# Supporting Information

#### Magnesium-promoted nickel-catalysed chlorination of aryl

#### halides and triflates under mild conditions

Tian-Yu Zhang, Muhammad Bilal, Tian-Zhang Wang, Chao-Peng Zhang, and Yu-Feng Liang\* School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shandong University, Jinan 250100, China Email: yfliang@sdu.edu.cn

### **Table of Contents**

1. General remarks	S2
2. General procedure	
3. Optimization of the reaction conditions	
4. Characterization data	
5. Studies of Ni <sup>II</sup> complex	S20
6. Gram scale chlorination of bromoiodobenzene	S22
7. Reaction kinetics	S22
8. References	S24
9. NMR Spectra	S26

#### 1. General remarks

<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR data were obtained on AVANCE III Bruker 400 or 500 MHz nuclear resonance spectrometers unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were referenced to tetramethylsilane (TMS) ( $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or dimethyl sulfoxide  $(\delta = 2.50 \text{ ppm})$  in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as an internal standard. The data of <sup>1</sup>H NMR was reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet and br = broad), coupling constant (J values) in Hz and integration.  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra were obtained by the same NMR spectrometers and were calibrated with CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.00 ppm) or DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> ( $\delta$  = 39.50 ppm). Flash chromatography was performed using 300-400 mesh silica gel with the indicated eluent according to standard techniques. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glassbacked silica gel plates. Analysis of crude reaction mixture was done on an Agilent 7890 GC System with an Agilent 5975 Mass Selective Detector. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm) unless otherwise noted. High-resolution mass spectral (HRMS) data were recorded on Bruker APEX IV Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization (ESI) mode.

#### 2. General procedure



To a 15 mL Schlenk tube was added sequentially NiCl<sub>2</sub> (2.6 mg, 0.02 mmol), Zn power (39.2 mg, 0.60 mmol) and MgCl<sub>2</sub> (57.1 mg, 0.6 mmol). Then aryl halides (0.2 mmol) was added. DMA (1.0 mL) was subsequently added *via* syringe. The resulting solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The crude reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and washed with water (2.0 mL  $\times$  3). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford aryl chlorides.

<b>3.</b> Optimization of the reaction condition
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	Ph + MgCl₂ <u>NiCl₂ (10 mol%)</u> Ta DMA, RT, 12 h	Ph Cl 2a
Entry	Variation of optimal conditions	Yield of $2a^b$
1	none	91% (89%)
2	NaCl instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	0
3	KCl instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	0
4	ZnCl <sub>2</sub> instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	trace
5	CaCl <sub>2</sub> instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	0
6	FeCl <sub>2</sub> instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	trace
7	CuCl <sub>2</sub> instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	trace
8	Et <sub>3</sub> BnNCl instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	trace
9	<sup>n</sup> Bu <sub>4</sub> NCl instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	trace
10	with MgSO <sub>4</sub> and NaCl instead of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	0
11	with 1.0 equiv of NiCl <sub>2</sub> in the absence of MgCl <sub>2</sub>	0
12	NiBr <sub>2</sub> instead of NiCl <sub>2</sub>	87%
13	NiI <sub>2</sub> instead of NiCl <sub>2</sub>	81% <sup>c</sup>
14	Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub> instead of NiCl <sub>2</sub>	85%
15	Ni(COD) <sub>2</sub> instead of NiCl <sub>2</sub> and Zn	86%
16	with 1,10-phenanthroline as ligand	90%
17	with 2,2'-bipyridine as ligand	89%
18	DMF instead of DMA	71%
19	THF instead of DMA	0
20	H <sub>2</sub> O instead of DMA	0
21	MeCN instead of DMA	0
22	without NiCl <sub>2</sub>	0
23	Mn instead of Zn	trace
24	without Zn	0

<sup>*a*</sup>Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), MgCl<sub>2</sub> (0.6 mmol), NiCl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), Zn (0.6 mmol) and DMA (1.0 mL), at RT for 12 h under N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>*b*</sup>GC yields (isolated yield in parentheses).<sup>*c*</sup>The iodination byproduct was not detected.

#### 4. Characterization data



**4-Chloro-1,1'-biphenyl** (2a).<sup>1</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4bromobiphenyl (1a) (46.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2a (30.9 mg, 82%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.57 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 6.3 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  140.01, 139.67, 133.39, 128.95, 128.93, 128.44, 127.64, 127.03; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 188 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 152 (35), 153 (20).



**Chlorobenzene** (2b).<sup>1</sup> The representative procedure was followed using bromobenzene (1b) (31.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (99%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 112.0 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 77 (50), 51 (15).



