## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# HFIP-assisted, cobalt-catalyzed three-component electrophilic C–H amination/cyclization/directing group removal cascade to naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazoles

Hasina Mamataj Begam,<sup>a</sup> Kangkan Pradhan,<sup>a,b</sup> Kasarla Varalaxmi<sup>a,c</sup> and Ranjan Jana\*<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Organic and Medicinal Chemistry Division, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology

4 Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, India

<sup>b</sup>Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad-201 002, Uttar Pradesh, India

<sup>c</sup>Medicinal Chemistry, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Kolkata, West Bengal, India

E-mail: rjana@iicb.res.in

#### **Table of Contents**

General information2
Preparation of starting materials2
Representative procedures for the main reaction
Control experiments
Product derivatizations
Procedures for product derivatizations7-8
Crystal structure
Spectral data11-27
References
<sup>1</sup> H, <sup>13</sup> C and <sup>19</sup> F NMR spectra

**General Information**: Air-sensitive reagents were handled under a dry nitrogen atmosphere. Unless otherwise stated, all commercial reagents were used without additional purification. Solvents were dried using standard methods and distilled before use. TLC was performed on silica gel plates (Merck silica gel 60,  $f_{254}$ ), and the spots were visualized with UV light (254 and 365 nm) or by charring the plate dipped in KMnO<sub>4</sub> or vanillin charring solution. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (JEOL-JNM-ECZ400S/L1), <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz (JEOL-JNM-ECZ400S/L1) and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded at 376 MHz (JEOL-JNM-ECZ400S/L1) frequency in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO-d6 solvent using TMS as the internal standard. Chemical shifts were measured in parts per million (ppm) referenced to 0.0 ppm for tetramethylsilane. The following abbreviations were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br. = broad, dt = doublet of triplet, td = triplet of doublet. Coupling constants, *J* were reported in Hertz unit (Hz). HRMS (m/z) were measured using ESI technique (Q-Tof Micro mass spectrometer). Crystals were grown in dichloromethane and crystal data was recorded in (Bruker Kappa Apex-2, CCD Area Detector) instrument.

#### **Preparation of starting materials:**

Starting materials are prepared according to our previous method.<sup>1</sup>



#### **Representative Procedure for imidazole:**

In an oven dried 15 mL sealed tube containing a stir bar was added corresponding picolinamide (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), *O*-benzoylhydroxylamine (0.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), (HCHO)<sub>n</sub> (36 mg, 1.2 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) and Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.03 mmol). HFIP (3 mL) was then added. The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 hrs. After allotted time the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with DCM (50 mL) and washed with saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> or NaOH solution (25mL), followed by brine solution (25 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude mixture was loaded on a silica gel column chromatography and purified using (Hexane/Acetone) to give the desired imidazole product.

[**N.B.** During this whole process EtOAc can't be used because it is hydrolyzed by the imidazole product generating AcOH which can't be removed by simple rotary evaporation.]

#### **Control experiments:**

To gain insight into the mechanism some control experiments were performed. When the preformed *ortho* amino picolinamide was subjected to react with paraformaldehyde in presence or absence of Co-catalyst the product was obtained in 80% and 67% yield respectively in 6 hrs. This indicates that cobalt catalyst may have slight assistance in the subsequent reaction after amination. Though benzamide (**5**) didn't afford the desired product, the *ortho* amino benzamide of naphthylamine (**6**) successfully furnished the product in 82% yield. These experiments suggest that the pyridine N-atom is necessary for C-H amination step but for the subsequent reactions it is not required. Then to check the solvent effect in both C-H amination as well as next cyclization cascade, we performed the main reaction and also from intermediate **1a'** in various mixed solvents. Enhanced yield of the desired product in presence of HFIP in both cases suggests that HFIP has role in the whole process. When the substrate was treated with 1.0 equiv. of Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O in HFIF, substrate is found to be consumed with the formation of an orange-coloured complex which was isolated by column chromatography and electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS)



as well as <sup>1</sup>HNMR confirms the formation of complex **A**. This complex is formed only in HFIP and other solvent systems found ineffective for this complex formation. When this complex was

