Supporting Information

# Solvent and Catalyst Dependent Palladium-Catalyzed Switchable Chemodivergent Cascade Cyclizations of Trimethylenemethanes with *ortho*-Formyl Cinnamates

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## 1. General methods

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz) spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance NEO 600 MHz. Chemical shifts were reported in ppm from tetramethylsilane with the solvent resonance as the internal standard in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = double doublet, dt = double triplet; m = multiplet, and coupling constants (*J*) are reported in Hertz (Hz). ESI-HRMS was recorded on a Waters Xevo G2-XS using a time-of-flight mass spectrometer equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) source. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (100–200 mesh) eluting with ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and petroleum ether. TLC was performed on glass-backed silica plates. UV light and a solution of potassium permanganate were used to visualize products or starting materials. Petroleum ether and EtOAc were distilled. Dried solvents and liquid reagents were transferred by oven-dried syringes. Electron-deficient styrenes [1], electron-deficient cinnamates [2] and TMM donors [3] were prepared according to the literature procedures.

# 2. Detailed condition screenings

# 2.1 Detailed condition screenings for the synthesis of 3a and 4a



Enrty <sup>a</sup>	Solvent	[ <b>1a</b> ] (M)	2a/1a	<i>T</i> (°C)	Base	HB donor	Time (h)	<b>3a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>	<b>4a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	benzene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	19	45
2	DCM	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	40	29
3	THF	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	82	trace
4	1,4-dioxane	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	95	nd
5	1,3-dioxoane	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	86	nd
6	DME	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	97	nd
7 <sup>c</sup>	DME	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	27	31
$8^d$	DME	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	33	trace
9 <sup>e</sup>	DME	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	10	trace	trace
10	benzene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	19	45
11	toluene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	13	49
12	<i>p</i> -xylene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	18	48
13	mesitylene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	18	51
14	chlorobenzene	0.10	1.2	10	-	-	24	12	32
15	mesitylene	0.03	1.2	10	-	-	24	13	55
16	mesitylene	0.05	1.2	10	-	-	24	15	61
17	mesitylene	0.20	1.2	10	-	-	24	13	40
18	mesitylene	0.05	0.8	10	-	-	48	12	35
19	mesitylene	0.05	1.0	10	-	-	48	16	39
20	mesitylene	0.05	1.4	10	-	-	24	20	63

21	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	-	24	21	62
22	mesitylene	0.05	1.4	30	-	-	24	19	61
23	mesitylene	0.05	1.4	60	-	-	24	16	28
24	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-	24	nd	55
25	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	-	24	9	57
26	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	t-BuOK	-	24	nd	nd
27	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	Et <sub>3</sub> N	-	24	12	61
28	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	DBU	-	24	10	nd
29	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C1	24	10	65
30	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C2	24	nd	nd
31	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C3	5	nd	78
32	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C4	5	nd	80
33	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C5	5	nd	89
34	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C6	5	nd	92
35	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C7	5	nd	81
36	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C8	5	nd	91
37 <sup>c</sup>	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C6	5	trace	76
38 <sup>d</sup>	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C6	5	nd	nd
39 <sup>e</sup>	mesitylene	0.05	1.6	10	-	C6	5	trace	nd

<sup>*a*</sup>Unless noted otherwise, reactions were performed with **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.12 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5 mol %), base (1.2 equiv) and H-bond donor (20 mol %) in solvent (1.0 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 10 °C.

<sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

 $^c with \ Pd_2(dba)_3$  (2.5 mol %) and  $PPh_3$  (10 mol %).

<sup>d</sup>with Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol %) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (10 mol %).

<sup>e</sup>with Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (2.5 mol %) and L1 (10 mol %).

O <sub>2</sub> N CHC 5a	2 + CN OBoc 2) DB 2a	Pd] (10 mol %) O <sub>2</sub> N itylene, <i>T</i> (°C) U (40 mol %), rt	6a CN	O P-N L1
Enrty <sup>a</sup>	<i>T</i> (°C)	[ <b>5a</b> ] (M)	2a/5a	<b>6a</b> (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	10	0.05	1.4	66
2	25	0.05	1.4	70
3	40	0.05	1.4	75
4	65	0.05	1.4	70
5	40	0.03	1.4	75
6	40	0.10	1.4	79
7	40	0.20	1.4	76
8	40	0.10	1.6	87
9	40	0.10	1.8	94
10	40	0.10	2.0	95
11 <sup>c</sup>	40	0.10	2.0	86
$12^{d}$	40	0.10	2.0	71
13 <sup>e</sup>	40	0.10	2.0	trace

# 2.2 Detailed condition screenings for the synthesis of 6a

<sup>*a*</sup>Unless noted otherwise, reactions were performed with **5a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.14 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (10 mol %) in mesitylene (1.0 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 12 h. After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and 40% DBU were added in situ at room temperature for 10 min.

<sup>b</sup>Isolated yield.

<sup>c</sup>with Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (5 mol %) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (20 mol %).

<sup>*d*</sup>with  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (10 mol %) and  $PPh_3$  (20 mol %).

<sup>e</sup>with Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (5 mol %) and L1 (20 mol %).

#### 3. General procedure for the synthesis of cycloadducts 3a-m



**General procedure A**: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with *ortho*-formyl-substituted cinnamate 1 (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol % or 11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10–48 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3a–m**.



Synthesis of 3a by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with methyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1a (23.5 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated

and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3a**: 30.5 mg, 97% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.26 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.57 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 1H), 3.09–3.02 (m, 1H), 2.99–2.91 (m, 1H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.7, 148.8, 148.3, 146.6, 142.9, 125.6, 125.5, 121.2, 119.5, 114.2, 82.2, 59.5, 57.2, 52.7, 48.5, 36.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 337.0795, found 337.0799.



