Electronic Supplementary Information

Regioselective Oxidative Cleavage of Conjugated Dienes

to Access Substituted Acrylonitriles

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CONTENT

1. General information and starting materials
1.1 General information
1.2 General information for the Starting materials: conjugated diene 12
2. Detailed information for all optimization conditions
2.1 optimization of all solvents
2.2 investigation of water and other additives
2.3 investigation of ammonium salts and hypervalent iodine reagent
2.4 investigation of temperature and time
3. Synthesis of substituted acrylonitriles ${f 2}$ from ammouniun carbamate (NH ₂ CO ₂ NH ₄)9
3.1 General experimental procedures and compound characterization data in Scheme 2:9
3.2 Reactions System analysis of 1ae, 1ag and 1ah (Scheme 3)17
4. Reactions with ammonium chloride and N-15 atom labeled ammouniun chloride20
4.1 Detailed optimization of reactions with ammouniun chloride20
4.2 General information for the synthesis of substituted acrylonitriles 2 from NH ₄ Cl and N-15
atom labeled NH ₄ Cl (Scheme 4 & Scheme 5a)
4.3 Spectroscopic data of 99% N-15 atom labeled cinnamonitriles and their spectroscopic
characteristics
5. Synthesis of isothiazole 5e-N* (Scheme 5b) ⁸
6. Synthesis of 99% N-15 atom labeled Rilpivirine (Scheme 5c)
7. In-situ HRMS of the reaction with 1b, 1e and 1h at 1 hour
8. Spectra Copies of Unknown dienes and all α , β -unsaturated nitrile 2

1. General information and starting materials

1.1 General information

Unless otherwise noted, all materials were purchased from commercial suppliers. Dichloromethane (DCM), acetonitrile and chlorobenzene were refluxed over CaH₂; tetrahydrofuran (THF) and toluene were refluxed over lithium aluminum hydride. The solvents were freshly distilled prior to use. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (normal phase, 200-300 mesh) from Anhui Liangchen Silicon Material Co., Ltd, with petroleum ether (PE, bp. 60 - 90 °C) and ethyl acetate (EtOAc) as eluent. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on GF₂₅₄ silica gel plates (0.2 mm) from Anhui Liangchen Silicon Material Co., Ltd. The plates were visualized by UV light. ¹H, ¹⁹F and ¹³C NMR, ¹⁵N NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer, Bruker Avance Neo 600 and Bruker Neo 700, usually in CDCl₃ as an internal standard, and the chemical shifts (δ) were reported in parts per million (ppm). Multiplicities are indicated as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quint (quintet), dd (doublet of doublet), ddd (doublet of doublet), m (multiplet), and dq (doublet of quartet). Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). HRMS measurements were carried out on an Agilent LC/MSD TOF mass spectrometer (ESI-HRMS) and Bruker Compact (EI-HRMS). GC-MS measurements were carried out on a Trace 1300 GC/ISQ QD mass spectrometer. Melting points were obtained on a Yanaco MP-500 melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. IR spectra [KBr pellets, v (cm⁻¹)] were taken on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer.

1.2 General information for the Starting materials: conjugated diene 1



All dienes in manuscript are listed below:



Figure S1 The dienes substrates

Conjugated dienes 1 were synthesized according to literatures¹. Compound characterization data of three new compounds are listed below: (E)-2-(4-(buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)phenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (1j):



¹ (a) W. Sun, M. P. Li and L. J. Li, Q. Huang, M. Y. Hua and S. F. Zhu, Ligands with 1,10-phenanthroline scaffold for highly regioselective iron-catalyzed alkene hydrosilylation *Nature Commun*. 2018, **9**, 211–231. (b) H. Cui, Y. Li and S. L. Zhang, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2012, **10**, 2862–2869. (c) O. Halter, J. Spielmann, Y. Kanai and H. Plenio, Monitoring Ligand Substitution in (Catalytically Active) Metal Complexes with Bodipy-Tagged Diimines and NHC Ligands *Organometallics*, 2019, **38**, 2138–2149. (d) C. Z. Chen, S. Y. Fang, Z. Y. Dong, J. X. Xu and Z. H. Yang, Catalytic Diastereospecific and Enantioselective (3+2) Transannulations of 1,2,3-Thiadiazoles with Strained Norbornene Derivatives. *Org. Lett.*, 2022, **24**, 2110–2114. (e) X. L. Peng, J. Xu, T. T. Li, Y. R. Chi, and Z. C. Jin, Chemo-selective cross reaction of two enals via carbene-catalyzed dual activation. *Chem. Sci.*, 2020, **11**, 12533–12539.

The new diene **1j** was synthesized according to the method reported in literature ¹ and was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 7.99-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.93-7.89 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dt, *J* = 16.8, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 167.4, 137.6, 136.9, 135.2, 132.3, 132.0, 131.5, 131.0, 127.9, 127.1, 123.9, 119.2. HRMS (EI) calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃NO₂ [M^{+•}]: 275.0946, found: 275.0958; [M-H]⁺ 274.0863, found: 274.0863.

(*E*)-2-(4-(buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (1k):



The new diene **1k** was synthesized according to the method reported in literature ¹ and was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.96 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (s, 2H), 6.80 (dd, J = 15.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56-6.45 (m, 2 H), 5.35 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 167.3, 138.3, 137.1, 137.0, 134.4, 132.0, 130.7, 129.1, 126.5, 123.8, 118.2, 18.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H, C₂₀H₁₈NO₂]+: 304.1333, found 304.1332.

Methyl 4-((1*Z*,3*E*)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)benzoate (1af):



The new diene **1af** was synthesized according to the method reported in literature ¹ and was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 15.6, 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.52-6.42 (m, 2 H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 166.9, 159.6, 142.1, 134.2, 132.1, 130.4, 123.0, 129.9, 128.5, 127.9, 126.8, 126.0, 114.2, 55.4, 52.1. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C19H19O3⁺ [M+H]⁺: 295.1329, found 295.1330.