treated with amine source and (HCHO)<sub>n</sub>, the product was obtained in 42% yield with the recovery of **1a**. Also, it evident from reaction **e** that after amination HFIP is acting as acid and probably facilitating the iminium formation. When 1a was treated under standard conditions with 2a and 3 using 10 mol % of this complex instead of  $Co(OAc)_2.4H_2O$  79% of the desired product was obtained. So, this indicates that this Co(III)-complex may be an intermediate in this reaction.  $Co(acac)_3$  was also able to furnish the product in 45% yield. Since Co(III) salt is giving the product in good amount so we may assume that our reaction may be undergoing through initial oxidation of Co(II) to Co(III). When standard reactions were performed in presence of stoichiometric amounts of radical quenchers such as TEMPO or BHT product formation was inhibited slightly but not significantly. From this experiment we may think that probably the reaction is not going through any radical intermediate.



-1.818





#### **Product derivatization:**



The imidazole product formed by our method is further utilized for the synthesis of naphthimidazolone (7a) and 2-amino naphthimidazole (7b). A COX-2 inhibitor

Tomoxiprole has also been synthesized by  $C_2$ -H arylation of compound **4t**, prepared by our method (**7c**).

#### **Procedure for C2-H oxidation:**



C2-H oxidation was performed following a previous method under slightly changed condition.<sup>2</sup> In an oven dried R.B. containing a stir bar charged with **4a** (0.5 mmol) in DCM was added MeI (10 equiv.). Then the mixture fitted with reflux condenser was heated at 50 °C for 12 hrs. After cooling to room temperature the solvent was evaporated under rotary evaporation. To this  $K_2CO_3$  (2.0 equiv.), I<sub>2</sub> (1.0 equiv.) and MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) 3 mL were added and heated to 40 °C for 1 h). After cooling to room temperature the solvent was evaporated. 50 mL EtOAc was added to it and washed with water and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude mixture was loaded on a silica gel column chromatography and purified using (Hexane/EtOAc) to give the desired imidazolone product.

#### **Procedure for C2-H amination:**



C2-H amination was performed following a previous method under slightly changed condition.<sup>3</sup> In an oven dried R.B. containing a stir bar and charged with **4a** (0.5 mmol) in dry THF under Ar atmosphere was added TmpZnCl.LiCl in THF solution (1.0 equiv.) dropwise and strirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. After that a mixture of Cu(OAc)2 (10 mol%), the amine-OBz (1.2 equiv.) in dry THF under Ar atmosphere was added dropwise to the previous mixture at room

temperature and stirred at r.t. for 12 hrs. After this time the reaction was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. Then after solvent evaporation EtOAc was added and washed with water dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude mixture was loaded on a silica gel column chromatography and purified using (Hexane/EtOAc) to give the desired product.

#### **Procedure for the synthesis of Tomoxiprole:**



**4t** was prepared following our method. C2-H arylation was performed following a previous method.<sup>4</sup> An oven dried reaction vial containing a stir bar and charged with **4t** (0.5 mmol) was added [Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>].DCM (5 mol %), PPh<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %), 4-iododoanisole (1.2 equiv.), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv.) and then MeCN (4 mL) was added. Then the mixture was heated to 60 °C for 72 hrs. After the allotted time the mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through celite pad. Then crude obtained after the solvent evaporation was purified by silica gel column chromatography using (Hexane/EtOAc) to give the desired product.

### **Crystal structure:**

The crystals were grown in dichloromethane solvent. The pure compound was dissolved in dichloromethane slow evaporation led to the crystal **4a**. The crystal data was collected in X-ray spectroscopy (Bruker Kappa Apex-2, CCD Area Detector), and the data was analyzed using OLEX2 software. The structure is given below. The corresponding cif file has been uploaded separately as supporting information.

Thermal ellipsoid plot of 4a. Ellipsoids are represented with 50% probability.