Synthesis of 3b by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with ethyl (E)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1b (25.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and

Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3b**: 29.2 mg, 89% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.27 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.33–4.23 (m, 2H), 3.54–3.38 (m, 1H), 3.09–3.00 (m, 1H), 2.99–2.91 (m, 1H), 2.64–2.48 (m, 1H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.2, 148.8, 148.4, 146.7, 142.9, 125.6, 125.5, 121.2, 119.5, 114.1, 82.3, 61.9, 59.6, 57.2, 48.7, 36.1, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 351.0951, found 351.0959.



Synthesis of 3c by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with benzyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1c (31.1 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated

and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3c**: 35.6 mg, 91% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.24–8.15 (m, 1H), 7.46–7.30 (m, 6H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 5.29–5.18 (m, 3H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (s, 1H), 3.16–3.01 (m, 1H), 3.01–2.91 (m, 1H), 2.63–2.50 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.0, 148.8, 148.1, 146.5, 142.8, 135.2, 128.78, 128.76, 128.7, 125.6, 125.5, 121.1, 119.4, 114.1, 82.2, 67.6, 59.8, 57.2, 48.7, 36.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 413.1108, found 413.1112.



Synthesis of 3d by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with *tert*-butyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1d (27.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped,

evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL)

and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 20 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3d**: 32.3 mg, 91% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.29–8.24 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 5.25 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 2.97–2.88 (m, 2H), 2.54–2.39 (m, 1H), 1.52 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.3, 148.7, 147.1, 142.9, 125.5, 125.5, 121.1, 119.6, 113.8, 82.7, 82.3, 59.4, 57.3, 49.7, 36.0, 28.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 379.1264, found 379.1273.



Synthesis of 3e by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-methoxyethyl (Z)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1e (27.9 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube

was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3e**: 34.4 mg, 96% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.26 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.46–4.38 (m, 1H), 4.36–4.30 (m, 1H), 3.68–3.63 (m, 2H), 3.42 (s, 1H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 3.10–3.03 (m, 1H), 3.03–2.96 (m, 1H), 2.66–2.55 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.1, 148.8, 148.1, 146.6, 142.9, 125.7, 125.6, 121.0, 119.4, 114.1, 82.2, 70.2, 64.5, 59.8, 59.0, 57.2, 48.5, 36.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 381.1057, found 381.1064.



Synthesis of 3f by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-phenyl (Z)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1f (29.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped,

evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was

stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3f**: 34.1 mg, 91% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.38–8.23 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 5.31 (s, 1H), 4.74 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.34–3.27 (m, 1H), 3.21 (s, 1H), 3.17–3.10 (m, 1H), 2.74–2.63 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.9, 150.4, 148.8, 148.0, 146.3, 143.0, 129.7, 126.4, 125.7, 125.6, 121.3, 121.3, 119.5, 114.6, 82.2, 59.4, 57.2, 48.7, 35.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 399.0951, found 399.0962.



Synthesis of 3g by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with methyl (E)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)-2-methylacrylate 1g (24.9 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was

capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3g**: 26.5 mg, 81% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.26 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 0.95 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 175.5, 148.9, 146.9, 145.6, 144.5, 127.4, 124.9, 120.6, 118.9, 113.6, 82.9, 61.4, 60.1, 53.0, 51.4, 45.9, 20.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 351.0951, found 351.0952.



Synthesis of 3h by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with methyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-5-methyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1i (24.9 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped,

evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum

ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3h**: 31.5 mg, 96% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 1H), 3.07–3.01 (m, 1H), 2.99–2.87 (m, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.57–2.51 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 172.7, 149.9, 146.7, 146.5, 140.3, 136.1, 128.6, 122.1, 119.5, 114.1, 82.2, 59.5, 57.1, 52.7, 48.5, 36.0, 20.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 351.0951, found 351.0952.



Synthesis of 3i by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with phenyl (*E*)-3-(5-chloro-2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1i (33.1 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped,

evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3i**: 34.4 mg, 84% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 1H), 3.31–3.21 (m, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.6, 150.3, 148.6, 146.5, 145.9, 141.2, 129.7, 129.0, 128.1, 126.5, 122.9, 121.3, 119.2, 114.8, 81.9, 59.5, 57.0, 48.6, 35.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub><sup>35</sup>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> 411.0743, found 411.0745; Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub><sup>37</sup>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> 413.0713, found 413.0701.



Synthesis of 3j by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with phenyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylate 1j (32.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped,

evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3j**: 38.8 mg, 97% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.36

(m, 2H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 3.34–3.22 (m, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.67–2.57 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.0, 150.4, 146.7, 145.0, 141.9, 131.6 (q, J = 32.4 Hz), 129.7, 127.5 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 126.3, 125.1, 122.9 (d, J = 4.4 Hz), 121.3, 119.7, 114.3, 82.8, 59.1, 57.4, 48.8, 35.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) –62.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> 400.1155, found 400.1159.



Synthesis of 3k by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with phenyl (*E*)-3-(4-cyano-2-formylphenyl)acrylate 1k (27.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.010 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated

and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 48 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3k**: 11.6 mg, 33% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.62 (s, 1H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 4.71 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.29–3.24 (m, 1H), 3.23–3.07 (m, 2H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.9, 150.4, 146.4, 146.3, 142.5, 134.0, 129.7, 129.7, 126.4, 125.6, 121.3, 119.6, 118.2, 114.5, 113.0, 82.4, 59.0, 57.6, 48.7, 35.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 379.1053, found 379.1053.