2. Detailed information for all optimization conditions

2.1 solvents investigation

Various solvents were tested and the results are presented in Table S2-1. In general, alcoholic solvents (entries 1-11) showed better reaction transformations compared to other solvents. Methanol and ethanol produced the desired acrylonitrile 2a with yields of 36% and 35%, respectively. Remarkably, the yield of 2a significantly increased to 75% when trifluoroethanol (TFE) was used as the solvent (entry 4). This improvement in yield can be attributed to the more nucleophilic nature of these solvents, which stabilizes and deactivates the electrophilic nitrene iodonium intermediate (Scheme 1-I) through strong solvation. However, when the reaction was performed in dehydrated TFE under N₂ gas protection, the yield dropped to only 30%, indicating that trace amounts of water may greatly promote the current reaction. Acrylonitrile 2a was not detected when hexafluoroisopropanol, dichloromethane, toluene, and dioxane were used as solvents (entries 6-9). Additionally, only 10% and 21% yields of 2a were obtained with tetrahydrofuran and acetonitrile, respectively (entries 10-11). The major by-products in these reactions were diphenylketone 3a and *N*-phenyl benzoamide 4a.

Table S2-1 Solvent optimization

Ph	NH ₂ CO ₂ NH ₄ (6 equiv), PIFA (4 equiv),	PhCN
Ph 1a	solvent (2 mL)	Ph
0.15 mmol	0°C to r.t., 4 h	2a
Entry	Solvent	Yield/% ^a
1	MeOH	36
2	EtOH	35
3	<i>i</i> -PrOH	13
4 ^b	wet CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	75
5°	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH absolute	30
6	(CF ₃) ₂ CHOH	trace
7	DCM	trace
8	PhMe	trace
9	dioxane	trace
10	THF	10
11	MeCN	21

^{a.} NMR yield was obtained with trimethoxybenezene as internal standard

^{b.} Trifluoroethanol was not dehydrated.

^{c.} The current condition was performed with the protection of N₂ gas.

2.2 investigation of water and other additives.

In Table S2-1, we observed that trace amounts of water significantly enhanced the reaction conversion. Therefore, a series of reactions with varying amounts of water, ranging from 1 to 10 equiv. (entries 1-7), were investigated, and the best conversion was achieved when 2 equiv. of water were added (entry 3). However, the yield dramatically decreased to only 10% when 1 mL of water was added. There are two potential reasons why water promotes the reaction. Firstly, water can increase the solubility of ammonium carbamate (H₂NCO₂NH₄) in CF₃CH₂OH (TFE). Secondly, water can act as a nucleophile to attack the in-situ generated aziridium intermediate, thereby accelerating the reaction. To verify this possibility, methanol was added instead of water in 1, 2, and 5 equiv. (entries 8-10), and moderate to good yields of **2a** were obtained. However, when sodium azide (NaN₃) was used instead of water (entry 11), **2a** was obtained in a yield of only 17%. This result indicates that the main effect of water is to assist the solubility of inorganic salts.

Table S2-2	Optin	nizatior	of nuc	leophile	s

Ph	NH ₂ CO ₂ NH ₄ (6 equiv), PIFA (4 additive, CF ₃ CH ₂ OH (2 mL)	equiv) Ph CN
Ph 1a 0.15 mmol	0 °C to r.t., 4 h	Ph 2a
Entry	Additive (loading)	Yield/%a
1	H ₂ O (1 equiv)	64
2	$H_2O(1.5 \text{ equiv})$	71
3	H ₂ O (2 equiv)	78
4	H_2O (2.5 equiv)	68
5	H ₂ O (3 equiv)	60
6	H ₂ O (4 equiv)	60
7	H_2O (10 equiv)	58
8	MeOH (1 equiv)	54
9	MeOH (2 equiv)	67
10	MeOH (5 equiv)	49
11	NaN ₃ (2 equiv)	18
^{a.} NMR yiel	ld was obtained with trimethor	xybenezene as
internal stan	dard	

2.3 investigation of ammonium salts and hypervalent iodine reagent.

The loading of ammonium carbamate was initially investigated ranging from 2 to 8 equiv. (Table S2-3, entries 1-4), with 6 equiv. of ammonium carbamate providing the

highest yield (entry 3). The loading of PIFA has a significant impact on the current transformation. The yield initially increased as the loading of PIFA increased from 2 to 4 equiv. (entries 5-6 vs entry 3). However, further increasing the loading of PIFA noticeably inhibited the yield of **2a**, accompanied by an increase in the formation of amides **4a** as observed by TLC (entries 7-9). Other ammonium salts was also investigated. Ammonium acetate (NH₄OAc) gave desired product in only 16%, beside amide **4a**, some biacetoxy product **X** was also detected from crude ¹H NMR and MS (entry 10). Ammonium chloride (NH₄Cl), however, gave a very complicated system, benzonitriles, benzaldehyde, amide **4a** and a series of chlorinated molecules including chlorinated benzonitriles were generated according to GC-MS. Besides that, some high polar molecules, probably polymers, were generated according to TLC. Notably, changing the oxidants of PIFA to PIDA gave **4a** in yield of 55%, which will be discussed later in Table S4-1, page S20. Ammonia in methanol (2 mol/) is another choice for current transformation, gave **4a** in 70% yield, slightly less than NH₄CO₂NH₄ (entry 12).