X-ray determined molecular structure of 4a, CCDC: 2220979



Identification code	HM1418
Empirical formula	$C_{17}H_{18}N_2$
Formula weight	250.33
Temperature/K	100.0
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
a/Å	13.2417(9)
b/Å	12.7619(9)
c/Å	7.8090(5)
a/°	90
β/°	99.428(3)
$\gamma^{\prime \circ}$	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1301.81(15)
Z	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.277
µ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.580
F(000)	536.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.15 \times 0.12 \times 0.02$
Radiation	$Cu K\alpha (\lambda = 1.54178)$
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/	<sup>9</sup> 9.688 to 144.96
Index ranges	$-16 \le h \le 15, -15 \le k \le 15, -8 \le l \le 9$
Reflections collected	25331
Independent reflections	2532 [ $R_{int} = 0.0811$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0436$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	2532/0/173
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.071

Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$  (I)] R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0672, wR<sub>2</sub> = 0.1766 Final R indexes [all data] R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0699, wR<sub>2</sub> = 0.1801 Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å<sup>-3</sup> 0.46/-0.37

The crystals were grown in dichloromethane solvent. The pure compound was dissolved in dichloromethane slow evaporation led to the crystal **4ac**. The crystal data was collected in X-ray spectroscopy (Bruker Kappa Apex-2, CCD Area Detector), and the data was analyzed using OLEX2 software. The structure is given below. The corresponding cif file has been uploaded separately as supporting information.

Thermal ellipsoid plot of 4ac. Ellipsoids are represented with 50% probability.

X-ray determined molecular structure of 4ac, CCDC: 2220977

Identification code	HM1804_2_0m
Empirical formula	$C_{18}H_{14}N_2$
Formula weight	258.31
Temperature/K	100.00
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$
a/Å	6.5843(3)
b/Å	9.6121(4)
c/Å	20.5866(8)
$\alpha/^{\circ}$	90
$\beta/^{\circ}$	93.7440(10)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1300.12(9)
Z	4

$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.320
$\mu/mm^{-1}$	0.607
F(000)	544.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.15 \times 0.12 \times 0.02$
Radiation	$CuK\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 1.54178$ )
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/	<sup>o</sup> 8.608 to 144.446
Index ranges	$-7 \le h \le 8, -11 \le k \le 11, -25 \le l \le 24$
Reflections collected	23131
Independent reflections	2472 [ $R_{int} = 0.0487, R_{sigma} = 0.0328$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	2472/0/181
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.064
Final R indexes [I>=2 $\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0422, wR_2 = 0.1115$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0432, wR_2 = 0.1125$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-?	3 0.20/-0.17

#### Spectral data

#### 3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4a)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a white solid (66 mg, 88% yield); mp: 148-150 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.65-8.63 (m, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 4.31-4.23 (m, 1H), 2.27-2.23 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.27 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  139.3, 138.1, 130.2, 129.7, 128.4, 127.5, 126.6, 124.5,

123.7, 121.8, 110.8, 55.7, 33.7, 25.8, 25.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For  $C_{17}H_{19}N_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 251.1548; found: 251.1571.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-5-methyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4b)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (71 mg, 90% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.47-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 4.43-4.35 (m, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.88 (m, 4H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.53-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.33 - 1.25 (m 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  139.2, 137.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 127.5, 126.4, 125.4, 124.6, 122.1, 112.5, 54.9, 33.5, 25.7, 25.4, 20.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 265.1705; found: 265.1713.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-5-methoxy-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4c)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light orange solid (66 mg, 78% yield); mp: 98-100 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.39-8.36 (m, 1H), 8.18-8.16 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 4.46-4.39 (m, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.85-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.55-1.44 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.21 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  152.4, 138.3, 132.8, 130.0, 127.6, 127.3, 124.1, 123.1, 122.9, 121.5, 91.3, 56.6, 54.5, 33.6, 25.8, 25.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 281.1654; found: 281.1643.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-5-fluoro-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4d)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (58 mg, 72% yield); mp: 114-116 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.47-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 1H), 4.45-4.37 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.77 (m, 4H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 1.52-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.32-1.21 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  155.2 (d, *J* = 242.0 Hz), 140.3, 135.2, 128.7 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz), 127.9, 127.3 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 125.2 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz), 121.9 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 121.4 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 120.3 (d, *J* = 18.5, Hz), 97.2 (d, *J* = 26.7 Hz), 55.1, 33.4, 25.7, 25.3; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  -128.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 269.1454; found: 269.1442.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4e)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light orange solid (43 mg, 45% yield); mp: 98-100 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.64-8.63 (m, 2H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz 1H), 7.69-7.66 (m, 1H), 4.71-4.66 (m, 1H), 2.10-2.08 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.59-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.27 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.3, 141.1, 127.4, 127.1, 126.1, 126.0, 124.7, 124.3, 124.1, 112.1, 118.9 (q, *J* = 31.9 Hz), 112.2 (q, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 54.3, 33.2, 25.0, 24.8; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  -156.9; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 319.1422; found: 319.1412.