Synthesis of 31 by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with phenyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-5-nitrophenyl)acrylate 11 (29.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated

and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3l**: 36.4 mg, 97% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.29–8.23 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.8 H

Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.36–3.31 (m, 1H), 3.29 (s, 1H), 3.14 (dd, J = 16.8, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (dd, J = 16.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.7, 150.4, 149.7, 147.6, 146.3, 142.8, 129.7, 126.7, 126.4, 124.6, 121.3, 120.1, 119.3, 114.6, 82.3, 59.5, 57.1, 48.7, 35.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> 377.1132, found 377.1130.



Synthesis of 3m by general procedure A: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with phenyl phenyl (*E*)-3-(3,4-difluoro-2-formylphenyl)acrylate 1m (28.8 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube

was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (23.6 mg, 0.120 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 48 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3m**: 33.1 mg, 45% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 3.36 (s, 1H), 3.33 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.51–2.37 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.1, 150.5, 150.3 (dd, *J* = 248.1, 11.6 Hz), 147.4 (dd, *J* = 253.6, 13.7 Hz), 129.6, 126.3, 121.4, 120.2 (d, *J* = 18.6 Hz), 119.8 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 3.5 Hz), 119.7, 115.0, 79.9, 58.5, 57.3, 48.8, 34.7; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) –138.0, –141.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 390.0912, found 390.0916.

## 4. General procedure for the synthesis of cycloadducts 4a-f



**General procedure B**: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with *ortho*-formyl-substituted cinnamate **1** (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol % or 11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 5 mol %) and **C6** (9.6 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5–24 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4a–f**.



Synthesis of 4a by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with methyl (E)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1a (23.5 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %) and C6 (9.6 mg, 0.020

mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4a**: 29.0 mg, 92% yield, >20:1 dr, as a yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.23 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.66 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 171.0, 149.2, 148.9, 147.9, 140.4, 125.7, 125.5, 121.1, 118.9, 111.4, 90.4, 70.5, 54.4, 52.3, 49.6, 38.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 337.0795, found 337.0803.



Synthesis of 4b by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with ethyl (*E*)-

3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate **1b** (25.0 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %) and **C6** (9.6 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4b**: 30.9 mg, 94% yield, >20:1 dr, as a pale yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.23 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 5.66 (s, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26–4.18 (m, 2H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.6, 149.3, 148.9, 147.9, 140.4, 125.7, 125.5, 121.1, 119.0, 111.4, 90.5, 70.5, 61.5, 54.4, 49.6, 38.7, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 351.0951, found 351.0954.



Synthesis of 4c by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with benzyl (E)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1c (31.1 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %) and C6 (9.6 mg, 0.020

mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4c**: 36.6 mg, 94% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.14 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.32 (m, 5H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 5.32 (s, 1H), 5.17 (dd, J = 32.4, 12.0 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 16.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.3, 149.0, 148.8, 147.9, 140.3, 135.1, 128.7, 125.7, 125.5, 121.1, 119.0, 111.4, 90.4, 70.5, 67.3, 54.4, 49.6, 38.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 413.1108, found 413.1116.



Synthesis of 4d by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with *tert*-butyl (*E*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1d (27.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0

equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %) and C6 (9.6 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor 2a (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product 4d: 29.2 mg, 82% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.22 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 4.64 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 169.8, 149.7, 148.8, 148.0, 140.3, 125.7, 125.4, 121.0, 119.1, 111.4, 90.5, 82.2, 70.5, 54.4, 49.7, 39.9, 28.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 379.1264, found 379.1270.



Synthesis of 4e by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL testtube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-methoxyethyl (*Z*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1e (27.9 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %)

and **C6** (9.6 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 5 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4e**: 31.9 mg, 89% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.21 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 5.68–5.50 (m, 1H), 5.34–5.21 (m, 1H), 4.57 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27–4.19 (m, 2H), 4.05 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.59–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 170.5, 149.1, 148.9, 147.9, 140.4, 125.8, 125.5, 121.1, 119.0, 111.4, 90.4, 70.5, 70.2, 64.3, 59.0, 54.4, 49.6, 38.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 381.1057, found 381.1065.



Synthesis of 4f by general procedure B: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-phenyl (*Z*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate 1f (29.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv),

Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5.8 mg, 0.0050 mmol, 5 mol %) and **C6** (9.6 mg, 0.020 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (2.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (27.6 mg, 0.140 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 24 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4f**: 27.0 mg, 72% yield, >20:1 dr, as a yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.30 (s, 1H), 8.26 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (dt, *J* = 13.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 17.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 169.5, 150.3, 149.0, 148.8, 147.9, 140.6, 129.7, 126.4, 125.7, 125.6, 121.4, 121.2, 119.2, 111.7, 90.6, 70.4, 54.2, 49.9, 38.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 399.0951, found 399.0954.

## 5. General procedure for synthesis of cycloadducts 6a-f



General procedure C: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with substituted styrene 5 (0.10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor 2a (39.4 mg, 0.20 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU (6.0  $\mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product 6a–f.



Synthesis of 6a by general procedure C: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 5-nitro-2-vinylbenzaldehyde 5a (17.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled

with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU ( $6.0 \ \mu$ L,  $0.039 \ mmol$ ,  $40 \ mol$  %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6a**: 24.3 mg, 95% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.27 (s, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.78–4.56 (m, 1H), 3.25–3.14 (m, 1H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.80–2.66 (m, 1H), 2.62–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 190.6, 159.2, 153.7, 146.9, 134.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 116.0, 107.4, 46.0, 41.7, 36.9, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 279.0740, found 279.0750.



**Synthesis of 6b by general procedure C**: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-methyl-5-nitro-2-vinylbenzaldehyde **5b** (19.1 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-

filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU (6.0  $\mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6b**: 18.6 mg, 69% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 4.75–4.60 (m, 1H), 3.21–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77–2.72 (m, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.57–2.47 (m, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 190.4, 159.3, 151.5, 147.6, 140.2, 132.3, 132.1, 130.6, 116.1, 107.4, 45.9, 41.5, 36.7, 21.3, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 293.0897, found 293.0910.



