

Supporting Information

Visible-light-induced cyclization of 2-alkenyl-1,1'-biphenyls

Kang Yan, Xingyu Yang, Jiangang Gao,* Ze Zhang and Pinhua Li*

*College of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Anhui Polytechnic University,
Wuhu, Anhui 241000, P. R. China. E-mail: gaojiangang@ahpu.edu.cn;
pphuali@126.com*

Table of Contents

1. General Information	2
2. Experimental Section	2
2.1 Typical procedure for the preparation of starting materials	2
2.2 Typical procedure for the cyclization reaction	6
2.3 Typical procedure for gram-scale synthesis	7
2.4 Preliminary mechanistic study.....	7
3. X-Ray crystallographic data of products	13
4. Characterization data for the products.....	16
5. Copies of ¹ H, ¹³ C and ¹⁹ F NMR spectra	26

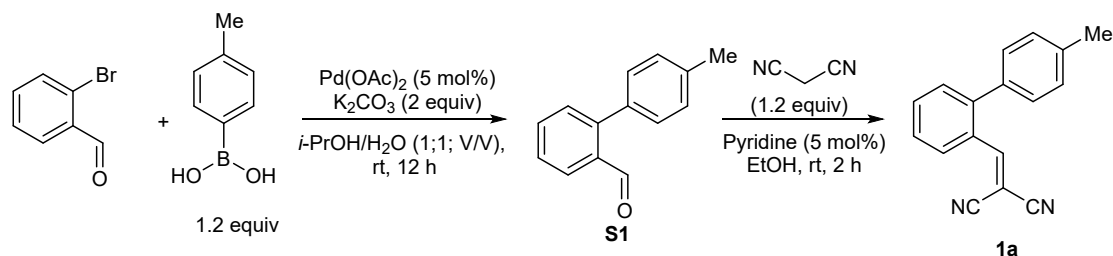
1. General considerations

All materials were purchased from commercial sources, which were used without purification or prepared according to standard procedure unless otherwise indicated. The products were purified by column chromatography over silical gel (300- 400 size). All ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 with a 600 MHz Bruker FT-NMR spectrometer. All chemical shifts of ^1H NMR are given as δ value (ppm) with reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublet) and td (triplet of doublet). The coupling constants, J , are reported in Hertz (Hz). High resolution mass spectroscopy data of the products were measured on a Thermo Scientific Q Exactive and Agilent Technologies 6540 UHD Accurate-Mass Q-TOF LC/MS (ESI).

2. Experimental section

2.1 Typical procedure for the preparation of starting materials

2.1.1 Procedure for the preparation of 1a



Synthesis of 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbaldehyde (S1):

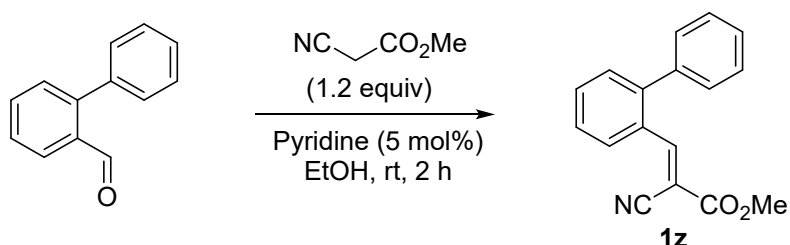
A solution of 2-bromobenzaldehyde (1.85 g, 10 mmol), 4-methylphenylboronic acid (1.63 g, 12 mmol, 1.2 equiv), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (112 mg, 0.5 mmol, 5 mol%), and K_2CO_3 (2.76 g, 20 mmol, 2 equiv) in 2-propanol/water (12 mL, 1:1, V/V) was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL), and then extracted with ethyl acetate (3*15 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum

ether/ethyl acetate (20:1, V/V) as the eluent to yield the desired product **S1** as a yellow oil in 90% yield.

Synthesis of 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-ylmethylene)malononitrile (**1a**):

To a solution of **S1** (980 mg, 5 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL), malononitrile (396 mg, 6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and a catalytic amount of pyridine (20 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) were added. Then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After completion, the crude product was suction filtered and washed with cold ethanol (3*5 mL) to yield the desired product 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-ylmethylene)malononitrile in 80% yield (**1a**, white solid, 976 mg).

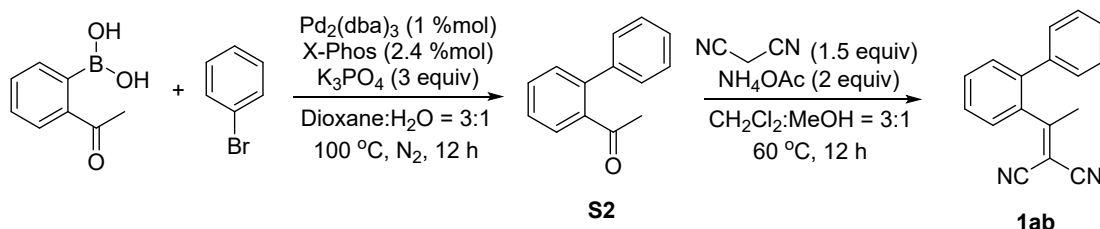
2.1.2 T Procedure for the preparation of **1z**



Synthesis of methyl-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2-cyanoacrylate (**1z**) :

To a solution of [1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbaldehyde (910 mg, 5 mmol) and methyl 2-cyanoacetate (594 mg, 6 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in ethanol (5 mL), a catalytic amount of pyridine (20 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5 mol%) was added. Then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After completion, the crude product was suction filtered and washed with cold ethanol (3*5 mL) to yield the desired product methyl-3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)-2-cyanoacrylate in 75% yield (**1z**, white solid, 986 mg).

2.1.3 Procedure for the preparation of **1ab**



Synthesis of 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethan-1-one (**S2**) :

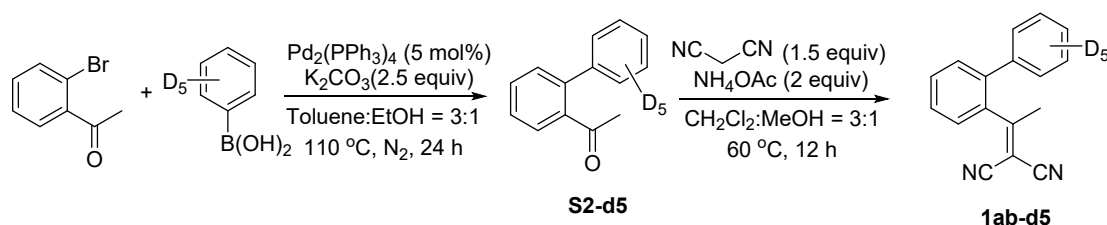
A solution of bromobenzene (471 mg, 3 mmol), (2-acetylphenyl)boronic acid (738 mg, 4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$ (17.3 mg, 0.03 mmol, 1 mol%), X-Phos (42

mg, 0.072 mmol, 2.4 mol%) and K_3PO_4 (1.9 g, 9 mmol, 3 equiv) in dioxane/water (12 mL, 3:1, V/V) was stirred in nitrogen atmosphere at 100 °C for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was diluted with water (25 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3*10 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1, V/V) as the eluent to yield the desired product 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethan-1-one in 70% yield (**S2**, yellow oil, 412 mg).