Ph >=	_/=	ammonium salts, PIFA or PIDA H ₂ O (2 equiv), CF ₃ CH ₂ OH (2 mL)		PhCN
Ph [′] 1a ; ().15 mmol	0°C to r.t., 4	h	Ph 2a
Entry	Ammoni	um salts	Hypervalent	Yield/% ^a
	/equ	iiv	iodium(III)/equiv.	
1	NH ₂ CO ₂	NH4/2	PIFA / 4	13
2	NH ₂ CO ₂	$NH_4/4$	PIFA /4	53
3	NH_2CO_2	NH4/6	PIFA /4	78
4	NH_2CO_2	NH4/8	PIFA /4	72
5	NH ₂ CO ₂	NH4/6	PIFA /2	34
6	NH ₂ CO ₂	NH4/6	PIFA /3	53
7	NH_2CO_2	NH4/6	PIFA /5	53
8	NH ₂ CO ₂	NH4/6	PIFA /6	47
9	NH ₂ CO ₂	NH4/6	PIFA /7	29
10	NH ₄ O ₄	Ac / 6	PIFA /4	16
11	NH4C	C1 / 6	PIFA /4	trace
12	NH ₃ /M	eOH 6	PIFA /4	70

Table S2-3 Optimization of ammonium salt and hypervalent iodine reagent

a. NMR yield was obtained with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. By-products with different ammonium source



2.4 investigation of temperature and time

The reaction is sensitive to temperature. Prior to the addition of PIFA, the entire system should be cooled to 0 °C using an ice-water bath. After the addition of PIFA, the reaction should be gradually allowed to reach room temperature to give the best result (Table S2-4, entry 1). When the reaction was conducted at 0 °C for 4 h, only 54% of **2a** was produced (Table S2-4, entry 2). The yields increased to 65% when the reaction time was extended to 6 h (Table S2-4, entry 3). Further extension of the reaction time to 8 hours did not yield any noticeable improvement (Table S2-4, entry 4), likely due to the complete consumption of the oxidant and ammonium salt. When the reaction was carried out at room temperature (~20 °C), the addition of PIFA resulted in a significant heat release and the reaction color suddenly turned dark brown. The reaction system became highly complex, and only 19% of the desired **2a** was generated (entry 5). Time screening revealed that the optimal reaction time is 4 h (entries 7-11).

Ph	_/=	$NH_2CO_2NH_4$ (6 equi H_2O (2 equiv), CF ₃ C) Ph	Ph CN	
Ph		temperature, time			//
0.1	5 mmol			ΓΠ	
-	Entry	Tempreture	Time/h	Yield/% ^a	
-	1	0 °C to r.t	4	78	
	2	0 °C	4	54	
	3	0 °C	6	64	
	4	0 °C	8	65	
	5	r.t.	4	19	
	6	0 °C then 50 °C	4	15	
	7	0 °C to r.t.	1	30	
	8	0 °C to r.t.	2	46	
	9	0 °C to r.t.	3	62	
	10	0 °C to r.t.	5	73	
	11	0 °C to r.t.	6	73	

Table S2-4 Optimization	of temperature and time

^{a.}NMR yield was obtained with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

3. Synthesis of substituted acrylonitriles 2 from ammouniun carbamate (NH₂CO₂NH₄)



3.1 General experimental procedures and compound characterization data in Scheme 2:

Conjugated diene 1 (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NH₂CO₂NH₄ (234 mg, 3.0 mmol, 6.0 equiv), H₂O (18 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and 6 mL CF₃CH₂OH were added to a 15 mL pressure-resistant reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The tube was then cooled to 0 °C, and PIFA (860 mg, 2.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added. After sealing the tube with a rubber septum, the mixture was allowed to return to room temperature and stirred for 4 h. The system was then quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL×2). The organic layers were collected, dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. After removing the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to obtain pure product 2.

3,3-diphenylacrylonitrile (2a): [CAS: 3531-24-6]²



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 20:1), light yellow liquid, 69.7 mg, 68%. $R_f = 0.29$ (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.50–7.41 (m, 6H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 163.2, 139.0, 137.1, 130.4, 130.1, 129.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 117.9, 94.9.

Cinnamonitrile (**2b**): [CAS: 1885-38-7]³



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Light yellow liquid, 52.1 mg, 80%. R_f= 0.5 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.48-7.36 (m, 6H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 150.6, 133.5, 131.2, 129.1, 127.4, 118.2, 96.4.

4-Fluorocinnamonitrile (2c): [CAS: 27530-50-3]³

Decarboxylative Cyanation: 4-CN-Pyridine, a Versatile Nitrile Source. Org. Lett. 2022, 24, 6357-6363.

² G. S. Kumar, P. S. Shinde, H. Chen, K. Muralirajan, R. Kancherla, and M. Rueping, Paired Electrolysis for

³ G. Zhang, C. Zhang, Y. Tian and F. Chen, Fe-Catalyzed Direct Synthesis of Nitriles from Carboxylic Acids with Electron-Deficient N-Cyano-N-aryl-arylsulfonamide. *Org. Lett.* 2023, **25**, 917–922.



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless solid, 45 mg, 61%. R_f= 0.21 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.46 (ddt, J = 8.8, 5.2, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (tt, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 5.81 (dd, J = 16.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -107.8. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 164.4 (d, J = 253.5 Hz), 149.2, 129.9, 129.4 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 118.0, 116.4 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 96.1.

(*E*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (2d): $[CAS: 14378-04-2]^4$



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless solid 39 mg, 48%. R_f= 0.22 (PE : EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.39 (app. s, 4H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 149.1, 137.3, 132.0, 129.5, 128.6, 117.8, 97.0.

(E)-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile (2e): [CAS: 27549-93-5]³



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). 0.2 mmol, Colorless solid 30 mg, 71%. R_f = 0.4 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.86 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 149.2, 132.4, 128.7, 127.3, 125.7, 117.8, 97.1.

(*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2f**): [CAS: 51791-29-8]⁴



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 30:1). Colorless solid, 74 mg, 75%. R_f = 0.32 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -63.0. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 148.8, 136.7, 132.6 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 127.6, 126.1 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J* = 273.7 Hz), 117.4, 99.3.

(*E*)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (**2g**): [CAS: 29246-70-6]⁵

⁴ R. Ye, M. Zhu, X. Yan, Y. Long, Y. Xia and X. Zhou, Pd(II)-catalyzed C=C bond cleavage by a formal group-exchange reaction. *ACS Catal.* 2021, **11**, 8678–8683.

⁵ Chatterjee, B.; Jena, S.; CHugh, V.; Weyhermuller, T.; Werle, C. A Molecular Iron-Based System for Divergent Bond Activation: Controlling the Reactivity of Aldehydes. *ACS Catal.* 2021, **11**, 7176–7185.



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 30:1). Colorless solid, 52 mg, 60%. R_f = 0.5 (PE:EtOAc = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 148.9, 148.7, 140.3, 129.4, 124.5, 118.6, 101.8.