Synthesis of 6c by general procedure C: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 4-chloro-5-nitro-2-vinylbenzaldehyde 5c (21.1 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-

filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU (6.0  $\mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6c**: 24.5 mg, 84% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 10.18 (s, 1H), 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 4.71–4.60 (m, 1H), 3.21–3.14 (m, 1H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.76–2.68 (m, 1H), 2.60–2.50 (m, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 189.3, 159.1, 152.1, 133.3, 132.5, 131.3, 130.8, 115.8, 107.4, 78.9, 45.7, 41.5, 36.6, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub><sup>35</sup>ClO<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 313.0351, found 313.0359; Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub><sup>37</sup>ClO<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 315.0321, found 315.0342.



**Synthesis of 6d by general procedure C**: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with methyl 5-nitro-2-vinylbenzoate **5d** (20.7 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-

filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU ( $6.0 \mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol%) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6d**: 24.3 mg, 85% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.69 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.68–4.48 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.26–3.11 (m, 1H), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 18.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.77–2.67 (m, 1H), 2.63–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 166.1, 159.4, 153.6, 146.1, 130.9, 128.2, 126.8, 125.7, 116.1, 107.5, 52.9, 46.5, 42.3, 38.1, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 309.0846, found 309.0852.



Synthesis of 6e by general procedure C: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 5-nitro-2-vinylbenzonitrile 5e (17.4 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled

with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU ( $6.0 \mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6c**: 24.7 mg, 98% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.52 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.19–4.09 (m, 1H), 3.30–3.19 (m, 1H), 3.19–3.10 (m, 1H), 2.84–2.69 (m, 1H), 2.65–2.55 (m, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 158.9, 155.3, 146.6, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 115.7, 115.6, 113.6, 107.4, 45.6, 41.5, 40.4, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> 276.0743, found 276.0744.



Synthesis of 6f by general procedure C: An oven-dried 5 mL test-tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2,4-dinitro-1-vinylbenzene 5f (19.4 mg, 0.100 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (11.6 mg, 0.0100 mmol, 10 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled

with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (1.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (39.4 mg, 0.200 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 10 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After full conversion, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, and DBU (6.0  $\mu$ L, 0.039 mmol, 40 mol %) was directly added and stirred for 10 min, monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **6f**: 26.2 mg, 96% yield, as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.67 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.19–4.04 (m, 1H), 3.26–3.19 (m, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 18.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.89–2.69 (m, 1H), 2.69–2.54 (m, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 159.0, 149.5, 146.5, 146.2, 129.4, 127.4, 119.9, 115.7, 107.4, 46.2, 42.0, 37.0, 16.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> 274.0822, found 274.0828.

# 6. Synthesis of cycloadducts 3f on a 1.0 mmol scale



An oven-dried 50 mL sealed tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-phenyl (*Z*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate **1f** (297.0 mg, 1.000 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (58.0 mg, 0.0500 mmol, 5 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous DME (10.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (236.0 mg, 1.200 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 24 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **3f**: 308.4 mg, 82% yield, >20:1 dr, as a colorless oil.

#### 7. Synthesis of cycloadducts 4f on a 1.0 mmol scale



An oven-dried 50 mL sealed tube equipped with a septum and a magnetic stir bar was charged with 2-phenyl (*Z*)-3-(2-formyl-4-nitrophenyl)acrylate **1f** (297.0 mg, 1.000 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (58.0 mg, 0.0500 mmol, 5 mol %) and **C6** (96.0 mg, 0.200 mmol, 20 mol %). The tube was capped, evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Then degassed anhydrous mesitylene (20.0 mL) and TMM donor **2a** (276.0 mg, 1.400 mmol, 1.4 equiv) were added via syringe in sequence, and the tube was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times again. The resulting mixture was stirred at 10 °C for 48 h, and monitored by TLC (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 6/1). After completion, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo. Purification by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10/1) gave the product **4f**: 270.7 mg, 64% yield, >20:1 dr, as a yellow oil.

# 8. More substrate attempts

In order to further expand the substrate scope, (Z)-formyl cinnamate, more dielectrophiles, TMM donors and aryl ethylenes were investigated under the standard or optimal conditions.







# 9. Asymmetric explorations

Great efforts have been devoted to investigating the asymmetric version of the cascade reactions. Unfortunately, there was barely enantiocontrol afforded employing commonly used chiral phosphines.



# 10. Crystal data and structural refinement

Procedure for the recrystallization of 3a: To a 10 mL tube containing 3a (20 mg) was added CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL), which was kept aside overnight at room temperature to obtain crystals. The crystals were subjected for single crystal XRD to determine the configuration of 3a (CCDC 2283650)





Identification code	3a	3a	
Empirical formula	$C_{16}H_{14}N_2O_5$		
Formula weight	314.29		
Temperature	273 K		
Wavelength	1.54178		
Crystal system	Triclinic		
Space group	P-1		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.2559(10)	a= 90.558(7)	
	b = 8.4217(11)	b=110.791(7)	
	c = 11.5815(15)	g = 98.454(7)	
Volume	742.96(17)		
Ζ	2		
Density (calculated)	1.405 g/cm <sup>3</sup>		
Absorption coefficient	0.892 mm <sup>-1</sup>		
F(000)	328		
Crystal size	0.220 x 0.200 x 0.18	30 mm <sup>3</sup>	
Theta range for data collection	5.322 to 67.136		
Index ranges	-9<=h<=9, -10<=k<	=10, -13<=1<=13	
Reflections collected	7925		
Independent reflections	2548 [R(int) = 0.045	58]	
Completeness to theta $= 67.136$	96.3 %		
Absorption correction	None	None	
Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares		lares on F <sup>2</sup>	