Synthesis of 2-(1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile (**1ab**) :

A solution of **S2** (392 mg, 2 mmol), malononitrile (198 mg, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), NH_4OAc (308 mg, 4 mmol, 2 equiv) in dichloromethane/methanol (8 mL, 3:1, V/V) was stirred in air at 60 °C for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was rotary evaporated, then the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (9:1, V/V) as the eluent to yield the desired product 2-(1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile in 50% yield (**1ab**, white solid, 244 mg).

2.1.4 Procedure for the preparation of **D5-1ab**



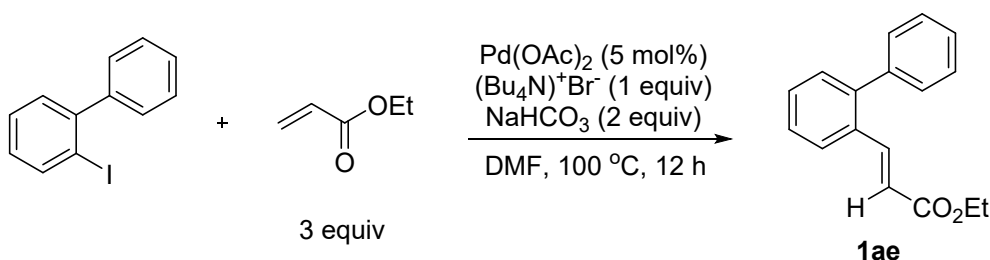
Synthesis of 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethan-1-one (**S2-d5**) :

A solution of 1-(2-bromophenyl)ethan-1-one (1.0 g, 5 mmol), (phenyl-d5)boronic acid (762 mg, 6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), $Pd_2(PPh_3)_4$ (289 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5 mol%), K_2CO_3 (1.04 g, 7.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv) in toluene/ethanol (20 mL, 3:1, V/V) was stirred in nitrogen atmosphere at 110 °C for 24 h. After completion, the mixture was diluted with water (30 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3*15 mL), and the combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1, V/V) as the eluent to yield the desired product **S2-d5** in 95% yield (light yellow oil, 955 mg).

Synthesis of 2-(1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile (**1ab-d5**) :

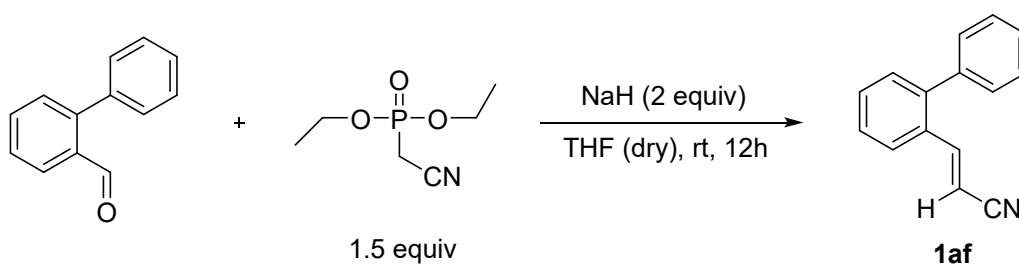
A solution of **S2-d5** (402 mg, 2 mmol), malononitrile (198 mg, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), NH_4OAc (308 mg, 4 mmol, 2 equiv) in dichloromethane/methanol (8 mL, 3:1, V/V) was stirred in air at 60 °C for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was rotary evaporated, then the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (9:1, V/V) as the eluent to yield the desired product 2-(1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)ethylidene)malononitrile in 50% yield (**1ab-d5**, white solid, 249 mg).

2.1.5 Procedure for the preparation of **1ae**



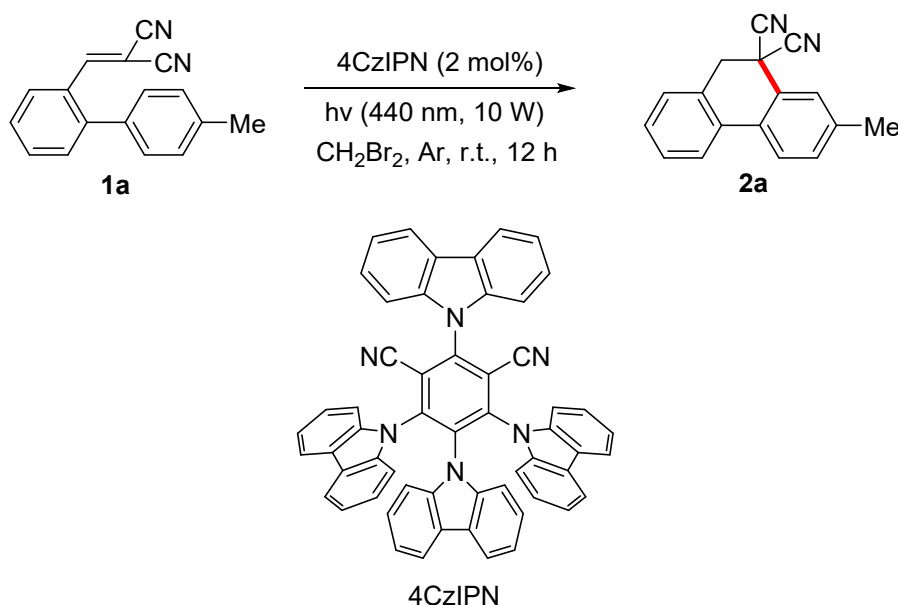
A solution of 2-iodo-1,1'-biphenyl (280 g, 1 mmol), ethyl acrylate (300 mg, 3 mmol, 3 equiv), tetrabutylammonium tribromide (322 mg, 1 mmol, 1 equiv), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) and NaHCO_3 (168 mg, 2 mmol, 2 equiv) in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (4 mL) was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was diluted with water (15 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3*10 mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water (2*5 mL) and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Then the mixture was rotary evaporated, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1, V/V) as eluent to yield the desired product ethyl 3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acrylate in 80% yield (**1ae**, yellow soil, 202 mg).

2.1.6 Procedure for the preparation of **1af**



A solution of [1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carbaldehyde (910 mg, 5 mmol), diethyl (cyanomethyl)phosphonate (1.33 g, 7.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), sodium hydride (240 mg, 10 mmol, 2 equiv) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was stirred in air at room temperature for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was diluted with water (25 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3*15 mL), and the combined organic layer was washed with water (2*5 mL) and dried over Na₂SO₄. Then the mixture was rotary evaporated, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (20:1, V/V) as eluent to yield the desired product 3-([1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acrylonitrile in 50% yield (**1af**, white solid, 513 mg).