(*E*)-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (**2h**): [CAS: 35121-93-8]⁴



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless solid 15 mg, 21%. R_f = 0.30 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.37 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.82 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 150.5, 141.8, 130.9, 129.8, 127.3, 108.1, 95.1, 21.5.

(*E*)-3-(4-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2j**): [CAS: 59244-47-2]



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 3:1). 0.2 mmol, creamy white solid 27 mg, 49%. R_f = 0.54 (PE:EtOAc = 3:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.04–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.88–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.67–7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 166.8, 149.4, 134.7, 134.2, 132.8, 131.6, 128.0, 126.7, 124.0, 117.9, 97.3.

(*E*)-3-(4-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3,5-dimethylphenyl)acrylonitrile (2k):



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 5:1). 0.25 mmol, Light yellow solid 48 mg, 63%. $R_f = 0.50$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.97 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 2H), 5.90 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 166.8, 149.7, 138.1, 134.6, 134.5, 132.5, 131.9, 127.4, 124.0, 117.9, 97.5, 18.2. EI-HRMS calcd. For C₁₉H₁₄O₂N₂: 302.1055 [M^{+•}], found 302.1048. (*E*)-3-(m-tolyl)acrylonitrile (**2**I): [CAS: 30116-00-8]⁴



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless liquid 21 mg, 36%. R_f= 0.38 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.37 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.22 (m, 4H), 5.86 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 150.8, 138.9, 133.5, 132.1, 129.0, 128.0, 124.6, 118.3, 96.1, 21.3.

(*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2m**): [CAS: 51791-29-8]⁶



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless solid, 75 mg, 76%. R_f= 0.35 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.74-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -63.0. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 148.8, 134.2, 131.7 (q, *J* = 33.7 Hz), 130.4, 129.8, 127.6 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J* = 273.5 Hz), 117.4, 98.7. IR (KBr) v (cm⁻¹): 2220.18.

(*E*)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)acrylonitrile (**2n**): [CAS: 51991-49-2]⁷



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 40:1). Colorless solid 68 mg, 65%. R_f = 0.58 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.13 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dt, J = 1.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 147.5, 146.6, 134.1, 131.4, 129.7, 128.7, 125.3, 116.9, 101.5.

(*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**20**): [CAS: 301660-67-3]⁴

The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless solid 60.7 mg, 67%. R_f = 0.28 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm):

⁶ G. Xing, Z. Zhi, C. Yi, J. Zou, X. Jing, A. Y. Woo, B. Lin, L. Pan, Y. Zhang and M. Cheng, 8-Hydroxyquinolin-2(1H)-one analogues as potential β2-agonists: Design, synthesis and activity study. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 2021, **224**, 113697.

⁷ Q. Wu, Y. Luo, A. Lei and J. You, Aerobic Copper-Promoted Radical-Type Cleavage of Coordinated Cyanide Anion: Nitrogen Transfer to Aldehydes to Form Nitriles. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2016, **138**, 2885–2888.

7.90-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 4H), 5.96 (dd, J = 16.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 150.6, 134.5, 133.1, 131.0, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 122.2, 118.3, 96.3.

(*E*)-3-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**2p**): [CAS: 39077-59-3]⁸

The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 4:1). Light yellow solid 32 mg, 49%. The yield could be increased up to 70% when extra 2 equiv. of NH₂CO₂NH₄ and 1 equiv. of PIFA was added for another 2h (total 6 h). R_f = 0.45 (PE:EtOAc = 4:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.64 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dt, J = 1.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 7.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 151.1, 150.3, 148.7, 137.1, 125.2, 124.3, 118.0, 100.8.

(*E*)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylonitrile (**2q**): [CAS: 54356-27-3]⁹



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 4:1). Colorless solid 36 mg, 55%. R_f= 0.12 (PE:EtOAc = 3:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.67 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 151.9, 149.0, 147.0, 133.5, 129.3, 123.9, 117.4, 98.8.

3-phenylpropiolonitrile (2r): [CAS:935-02-4]¹⁰



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Yellow solid 32 mg, 50%. R_f= 0.6 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.64–7.59 (m, 2H), 8.54 (tt, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 133.5, 132.0, 128.9, 117.6, 105.5, 83.0, 63.1.

(*E*)-5-phenylpent-2-en-4-ynenitrile (**2s**): [CAS: 49840-80-4]¹¹

⁸ Q. Wu, N. Chen and J. Xu, Chemoselectivity in the Transannulation of 1,2,3-Thiadiazoles and Alk-2-enenitriles: Specific Synthesis of 3-(Alk-1-enyl)isothiazoles. *ChemistrySelect* 2022, **7**, e202103943.

⁹ K. Sun, H. Shan, H. Neumann, G.-P. Lu and M Beller, Efficient iron single-atom catalysts for selective ammoxidation of alcohols to nitriles. *Nature Commun.* 2022, **13**, 1848(1-9).

¹⁰ M. Kumar and G. Avijit, Tunable Regio- and Stereoselective Synthesis of Z-Acrylonitrile Indoles and 3-Cyanoquinolines from 2-Alkynylanilines and Alkynylnitriles. *Org. Lett.* 2023, **25**, 3254–3259.

¹¹ B. Li, Z. Li, K. You, A. Qin and B. Z. Tang, Responsive hyperbranched poly(formyl-1,2,3-triazole)s toward quadruple-modal information security protection. *Sci. China Chem.* 2022, **65**, 771–777.



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 52 mg, 64%. R_f= 0.54 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.48 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.32 (m, 3H), 6.67 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 132.1, 131.0, 130.0, 128.6, 121.3, 117.1, 108.0, 100.7, 85.4.

(*E*)-5-phenylpent-2-enenitrile (2t): [CAS: 5320-30-9]¹²



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless liquid 52 mg, 66%. R_f= 0.35 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (dt, *J* = 16.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (dt, *J* = 16.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (dq, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.7, 139.8, 128.7, 128.3, 126.5, 117.4, 100.5, 34.9, 33.9.

