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Supplementary Information

Cyclotrimetaphosphate-Assisted Ruthenium Catalyst for the Hydration of Nitriles and Oxidation of Primary Amines to Amides Under Aerobic Conditions in Water

Kishor Kumar Chouhan,^a Deep Chowdhury,^a and Arup Mukherjee^{a,*}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai, GEC Campus, Sejbahar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492015, India.

E-mail: arup@iitbhilai.ac.in

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(1) General consideration.

Unless otherwise mentioned, all reactions were performed without any precautions under aerobic conditions. All the chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa-Aesar, Merck, Avra, Loba Chemie, and TCI and were used without any further purifications. Deuterated solvents were procured from Sigma-Aldrich. Merck precoated 0.25 mm silica gel plates (60 F_{254}) were used to perform the analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC). Visualization was achieved with shortwave UV light. Column chromatography purifications were performed using silica gel 100–200

mesh size. UV studies were carried out on a Shimadzu UV-2600 instrument. NMR spectroscopy was measured on Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometers using DMSO-d₆ and CDCl₃ solvent. GC-MS analyses were carried out on a Thermo Scientific Trace 1310 equipped with a TG-17MS column (30 m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 μ m). High-resolution mass analysis was carried out on Agilent 6545XT Advance Bio LC/Q-TOF.

(2) General procedure.

2.1. General procedure for the hydration of nitriles to amides:

In a 15 mL oven-dried thick-walled pressure tube, nitrile (1 mmol), **1** (0.02 mmol), $Na_3P_3O_9$ (1 equiv.), and H_2O (3 mL) were taken. The pressure tube was sealed tightly and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 130 °C for 24 h. After the specific time, the pressure tube was cooled down to room temperature, and water (10 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 10 mL), and the combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified through column chromatography using hexane and ethyl acetate as an eluent to get the pure product.



2.2. General procedure for the oxidation of primary amines to amides:

In a 15 mL oven-dried thick-walled pressure tube, amine (1 mmol), **1** (0.05 mmol), $Na_3P_3O_9$ (1 equiv.), KO^tBu (2 equiv.), and H₂O (3 mL) were taken. The pressure tube was sealed tightly and kept in a pre-heated oil bath at 130 °C for 24 h. After the specific time, the pressure tube was cooled down to room temperature and water (10 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , filtered, and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified through column chromatography using hexane and ethyl acetate as an eluent to get the pure product.

| $H_2 \xrightarrow{1 \pmod{6}} H_2 \xrightarrow{O} H_2$ additive, base, 4a time, 130 °C 3a H ₂ O | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Entry | 1 (mol%) | Na ₃ P ₃ O ₉ | Base (equiv.) | Time (h) | Yield (%) ^b |
| | | (equiv.) | | | |
| 1 | 1 (2) | 1 | _ | 24 | 20 |
| 2 | 1 (2) | 1 | KO ^t Bu (1) | 24 | 26 |
| 3 | 1 (2) | 1 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | 30 |
| 4 | 1 (2) | 1 | NaO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | trace |
| 5 | 1 (2) | 1 | KOH (2) | 24 | trace |
| 6 | 1 (2) | 1 | NaOH (2) | 24 | trace |
| 7 | 1 (5) | 1 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | 35 |
| 8 | 1 (7.5) | 1 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | 37 |
| 9 | 1 (5) | 1 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 36 | 36 |
| 10 | 1 (5) | 2 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | 30 |
| 11 | 1 (5) | 0.5 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | 23 |
| 12 | _ | 1 | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | trace |
| 13 | 1 (5) | _ | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | trace |
| 14 | _ | _ | KO ^t Bu (2) | 24 | trace |

Table S1. Optimization of primary amine oxidation in water with Ru-catalyst.^a

^aReaction Conditions: Ru-Cat. (1), **4a** (1 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉, base, and water (3 mL) were heated at 130 $^{\circ}$ C in a thick-walled sealed tube under air; ^bYields of the isolated products.

(3) Spectroscopic study.

3.1. UV-Vis absorption study of 1 and Na₃P₃O₉:

For studying the interaction between **1** and $Na_3P_3O_9$ through UV-Vis spectroscopy, 0.02 mmol of **1**, 0.02 mmol of $Na_3P_3O_9$ were prepared in water and taken in a cuvette for recording the absorbance spectra individually. Thereafter a mixture of **1** (0.02 mmol) and $Na_3P_3O_9$ (0.02 mmol) was taken in a cuvette and recorded the absorption spectra. **1** exhibits bands at 256, 313, and 403 nm in the water, while that for $Na_3P_3O_9$ was found at 290 nm. Notably, a prominent spectral change was observed in the mixture and the bands were shifted to 260, 325, and 415 nm.