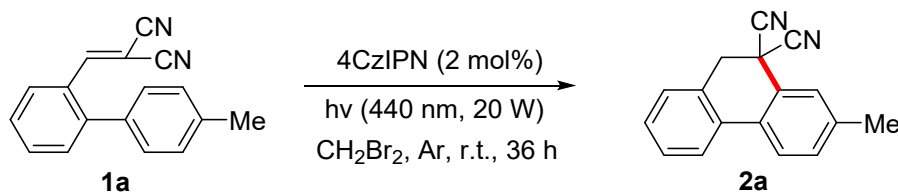
2.2 Typical procedure for the cyclization reaction



Synthesis of 7-methylphenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicyanitrile (**2a**) :

A solution of **1a** (48.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4CzIPN (3.2 mg, 0.004 mmol, 2 mol%) in dibromomethane (2 mL) was stirred and exposed to blue LED (440 nm, 10 W) irradiation in argon atmosphere at room temperature for 12 h. After completion, the mixture was rotary evaporated, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (9:1, V/V) as eluent to yield the desired product 7-methylphenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicyanitrile in 97% yield (**2a**, white solid, 47.3 mg).

2.3 Typical procedure for gram-scale synthesis

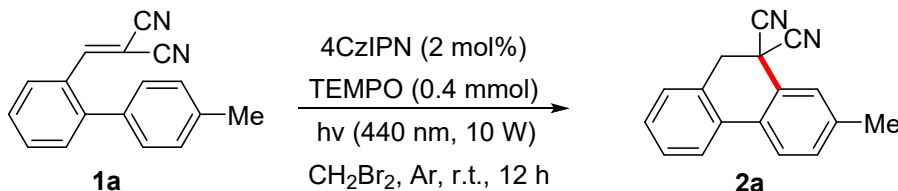


Synthesis of 7-methylphenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicyanitrile (**2a**) :

A solution of **1a** (1.22 g, 5 mmol), 4CzIPN (80 mg, 0.1 mmol, 2 mol%) in dibromomethane (20 mL) was stirred and exposed to blue LED (440 nm, 20 W) irradiation in argon atmosphere at room temperature for 36 h. After completion, the mixture was rotary evaporated, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (9:1, V/V) as eluent to yield the desired product 7-methylphenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicyanitrile in 86% yield (**2a**, white solid, 1.05 g).

2.4 Preliminary mechanistic study

2.4.1 Radical inhibition experiment



A solution of **1a** (48.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4CzIPN (3.2 mg, 0.004 mmol, 2 mol%) and TEMPO (62.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv) in dibromomethane (2 mL) was stirred and exposed to blue LED (440 nm, 10 W) irradiation in argon atmosphere at room temperature for 12 h. In the reaction mixture, only trace amount of desired product **2a** was detected.

2.4.2 UV-visible absorption spectra of 4CzIPN, **1a** and **2a** in dibromomethane

The ultraviolet/visible absorption spectra of 4CzIPN, **1a** and **2a** in dibromomethane with standard concentration (0.4 mM) was recorded on a UV-Visible U-4100 spectrophotometer, as shown in Figure S1-S2. The absorption

spectrum of **1a** and **2a** contains a maximum at 320 nm and 305 nm. The absorption spectrum of 4CzIPN contains a maximum at 385 nm with a wide absorption range from 270 nm to 500 nm, which is consistent with the wavelength of the LED used in the experiment (440 nm).

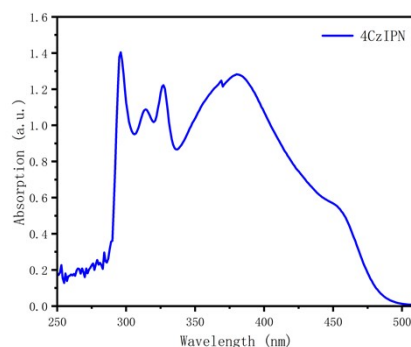


Figure S1. Absorption spectra of 4CzIPN in dibromomethane

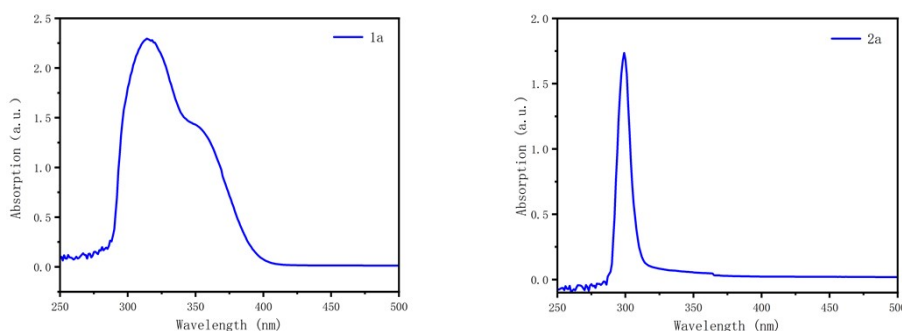


Figure S2. Absorption spectra of **1a** and **2a** in dibromomethane

2.4.3 Fluorescence quenching experiment

To further elucidate the possible reaction pathway, the related fluorescence quenching experiments were performed and the results were shown in Figure S3. In the experiment, measurement was carried out mixing a 1.25×10^{-5} mol/L solution of 4CzIPN in dibromomethane with appropriate amount of quencher (**1a**) in quartz cuvette. Increasing amounts of **1a** were added to the solution of 4CzIPN in dibromomethane. Emission spectrum were recorded after each addition. The results in Figure S3 (left) shows an obvious change in the emission intensity of 4CzIPN with a calculated K_{sv} of 0.12 mM^{-1} [Figure S3 (right)].

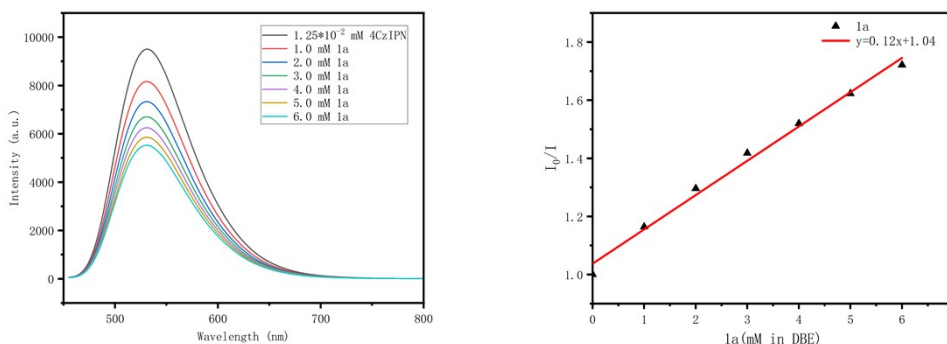


Figure S3. Fluorescence quenching of 4CzIPN by **1a** in dibromomethane (left); Stern-Volmer plots of 4CzIPN quenching with **1a** (right).

2.4.4 On/Off experiments

A solution of **1a** (48.8 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4CzIPN (3.2 mg, 0.004 mmol, 2 mol%) in dibromomethane (2 mL) was stirred and exposed to blue LED (440 nm, 10 W) irradiation in argon atmosphere at room temperature for 2 h. The first sample was collected under argon atmosphere and made preparation for the GC analysis. The reaction was continued stirred in the dark for another 2 h and collected the second sample. In the following step, the intermittent irradiation (2 hours interval) was carried out to demonstrate the importance of visible-light irradiation, and the results demonstrate that uninterrupted irradiation is necessary for this transformation.