Data / restraints / parameters	2548/0/210
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.007
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	$R_1 = 0.0766, wR_2 = 0.2154$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0952, wR_2 = 0.2378$
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.448 and -0.396

#### 11. Mechanism study

All structures were fully optimized using B3LYP functional in Gaussian16 [4]. Standard 6-31g(d) basis sets (The C=O-selective [3+2] cycloadditions in DME have been investigated at 6-311G(d,p)) were applied for the atoms except phosphorus (P) and palladium (Pd), which was described by relativistic effective core potential (ECP). Phosphorus and palladium were modified by Lanl2dz basis set, in which the secondary outer p functions of the standard Lanl2dz basis set were replaced with optimized ones and an f polarization function was added [5]. Normal coordinate analysis of each stationary point was performed to confirm whether the optimized geometry was a minima or a transition state, and to calculate zero-point energy and Gibbs free energy. Natural bond orbital (NBO) [6,7] calculations were performed to analyze how the charge distributes in the bonding and how it transfers in the reaction. In each elementary step, intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) [8] calculation was used to verify whether each TS connects the reactant and the product. The effect of solvent (DME) environment on catalytic process was evaluated using the solvation model based on density (SMD) [9] with its dielectric constant of 38.3. The free energy of each species in solution was deemed as the sum of the gas-phase free energy and the free energy of solvation.

#### 11.1 C=O- and C=C-selectivity [3+2] cycloaddition in DME

To elucidate high C=O selectivity for the [3+2] cycloaddition in DME, density functional theory (DFT) calculations were conducted. As depicted in the Scheme below, two pathways were proposed and calculated, including C=O selective addition (green line) and C=C selective addition (blue line).



The energy barrier for the C=O-selective [3+2] process from 1a to M-Ts is 52.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, in

C=C-selective process, from **1a** to **D-Ts** is 51.1 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. In addition, a lower free energy (25.9 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> vs 34.3 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) was observed via **D-Int** to form **D-Ts**. These results demonstrate that the C=O [3+2] process is more favorable in the solvent.



## **11.2 NBO charge analysis of the substrates and intermediates**





NBO charge analysis revealed that the soft carbon nucleophile C3 preferentially attacks at the soft electrophile C2. Moreover, *ortho*-formyl cinnamate 1a combined with urea C8 via  $O \cdots H-N$  hydrogen bond, which could drive the charge transferred from C1 to oxygen atom, and thus enhanced the C=O-selectivity.







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### 13. NMR and HRMS spectra

















### $\begin{array}{c} 8.275\\ 8.263\\ 8.249\\ 7.556\\ 7.556\\ 7.5586\\ 5.5384\\ 5.5384\\ 5.5384\\ 7.556\\ 7.5566\\ 7.5384\\ 14.404\\ 14.404\\ 14.309\\ 14.309\\ 14.309\\ 14.339\\ 14.335\\ 14.339\\ 14.335\\ 14.33$





## 8.313 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.310 8.328 8.331 8.258 8.258 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.456 7.440 7.4160 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147 7.147



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)





 $\begin{array}{c} & \begin{array}{c} 8.265 \\ 8.226 \\ 8.226 \\ 8.240 \\ 7.551 \\ 7.547 \\ 7.559 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 5.379 \\ 7.269 \\ 7.2461 \\ 7.2487 \\ 7.2487 \\ 7.2487 \\ 7.2461 \\ 7.2461 \\ 7.2461 \\ -0.953 \end{array}$ 





### -8.014 -8.014 -8.014 -7.292 7.292 7.292 7.292 7.2923 3.015 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 3.036 2.253 2.2923 2.2923 2.2566 2.5566





### 7,209 7,270 7,271 7,295 7,143 7,1295 7,1295 7,1283 7,2283 7,2283 7,2275 7,2775 7,2



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)





Spectrum from 20230617.wiff2 (sample 76) - 43, +TOF MS (200 - 600) from 0.037 to 0.088 min, noise filtere...4 min, noise filtered (noise multiplier = 1.5), Gaussian smoothed (0.5 points)], Recalibrated, centroided





---0.000







Spectrum from 20230617.wiff2 (sample 75) - 42, +TOF MS (200 - 600) from 0.286 to 0.336 min, noise filtere...4 min, noise filtered (noise multiplier = 1.5), Gaussian smoothed (0.5 points)], Recalibrated, centroided



# $\begin{array}{c} & 7.752 \\ & 7.773 \\ & 7.703 \\ & 7.534 \\ & 7.520 \\ & 7.432 \\ & 7.432 \\ & 7.432 \\ & 7.146 \\ & 7.280 \\ & 7.268 \\ & 7.268 \\ & 7.142$



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



57





f1 (ppm) Ó -10



Spectrum from 20230617.wiff2 (sample 77) - 44, +TOF MS (200 - 600) from 0.037 to 0.073 min, noise filtered (noise multiplier = 1.5), Gaussian smoothed (0.5 points), Recalibrated, centroided



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)







## $\begin{array}{c} 8.230\\ 8.235\\ 8.235\\ 8.225\\ 8.225\\ 8.225\\ 8.225\\ 8.225\\ 8.225\\ 8.239\\ 7.7390\\ 7.7390\\ 7.7390\\ 7.7390\\ 7.7390\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.656\\ 7.666\\ 1.16\\ 1.65\\ 3.757\\ 1.122\\$





### $\begin{array}{c} 8.231\\ 8.235\\ 8.235\\ 8.224\\ 8.224\\ 8.221\\ 7.397\\ 7.397\\ 7.397\\ 7.397\\ 7.397\\ 7.337\\ 7.2566\\ 1.4.636\\ 1.4.636\\ 1.4.636\\ 1.4.636\\ 1.4.636\\ 1.4.233\\ 1.4.120\\ 1.4.120\\ 1.4.120\\ 1.4.120\\ 1.2.780\\ 1.2$