**1-Chloro-4-methoxybenzene** (**2c**).<sup>2</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromoanisole (**1c**) (37.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2c** (27.9 mg, 98%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  7.31 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz**, **CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  158.18, 129.33, 125.50, 115.17, 55.50; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 142 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 127 (60), 99 (55).



**1-Chloro-2-isopropylbenzene** (**2d**).<sup>3</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-2-(1-methylethyl)benzene (**1d**) (39.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (91%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 154 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 30), 139 (100), 103 (60), 77 (20).



**4-Chlorophenol** (2e).<sup>4</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4bromophenol (1e) (34.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2e (23.4 mg, 91%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.23 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.80 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 5.10 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.97, 129.60, 125.77, 116.69; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 128 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 65 (50), 39 (20).



Methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)acetate (2f).<sup>5</sup> The representative procedure was followed using methyl 4-bromophenylacetate (1f) (45.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2f (35.8 mg, 97%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.59 (s, 3H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.68, 133.08, 132.42, 130.70, 128.74, 52.21, 40.44; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 184 (M<sup>+</sup>, 25), 125 (100), 89 (25).



2-(4-Chlorophenyl)acetonitrile (2g).<sup>6</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromophenylacetonitrile (1g) (39.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2g (27.9 mg, 92%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 3.74 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  134.16, 129.36, 129.32, 128.37, 117.51, 23.16; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 116 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 89 (15).



(4-Chlorophenyl)trimethylsilane (2h).<sup>7</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromophenylacetonitrile (1h) (45.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2h (33.2 mg, 90%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 0.15 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.91, 136.26, 135.86, 129.13, 0.00; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 184 (M<sup>+</sup>, 45), 171 (95), 169 (100), 91 (40).



**2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane** (2i).<sup>8</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 2-(4-bromophenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (1i) (56.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2i (44.4 mg, 93%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (s, 12H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  137.54, 136.14, 128.01, 84.02, 24.87; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 238 (M<sup>+</sup>, 45), 223 (100), 152 (70), 85 (30), 58 (20).



**1-Chloro-4-fluorobenzene** (2j).<sup>9</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromo-4-fluorobenzene (1j) (35.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (81%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 130 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 95 (60), 75 (25), 50 (10).



**1-Chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene** (2k).<sup>10</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (1k) (45.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (93%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 180 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 161 (40), 145 (45), 130 (25), 75 (20).



**4-(Trifluoromethoxy)chlorobenzene** (21).<sup>11</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-(trifluoromethoxy)bromobenzene (21) (48.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (70%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 196 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 127 (35), 101 (10), 99 (30), 69 (10).



**4-Chlorobenzonitrile** (**2m**).<sup>6</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4bromobenzonitrile (**1m**) (36.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2m** (22.3 mg, 81%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  7.69 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.39 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$ 139.58, 133.43, 129.73, 118.05, 110.76; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 137 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 102 (30), 75 (10), 50 (10).



**1-Chloro-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene** (**2n**).<sup>12</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (**1n**) (47.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2n** (29.7 mg, 78%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.69 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.39 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  140.46, 139.06, 129.72, 128.93, 44.54; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 190 (M<sup>+</sup>, 70), 111 (100), 75 (75), 50 (30).



1-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (2o).<sup>13</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-(4-bromophenyl)ethan-1-one (1o) (39.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2o (22.3 mg, 72%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.92 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.88, 139.55, 135.37, 129.75, 128.89, 26.61; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 139 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 111 (40), 75 (20), 43 (15).



Methyl 4-chlorobenzoate (2p).<sup>14</sup> The representative procedure was followed using Methyl 4-bromobenzoate (1p) (43.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2p (27.3 mg, 80%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.29 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.26 (dd, J = 5.9, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.81, 139.13, 130.82, 128.51, 51.98; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 183 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 155 (30), 158 (30).



**4-Chlorobenzaldehyde** (**2q**).<sup>15</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4bromobenzaldehyde (**1q**) (37.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2q** (22.5 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl**<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.91 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  190.70, 140.71, 134.72, 130.80, 129.33; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 139 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 111 (65), 75 (50), 50 (50).



**3-Chlorobenzaldehyde** (2**r**).<sup>16</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 3bromobenzaldehyde (1**r**) (37.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2**r** (26.1 mg, 93%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  9.98 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, J = 6.0, 4.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 7.7, 5.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  190.81, 137.83, 135.45, 134.36, 130.37, 129.26, 127.96; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 140 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 80), 111 (55), 75 (30).



