hz), 124.0 (q, J = 273.7 Hz), 26.6, 14.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -60.8. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₃ONF₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 244.0943, found: 244.0949.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)acrylamide (2d)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (61 mg, 59% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.23 (m, 5H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 2.91 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.96 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.6, 146.9, 134.9, 130.7, 129.6, 129.1, 127.4,

126.4, 121.4, 120.4 (q, J = 256.3 Hz), 26.6, 14.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -56.7.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{12}H_{13}O_2NF_3^+$ ([M+H]⁺): 260.0893, found: 269.0897.

(E)-3-(2-bromo-4-chlorophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2e)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (76 mg, 66% yield). mp: 62-64 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.28

(m, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 2.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.95 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 134.9, 134.5, 134.1, 132.3, 131.6, 131.0,

127.3, 124.4, 26.7, 14.2. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONBrCl⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 287.9785, found: 287.9792.

(E)-3-(2,4-dibromophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2f)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (76 mg, 57% yield). mp: 73-75 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, $J_1 = 8.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.2 Hz,

1H), 6.43 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.94 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 135.3, 134.8, 134.2, 131.6, 131.2, 130.1, 124.6, 121.8, 26.6, 14.1. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONBr₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 331.9280, found: 331.9286.

(E)-3-(2-bromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2g)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (68 mg, 57% yield). mp: 102-104 °C.

²**y** ¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 2.96 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.97 (d, J = 1.3Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.1, 140.3, 135.3, 131.5, 131.1 (q, J = 32.5), 130.6, 129.6 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.2, 122.9 (q, J = 271.3 Hz), 123.9 (q, J = 3.6 Hz), 26.7, 14.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.7. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₂ONBrF₃⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 322.0054, found: 322.0057.

(E)-3-(2-bromo-4-cyanophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2h)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:2) as white solid (68 mg, 57% yield). mp: 132-134 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0, J_2 = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 2.96 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.8, 141.7, 136.0, 135.9, 131.3, 130.9, 130.6, 124.6, 117.1, 112.9, 26.8, 14.4. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₀ON₂Br ([M-H]⁻): 276.9982, found: 276.9978.



(E)-3-(2-bromo-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-N,2dimethylacrylamide (2i)

Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as white solid (76 mg, 56% yield). mp: 75-77 °C.

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$, $J_2 = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.36 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.97 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.3, 148.4 (q, J = 1.7 Hz), 135.2, 134.6, 131.4, 131.1, 125.1, 124.3, 120.2 (q, J = 258.5 Hz), 119.4, 26.7, 14.1. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -58.0. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₀O₂NBrF₃⁻ ([M-H]⁻): 335.9847, found: 335.9858.

(E)-3-(2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2j)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (59 mg, 55% yield).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H),

1.96 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 139.4, 133.4, 133.3, 133.0, 132.5, 130.1, 127.7, 123.9, 26.6, 20.7, 14.1. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₅ONBr⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 268.0032, found: 268.0037.

(E)-3-(2-bromo-5-methylphenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2k)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as white solid (61 mg, 57% yield). mp: 120-122 °C.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.44 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s,

1H), 7.03 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 2.29

(s, 3H), 1.96 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 136.7, 136.0, 133.5, 132.7, 132.2, 130.9, 129.9, 120.5, 26.6, 20.8, 14.1. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₂H₁₅ONBr⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 268.0032, found: 268.0032.

(E)-3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2l)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as white solid (42 mg, 43% yield). mp: 76-78 °C.

21 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 2.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.97 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H). **13**C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 134.7, 134.6, 134.1, 133.1, 131.1, 129.4, 129.3, 126.7, 26.7, 14.3. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONCl₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 244.0291, found: 244.0297.

(E)-3-(4-bromo-2-chlorophenyl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2m)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (74 mg, 64% yield). mp: 79-81 °C.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J_1 = 8.3$, $J_2 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.3 Hz,

1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 2.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.96 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 134.7, 134.6, 133.5, 132.0, 131.3, 129.6, 129.4, 121.7, 26.7, 14.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ONBrCl⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 287.9785, found: 287.9791.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(2-(4-methylquinolin-2-yl)phenyl)acrylamide (2n)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as white solid (95 mg, 75% yield). mp: 104-106 °C.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 2H),

7.34 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 2.79 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 158.5, 147.6, 144.2, 140.2, 134.7, 132.7, 132.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.3, 128.2, 127.9, 126.8, 126.2, 123.7, 123.1, 26.4, 18.7, 14.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₁H₂₁ON₂⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 317.1648, found: 317.1654.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)acrylamide (20)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as colorless oil (76 mg, 84% yield).

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.93-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 2.98 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.95 (d, *J* =

1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.7, 133.7, 133.5, 133.4, 132.5, 131.5, 128.4, 128.1, 126.4, 126.1, 126.0, 125.1, 124.8, 26.7, 14.3. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₅H₁₆ON⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 226.1226, found: 226.1231.

(E)-3-(5-bromonaphthalen-1-yl)-N,2-dimethylacrylamide (2p)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (90 mg, 74% yield). mp: 93-95 °C.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.76 (m, 3H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s,

1H), 2.98 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 1.92 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 134.1, 133.9, 132.7, 132.1, 131.9, 130.1, 127.2, 127.2, 126.4, 126.3, 124.7, 123.3, 26.7, 14.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₅H₁₅ONBr⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 304.0332, found: 304.0337.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylamide (2q)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as white solid (33 mg, 36% yield). mp: 111-113 °C.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 7.87-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 6.03 (s, 1H), 2.98 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 2.19 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 170.3, 133.8, 133.7, 133.2, 132.7, 132.3, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.0, 126.4, 126.4, 26.8, 14.4. **HRMS(ESI)** Calculated for C₁₅H₁₆ON⁺ ([M+H]⁺): 226.1226, found: 226.1231.