### $\begin{array}{c} 8.240\\ 8.147\\ 8.133\\ 8.147\\ 7.356\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7358\\ 7.7284\\ 7.7284\\ 7.7284\\ 7.258\\ 5.973\\ 5.973\\ 5.973\\ 5.973\\ 5.973\\ 7.258\\ 5.973\\ 7.258\\ 5.973\\ 5.973\\ 7.258\\ 5.973\\ 7.258\\ 7.258\\ 5.973\\ 7.258\\ 7.$

--0.000



4c

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



COOBn

**4c** <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCI<sub>2</sub>)















# $\begin{array}{c} 8.215\\ 8.211\\ 8.155\\ 8.155\\ 8.155\\ 8.155\\ 8.155\\ 8.155\\ 7.344\\ 7.344\\ 7.358\\ 5.595\\ 5.592\\ 5.592\\ 5.592\\ 5.592\\ 5.592\\ 5.593\\ 5.533\\ 5.$




### $\begin{array}{c} 8.303\\ 8.254\\ 8.254\\ 8.251\\ 8.251\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.398\\ 7.1266\\ 7.1266\\ 7.1256\\ 7.2566\\ 7.1256\\ 7.2566\\ 7.1256\\ 7.2568\\ 7.258\\ 7.2588$



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)





# $\begin{array}{c} 10.269\\ 8.667\\ 8.419\\ 8.405\\ 8.419\\ 8.405\\ 8.415\\ 8.405\\ 8.405\\ 8.405\\ 8.405\\ 8.415\\ 8.405\\ 4.737\\ 4.737\\ 4.737\\ 4.733\\ 4.733\\ 4.733\\ 4.733\\ 14.725\\ 14.722\\ 14.722\\ 14.722\\ 3.103\\ 3.10$





# 10.167 10.167 1.334 1.7.366 1.7.334 1.7.366 1.7.369 1.4.699 1.4.694 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.689 1.4.679 1.4.689 1.4.679 1.4.689 1.4.679 1.2.754









## $\begin{array}{c} 8.695\\ 8.691\\ 8.334\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 8.339\\ 7.532\\ 7.532\\ 7.532\\ 7.532\\ 7.553\\ 7.553\\ 7.553\\ 7.553\\ 7.553\\ 7.553\\ 7.555\\ 7.$













### 14. Computational data

#### **D-Int**

zero-point Energies/(ev): -2632.431614

thermal Free Energies/(ev): -2632.431614

#### G(solv)/(kcal/mol): -26.49

С	0.81328700	2.70918600	0.95318900
С	-0.35838100	3.61528600	1.07887800
С	-0.29784700	4.93460500	0.85559000
Pd	0.55210800	0.79931200	0.11177400
Р	2.97524400	0.45639100	0.27323000
С	3.74304900	-0.48915900	1.67479200
С	5.13177400	-0.51964100	1.89693600
С	5.66159100	-1.22819000	2.97528100
С	4.81395400	-1.90297000	3.85847800
С	3.43352000	-1.85894700	3.66287300
С	2.90265800	-1.15310200	2.57957300
С	3.97780900	2.02547000	0.32689300
С	4.44633600	2.64068500	-0.84345500
С	5.12785100	3.85813000	-0.78045900
С	5.34870300	4.48029800	0.44911100
С	4.88178700	3.87856300	1.61946600
С	4.19940500	2.66331600	1.55960200
С	3.55046300	-0.32964400	-1.30683600
С	4.67881300	-1.15643700	-1.40548700
С	5.07950800	-1.65890700	-2.64413400
С	4.36416600	-1.33763400	-3.79925900
С	3.23476200	-0.52299500	-3.70889000
С	2.82100800	-0.02786400	-2.47023500
Н	-1.15619000	5.58709900	0.98928400
Н	0.62972100	5.40284900	0.53749500
Н	5.79944700	0.02830500	1.23910100
Н	6.73687700	-1.24495000	3.13165000
Н	5.22913700	-2.44899900	4.70126700
Н	2.76403900	-2.36539700	4.35268400
Н	1.82699400	-1.11251500	2.44222200

Н	4.28803200	2.16901500	-1.80772400
Н	5.49056600	4.31607400	-1.69689900
Н	5.88065000	5.42659900	0.49583800
Н	5.04636400	4.35458200	2.58238500
Н	3.84632400	2.20706100	2.47982500
Н	5.24235400	-1.42437600	-0.51856100
Н	5.95234500	-2.30368500	-2.70420700
Н	4.68068300	-1.72837700	-4.76274000
Н	2.66233200	-0.27636300	-4.59890400
Н	1.92333700	0.58414800	-2.41726000
Н	-4.69887000	-3.53414500	-1.28108400
Н	-2.72446700	-3.22483400	0.15398900
С	-3.86733300	-2.93194300	-1.63735700
С	-2.74610000	-2.75636000	-0.82372800
С	-3.92403000	-2.33588400	-2.89843200
Н	-4.80071300	-2.46886900	-3.52617600
С	-1.66503200	-1.97613600	-1.26158900
Н	-0.47624000	-4.46352500	0.92778800
С	-2.85631700	-1.55276600	-3.34014900
С	-1.73610400	-1.36556600	-2.52705900
Н	-2.89888200	-1.06739900	-4.31124700
Н	0.06660700	-3.22012400	-2.83110700
Н	-0.93999600	-0.70535600	-2.86053900
С	0.86628600	-3.56377100	-2.18428500
С	1.74501500	-4.54354600	-2.65132400
Н	1.61770300	-4.93923900	-3.65551500
Н	-1.44900200	-1.17128600	4.51450500
Н	-1.63816200	-3.60897000	4.97541500
С	-1.24289200	-1.89346600	3.72877800
С	-1.34679100	-3.26096800	3.98813800
С	-0.86845800	-1.44988300	2.45804500
Н	-0.77539900	-0.38555300	2.25630800
С	-1.07172700	-4.18100100	2.97321600
Н	-1.14973800	-5.24718100	3.16845700
С	-0.59124100	-2.36327200	1.42925500