(*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenyl-2-Propenenitrile (**2u**): [CAS: 53587-72-7]¹³



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 50 mg, 69%. R_f= 0.45 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.44–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.21 (q, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 144.5, 134.1, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 121.3, 109.7, 16.9.

(*E*)-2-(Phenylmethylene)heptanenitrile (2v): [CAS: 2757913-85-0]¹³



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 60 mg, 60%. R_f = 0.56 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.44–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 2.45 (dt, *J* = 1.6, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.67 (quint, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.37-1.26 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101

¹² S. Arai, K. Nakazawa, X.-F. Yang and A. Nishida, Nickel-catalyzed regioselective hydrocyanation of terminal alkynes by assistance of a tosyl group. *Tetrahedron* 2019, **75**, 2482–2485

¹³ Z. Zhu, B. Liu, W. Tang, H. Tong and X. Xu, Preparation method of nitrile compounds. China patent, **2021**, CN113861069.

MHz, CDCl₃) *δ* (ppm):144.0, 134.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 120.4, 116.2, 31.2, 29.4, 27.9, 22.3, 13.9.

(*E*)-2-(Phenylmethylene)octanenitrile (**2w**): [CAS: 2232880-31-6]¹⁴

The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 61 mg, 57%. R_f = 0.55 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.44–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 2.45 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (quint, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.40-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 144.0, 134.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 120.4, 116.2, 31.4, 29.4, 28.7, 28.2, 22.5, 14.0.

(*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enenitrile (**2x**): [CAS: 14799-78-1]¹⁵



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 31 mg, 43%. R_f=0.33 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.50–7.35 (m, 5H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 159.8, 138.2, 130.3, 128.9, 125.9, 117.6, 95.6, 20.2.

3,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)acrylonitrile (2y): [CAS: 50775-35-4]¹⁶



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 20:1). 0.2 mmol, colorless liquid 35 mg, 29%. R_f = 0.37 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.43 (ddt, J = 8.8, 5.2, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (ddt, J = 9.5, 5.2, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (tt, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (tt, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (s, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -109.4, -109.7. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 164.2 (d, J = 253.2 Hz), 161.9 (d, J = 252.5 Hz), 160.9, 134.9 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 132.9 (d, J = 3.0 Hz),

¹⁴ P. Maity, D. Kundu, T. Ghosh and B. C. Ranu, Copper catalyzed cyanation through C=C bond cleavage of gemaryl dibromide followed by second cyanation of iodoarene by a released CN unit. *Org. Chem. Front.* 2018, **5**, 1586–1599.

¹⁵ M. Li and Z. Jing, Iron-Catalyzed Deoxynitrogenation of Carboxylic Acids with Cyanamides to Access Nitriles. *Chem. Eur. J.* 2023, **29**, e202300217

¹⁶ Y. Wang, J.-X. Zhang, and W. Shu, W. Cu-Catalyzed Remote Transarylation of Amines via Unstrained C-C Functionalization. *Acs, Catal.* 2020, **10**, 15065–15070.

131.6 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 117.6, 116.0 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 115.8 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 94.9.

3,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)acrylonitrile (2z): [CAS: 1071466-43-7]¹⁶



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 20:1). Light yellow liquid 57.5 mg, 42%. R_f = 0.38 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.44 (dt, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dt, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 4H), 7.22 (dt, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 160.6, 137.0, 136.9, 136.5, 135.0, 130.9, 129.7, 129.11, 129.07, 117.4, 95.7.

3,3-bis(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile (2aa): [CAS: 100914-54-3]¹⁶



The product was purified by column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 20:1). Light yellow liquid 47 mg, 26%. R_f = 0.38 (PE:EtOAc = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.60 (dt, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (dt, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (dt, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dt, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 160.7, 137.3, 135.4, 132.1, 132.0, 131.1, 129.9, 125.4, 124.9, 117.3, 95.7.

(Z)-/(E)-3-phenyl-2-propenenitrile (**2ac**): [CAS: 4360-47-8]¹⁷



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 30:1). Colorless liquid, 46 mg, 71% (Z/E = 3/1). This mixture comes from the mixture raw materials (Z/E=3:1). (Z)-3-phenyl-2-propenenitrile: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.84-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.11 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 3H), 5.42 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 148.8, 133.6, 129.04, 128.96, 127.4, 117.4, 95.1. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR of (E)-isomer are same with **2b**.

¹⁷ N. A. Stini, P. L. Gkizis and C. G. Kokotos, Cyrene: a bio-based solvent for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction of aryl iodides. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 2023, **21**, 351–358.

3.2 Reactions System analysis of 1ae, 1ag and 1ah (Scheme 3)

a) Reaction system of **1ae**



^{a 1}H NMR yield Reaction system checked by ¹H NMR





b) Reaction system checked by GC-MS (EI) CATraceFinderdataL_IFYQIFyQI-636 06/16/23 14:07:19

c) Reaction system of lag



^a ¹H NMR yield ^b isolated yield

Reaction system checked by ¹H NMR

20230326 fyq.1.fid FYQ-563-D20



Reaction system checked by GC-MS (EI)



Reaction system of 1ah



^a ¹H NMR yield ^b isolated yield





Reaction system by GC-MS (EI)



4. Reactions with ammonium chloride and N-15 atom labeled ammouniun chloride

4.1 Detailed optimization of reactions with ammouniun chloride

Initially, we attempted the reaction using NH₄Cl and PIFA as the oxidant, but unfortunately, no desired product **2b** was generated (Table S4-1, entry 1). Furthermore, the reaction system proved to be very complex, as indicated by GC-MS analysis. In an attempt to improve the system, we added extra K₂CO₃ as the base, but this resulted in an even worse outcome (entry 2). The complex mixture obtained from the reaction contained benzonitriles, benzaldehyde, as well as a series of chlorinated benzonitriles and chloroiodobenzenes. The presence of chlorinated products led us to hypothesize that PIFA might be too strong of an oxidant, potentially oxidizing the chloride to chlorine or its cation.