methyl 3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole-5-carboxylate (4f)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (46 mg, 50% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.57-8.54 (m, 2H), 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 4.59-4.52 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.08-2.03 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.69 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.56-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.20 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  168.1, 142.9, 142.2, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 127.0, 126.6, 126.2, 122.2, 121.9, 116.8, 54.9, 52.7, 33.7, 25.6, 25.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 309.1603; found: 309.1605.

#### 5-bromo-3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4g)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (82 mg, 83% yield); mp: 118-120 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.67-8.64 (m, 1H), 8.31-8.28 (m, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 4.24-4.17 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.57-1.45 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.29 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  139.0, 138.5, 129.6, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 127.4, 125.8, 122.2, 117.7, 114.9, 55.9, 33.7, 25.7, 25.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 329.0653; found: 329.0663.

### 3-cyclohexyl-5-(furan-3-yl)-3H-naphtho[1,2-d]imidazole (4h)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light yellow solid (81 mg, 85% yield); mp: 156-158 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.72-8.69 (m, 1H), 8.12 (dt,  $J_1 = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.67 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 6.72 (dd,  $J_1 = 1.6$  Hz,  $J_2 = 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.32-4.24 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.96 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.80 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.46 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.31 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.9, 140.5, 139.1, 138.3, 129.2, 129.0, 127.6, 126.6, 126.5, 125.5, 124.8, 122.1, 113.0, 111.7, 55.7, 33.8, 25.8, 25.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 317.1654; found: 317.1664.

3-cyclohexyl-5-(phenylethynyl)-3H-naphtho[1,2-d]imidazole (4i)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a yellow fluffy solid (60 mg, 57% yield); mp: 68-70 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.51-8.42 (m, 3H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.69-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 3H), 4.54 (t, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 1.90-1.84 (m, 4H), 1.70 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.56-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.23 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  141.6, 139.8, 131.9, 129.7, 129.43, 129.39, 129.3, 127.5, 127.2, 126.8, 125.9, 123.2, 122.2, 117.0, 114.6, 93.7, 88.9, 55.0, 33.6, 25.7, 25.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 351.1861; found: 351.1846.

#### 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4j)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a yellow powder (93 mg, 86% yield); mp:

124-126 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.39 (m, 6H), 4.49 (t, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.07-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.66 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 1.51-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.23 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  140.4, 140.1, 138.7, 133.9, 132.6, 132.5, 129.5, 128.9, 128.2, 127.5, 126.7, 126.5, 125.0, 122.1, 113.2, 54.9, 33.6, 25.7, 25.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 361.1472; found: 361.1471.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-5-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4k)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (38 mg, 40% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.55-8.54 (m, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.15 (dd,  $J_1$  = 2.4 Hz,  $J_2$  = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.81 (dd,  $J_1$  = 2.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.53-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.43 (m, 1H), 6.58 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57-4.50 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.68 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.54-1.43 (m, 2H), 1.33-1.25 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  141.4, 140.8, 138.8, 133.6, 133.1, 128.7, 127.5, 127.2, 126.5, 125.6, 124.3, 121.9, 110.9, 106.8, 55.0, 33.6, 25.6, 25.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 317.1766; found: 317.1755.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoline (4l)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a pale yellow solid (40 mg, 53% yield); mp: 144-146 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.82 (dd,  $J_1$  = 4.4 Hz,  $J_2$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.79-8.77 (m, 1H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J_1$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50-4.42 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.02 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.67 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H),

1.52-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.22 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 148.7, 145.9, 141.1, 138.4, 129.9, 129.8, 124.2, 122.3, 121.8, 115.5, 55.2, 33.2, 25.7, 25.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 252.1501; found: 252.1502.