Figure S1. UV-Vis absorption spectra of 1, Na₃P₃O₉, and the mixture of 1 and Na₃P₃O₉.

3.2. ESI-MS data of the reaction mixture:





(iii)



Figure S2. (i) ESI-MS data of the selected region of the desired mass of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)-H]^-$ complex; (ii) Simulated isotope distribution patterns of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9) - H]^-$ complex; (iii) ESI-MS data of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9) - H]^-$ complex: m/z [M–H]⁻ found: 471.8810, calcd.:471.8816.

(iv)





Figure S3. (iv) ESI-MS data of the selected region of the desired mass of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCN)-H]^-$ complex; (v) Simulated isotope distribution patterns of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCN)-H]^-$ complex; (vi) ESI-MS data of $[(\eta^6-p\text{-cymene})Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCN)-H]^-$ complex: m/z [M-H]⁻ found: 574.9212, calcd.: 574.9238.



Figure S4. (vii) ESI-MS data of the selected region of the desired mass of $[(\eta^6-p-cymene)Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCONH_2)-H]^-$ complex; (viii) Simulated isotope distribution patterns of $[(\eta^6-p-cymene)Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCONH_2)-H]^-$ complex; (ix) ESI-MS data of $[(\eta^6-p-cymene)Ru(\kappa^3-P_3O_9)(PhCONH_2)-H]^-$ complex: m/z [M-H]⁻ found: 592.9381, calcd.: 592.9343.







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(ii) Analysis of the reaction mixture with 4-methylbenzonitrile under the standard conditions:





(iii) Analysis of the reaction mixture with 4-methoxylbenzonitrile under the standard conditions:





(4) Kinetic Studies of the ruthenium-catalyzed hydration reaction of benzonitrile:

In an oven-dried thick-walled reaction tube, benzonitrile (**2a**) was taken under aerobic conditions. To this, an appropriate amount of $Na_3P_3O_9$ and [Ru] catalyst were added. The reaction vessel was sealed and placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 ^oC. After a certain time, interval, a small amount of aliquot was collected, and the yield of benzamide (**2a**) was determined by GC-MS.



(A) Determination of reaction order with respect to benzonitrile concentration (2a):

To determine the order of the reaction with respect to 2a, the catalytic reaction was carried out in three different concentrations of benzonitrile (0.167–0.417 M), keeping the concentration of the catalyst (0.0067 M) and Na₃P₃O₉ (0.33 M) constant.

| Entry | Benzonitrile (mmol) | Concentration | Concentration of | Concentration |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | | of benzonitrile | catalyst | of Na ₃ P ₃ O ₉ |
| | | (M) | (M) | (M) |
| | | | | |
| 1 | 0.5 | 0.167 | 0.0067 | 0.33 |
| 2 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.0067 | 0.33 |
| 3 | 1 | 0.33 | 0.0067 | 0.33 |
| 4 | 1.25 | 0.417 | 0.0067 | 0.33 |

For each reaction, after a certain time interval, a small amount of aliquot was taken from the reaction mixture, and yields were determined using GC-MS. For each reaction, the concentration of the product formed was plotted against time where for every case a linear equation was obtained, and the slope corresponds to the rate constant (K_{obs}). Subsequently, $-\ln K_{obs}$ was plotted against $-\ln[Benzonitrile]$ which results in a slope of 1.17 suggesting the order with respect to the benzonitrile is approximately 1.



Figure S5: Kinetic studies of catalytic hydration of benzonitrile to benzamide: a) plot of concentration of product formed vs time and b) plot of $-\ln K_{obs}$ vs $-\ln[Benzonitrile]$.