\sim	NH	₄ Cl, base, oxida ditive, CF ₃ CH ₂ O	ation PH	CN
1 b		0 °C to r.t., 4 h		2b
Entry	Base	Oxidation	additive	Yield/% ^a
1	-	PIFA	H_2O	0
2	K_2CO_3	PIFA	H_2O	$trace^{b}$
3	K_2CO_3	PIDA	H_2O	10^{c}
4	K_2CO_3	PIDA	H_2O	52
5	NaOH	PIDA	H_2O	27
6	NaOAc	PIDA	H_2O	trace
7	NaH	PIDA	MeOH	36
8	t-BuOK	PIDA	MeOH	62
9	Cs_2CO_3	PIDA	H_2O	70 (58% ^{<i>d</i>})

Table S4-1. Optimization of the reaction conditions

^a Reaction condition: **1b** (0.2 mmol, 26 mg), NH₄Cl (0.4 mmol, 21.2 mg), base (0.4 mmol, 140 mg), PIDA or PIFA (0.4 mmol), H₂O (0.4 mmol, 7.2 μ L/mg), CF₃CF₂OH (1.5 mL). NMR yields were obtained. ^{*b*} Very complicated reaction system ^{*c*} The reaction performed at 0 °C for 4h. ^{*d*} Yields obtained from isolated compounds.

To investigate this further, we conducted the reaction at a continuous low temperature of 0 °C. 10% yield of the desired product 2b was observed and the system remained complicated (entry 3). In order to address these challenges, we decided to replace PIFA with the less reactive PIDA. Fortunately, this modification led to the successful formation of 2b in a 52% NMR yield. We then proceeded to

investigate various bases (entries 4-9), and ultimately found that Cs2CO3 provided the most favorable results (entry 9).

4.2 General information for the synthesis of substituted acrylonitriles **2** from NH₄Cl and *N*-15 atom labeled NH₄Cl (Scheme 4 & Scheme 5a)

$$R^{1} \xrightarrow[R^{3}]{\text{PIDA, NH}_{4}Cl (10\% \ ^{15}N \text{ atom})} \xrightarrow[R^{2}]{Cs_{2}CO_{3}, H_{2}O, CF_{3}CH_{2}OH} \xrightarrow[R^{3}]{R^{1}} \xrightarrow[R^{3}]{CN}$$

General Procedure:

To a pressure resistant reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added conjugated diene **1** (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 10% N-15 NH₄Cl (53 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (326 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv), H₂O (18 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and 6 mL CF₃CH₂OH. The tube was cooled to 0 °C and then PIDA (322 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added. The mixture was stired for 4 h at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (10 mL), and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL×2). The organic layers were collected, dried over Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel to obtain the pure product **2**. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR 10% *N*-15 atom labeled α , β -unsaturated nitriles (**2a***) was almost same with natural abundance α , β -unsaturated nitriles, so EI-MS was attached to verify the nitrogen abundance.

3,3-diphenylacrylonitrile (2a*):



0.7 mmol scale, light yellow liquid 82 mg, 57%. EI-MS of 3,3-diphenylacrylonitrile (**2a**):



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled 3,3-diphenylacrylonitrile (2a*):



Cinnamonitrile (2b*):



0.5 mmol scale; light yellow liquid 38 mg, 58%. EI-MS of cinnamonitrile (**2b**):



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled cinnamonitrile (2b*):



	2b	10% <i>N</i> -15 atom labeld 2b *
[M+1]/[M]	10.05%	18.86 %

(*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2f***):

CN



0.7 mmol scale, colorless solid 85 mg, 62%. EI-MS of (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2f**)



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (2f*):



	2f	10% <i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2f *
[M+1]/[M]	12.25%	22.10 %

(*E*)-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (**2h***):

0.5 mmol scale, colorless solid 35.8 mg, 50%. EI-MS of (E)-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (2h):



10% N-15 atom labeled (E)-3-(p-tolyl)acrylonitrile (2h*)



	2h	10% <i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2h *
[M+1]/[M]	10.52%-*	20.43 %

(*E*)-3-(2-Nitrophenyl)-2-propenenitrile (**2n***)



0.7 mmol scale, colorless solid 71 mg, 49%. EI-MS of





EI-MS of *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-3-(2-Nitrophenyl)-2-propenenitrile (2n)



	2n	10% <i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2n *
[M+1]/[M]	10.67% (2.51/23.51)	20.74% (5.51/26.56)

(*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**20***):



Colorless solid 63 mg, 70%. EI-MS of (*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**20**)



10% N-15 atom labeled (E)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylonitrile (20*)



(*E*)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylonitrile (**2p***):

CN/



0.5 mmol scale, colorless solid 20 mg, 31% EI-MS of (*E*)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylonitrile (**2p**):



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)acrylonitrile (**2p***):



3-phenylpropiolonitrile (2r*):



0.5 mmol scale, yellow solid 30 mg, 47%. EI-MS of 3-phenylpropiolonitrile (**2r**):







(*E*)-5-phenylpent-2-en-4-ynenitrile (**2s***):



0.5 mmol scale, colorless liquid 31 mg, 40%. EI-MS of (*E*)-5-phenylpent-2-en-4-ynenitrile (**2s**):



EI-MS of *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-5-phenylpent-2-en-4-ynenitrile (2s*):



	2s	<i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2s *
[M+1]/[M]	11.75 %	22.78 %

(*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile (**2u***):

0.5 mmol scale, light yellow liquid 40 mg, 55 %. EI-MS of (*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile (**2u**):



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-2-methyl-3-phenylacrylonitrile (**2u***):



	2 u	<i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2u *
[M+1]/[M]	11.13 %	21.41 %

(2*E*)-2-(Phenylmethylene)heptanenitrile (2v*)

0.5 mmol scale, colorless solid 65 mg, 65%.