#### 1-cyclohexyl-1*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4m)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a white powder (30 mg, 40% yield); mp: 140-142 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.36 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 8.4 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 1H), 4.91-4.84 (m, 1H), 2.26 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.89-1.58 (m, 7H), 1.34-1.26 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  141.6, 140.4, 131.4, 129.9, 127.3, 126.8, 124.5, 123.8, 122.4, 120.9, 120.6, 56.9, 33.8, 25.8, 25.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 251.1548; found: 251.1545.

#### 1-cyclohexyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*f*]quinoline (4n)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown solid (32 mg, 42% yield); mp: 148-150 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.84 (dd,  $J_1 = 4.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.91-4.84 (m, 1H), 2.34 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.60 (m, 7H), 1.33-1.25 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  148.1, 146.5, 141.4, 141.3, 129.4, 126.6, 124.9, 123.9, 121.5, 117.5, 56.8, 33.6, 25.6, 25.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 252.1501; found: 252.1497.

#### 1-cyclohexyl-1*H*-anthra[1,2-*d*]imidazole (40)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (61 mg, 68% yield); mp: 154-156 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.79 (s, 1H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.49 (m, 2H), 5.14-5.07 (m, 1H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.93-1.77 (m, 7H), 1.37-1.28 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  141.0, 139.6, 131.6, 130.5, 130.1, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 126.4, 126.3, 125.8, 124.5, 121.8, 121.5, 118.9, 57.0, 33.8, 25.7, 25.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 301.1705; found: 301.1703.

#### 3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazol-5-yl 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propanoate (4p)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy liquid (91 mg, 67% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.43 (dt,  $J_1 = 8.4$  Hz,  $J_2 = 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 4H), 4.44 -4.36 (m, 1H), 4.24 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.04-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.79 (m, 5H), 1.67 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.51-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.18 (m, 1H), 0.85 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  173.8, 160.5, 142.6, 140.9, 140.5, 137.9, 136.8, 129.9, 128.9, 128.1, 127.3, 124.8, 123.7, 118.2, 105.4, 55.0, 44.9, 44.8, 33.5, 33.4, 32.8, 30.2, 25.6, 25.3, 22.7, 22.6, 18.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 455.2699; found: 455.2697.

#### 3-cyclopentyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4q)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (61 mg, 86% yield); mp: 114-116 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.47-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.93-4.86 (m, 1H), 2.23-2.14 (m, 2H), 1.97-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  140.2, 139.2, 130.5, 130.2, 128.9, 127.4, 126.7, 124.7, 123.4, 121.7, 112.4, 56.9, 32.7, 24.1; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 237.1392; found: 237.1394.

#### 3-cycloheptyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4r)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (54 mg, 68% yield); mp: 98-100 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.66-4.59 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.03 (m, 4H), 1.79-1.58 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  140.2, 138.9, 130.1, 129.7, 128.9, 127.4, 126.7, 124.6, 123.3, 121.6, 112.4, 57.5, 35.5, 27.5, 24.7; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 265.1705; found: 265.1714.

#### *tert*-butyl 4-(3H-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazol-3-yl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (4s)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (84 mg, 80% yield); mp: 182-184 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 1H), 4.72-4.64 (m, 1H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (br.s, 2H), 2.07-1.89 (m, 4H), 1.41 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  154.3, 140.0, 138.8, 130.2, 130.0, 128.9, 127.3, 126.8, 124.7, 123.4, 121.6, 112.1, 79.5, 53.1, 32.6, 28.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 352.2025; found: 352.2029.

#### 3-isopropyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4t)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (38 mg, 60% yield); mp: 108-110 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.44-8.43 (m, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.88-4.78 (m, 1H), 1.55 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  139.9, 139.1, 130.1, 129.9, 128.9, 127.4, 126.7, 124.6, 123.3, 121.6, 112.3, 47.8, 23.1; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 211.1235; found: 211.1240.

#### 3-butyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4u)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (33 mg, 48% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.44-8.41 (m, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.77 (qu, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.27-1.18 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.4, 138.9, 130.6, 130.1, 128.9, 127.3, 126.7, 124.6, 123.5, 121.6, 112.0, 44.6, 32.5, 19.9, 13.9; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 225.1392; found: 225.1402.