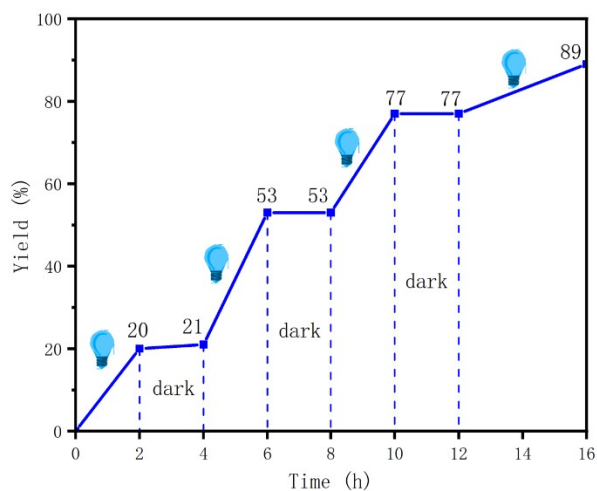
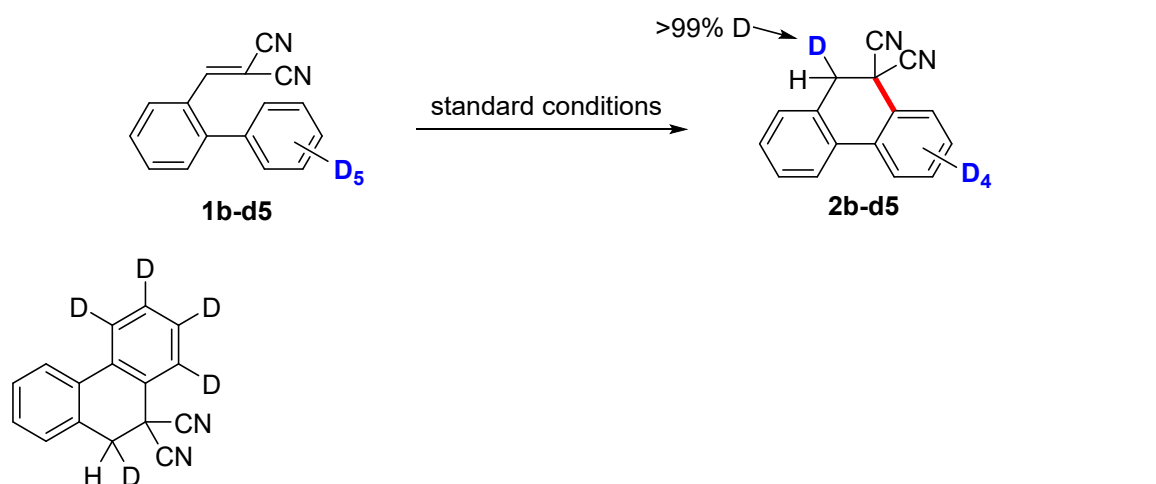
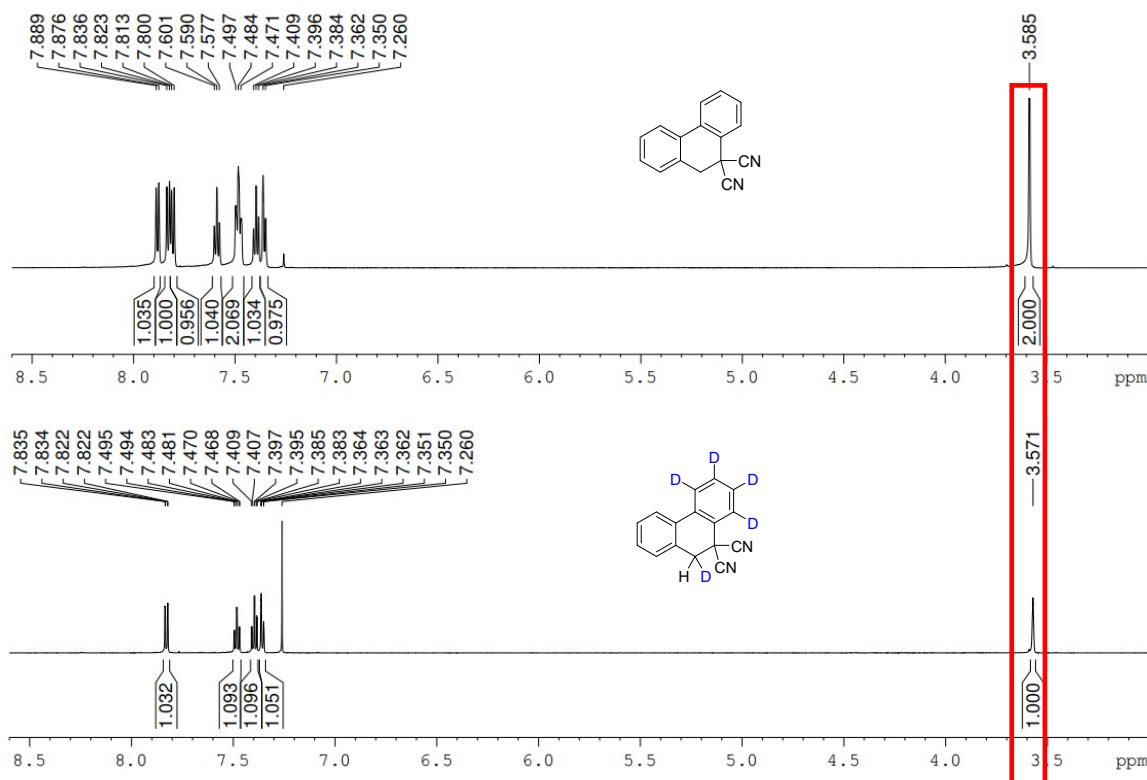