**1-Chloro-4-methoxy-2-methylbenzene** (2s).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-4-methoxy-2-methylbenzene (1s) (40.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2s** (29.8 mg, 95%) as a

white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.27 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.21, 136.96, 129.59, 125.81, 116.49, 112.54, 55.37, 20.29; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 158 (M<sup>+</sup>, 30), 156 (100), 121 (40), 113 (40), 91 (30).



**2-Chloro-5-methylphenol (2t)**.<sup>18</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 2bromo-5-methylphenol (**1t**) (37.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2t** (27.8 mg, 98%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  7.18 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, J =8.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.47 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  150.94, 138.73, 128.48, 128.41, 122.17, 116.76, 21.02; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 142 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 50), 107 (100), 77 (25), 51 (5).



**1,2-Dichloro-4-methoxybenzene** (**2u**).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-2-chloro-4-methoxybenzene (**1u**) (41.1 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2u** (25.0 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100** MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  138.04, 132.02, 130.96, 130.07, 129.32, 128.55, 20.65; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 160 (M<sup>+</sup>, 50), 125 (100), 89 (20).



**5-Chloro-1,3-benzodioxole** (2v).<sup>19</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromo-1,2-(methylenedioxy)benzene (1v) (40.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2v (22.5 mg, 72%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.85 – 6.80 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  148.35, 146.47, 126.28, 121.30, 109.63, 108.88, 101.67; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 156 (M<sup>+</sup>, 80), 155 (100), 98 (10).



**1-Chloronaphthalene** (**2w**).<sup>20</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromonaphthalene (**1w**) (50.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2w** (32.5 mg, 92%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  8.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl3**)  $\delta$  134.56, 131.94, 130.81, 128.26, 127.21, 127.09, 126.73, 126.20, 125.77, 124.44; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 162 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 127 (35), 126 (15).



**1-Chloro-2-methoxynaphthalene** (**2x**).<sup>21</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-bromo-2-methoxynaphthalene (**1x**) (47.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2x** (21.6 mg, 56%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H **NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)**  $\delta$  8.26 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 6.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)**  $\delta$  152.59, 131.91, 129.55, 128.02, 127.98, 127.47, 124.34, 123.48, 113.75, 57.01; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 192 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 177 (35), 151 (25), 149 (85).



**5-Chloroindole** (2y).<sup>22</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 5-iodoindole (1y) (39.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2y (23.3 mg, 77%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 6.64 – 6.54 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.26, 129.06, 125.91, 125.49, 122.36, 120.19, 112.31, 102.40; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 151 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 116 (20), 89 (25).



**8-Chloroquinoline** (2z).<sup>23</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 8bromoquinoline (1z) (41.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2z (17.0 mg, 52%) as a yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.06 – 9.00 (m, 1H), 8.15 (ddd, J = 7.3, 5.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (ddd, J = 7.4, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.97, 144.44, 136.51, 133.45, 129.59, 126.98, 126.48, 121.90; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 163 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 128 (40), 101 (20).



**4-Chloro-1***H***-pyrrolo[2,3-***b***]pyridine (2a').<sup>24</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromo-1***H***-pyrrolo[2,3-***b***]pyridine (1a') (39.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2a' (17.6 mg, 58%) as a grey solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) \delta 11.39 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d,** *J* **= 5.2 Hz, 1H),** 

7.42 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.05, 142.51, 136.59, 125.81, 120.04, 116.03, 99.47; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 152 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 117 (60), 90 (25), 63 (40).



2-Chlorodibenzo[b,d]furan (2b').<sup>25</sup> The representative procedure was followed using
2-bromodibenzo[b,d]furan (1b') (49.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 2b' (33.7 mg, 83%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.87 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.21 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.7, 154.4, 128.2, 127.8, 127.1, 125.6, 123.3, 123.0, 120.8, 120.5, 112.6, 111.8; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity):
202 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 139 (40), 101 (10), 69 (10).



**2-Chlorodibenzo[b,d]thiophene** (**2c'**).<sup>26</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 2-bromodibenzo[b,d]thiophene (**1c'**) (52.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2c'** (29.3 mg, 67%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H **NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** *δ* 8.09 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.32 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** *δ* 140.2, 137.3, 136.9, 134.4, 130.6, 127.3, 126.9, 124.6, 123.7, 122.9, 121.7, 121.5; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 218 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 183 (15), 139 (30), 109 (10), 91 (15),.



**1-Chloro-2-methylbenzene** (4c).<sup>27</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-iodo-2-methylbenzene (3c) (43.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (95%); MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 126 (M<sup>+</sup>, 30), 91 (100), 89 (20), 63 (15).