(B) Determination of reaction order with respect to Ru-catalyst concentration:

To determine the order of the reaction with respect to the Ru-catalyst, the catalytic reaction was carried out in different Ru-catalyst loading (1.5-2.25 mol%), keeping concentration of benzonitrile (0.33 M taken for each) and concentration of Na₃P₃O₉ (0.33 M taken for each) constant.

| Entry | Concentration of | Catalyst (mmol) | Concentration | Concentration of |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|
| | benzonitrile (M) | | of catalyst | Na ₃ P ₃ O ₉ (M) |
| | | | (M) | |
| | | | | |
| 1 | 0.33 | 0.0225 | 0.0075 | 0.33 |
| 2 | 0.33 | 0.02 | 0.0067 | 0.33 |
| 3 | 0.33 | 0.0175 | 0.0058 | 0.33 |
| 4 | 0.33 | 0.015 | 0.005 | 0.33 |

For each reaction, after a specific time interval, a small amount of aliquot was taken from the reaction mixture, and yields were determined using GC-MS. For each reaction, the concentration of the product formed was plotted against time, where for every case, a linear equation was obtained, and the slope corresponds to the rate constant (K_{obs}). Subsequently, $-lnK_{obs}$ was plotted against -ln[Catalyst], which results in a slope of 1.2, suggesting the order with respect to the Ru-catalyst is approximately 1.



Figure S6: Kinetic studies of catalytic hydration of benzonitrile to benzamide: a) plot of concentration of product formed vs time and b) plot of $-\ln K_{obs}$ vs $-\ln[Catalyst]$.

(C) Determination of reaction order with respect to Na₃P₃O₉:

To determine the order of the reaction with respect to $Na_3P_3O_9$, the catalytic reaction was carried out in three different concentrations of $Na_3P_3O_9$ (0.167–0.417 M), keeping the concentration of benzonitrile (0.33 M taken for each) and catalyst loading (0.0067 M taken for each) constant.

| Entry | Concentration of | Concentration | Na ₃ P ₃ O ₉ | Concentration |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------|---|--|
| | benzonitrile (M) | of catalyst | (mmol) | of Na ₃ P ₃ O ₉ |
| | | (M) | | (M) |
| 1 | 0.33 | 0.0067 | 0.5 | 0.167 |
| 2 | 0.33 | 0.0067 | 0.75 | 0.25 |
| 3 | 0.33 | 0.0067 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 4 | 0.33 | 0.0067 | 1.25 | 0.417 |

For each reaction, after a certain time interval, a small amount of aliquot was taken from the reaction mixture, and yields were determined using GC-MS. For each reaction, the concentration of the product formed was plotted against time where for every case a linear equation was obtained, and the slope corresponds to the rate constant (K_{obs}). Subsequently, $-\ln K_{obs}$ was plotted against $-\ln[Na_3P_3O_9]$ which results in a slope of 0.08 suggesting the order with respect to the benzonitrile is zero.



Figure S7: Kinetic studies of catalytic hydration of benzonitrile to benzamide: a) plot of concentration of product formed vs time and b) plot of $-\ln K_{obs}$ vs $-\ln[Na_3P_3O_9]$.

(D) Experimental Procedure for determining Kinetic Isotope Effect:

Two parallel reactions were carried out for the hydration of benzonitrile with D_2O and H_2O under similar reaction conditions. An oven-dried thick-walled reaction tube was charged with benzonitrile (1 mmol), [Ru] catalyst (0.0043 mmol), and Na₃P₃O₉ (1 mmol) in 3 mL H₂O. Similarly, another oven-dried thick-walled reaction tube was charged with benzonitrile (1 mmol), [Ru] catalyst (0.0043 mmol), and Na₃P₃O₉ (1 mmol) in 3 mL D₂O. Both tubes were placed in a pre-heated (130 °C) oil bath with stirring under ambient conditions. After stipulated time intervals, a small amount of aliquots was taken out and worked up with DCM. The DCM samples were injected in GC–MS, and product formation was monitored. The following plot was used to analysis the KIE value for deuterated D₂O and non-deuterated H₂O. For H₂O / D₂O, the KIE value was found to be almost 0.91, which can be approximated to 1.



Figure S8. KIE studies for the nitrile hydration in H₂O and D₂O.

(E) Hammett Studies:

In an oven-dried thick-walled reaction tube, benzonitrile derivative (**1a**) was taken under aerobic conditions. An appropriate amount of Na₃P₃O₉ and [Ru] catalyst were added. The reaction vessel was sealed and placed in a preheated oil bath at 130 ^oC. After a specific time interval, a small amount of aliquot was collected, and the yield GC-MS monitored the yield of benzamide (**2a**). Reactivity for this reaction follows the following order p-F > p-H > p-Me > p-OMe (Figure S9). For this particular reaction, ρ value was obtained as +2.05 (Figure S10).