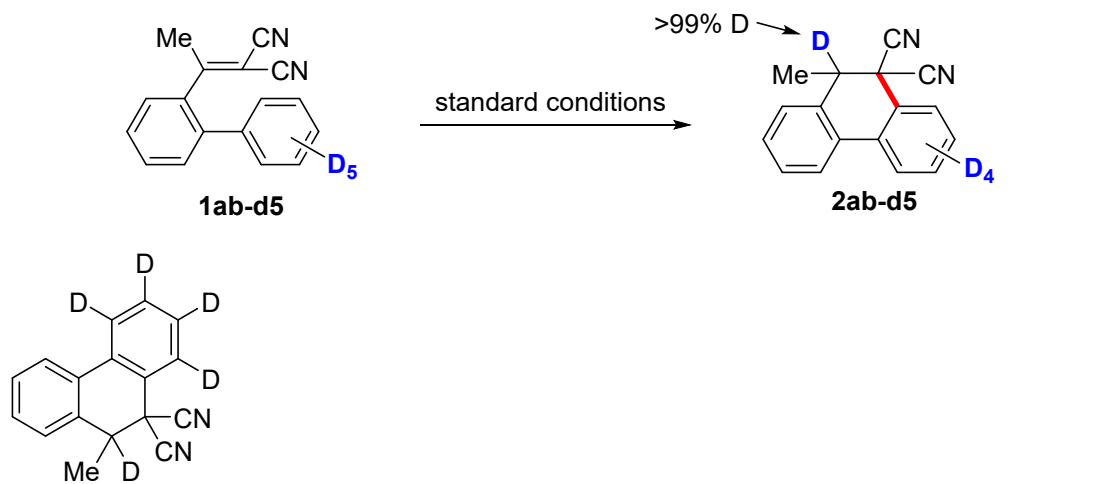
Figure S4. On/Off experiments

2.4.5 Deuterium labeling experiment



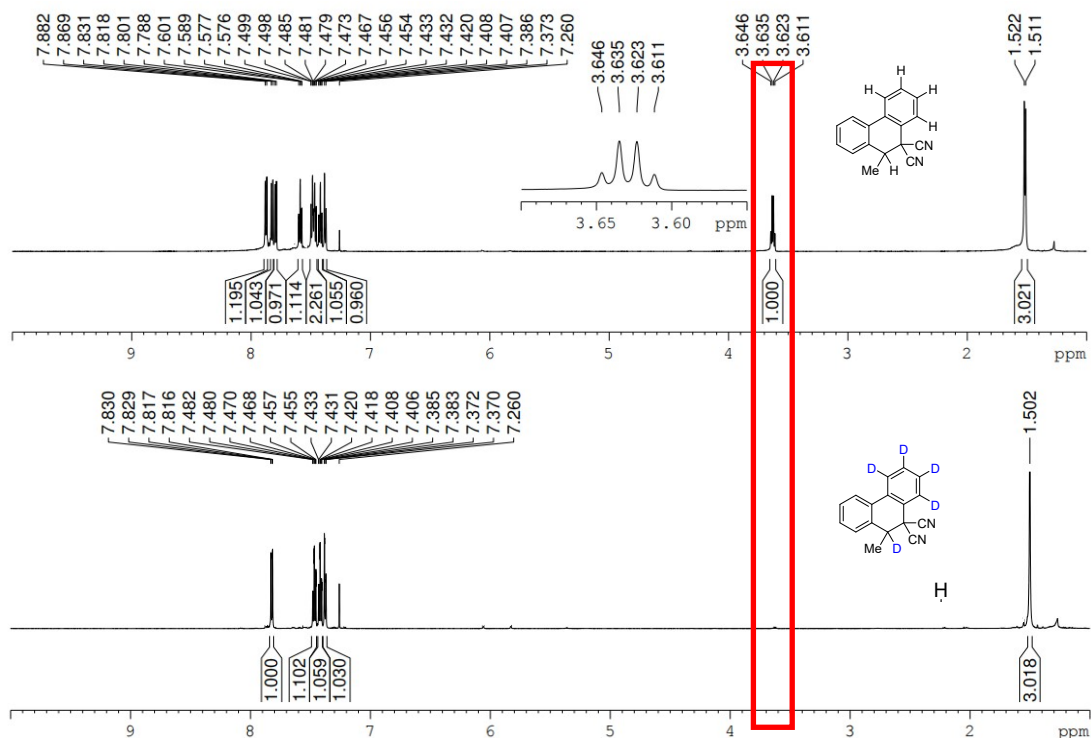
Phenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanonitrile-5,6,7,8,10-d5 (2b-d5). White solid, 42.3 mg, 90% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 1H).

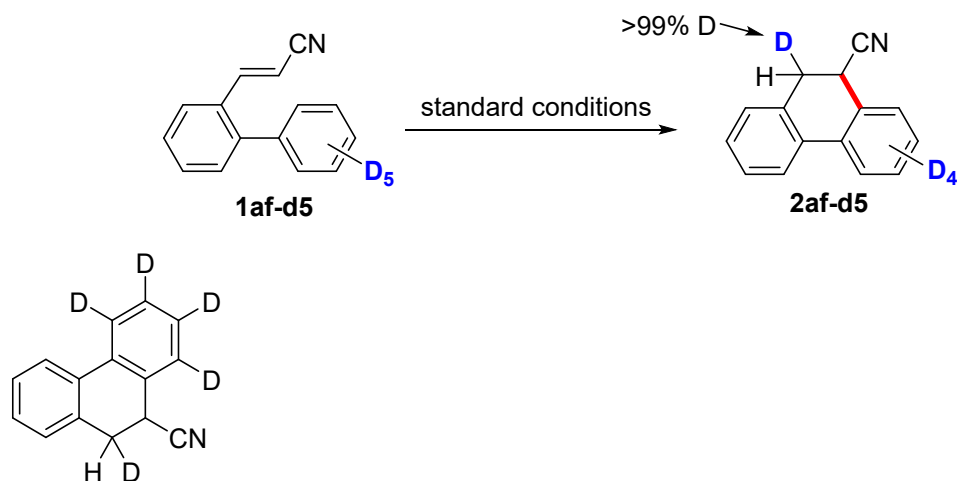




10-methylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicarbonitrile-5,6,7,8,10-d5 (2ab-d5).

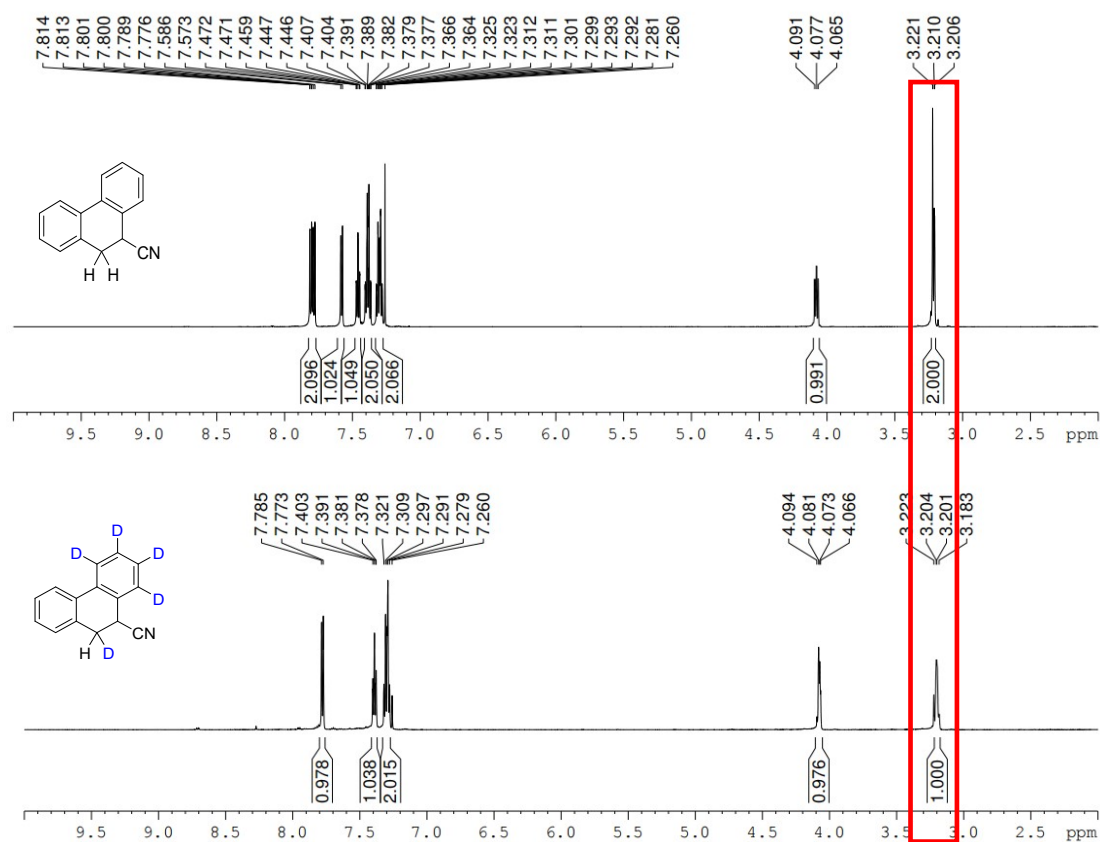
White solid, 39.8 mg, 80% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.82 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (s, 3H).