#### 3-isobutyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4v)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown solid (50 mg, 74% yield); mp: 74-76 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.44-8.42 (m, 1H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.16-2.08 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.8, 138.8, 130.9, 130.1, 128.9, 127.3, 126.7, 124.6, 123.5, 121.5, 112.3, 51.9, 29.6, 20.2; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 225.1392; found: 225.1402.

#### 3-(sec-butyl)-3H-naphtho[1,2-d]imidazole (4w)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (54 mg, 81% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.45-8.43 (m, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 4.62-4.53 (m, 1H), 1.97-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  140.5, 139.0, 130.2, 130.1, 128.9, 127.4, 126.7, 124.6, 123.3, 121.6, 112.4, 53.6, 29.8, 21.2, 11.0; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 225.1392; found: 225.1401.

#### 3-(*tert*-butyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4x)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (29 mg, 43% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.46-8.44 (m, 1H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.98-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 1.72 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  140.5, 140.0, 129.6, 129.5, 128.6, 127.4, 126.6, 124.8, 122.9, 121.7, 114.7, 56.8, 29.8; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 225.1392; found: 225.1388.

#### **3-(1-phenylethyl)-3***H***-naphtho**[1,2-*d*]**imidazole**(4y)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a yellow solid (69 mg, 85% yield); mp: 114-116 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.58 (s, 1H), 8.46-8.43 (m, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 5.94 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.4, 140.5, 139.2, 130.3, 130.2, 129.3, 128.9, 128.2, 127.3, 126.8, 126.6, 124.8, 123.5, 121.6, 112.5, 55.0, 21.7; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 273.1392; found: 273.1382.

#### 3-(1-(naphthalen-1-yl)ethyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4z)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (83 mg, 86% yield);

mp: 178-180 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.66 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 0.4$  Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.87 (m, 3H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dd,  $J_1 = 8.8$  Hz,  $J_2 = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  139.3, 139.0, 136.0, 134.0, 130.4, 130.0, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 127.3, 127.2, 126.8, 126.2, 125.6, 124.8, 124.3, 123.3, 122.0, 121.9, 110.9, 51.9, 21.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 323.1548; found: 323.1550.

#### 3-ethyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4aa)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown solid (33 mg, 56% yield); mp: 120-122 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.45-8.42 (m, 1H), 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  141.9, 139.1, 130.3, 130.1, 128.9, 127.3, 126.7, 124.6, 123.4, 121.6, 111.9, 39.9, 16.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 197.1079; found: 197.1080.

#### 3-allyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4ab)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy liquid (29 mg, 46% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.46-8.43 (m, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 6.10-6.01 (m, 1H), 5.20-5.16 (m, 1H), 5.09-5.04 (m, 1H), 5.00-4.98 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.4, 139.0,

134.3, 130.6, 130.2, 129.0, 127.3, 126.8, 124.7, 123.6, 121.6, 117.9, 112.1, 47.3; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 209.1079; found: 209.1087.

#### 3-benzyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4ac)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown solid (46.4 mg, 60% yield); mp: 96-98 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.44 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 2H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 6H), 5.59 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  142.7, 139.2, 137.7, 130.5, 130.2, 129.3, 128.9, 128.3, 127.8, 127.3, 126.8, 124.8, 123.7, 121.6, 112.2, 48.4; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 259.1235; found: 259.1239.

#### 3-(4-(*tert*-butyl)benzyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4ad)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a pale yellow solid (49 mg, 52% yield); mp: 88-90 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.45-8.42 (m, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 1.17 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  150.7, 142.6, 139.2, 134.8, 130.5, 130.1, 128.9, 127.6, 127.3, 126.8, 125.9, 124.7, 123.7, 121.6, 112.2, 48.0, 34.7, 31.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 315.1861; found: 315.1860.

#### 3-(4-methoxybenzyl)-3H-naphtho[1,2-d]imidazole (4ae)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown solid (48 mg, 55% yield); mp: 106-108 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.47-8.42 (m, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.83 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  159.4, 142.5, 139.2, 130.4, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.9, 127.3, 126.8, 124.7, 123.6, 121,6, 114.6, 112.2, 55.6, 47.9; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 289.1341; found: 289.1340.