(E)-N,2-dimethyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylamide (2r)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow oil (37 mg, 52% yield).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64-8.61 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.65 (m,

1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.14

(m, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 3H), 2.33 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 155.3, 149.1, 136.1, 135.7, 131.6, 125.3, 122.0, 26.6, 14.2. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₁₁H₁₂ON₂Na⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 199.0842, found: 199.0847.

(E)-N-methyl-3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenylacrylamide (2s)



Purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) as yellow solid (17 mg, 15% yield). mp: 148-150 °C.

¹**H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.42

(m, 2H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 2.89 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.6, 137.1, 135.7, 135.2, 133.2, 132.6, 132.1, 130.1, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 127.4, 126.2, 125.8, 124.9, 124.3, 26.8. HRMS(ESI) Calculated for C₂₀H₁₇ONNa⁺ ([M+Na]⁺): 310.1202, found: 310.1206.

3.3 Gram-scale reaction

Experimental procedure:



To a 250 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added IMes^{Me}·HCl (1 mmol, 370 mg), NaOEt (1.05 mmol, 71.4 mg), N-(2-bromo-5-methylphenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide **1k** (5 mmol, 1335 mg) and toluene (12.5 mL) sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 36 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. Then, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1 to 1:1) to provide the product **2k** in 58% yield (0.78g, off white solid).

4. Mechanistic Experiments



To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added IMes^{Me.}HCl (0.2 mmol, 74 mg), NaOEt (0.2 mmol, 13.6 mg), toluene (1 mL) and N-methyl-N-(naphthalen-1-yl)methacrylamide (0.2 mmol, 45 mg) sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 12 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was directly analyzed by HRMS and the possible intermediate **B** was detected which might be involved in the catalytic cycle.

HRMS(ESI) Calculated for $C_{38}H_{44}ON_3^+$ ([M+H]⁺): 558.3479, found: 558.3474.







To a 25 ml flame-dried Schlenk tube containing a stirring bar was added **NHC 1** (0.08 mmol, 29.4 mg), NaOEt (0.12 mmol, 8.2 mg), toluene (1 mL), N-(2-bromo-4-cyanophenyl)-N-methylmethacrylamide **1h** (0.2 mmol, 55.6 mg), and N-methyl-N-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-phenylacrylamide **1s** (0.2 mmol, 57.4 mg) sequentially under nitrogen. The tube was sealed and stirred at 150 °C for 36 h. After completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (5.0 mL) and filtered through a short pad silica gel washing with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The filtrate was concentrated and purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the products **2h** and **2s** in 28% and 5% yields respectively. However, the cross product **2p** failed to be detected.

5. X-Ray Crystallography Data for 2e





Table 1. (Crystal	data	and	structure	refinement	for	2e.
------------	---------	------	-----	-----------	------------	-----	-----

Identification code	2e	
Empirical formula	C11 H11 Br Cl N O	
Formula weight	288.57	
Temperature	173.0 K	
Wavelength	1.34139 Å	
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	
Space group	Pca2 ₁	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.7336(5) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	b = 9.4426(5) Å	β= 90°
	c = 12.9051(8) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	1186.11(11) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.616 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	4.460 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	576	
Crystal size	0.06 x 0.05 x 0.02 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	5.679 to 54.844°.	

Index ranges	-10<=h<=11, -11<=k<=6, -15<=l<=15
Reflections collected	5057
Independent reflections	1866 [R(int) = 0.0383]
Completeness to theta = 53.594°	98.3 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.7508 and 0.4809
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	1866 / 1 / 138
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.044
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0278, wR2 = 0.0697
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0283, wR2 = 0.0702
Absolute structure parameter	0.05(2)
Extinction coefficient	n/a

Largest diff. peak and hole 0.315 and -0.431 e.Å⁻³

.

6. References

- [1] Y. Ping, K. Wang, Q. Pan, Z. Ding, Z. Zhou, Y. Guo and W. Kong, ACS Catal.
 2019, 9, 7335.
- [2] V. G. Correia, J. C. Abreu, C. A. E. Barata and L. H. Andrade, *Org. Lett.* 2017, 19, 1060.
- [3] X. Yi, S. Lei, W. Liu, F. Che, C. Yu, X. Liu, Z. Wang, X. Zhou and Y. Zhang, Org. Lett. 2020, 22, 4583.
- [4] X. Liu, B. Li and Z. Gu, J. Org. Chem. 2015, 80, 7547.
- [5] J. Zhao, P. Li, Y. Xu, Y. Shi and F. Li, Org. Lett. 2019, 21, 9386.
- [6] M.-Z. Zhang, X. Wang, M.-Y. Gong, L. Chen, W.-B. Shi, S.-H. He, Y. Jiang and T. Chen, Org. Biomol. Chem. 2018, 16, 5197.
- [7] W. Kong, M. Casimiro, N. Fuentes, E. Merino and C. Nevado, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2013, **52**, 13086.
- [8] (a) Y.-L. Li, J.-B. Wang, X.-L. Wang, Y. Cao and J. Deng, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2017, 6052. (b) D. B. Bagal, S.-W. Park, H.-J. Song and S. Chang, *Chem. Commun.* 2017, 53, 8798.

7. ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR Spectra





















S31



0 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -2 fl (ppm)



























0 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -2 f1 (ppm)







