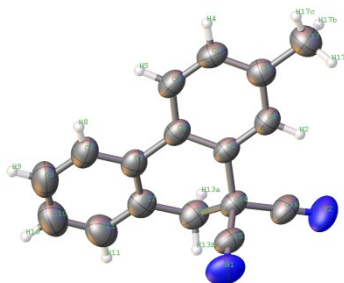
9,10-Dihydrophenanthrene-9-carbonitrile-5,6,7,8,10-d5 (2af-d5).

White solid, 27.3 mg, 65% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.78 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 4.09-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.22-3.18 (s, 1H).



3. X-Ray crystallographic data of products

3.1 X-Ray crystallographic data of product 2a (CCDC: 2222087)



checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) 1_a

THIS REPORT IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. IF USED AS PART OF A REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR PUBLICATION, IT SHOULD NOT REPLACE THE EXPERTISE OF AN EXPERIENCED CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC REFEREE.

No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

Datablock: 1_a

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0021 Å Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=8.7405 (15) b=8.9958 (14) c=9.1291 (18)
 alpha=107.326 (7) beta=99.505 (7) gamma=97.845 (7)

Temperature: 273 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	662.6 (2)	662.6 (2)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	C17 H12 N2	C17 H12 N2
Sum formula	C17 H12 N2	C17 H12 N2
Mr	244.29	244.29
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.224	1.224
Z	2	2
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.073	0.073
F000	256.0	256.0
F000'	256.09	
h, k, lmax	11, 11, 11	11, 11, 11
Nref	3037	2946
Tmin, Tmax	0.984, 0.986	
Tmin'	0.984	

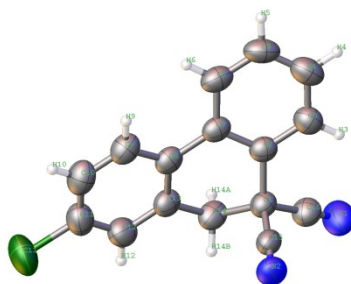
Correction method= Not given

Data completeness= 0.970 Theta (max)= 27.479

R(reflections)= 0.0540 (2188) wR2 (reflections)=
0.1712 (2946)

S = 1.073 Npar= 174

3.2 X-Ray crystallographic data of product 2v (CCDC: 2222108)



checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) 1_a

THIS REPORT IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. IF USED AS PART OF A REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR PUBLICATION, IT SHOULD NOT REPLACE THE EXPERTISE OF AN EXPERIENCED CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC REFEREE.

No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

Datablock: 1_a

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0023 A

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=8.437(3)

b=9.166(3)

c=9.274(3)

alpha=108.582(10)

beta=99.894(11)

gamma=94.050(11)

Temperature: 297 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	663.6(4)	663.6(3)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	C16 H9 Cl N2	C16 H9 Cl N2
Sum formula	C16 H9 Cl N2	C16 H9 Cl N2
Mr	264.70	264.70
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.325	1.325
Z	2	2
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.273	0.273
F000	272.0	272.0
F000'	272.38	
h, k, lmax	10, 11, 12	10, 11, 12
Nref	3025	2997
Tmin, Tmax	0.942, 0.947	
Tmin'	0.942	

Correction method= Not given

Data completeness= 0.991

Theta(max)= 27.475

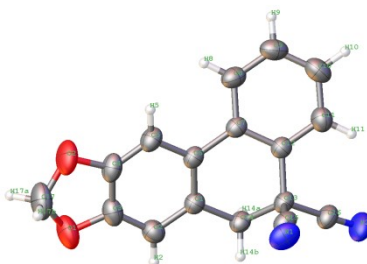
R(reflections)= 0.0484(2246)

wR2(reflections)=
0.1470(2997)

S = 1.041

Npar= 182

3.3 X-Ray crystallographic data of product 2w (CCDC: 2222106)



checkCIF/PLATON report

Structure factors have been supplied for datablock(s) 1_a

THIS REPORT IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. IF USED AS PART OF A REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR PUBLICATION, IT SHOULD NOT REPLACE THE EXPERTISE OF AN EXPERIENCED CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC REFEREE.

No syntax errors found. CIF dictionary Interpreting this report

Datablock: 1_a

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0016 Å

Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=8.4260 (7)

b=8.8146 (8)

c=8.9781 (6)

alpha=83.027(3)

beta=83.022 (3)

gamma=86.110 (4)

Temperature: 297 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	656.03 (9)	656.03 (9)
Space group	P -1	P -1
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1
Moiety formula	C17 H10 N2 O2	C17 H10 N2 O2
Sum formula	C17 H10 N2 O2	C17 H10 N2 O2
Mr	274.27	274.27
Dx, g cm-3	1.388	1.388
Z	2	2
Mu (mm-1)	0.093	0.093
F000	284.0	284.0
F000'	284.13	
h, k, lmax	10, 11, 11	10, 11, 11
Nref	3006	2994
Tmin, Tmax	0.980, 0.982	
Tmin'	0.980	

Correction method= Not given

Data completeness= 0.996

Theta (max)= 27.479

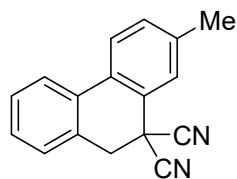
R(reflections)= 0.0415 (2627)

wR2(reflections)=
0.1248 (2994)

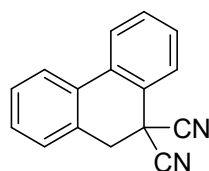
S = 1.057

Npar= 190

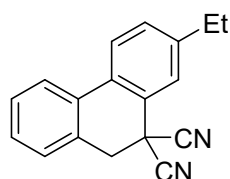
4. Characterization data for the products



7-Methylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2a). White solid, 47.3 mg, 97% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 1H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 139.8, 132.4, 132.2, 130.4, 129.5, 129.0 (2C), 128.4, 127.4, 126.4, 125.5, 124.4, 114.9 (2C), 39.3, 36.3, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2^+$ 245.1073; Found 245.1073.

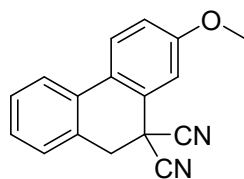


Phenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2b). White solid, 42.3 mg, 92% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.88 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 133.1, 132.2, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.7, 126.9, 126.5, 125.6, 124.7, 114.8 (2C), 39.2, 36.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2^+$ 231.0917; Found 231.0916.