### 3-(4-fluorobenzyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4af)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy solid (29 mg, 35% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.43-8.41 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 2H), 5.58 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  162.2 (d, *J* = 242.5 Hz), 142.6, 139.2, 133.9, 130.2, 131.1 (d, *J* = 56.3 Hz), 130.1 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 129.1, 128.9, 127.3, 126.9, 124.8 (d, *J* = 104.0 Hz), 121.6, 116.1 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 112.1, 47.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FN<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 277.1141; found: 277.1137.

### 3-(furan-2-ylmethyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (4ag)



The general procedure for imidazole was followed. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 90:10 hexane/acetone) afforded the desired product as a light brown gummy liquid (28 mg, 38% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.44-8.42 (m, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 1H), 6.55 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 3.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 3.2 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  150.4, 143.8, 142.4, 139.0, 130.4, 130.2, 128.9, 127.2, 126.8, 124.8, 123.8, 121.6, 112.1, 111.2, 109.5, 41.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 249.1028; found: 249.1020.

3-cyclohexyl-1-methyl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazol-2-one (7a)



Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 80:20 hexane/EtOAc) afforded the desired product as a creamy white powder (134 mg, 96% yield); mp: 122-124 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 4.42-4.35 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.29-2.18 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.89 (m, 4H), 1.77 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 1.54-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.30 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  154.2, 129.6, 129.4, 126.1, 124.7, 123.4, 122.9, 121.7, 120.9, 120.2, 110.5, 53.6, 31.0, 30.6, 26.2, 25.5; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 281.1654; found: 281.1649.

#### *tert*-butyl 4-(3-cyclohexyl-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazol-2-yl)piperazine-1-carboxylate (7b)



Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 85:15 hexane/EtOAc) afforded the desired product as a white solid (91 mg, 42% yield); mp: 172-174 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.54-8.52 (m, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 4.36-4.28 (m, 1H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 4H), 3.23 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.01-

1.91 (m, 4H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.48-1.37 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 155.5, 154.9, 137.1, 129.6, 128.8, 128.2, 126.7, 125.9, 124.1, 121.8, 121.7, 112.5, 80.1, 55.8, 31.9, 28.5, 26.4, 25.6; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 435.2760; found: 435.2750.

#### 3-isopropyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3*H*-naphtho[1,2-*d*]imidazole (7c)



Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 80:20 hexane/EtOAc) afforded the desired product as a creamy white solid (79 mg, 50% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  8.72-8.69 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 2H), 4.90-4.83 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d6):  $\delta$  160.7, 151.6, 139.4, 131.2, 129.9, 129.8, 128.2, 127.3, 126.3, 124.6, 123.7, 122.9, 122.0, 114.3, 112.7, 55.5, 48.9, 22.0; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. For C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 317.1654; found: 317.1646.

#### **References:**

- Begam, H. M.; Nandi, S.; Jana, R., A Directing Group Switch in Copper-Catalyzed Electrophilic C–H Amination/Migratory Annulation Cascade: Divergent Access to Benzimidazolone/Benzimidazole. *Chem. Sci.* 2022, 13, 5726-5733.
- Das, R.; Banerjee, M.; Rai, R. K.; Karria, R.; Roy, G., Metal-free C(sp2)–H Functionalization of Azoles: K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/I<sub>2</sub>-Mediated Oxidation, Imination, and Amination. *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2018, 16, 4243-4260.
- McDonald, S. L.; Hendrick, C. E.; Wang, Q., Copper-Catalyzed Electrophilic Amination of Heteroarenes and Arenes by C–H Zincation. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2014, 53, 4667-4670.
- 4. Turner, G. L.; James A. Morris, J. A.; Greaney, M. F., Direct Arylation of Thiazoles on Water. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2007, 46, 7996-8000

## <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra











HM-1775 1D 19F experiment



---156.911













































1.00 H *ין איז לשו, שיל א* 1955 1955 1955 1955 1955 1955 1955 1.03 J 3.45 - 1 6.5 4.5 4.0 f1 (ppm) 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.0 5.5 5.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5

9.5













HM-1804	
single pulse	decoupled gated NOE

-142.586 -139.183 -139.486 -139.486 -139.486 -139.486 -139.486 -139.486 -139.486 -139.487 -139.487 -139.487 -129.487 -129.487 -121.4775 -121.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.4775 -112.47755 -112.47755 -112.47755 -112.47





----48.380



























100 90 f1 (ppm) o