Figure S9. Kinetic data for the hydration of benzonitrile and its *para*-substituted derivatives.

| Hammett Plot kinetic Study Data | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|----------------|--|
| Substrate | Slope | log(Kx/KH) | σ _p | |
| <i>p</i> -OMe | 0.00017 | -0.639 | -0.268 | |
| <i>p</i> -Me | 0.00044 | -0.226 | -0.17 | |
| <i>р</i> -Н | 0.00074 | 0 | 0 | |
| <i>p</i> -F | 0.0009 | 0.085 | 0.062 | |
| | $\rho =$ | 2.05 | | |



Figure S10. Hammett plot for the hydration of substituted benzonitriles.

(5) Analytical data of the isolated compounds.

Benzamide (**3a**)¹. Reaction scale: Benzonitrile (103.04 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 80% (97 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (br s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.75, 133.43, 131.99, 128.62, 127.36 ppm.

p-Toluamide (3b)¹. Reaction scale: *p*-Tolunitrile (117.15 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂(12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 65% (71 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 51.5 Hz, 0.27 H), 2.33 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.42, 142.53, 130.51, 129.29, 127.38, 21.49 ppm.

p-Methoxybenzamide $(3c)^1$. Reaction scale: 4-Methoxybenzonitrile (133.15 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 65% (98 mg).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 49.5 Hz, 0.17 H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.88, 162.61, 129.29, 125.58, 113.81, 55.44 ppm.

4-Ethylbenzamide $(3d)^2$. Reaction scale: 4-Ethylbenzonitrile (131.17 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 60% (90 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.08 (m, 3H), 2.59 (q, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 2H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 168.36, 147.74, 132.28, 128.11, 128.08, 28.54, 15.89 ppm.

4-Ethoxybenzamide $(3e)^3$. Reaction scale: 4-Ethoxybenzonitrile (147.17 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 67% (111 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.82–7.75 (m, 3H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 6.93–6.86 (m, 2H), 4.02 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.98, 161.39, 129.87, 126.85, 114.27, 63.76, 15.06 ppm.

4-acetylbenzamide $(3f)^4$. Reaction scale: 4-Acetylbenzonitrile (145.16 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 68% (111 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.12 (br. s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (br. s, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 198.25, 167.65, 139.16, 138.61, 128.60, 128.28, 27.45 ppm.

4-Fluorobenzamide $(3g)^5$. Reaction scale: 4-Fluorobenzonitrile (121.11 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 78% (108 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.97 (br. s, 1H), 7.94 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.38 (br s, 1H), 7.28 – 7.14 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.31, 164.44 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 248.4 Hz), 131.23, 130.63 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 9.1 Hz), 115.62 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 21.7 Hz) ppm.

4-Chlorobenzamide $(3h)^1$. Reaction scale: 4-Chlorobenzonitrile (137.57mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 66% (102 mg).¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.14 (br. s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.35, 136.61, 133.54, 129.92, 128.81 ppm.

4-Bromobenzamide $(3i)^5$. Reaction scale: 4-Bromobenzonitrile (182.02 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 51% (102 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.01 (br. s, 1H), 7.81 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.43 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.47, 133.89, 131.77, 130.13, 125.56 ppm.

4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzamide (3j)⁶. Reaction scale: 4-(Trifluoromethyl) benzonitrile (171.12 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 76% (144 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.28 (br. s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 167.66, 138.33, 131.74 (d, *J* = 32.2 Hz),128.77, 125.78 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 123.00 ppm.

m-Toluamide (3k)⁵. Reaction scale: *m*-Tolunitrile (117.15 mg, 1 mmol), $[Ru(p-cymene)Cl_2]_2$ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 76% (103 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.88 (br. s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (br. s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 168.60, 137.94, 134.75, 132.29, 128.60, 125.10, 21.47 ppm.

3-Methoxybenzamide (**3**)⁶. Reaction scale: 3-Methoxybenzonitrile (133.15 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(p-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 77% (116 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.93 (br. s, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (br., s 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 168.20, 159.65, 136.23, 129.84, 120.20, 117.57, 113.15, 55.72 ppm. 3-Fluorobenzamide (3m)⁷. Reaction scale: 3-Fluorobenzonitrile (121.11 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(pcymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 78% (108 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.50 - 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.33 (td, J = 8.5, 2.3 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO d_6): δ 167.18, 162.49 (d, J = 244.0 Hz), 137.22 (d, J = 6.4 Hz), 130.86, 124.11, 118.62 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz), 114.75 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz) ppm.