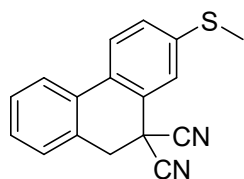


7-Ethylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2c). White solid, 48.0 mg, 93% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.80-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.46 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 2.77 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 146.1, 132.5, 131.1, 130.6, 129.6, 129.0(2C), 128.5, 126.5, 126.4, 125.7, 124.5, 115.0 (2C), 39.4, 36.4, 28.8, 15.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2^+$ 259.1230;

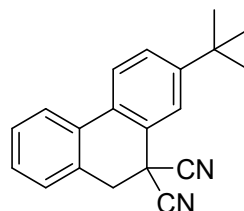
Found 259.1230.



7-Methoxyphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2d). Yellow solid, 46.8 mg, 90% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.80 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 160.3, 132.3, 129.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.1, 125.7, 124.0, 117.1, 114.8 (2C), 112.3, 55.9, 39.3, 36.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 261.1022; Found 261.1021.

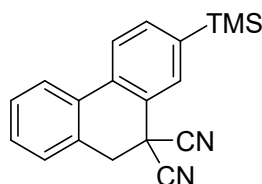


7-Methylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2e). Yellow solid, 48.6 mg, 88% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.77 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 1H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 141.1, 132.0, 129.6 (2C), 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.0, 125.9, 124.3, 123.9, 114.6 (2C), 39.2, 36.3, 15.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{S}^+$ 277.0794; Found 277.0797.

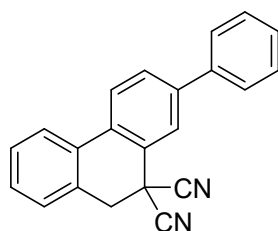


7-(tert-butyl)phenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2f). White solid, 53.8 mg, 94% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.81-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.33

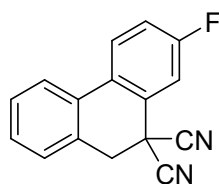
(m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 153.1, 132.4, 130.4, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6 (2C), 126.2, 125.4, 124.5, 123.9, 115.0 (2C), 39.5, 36.6, 35.3, 31.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2^+$ 287.1543; Found 287.1543.



8-(Trimethylsilyl)phenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2g). White solid, 50.7 mg, 84% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.87 (d, $J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.72 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.39 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 0.35 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 143.1, 136.5, 132.4, 131.5, 129.6, 129.5, 129.1, 128.9, 125.8, 124.8 (2C), 114.9 (2C), 39.5, 36.4, 1.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{Si}^+$ 303.1312; Found 303.1313.

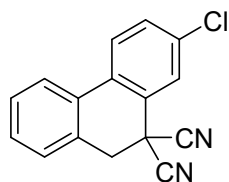


8-Phenylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2h). Yellow solid, 53.9 mg, 88% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.02 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, $J = 8.1, 1.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 3H), 3.63 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 142.4, 139.2, 132.0, 131.9, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3 (2C), 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 127.2 (2C), 127.0, 126.1, 125.5, 124.7, 114.8 (2C), 39.3, 36.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2^+$ 307.1230; Found 307.1230.

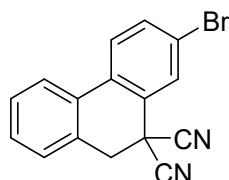


8-Fluorophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2i). White solid, 41.2 mg, 83%

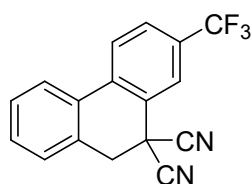
yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.87 (dd, $J = 8.7, 5.3\text{Hz}$, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.5$ Hz 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30 (td, 1H), 3.59 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 162.6 (d, $J = 251.7$ Hz), 131.5, 129.8, 129.5 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz), 129.4, 129.1, 128.4 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 128.2, 127.7 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 124.6, 118.7 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), 114.5 (d, $J = 24.3$ Hz), 114.3 (2C), 39.1, 36.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{FN}_2^+$ 249.0823; Found 249.0823.



7-Chlorophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2j). White solid, 45.4 mg, 86% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.82-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 135.1, 131.8, 131.7, 131.4, 129.8 (2C), 129.1, 128.5, 128.0, 127.1, 127.0, 124.7, 114.3 (2C), 39.1, 36.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClN}_2^+$ 265.0527; Found 265.0526.

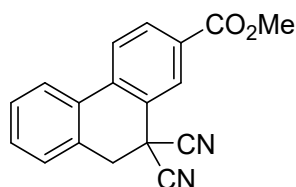


7-Bromophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2k). White solid, 53.8 mg, 87% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.93-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz 1H), 7.41 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 134.8, 132.2, 131.4, 130.0 129.9 (2C), 129.2, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 124.7, 123.0, 114.3 (2C), 39.1, 25.9. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrN}_2^+$ 309.0022; Found 309.0023.

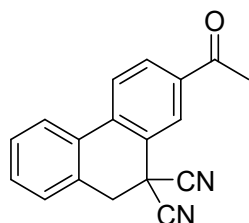


9-(Trifluoromethyl)phenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2l). White solid, 47.7 mg, 80% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.04 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H),

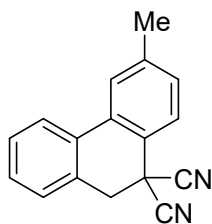
7.88-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.53 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.4, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 136.7, 131.3 (q, $J = 34.3$ Hz), 131.2, 130.7, 130.6 (q, $J = 15.4$ Hz), 130.0, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 127.3, 126.3, 125.4, 124.1 (q, $J = 4.1$ Hz), 114.1 (2C), 39.1, 36.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2^+$ 299.0791; Found 299.0792.



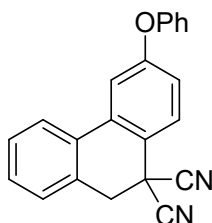
Methyl 10,10-dicyano-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene-2-carboxylate (2m). White solid, 47.2 mg, 82% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, $J = 8.5, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (td, $J = 7.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 165.7, 137.3, 132.7, 131.5, 130.9, 130.6, 129.9, 129.3 (2C), 128.2, 126.9, 125.8, 125.5, 114.4 (2C), 52.8, 39.2, 36.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ 289.0972; Found 289.0974.



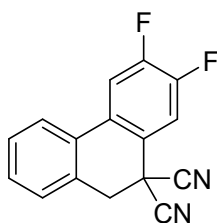
8-Acetylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicarbonitrile (2n). White solid, 44.1 mg, 81% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.35 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (td, $J = 7.5, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 196.2, 137.4, 137.3, 131.3 (2C), 130.6, 129.9, 129.3 (2C), 127.0, 126.0, 125.5, 114.4 (2C), 39.1, 36.2, 26.8. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 273.1022; Found 273.1023.



6-Methylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanide (2o). White solid, 45.4 mg, 93% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.47 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.29 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 141.8, 132.9, 132.4, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 129.1, 128.9, 126.9, 126.3, 124.7, 123.8, 115.0 (2C), 39.5, 36.1, 21.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2^+$ 245.1073; Found 245.1075.

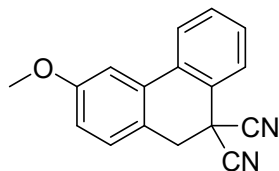


Phenoxyphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanide (2p). Yellow solid, 58.0 mg, 90% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.16 (dd, $J = 8.6, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 2H), 3.58 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 158.5, 155.8, 131.9, 130.3 (2C), 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 127.7, 127.2, 124.7, 124.3, 120.6, 119.8 (2C), 116.7, 114.5 (2C), 39.2, 36.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 323.1179; Found 323.1179.