**1-Butyl-4-chlorobenzene** (**4d**).<sup>28</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1butyl-4-iodidobenzene (**3d**) (42.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (98%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 168 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 25), 125 (100), 91 (20), 89 (10).



**2-Chloro-1,3,5-trimethylbenzene** (4e).<sup>29</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 2-iodo-1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (3e) (49.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). The yield was obtained *via* GC-MS (98%); **MS** (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 154 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 30), 119 (100), 91 (20), 77 (15).



**4-Chloro-***N*,*N***-dimethylaniline** (**4f**).<sup>30</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-iodo-*N*,*N*-dimethylaniline (**3f**) (49.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **2f** (29.3 mg, 94%) as a pale amber molten

solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.24 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.79 – 6.39 (m, 2H), 2.81 (s, 6H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.23, 128.83, 121.45, 113.71, 40.67; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 154 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 139 (15), 119 (15), 118 (20), 77 (15).



*Tert*-butyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (4g).<sup>31</sup> The representative procedure was followed using *tert*-butyl (4-iodophenyl)carbamate (3g) (63.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 4g (40.1 mg, 88%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.50 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  137.00, 128.93, 127.96, 119.76, 80.86, 28.32; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 227 (M<sup>+</sup>, 10), 171 (35), 127 (40), 57 (100), 59 (20).



**4-Chlorobenzyl alcohol** (**4i**).<sup>32</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4iodobenzyl alcohol (**3i**) (46.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **4i** (27.4 mg, 96%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl**<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.37 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 2.14 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  139.24, 133.33, 128.69, 128.31, 64.50; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 142 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 70), 113 (20), 107 (95), 77 (100).



**1,4-Dichlorobenzene** (4k).<sup>9</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (3k) (47.7 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography

(petroleum ether) yielded 4k (28.5 mg, 97%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  132.57, 129.82; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 146 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 113 (10), 111 (35), 75 (25), 50 (15).



Ethyl 4-chlorobenzoate (40).<sup>33</sup> The representative procedure was followed using ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (30) (55.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 40 (28.8 mg, 78%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.73, 139.23, 130.93, 128.97, 128.64, 61.19, 14.28; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 184 (M<sup>+</sup>, 15), 156 (30), 139 (100), 111 (30), 75 (20).



**4-Chloroquinoline** (**4q**).<sup>23</sup> The representative procedure was followed using ethyl 4iodoquinoline (**3q**) (51.1 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **4q** (30.1 mg, 92%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  8.80 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>**)  $\delta$  149.80, 148.96, 142.86, 130.53, 129.73, 127.72, 126.54, 124.20, 121.30; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 163 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 128 (40), 127 (20), 101 (15), 100 (10).



**4-Chloro-1H-indole** (**4r**).<sup>22</sup> The representative procedure was followed using ethyl **4**iodo-1H-indole (**3r**) (48.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **4r** (27.9 mg, 86%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  8.25 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  136.47, 126.78, 126.10, 124.79, 122.65, 119.63, 109.76, 101.35; **MS** (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 151 (**M**<sup>+</sup>, 100), 116 (20), 89 (25).



**5'-Chloro-1'-phenyl-[2,3'-bipyridin]-6'(1'H)-one** (5a).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 5'-bromo-1'-phenyl-[2,3'-bipyridin]-6'(1'H)-one (5a') (65.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **5a** (46.0 mg, 82%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.52 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.33, 152.32, 149.81, 140.78, 137.13, 136.31, 135.61, 129.45, 129.02, 127.13, 126.51, 122.26, 118.53, 118.05.



**1-(4-Chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-3-cyclopropyl-5-hydroxy-6,8-dimethylpyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4,7(1H,3H,8H)-trione** (**5b**).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 3-cyclopropyl-1-(2-fluoro-4-iodophenyl)-5-hydroxy-6,8-dimethylpyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidine-2,4,7(1H,3H,8H)-trione (**5b'**) (96.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **5b** (60.7 mg, 78%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz, CDCl3**)  $\delta$  11.90 (s, 1H), 7.25 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 1.95 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 3H), 1.27 – 1.05 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz, CDCl3**)  $\delta$  165.62, 163.79, 160.80, 157.04, 153.91, 148.39, 131.86, 129.36, 125.33, 117.26, 117.06, 103.28, 34.51, 29.69, 25.37, 8.42, 8.36, 8.21.