3-Chlorobenzamide (3n)⁴. Reaction scale: 3-Chlorobenzonitrile (137.57 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(pcymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 54% (84 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.23 (br. s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.57 (br. s, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d₆): δ 167.59, 136.31, 133.70, 131.79, 130.87, 127.69,

126.56 ppm.

3-(Trifluoromethyl)benzamide (30)⁶. Reaction scale: 3-(Trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile (171.12 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(p-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 79% (149 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 8.18 – 8.10 (m, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 166.91, 135.66, 131.98, 129.98, 128.25, 125.83, 124.60, 123.12 ppm.

2-Fluorobenzamide (3p)⁷. Reaction scale: 2-Fluorobenzonitrile (121.11 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(pcymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 65% (90 mg).¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.78 (br. s, 1H), 7.71 (td, J = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (br. s, 1H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 165.93, 160.98, 158.50, 133.10 (d, J = 8.6 Hz), 130.66 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 124.94 (d, J = 3.5 Hz),

116.57 (d, J = 22.7 Hz) ppm.

2-Chlorobenzamide (3q)⁴. Reaction scale: 2-Chlorobenzonitrile (137.57 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(pcymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 29% (45 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.17 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 168.71, 137.67, 131.08, 130.12, 129.18, 128.60, 127.54 ppm.

2-Brombenzamide $(3r)^8$. Reaction scale: 2-bromobenzonitrile (182.02 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 22% (44 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.82 (br. s, 1H), 7.61–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52 (br. s, 1H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 6.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 169.61, 139.85, 133.22, 131.17, 129.07, 128.01, 119.12 ppm.

Thiophene-2-Carboxamide $(3s)^5$. Reaction scale: Thiophene -2-carbonitrile (109 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 91% (116 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d₆): δ 163.65, 140.30, 131.59, 129.33, 128.45 ppm.

Furan-2-carboxamide (**3t**)⁶. Reaction scale: 2-Furonitrile (93.09, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 84% (93 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d₆): δ 159.98, 148.55, 145.52, 114.15, 112.29 ppm.

Picolinamide $(3u)^5$. Reaction scale: 2-Pyridincarbonitrile (104.11 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 57% (70 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.11 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 166.95, 150.23, 149.04, 138.26, 127.16, 122.44 ppm.

2-Phenylacetamide $(3v)^9$. Reaction scale: Phenylacetonitrile (117.15, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 29% (39 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.43 (br. s, 1H), 7.32 –7.08 (m, 5H), 6.84 (br. s, 1H), 3.32 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.78, 137.01, 129.57, 128.67, 126.78, 42.78 ppm.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetamide (3w)⁴. Reaction scale: 4-methoxyphenylacetonitrile (147.17, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 30% (49 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 7.36 (br. s, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (br. s, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.24 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 173.16, 158.36, 130.54, 128.94, 114.10, 55.52, 41.86 ppm.

2-(4-Fluorophenyl)acetamide $(3x)^9$. Reaction scale: 4-Fluorophenylacetonitrile (135.14, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 29% (45 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.44 (br. s, 1H), 7.27–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.85 (br. s, 1H), 3.31 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.71, 161.50 (d, *J* = 241.7 Hz)., 133.15 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 131.38 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 115.33 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz), 41.73 ppm.

2-(Thiophen-2-yl)acetamide (3y)¹⁰. Reaction scale: 2-Thiopheneacetonitrile (123.18, 1 mmol), $[Ru(p-cymene)Cl_2]_2$ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), $Na_3P_3O_9$ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H_2O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 20% (28 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.47 (br. 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (br. s, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.81 (m, 1H), 3.55 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 171.70, 138.25, 127.03, 126.54, 125.25, 36.85 ppm.

Cyclopentanecarboxamide (**3ab**)¹¹. Reaction scale: cyclopentanecarbonitrile (95.14, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 27% (31 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.18 (s, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 1.75–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.49 (m, 4H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 177.93, 44.56, 30.39, 26.08 ppm.

Nicotinamide⁶. Reaction scale: 3-Pyridincarbonitrile (104.11 mg, 1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (12 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₃P₃O₉ (305.89 mg, 1 equiv.), H₂O (3 mL).



The title compound was synthesized according to general procedure and isolated through column chromatography. The isolated yield is 93% (113 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.99 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19 – 8.15 (m, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 167.03, 152.41, 149.22, 135.68, 130.17, 123.92 ppm.

(6) ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of all the isolated compounds

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3a:



















¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3d:



¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3e:
















¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3h:



























































¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3r:








































¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 3y:

















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