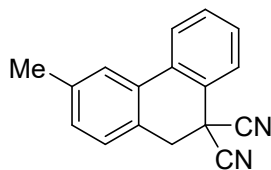


6,7-Difluorophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanide (2q). White solid, 42.6 mg, 80% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.71-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.50 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.60 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 152.4 (d, $J = 253.3$ Hz), 152.3 (d, $J = 252.7$ Hz), 150.2 (d, $J = 254.0$ Hz), 150.1 (d,

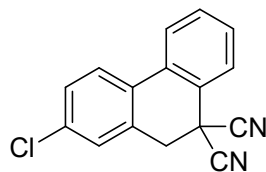
$J = 254.0$ Hz), 130.8 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz), 130.7, 130.1, 130.0, 129.2, 128.4, 116.7 (d, $J = 19.4$ Hz), 115.0 (d, $J = 19.4$ Hz), 114.1 (2C), 39.0, 35.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd For $C_{16}H_9F_2N_2^+$ 267.0728; Found 267.0726.



3-Methoxyphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2t). Yellow solid, 46.3 mg, 89% yield. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.5$ Hz 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 160.6, 133.4, 133.2, 131.5, 130.1, 129.4, 126.9, 126.8, 125.7, 120.9, 114.9, 114.6, 110.6, 55.6, 38.7, 36.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd For $C_{17}H_{13}N_2O^+$ 261.1022; Found 261.1023.

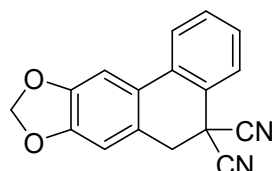


3-Methylphenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2u). White solid, 45.4 mg, 93% yield. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 7.84 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 139.7, 133.3, 131.4, 130.4, 129.7, 129.5, 128.8, 128.6, 126.9, 126.2, 125.3, 124.7, 114.9 (2C), 39.3, 36.3, 21.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ Calcd For $C_{17}H_{13}N_2^+$ 245.1073; Found 245.1073.

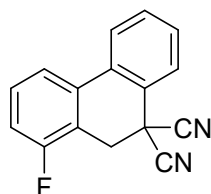


2-Chlorophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicyanitrile (2v). White solid, 45.4 mg, 86% yield. 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 7.84 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, $J = 7.7, 0.9$

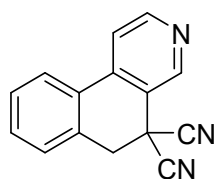
Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, $J = 8.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 135.2, 132.2, 131.7, 130.8, 130.4, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 127.1, 126.3, 126.1, 125.6, 114.5 (2C), 38.9, 36.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{CN}_2^+$ 265.0527; Found 265.0525.



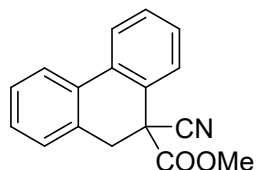
Phenanthro[2,3-d][1,3]dioxole-5,5(6H)-dicarbonitrile (2w). White solid, 45.5 mg, 83% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.76 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 3.47 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 149.2, 148.6, 133.3, 131.5, 128.6, 126.8, 126.6, 125.9, 125.1, 123.0, 114.9, 109.2, 105.2, 102.0, 39.3, 36.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ 275.0815; Found 275.0817.



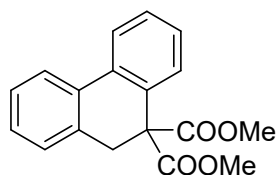
1-Fluorophenanthrene-9,9(10H)-dicarbonitrile (2x). White solid, 46.1 mg, 93% yield. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 7.88 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, $J = 7.7, 0.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.14 (m, 1H), 3.65 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 160.3 (d, $J = 247.5$ Hz), 134.3 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 132.3 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz), 131.6, 130.5 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz), 129.9, 127.1, 126.4, 126.0, 120.4 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz), 116.1 (d, $J = 21.5$ Hz), 116.0 (d, $J = 17.1$ Hz), 114.5 (2C), 35.7, 31.4 (d, $J = 4.3$ Hz). HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ Calcd For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{FN}_2^+$ 249.0823; Found 249.0824.



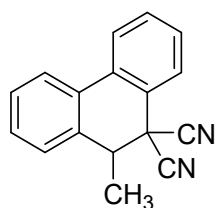
Benzo[*f*]isoquinoline-5,5(6*H*)-dicarbonitrile (2y). White solid, 36.5 mg, 79% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.02 (s, 1H), 8.82 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.41 (m, 1H), 3.65 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 153.0, 147.9, 140.5, 131.7, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 125.4, 122.1, 118.9, 113.9 (2C), 39.0, 33.6 HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₅H₁₀N₃⁺ 232.0869; Found 232.0869.



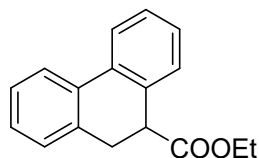
Methyl 9-cyano-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene-9-carboxylate (2z). White solid, 48.4 mg, 92% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (d, *J* = 15.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 167.4, 133.6, 132.7, 130.8, 130.2, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6 (2C), 127.7, 124.9, 124.2, 118.7, 54.2, 48.1, 37.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₇H₁₄NO₂⁺ 264.1019; Found 264.1019.



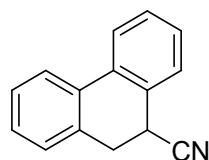
Dimethyl phenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicarboxylate (2aa). White solid, 52.1 mg, 88% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 3H), 3.69 (s, 6H), 3.54 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 171.3 (2C), 134.0, 133.5, 133.4, 132.9, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 124.5, 124.0, 60.0, 53.2 (2C), 36.6. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₈H₁₇O₄⁺ 297.1121; Found 297.1122.



9-Methylphenanthrene-9,9(10*H*)-dicarbonitrile (2ab). White solid, 40.5 mg, 83% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 134.3, 132.8, 131.5, 131.3, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 127.7, 127.6, 125.5, 125.0, 115.1, 114.1 (2C), 42.5, 42.4, 16.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₇H₁₃N₂⁺ 245.1073; Found 245.1075.



Ethyl 9,10-dihydrophenanthrene-9-carboxylate (2ae). White solid, 41.8 mg, 83% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 4.12 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 173.3, 134.8, 134.4, 134.2, 133.9, 128.6 (2C), 127.9, 127.8, 127.5, 124.2, 123.9, 61.0, 45.0, 32.1, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₇H₁₇O₂⁺ 253.1123; Found 253.1125.



9,10-Dihydrophenanthrene-9-carbonitrile (2af). White solid, 26.7 mg, 65% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 7.81-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.22-3.21 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 133.8, 133.4, 132.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.6, 128.5 (2C), 128.4, 127.2, 124.7, 124.3, 120.2, 33.1, 31.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ Calcd For C₁₅H₁₂N⁺ 206.0964; Found 206.0965.

5. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, ^{19}F NMR and HRMS spectra of the products