EI-MS of (2*E*)-2-(Phenylmethylene)heptanenitrile (2**v**):



10% *N*-15 atom labeled (2*E*)-2-(Phenylmethylene)heptanenitrile ($2v^*$):



	2v	<i>N</i> -15 atom labeled 2v *
[M+1]/[M]	14.98% (7.87/52.52)	23.94% (12.13/50.65)

(*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enenitrile (**2x***):



0.5 mmol scale, colorless liquid 41 mg, 55%. EI-MS of (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enenitrile (**2x**):



EI-MS of 10% *N*-15 atom labeled (*E*)-3-phenylbut-2-enenitrile (**2x***):



4.3 Spectroscopic data of 99% N-15 atom labeled cinnamonitriles and their spectroscopic characteristics

¹⁵N-Cinnamonitrile (**2b-N**): [CAS: 2007073-64-3]¹⁸



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 10:1). Light yellow liquid 38 mg, 58%. **HRMS** (EI) calcd for $[M^+, C_9H_7^{15}N]$: 130.0549, found 130.0542. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.48-7.35 (m, 6H), 5.87 (dd, J = 16.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 150.6, 133.5, 131.2, 129.1, 127.4, 118.1 (d, J = 18.2 Hz), 96.3 (d, J = 3.4 Hz). ¹⁵**N NMR** (71 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 257.0. **IR** (KBr) v (cm⁻¹): 2189.9.

¹⁵N-(*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile (**2e-N**):



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 10:1). 5 mmol, colorless solid 428 mg, 41%. **HRMS** (EI) calcd for [M^{+,}, C₉H₆Br¹⁵N]: 207.9654, found 207.9648. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (dd, J = 16.4, 1,6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 149.2, 132.4, 128.7, 125.7, 117.8 (d, J = 18.2 Hz), 97.1 (d, J = 3.4 Hz). ¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 258.3. IR (KBr) v (cm⁻¹): 2290.8

¹⁵N-(*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2m-N**):



The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 10:1). Colorless liquid 45 mg, 45%. **HRMS** (EI) calcd for [M⁺⁺, C₁₀H₆F₃¹⁵N]: 198.0423, found 198.0416. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.73-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H). ¹⁹**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): -63.0. ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 148.8, 134.2, 131.7 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 130.4, 129.8, 127.6 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 124.0 (q, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 123.5 (q, *J* = 273.4 Hz), 117.4 (d, *J* = 18.1 Hz), 98.6 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz).

¹⁸ M. M. Guru, T. Shima and Z. Hou, Conversion of Dinitrogen to Nitriles at a Multinuclear Titanium Framework. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2016, **55**, 12316–12320.

¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 259.5. IR (KBr) v (cm⁻¹): 2194.3.

Generally, for the 99% *N*-15 atom labeled cinnamonitriles, the chemical shift of ¹⁵*N* in cinnamonitriles is approximately 255-260 ppm (¹⁵N NMR). In ¹H NMR, the α -H of cyano in ¹⁵N-cinnamonitrile (**2b-N**) was observed to be split into a double of doublet (dd). The coupling between the ¹⁵*N* in cyano and the α -H is only 1.5 Hz (³*J*_{N-H}), in contrast to the trans olefinic ³*J*_{H-H} coupling (16.7 Hz). Moreover, in ¹³C NMR, the ¹*J*_{N-C} in the cyano group is only 18.2 Hz, while the ²*J*_{N-C} between the ¹⁵N and the adjacent α -C is 3.4 Hz. The gyro-magnetic ratio of ¹⁵*N* (-4.36 MHz/T) is approximately one-tenth of ¹H (42.67 MHz/T), which results in much lower coupling constants between ¹⁵*N* and ¹H or ¹³C than H-H and C-H coupling constants.

5. Synthesis of isothiazole 5e-N* (Scheme 5b)⁸



To a pre-dried vial were added ethyl 5-phenyl-1,2,3-thiadiazole-4-carboxylate (47 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ${}^{15}N$ -(*E*)-3-(4-bromophenyl)acrylonitrile (**2e-N**) (84 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (5 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5 mol%), DPEphos (13 mg, 0.024 mmol, 12 mol%), and 1.0 mL of chlorobenzene as solvent under N₂ atmosphere. The solution was stirred reflux in a heating module for 2 hours. The vial was cooled down to room temperature when the reaction was finished. The suspension was directly purified through silica gel column chromatography with a mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (200:1, v/v) as the eluent to afford product **5e-N**, 61 mg, 73%. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₁₆BrS¹⁵NO₂⁺, [M+H]⁺: 415.0129, found: 415.0126. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.70–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.53–7.40 (m, 9H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 172.2, 165.2, 163.4, 135.5, 134.3 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 131.9, 130.4, 129.7, 128.8, 128.4, 125.5 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 122.6, 121.3 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 61.2, 13.8. ¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 274.8.

6. Synthesis of 99% N-15 atom labeled Rilpivirine (Scheme 5c)

Conjugated dienes **6** were synthesized according to literatures¹⁹. benzyl (E)-(4-(buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl)carbamate (**6**):



¹⁹ A. Bhowmik and R. A. Fernandes, Iron(III)/O₂-Mediated Regioselective Oxidative Cleavage of 1-Arylbutadienes to Cinnamaldehydes *Org. Lett.* 2019, **21**, 9203–9207.

The product was purified by column chromatography (pentene/Et₂O = 10:1). Colorless solid. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C₂₀H₂₂NO₂, $[M+H]^+$: 308.1646, found 308.1653. ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.45–7.15 (m, 5H, Ph), 7.01 (s, 2H), 6.73 (dd, J = 15.6, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54-6.41 (m, 2H), 6.15 (br s, 1H, NH), 5.31 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.22–5.10 (m, 3H), 2.21 (s, 6H). ¹³C **NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.3, 137.2, 136.4, 136.0, 135.92, 135.88, 133.0, 132.3, 129.8, 128.6, 128.2, 126.3, 117.6, 67.1, 18.4.



To a pressure resistant reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added Cbz-protected diene **6** (215 mg, 0.7 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ¹⁵NH₄Cl (76 mg, 1.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), Cs₂CO₃ (456 mg, 1.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), H₂O (25 mg, 1.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and 9 mL CF₃CH₂OH. The tube was cooled to 0 °C and then PIDA (451 mg, 1.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added. After sealing with a rubber septum, the mixture was stirred for 4 h at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (15 mL), and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL×2). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After removing the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EtOAc = 20:1) on silica gel to obtain the pure product 7*, colorless solid 85 mg, 35%. R_f = 0.45 (PE:EtOAc = 4:1). **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₈N¹⁵NO₂⁺, [M+H]⁺: 308.1412, found 308.1413. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.45–7.30 (m, 5H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 5.79 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 154.2, 150.0, 136.53, 136.48, 136.1, 132.1, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.3, 118.2 (d, *J* = 18.3 Hz), 96.2, 67.4, 18.5. ¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 256.8.