С	-0.69536200	-3.73758700	1.70441200
Р	-0.12756500	-1.69805300	-0.24698300
С	1.00172100	-3.04048400	-0.88986800
Н	2.17655200	-3.13617600	0.92675200
С	2.04594800	-3.51862900	-0.08009500
С	2.91677900	-4.50348500	-0.54588600
С	2.77009400	-5.02026700	-1.83444800
Н	3.71017300	-4.86594500	0.10261000
Н	3.44765700	-5.78859100	-2.19712800
С	-1.65855800	2.92016400	1.46888100
Н	-1.39419900	2.08904900	2.13545200
С	-2.58630400	3.79648700	2.19921900
Ν	-3.32979100	4.48453600	2.76711400
С	-3.80532600	0.86698200	1.67406000
С	-3.59813900	1.52476400	0.45103500
С	-4.58261600	1.35860700	-0.55827700
С	-5.70771500	0.55722500	-0.33417100
С	-5.86288200	-0.07941400	0.88746600
С	-4.92186300	0.06960100	1.90406300
Н	-3.08780700	0.97516000	2.47806500
Н	-6.44275800	0.44294900	-1.12142500
Н	-5.07093600	-0.43463400	2.85089000
С	-4.49256600	1.99811600	-1.90341400
Н	-3.63307600	2.66757300	-2.08228400
0	-5.31336400	1.81420400	-2.78376700
С	-2.33234600	2.33886000	0.18190500
Н	-2.62002800	3.22378800	-0.39026700
С	-1.34489000	1.50126400	-0.67313900
Н	-1.80167300	0.55264200	-0.94140000
Ν	-7.03538500	-0.93506900	1.11511200
0	-7.13573900	-1.48345300	2.21368400
0	-7.84236900	-1.05775200	0.19488400
С	-0.84918400	2.11214700	-1.93655700
0	-1.07603600	3.44817300	-2.03991900
0	-0.28336900	1.50050300	-2.84090400

C	0.5(0.00000	4 00100 (00	2 2102 (200
C	-0.56029600	4.08132600	-3.21826300
Н	0.52770100	3.98107100	-3.26406200
Н	-0.99556000	3.63936700	-4.11839800
Н	-0.84217900	5.13139700	-3.13149600
Н	1.13809700	2.38169000	1.95329000
Н	1.64736300	3.21601500	0.46639500

#### D-Ts

#### zero-point Energies/(ev): -2632.391237

thermal Free Energies/(ev): -2632.495721

### G(solv)/(kcal/mol): -25.75

С	0.38863700	2.28410700	1.52846100
С	-0.62268600	3.04113400	2.32249100
С	-0.38171700	4.21607500	2.91107200
Pd	0.57359100	0.27290300	0.54006200
Р	2.97854600	0.55687000	-0.11763100
С	4.26596000	-0.13022700	1.03585600
С	5.64343800	0.08888700	0.85778700
С	6.56748600	-0.42357800	1.76831400
С	6.13015600	-1.15200300	2.87864400
С	4.76516100	-1.36119200	3.07648900
С	3.84042500	-0.85122600	2.16065300
С	3.60393800	2.30770500	-0.29209300
С	3.71215900	2.96741600	-1.52540900
С	4.08745000	4.31200300	-1.58328700
С	4.35408400	5.02482400	-0.41278700
С	4.24475300	4.38078300	0.82167800
С	3.87097900	3.03758200	0.88170300
С	3.33390000	-0.20752100	-1.77155600
С	4.37905900	-1.11046800	-2.01186300
С	4.54854500	-1.67659600	-3.27760500
С	3.68410300	-1.34409200	-4.32080300
С	2.63451300	-0.45234600	-4.08850400
С	2.44803400	0.10178700	-2.82119900
Н	-1.13403000	4.72365100	3.50776900

Н	0.58796600	4.69768400	2.82068600
Н	5.99219500	0.67075600	0.00940100
Н	7.62922100	-0.24848100	1.61542900
Н	6.85143900	-1.54564200	3.58991900
Н	4.41677600	-1.91427800	3.94481600
Н	2.77560500	-1.00035700	2.32167600
Н	3.51188400	2.43325400	-2.44760300
Н	4.17960000	4.79888200	-2.55095300
Н	4.64874500	6.06965600	-0.46151500
Н	4.45609600	4.92108600	1.74098800
Н	3.80700500	2.54811900	1.85018600
Н	5.05922600	-1.38559700	-1.21329800
Н	5.36084000	-2.37919500	-3.44496800
Н	3.82160100	-1.78265500	-5.30568700
Н	1.95007200	-0.19312900	-4.89224000
Н	1.61579000	0.77869900	-2.64480300
Н	-4.60740000	-3.62866600	-1.54067800
Н	-2.77459100	-3.58955000	0.10620100
С	-3.74076200	-2.99746700	-1.71758200
С	-2.70415700	-2.96904600	-0.78121700
С	-3.67161400	-2.20931300	-2.86814600
Н	-4.47921200	-2.23232800	-3.59478500
С	-1.58732500	-2.14280100	-0.97672900
Н	-0.64113200	-4.89847000	0.96982900
С	-2.56309800	-1.38535500	-3.07578600
С	-1.53336000	-1.34468600	-2.13388100
Н	-2.50179600	-0.76543000	-3.96631000
Н	-0.04466100	-3.73389100	-2.28730400
Н	-0.68069300	-0.69042300	-2.29936000
С	0.83699000	-3.93876800	-1.68955900
С	1.77754600	-4.86362800	-2.15245000
Н	1.61350900	-5.36171300	-3.10452800
Н	-1.77479300	-2.10097800	4.91282700
Н	-2.04707300	-4.57180100	5.01841700
С	-1.53890600	-2.71425000	4.04702400