Rilpivirine-15N (9*):



A solution of the Cbz-protected amine 7*(71 mg, 0.23 mmol) in 33 % hydrobromic acid in acetic acid (0.52 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.31 mL) was stirred at rt for 1.5 h under an atmosphere of nitrogen.²⁰ The reaction system was filtered and the residue was washed with ethyl acetate to obtain the 4-amino-2,6-dimethyl cinnamonitrile as gray solid 30 mg, 52%. The solid was dissolved in 1 mL of CH₃CN in a 10 mL microwave vial and then a solution of **8** (24 mg, 0.10 mmol) in 1 mL CH₃CN was added

²⁰ A. Bertram, and G. Pattenden, Dendroamide A, Nostocyclamide and Related Cyclopeptides from

Cyanobacteria. Total Synthesis, together with Organised and Metal-templated Assembly from Oxazole and Thiazole-based Amino Acids *Heterocycles*, 2002, **58**, 521–561.
into. The reaction was heated at 140 °C for 2 h under microwave irradiation. After cooling to r.t., 10% K₂CO₃ solution was added dropwise to the vial to adjust the pH to 8-9 and filtered.²¹ The filtrate was washed with CH₃CN to obtain the target molecule N-15 atom labeled rilpivirine **9*** as a white solid, 21 mg, yield 25% (two-step). Mp: 175–177 °C. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₅¹⁵N⁺, [M+H]⁺: 368.1636; found 368.1639. ¹H **NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.60 (br s, 1H), 9.02 (br s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H), 7.80–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 2H), 7.42 (br s, 2H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (br s, 1H), 2.17 (s, 6H). ¹³C **NMR** (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 162.2, 159.6, 150.8, 146.0, 137.0, 133.6, 133.0, 127.9, 120.2, 119.5 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz), 119.2, 118.5, 118.3, 101.8, 99.0, 96.6, 18.8. ¹⁵N **NMR** (61 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 258.9.

7. In-situ HRMS of the reaction with 1b, 1e and 1h at 1 hour

The HRMS (ESI-positive) was detected directly when the reaction of **1b**, **1e** and **1h** were performed at 1 hour.

Chemical Formula: C₁₀H₁₁N₂⁺ Exact Mass: 159.0917 found: 159.0912



²¹ T. Zhang, J. P. Yang, Z. X. Zhou, Z. P. Fu, S. Cherukupalli, D. W. Kang, P. Zhan and X. Y. Liu, The development of an effective synthetic route of rilpivirine. *BMC Chemistry*, **2021**, *15*, 22–30.



Chemical Formula: C₁₀H₁₀BrN₂⁺ Exact Mass: 237.0022 found: 237.0031





 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Chemical Formula: $C_{11}H_{13}N_2^+$} \\ \mbox{Exact Mass: 173.1073} \\ \mbox{Found: 173.1078} \end{array}$



8. Spectra Copies of Unknown dienes and all α,β -unsaturated nitrile 2

(*E*)-2-(4-(buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)phenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (**1j**) ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm)



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)





(*E*)-2-(4-(buta-1,3-dien-1-yl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (1k)









4-Fluorocinnamonitrile (2c) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃)





210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)





210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)



-55 -60 -65 -70 -75 -80 -85 -90 -95 -100 -105 -110 -115 -120 -125 -130 -135 -140 -145 fl (ppm)



150 140 130 110 100 f1 (ppm)





S51 / S86





(*E*)-3-(4-(1,3-dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-3,5-dimethylphenyl)acrylonitrile (**2k**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)





(*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (**2m**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹⁹F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl₃)



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



210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0





(*E*)-3-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylonitrile (**2p**) ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) ^{NMR/FYQ-473-2-water}



NMR/FYQ-473-2-C FYQ-473-2-C N	∠ 151.1 ∠ 150.3 √ 148.7	- 137.1	125.2124.3−118.0	- 100.8	77.4 77.1 76.8
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na na sana sa kata na kata na sa kata na sa kata na sa kata na sa Kata na sa kata na sa ka	in her older in the last	iling bidding	Nagat Magatila periodi at privio	di finimuta kati da da a sentan Antoni pingan pangan pangan pingan pingan Antoni pingan	kiral alle da synthesis yn de lathel bran sken with mithiger benjikter at de sken yn de staat teat oer de sken Jeren wit 'n gegennen tjegter wertjegter warte gyne wer yn gegenne geneer fan te geneer fan te geneer geneer in
210 200 190 180 170 16	0 150	140 1	30 120 110 f1	100 90 (ppm)	80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0



























3,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)acrylonitrile (**2**y): ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







-55 -60 -65 -70 -75 -80 -85 -90 -95 -100 -105 -110 -115 -120 -125 -130 -135 -140 -145 fl (ppm)


















¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃)



HRMS (EI)



Chemical Formula: C₉H₇¹⁵N⁺⁺ Exact Mass: 130.0543 m/z: 130.0543 (100.0%), 131.0577 (9.7%)









¹⁵N-(*E*)-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acrylonitrile (2m-N)
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)







90 80 70 60 50

30 20 10 0

40

110 100 f1 (ppm)

150 140 130 120

210 200 190

180 170 160





¹⁵N-ethyl (E)-3-(4-bromostyryl)-5-phenylisothiazole-4-carboxylate ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)











¹⁵N NMR (71 MHz, CDCl₃)









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	400	350	300	250	200	150	100	50	0	
fl (ppm)										

HRMS (ESI)

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 $\begin{array}{c} \textit{Rilpivirine-}^{15}N~(9^{*}) \\ \mbox{HMRS}~[M+H]^{+} & 368.1636~(calc.) \\ \mbox{[}C_{22}H_{19}N_{5}^{-15}N^{+}] & 368.1639~(found) \end{array}$