С	-1.68890300	-4.10060500	4.10709600
С	-1.07370000	-2.11377500	2.87480300
Н	-0.93098300	-1.03620000	2.83156900
С	-1.36632100	-4.88164900	2.99426400
Н	-1.47253400	-5.96239200	3.03827600
С	-0.76041300	-2.88422800	1.74536700
С	-0.90224300	-4.27993100	1.82347500
Р	-0.16032200	-2.01129800	0.21203900
С	1.02678100	-3.28195500	-0.46596700
Н	2.35212200	-3.07353500	1.22990400
С	2.18024100	-3.57342900	0.28153300
С	3.11198700	-4.50337500	-0.17587300
С	2.91426200	-5.15148200	-1.39806500
Н	3.99472700	-4.71756400	0.42106600
Н	3.64202500	-5.87385600	-1.75814200
С	-1.96405300	2.34408800	2.30500300
Н	-1.82407700	1.30889200	2.64426400
С	-2.99796800	2.96318300	3.13619200
Ν	-3.81897700	3.46161600	3.78838700
С	-3.80706800	0.29130000	1.05653700
С	-3.56062000	1.51867100	0.42007700
С	-4.46651200	1.93994500	-0.58626800
С	-5.56851000	1.14354500	-0.92532200
С	-5.76199200	-0.06719400	-0.28125300
С	-4.89249300	-0.50661400	0.71537600
Н	-3.13452000	-0.06815500	1.82642400
Н	-6.24867100	1.48102100	-1.69790100
Н	-5.06766200	-1.45870100	1.19979800
С	-4.31647800	3.20708400	-1.36027000
Н	-3.42982800	3.82781200	-1.14097100
0	-5.10850100	3.56165600	-2.21377600
С	-2.32850300	2.33774500	0.78518100
Н	-2.51246300	3.38483800	0.54841600
С	-1.08275900	1.88717600	-0.00725000
Н	-1.26800400	0.93726700	-0.51770900

-6.88899100	-0.92451800	-0.67547700
-6.97658200	-2.03049600	-0.13900100
-7.66831800	-0.49293400	-1.52241300
-0.51535100	2.81524000	-1.02427500
-0.82009800	4.11799100	-0.80311400
0.16848100	2.46018900	-1.97125000
-0.25314200	5.05389400	-1.73669300
0.83819300	4.99915300	-1.71323300
-0.60198800	4.84312400	-2.75089600
-0.59783700	6.03483300	-1.40839400
0.85142800	1.52917300	2.20285300
1.15563500	2.92475300	1.09732000
	-6.88899100 -6.97658200 -7.66831800 -0.51535100 -0.82009800 0.16848100 -0.25314200 0.83819300 -0.60198800 -0.59783700 0.85142800 1.15563500	-6.88899100-0.92451800-6.97658200-2.03049600-7.66831800-0.49293400-0.515351002.81524000-0.820098004.117991000.168481002.46018900-0.253142005.053894000.838193004.99915300-0.601988004.84312400-0.597837006.034833000.851428001.529173001.155635002.92475300

#### M-Int

zero-point Energies/(ev): -2632.442496

#### thermal Free Energies/(ev): -2632.545401

G(solv)/(kcal/mol): -26.03

С	-0.06751900	2.56407400	0.62040500
С	1.34129600	2.78840000	0.24013800
С	1.72068400	3.62377300	-0.74425800
Pd	-0.62538400	0.59875300	0.03361600
Р	-2.79946900	1.23817900	0.59953300
С	-4.27614300	0.19015100	0.17658700
С	-5.42416400	0.69924600	-0.44591600
С	-6.52735500	-0.12714800	-0.67745900
С	-6.49753300	-1.46579600	-0.28838300
С	-5.35668800	-1.98069500	0.33287800
С	-4.25403700	-1.16031900	0.56085400
С	-3.29801700	2.92500300	0.00858600
С	-3.72070200	3.95439600	0.85992700
С	-4.05089500	5.20979200	0.34117800
С	-3.96671100	5.45052800	-1.02990100
С	-3.53814300	4.43250700	-1.88640500
С	-3.19703900	3.18342700	-1.36978700
С	-2.95145400	1.27238600	2.45253300

С	-4.20215800	1.46274500	3.06823600
С	-4.31099700	1.47238300	4.45811200
С	-3.17694500	1.28057000	5.25328700
С	-1.93607900	1.07184100	4.65246700
С	-1.82330900	1.06367800	3.25950500
Н	2.76650200	3.77155100	-1.00361100
Н	0.98870400	4.18452500	-1.31964200
Н	-5.46754800	1.74087300	-0.74552500
Н	-7.41194900	0.28278800	-1.15794800
Н	-7.35703800	-2.10619100	-0.46694200
Н	-5.32259000	-3.02328400	0.63600500
Н	-3.37308200	-1.57327000	1.04493400
Н	-3.78589100	3.78555700	1.92928200
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M-Ts

zero-point Energies/(ev): -2632.384784

thermal Free Energies/(ev): -2632.491929

G(solv)/(kcal/mol): -26.43

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Н	4.70513900	-1.72592900	0.21734900	
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Ν	-2.78833300	-0.18249500	0.04039700	
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Ν	-0.06177900	1.63182400	0.37067500
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F	4.76957400	-3.36768600	-0.73714000
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