**4-chloro-9-methoxy-7H-furo**[**3,2-g**]**chromen-7-one** (**5c**).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 4-bromo-9-methoxy-7H-furo[3,2-g]chromen-7-one (**5c**') (58.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **5c** (40.0 mg, 60%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**500** MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.6 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.6, 149.8, 146.9, 143.7, 140.2, 131.9, 125.6, 116.2, 115.6, 114.3, 105.8, 61.5.



**2-(5-Chloro-2-methylbenzyl)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)thiophene** (5d).<sup>17</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-(5-iodo-2-methylbenzyl)thiophene (5d') (81.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 5d (52.6 mg, 83%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 7.01 – 6.79 (m, 4H), 4.06 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 2.28 – 2.17 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.31, 141.85, 140.61, 138.13, 136.08, 135.99, 132.38, 131.68, 130.47, 129.30, 127.23, 127.15, 126.20, 122.74, 115.86, 115.64, 33.70, 19.12.



**1,2-Dichlorobenzene** (7a).<sup>9</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromo-2-iodobenzene (6a) (56.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 7a (23.2 mg, 79%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.00 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 132.59, 130.55, 127.73; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 147 (M<sup>+</sup>, 10), 146 (100), 111 (35), 75 (20).



**1,3-Dichlorobenzene** (**7b**).<sup>34</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromo-3-iodobenzene (**6b**) (56.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **7b** (24.4 mg, 83%) as a colorless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  135.05, 130.47, 128.76, 126.91; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 147 (M<sup>+</sup>, 10), 146 (100), 111 (35), 75 (20).



**1,4-Dichlorobenzene** (**7c**).<sup>9</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromo-4-iodobenzene (**6b**) (56.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded **7c** (25.1 mg, 86%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (**400 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  7.29 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (**100 MHz**, **CDCl3**)  $\delta$  132.57, 129.82; MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity): 146 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 113 (10), 111 (35), 75 (25), 50 (15).



**1,3,5-Trichlorobenzene** (7d).<sup>35</sup> The representative procedure was followed using 1bromo-3-chloro-5-iodobenzene (6d) (3.15 g, 10.0 mmol). Isolation by column chromatography (petroleum ether) yielded 7d (1.48 g, 82%) as a white solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.31, 135.56, 127.20; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 181 (M<sup>+</sup>, 10), 180 (100), 145 (25), 74 (20).

## 4. Studies of Ni<sup>II</sup> complex

#### 4.1 Preparation of Ar-Ni<sup>II</sup>(1,10-phen)Br:



In a nitrogen-filled glove box, Ni(COD)<sub>2</sub> (1.00 g, 3.6 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline

(0.778 g, 4.3 mmol), and THF (144 mL) were added to a dry round bottom flask. The resulting mixture was then stirred at RT for 20 h. After this time, 2-bromocumene (695  $\mu$ L, 4.3 mmol) was added, and reaction was stirred in the glovebox at RT for 2 h. The resulting solution was concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting dark red solid was triturated with pentanes to remove residual cyclooctadiene and aryl halide to afford complex **8** in 42% yield.<sup>14</sup> (S. Biswas and D. J. Weix, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2013, **135**, 16192-16197)

#### 4.2 Reaction of Ni<sup>II</sup> complex with MgCl<sub>2</sub>



To a 15 mL Schlenk tube was added sequentially complex **8** (87.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) and MgCl<sub>2</sub> (57.1 mg, 0.6 mmol). Then DMA (1.0 mL) was subsequently added *via* syringe. The resulting solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The yield of **2d** was obtained *via* GC-MS (54%).

#### 4.3 Ni<sup>II</sup> complex catalyzed chlorination



To a 15 mL Schlenk tube was added sequentially complex **8** (8.7 mg, 0.02 mmol) and MgCl<sub>2</sub> (57.1 mg, 0.6 mmol). Then 2-bromocumene (0.2 mmol) and DMA (1.0 mL) was subsequently added *via* syringe. The resulting solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The yield of **2d** was obtained *via* GC-MS (67%).

#### 5. Gram scale chlorination of bromoiodobenzene



To a 100 mL Schlenk flask was added sequentially NiCl<sub>2</sub> (260 mg, 2 mmol), Zn power (3.92 g, 60 mmol) and MgCl<sub>2</sub> (5.71 g, 60 mmol). Then 1-bromo-3-chloro-5iodobenzene (3.15 g, 10 mmol) and DMA (50 mL) was subsequently added *via* syringe. The resulting solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature under N<sub>2</sub>. The crude reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and washed with water (20 mL  $\times$  3). The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene 7d (1.48 g, 82% yield).

#### 6. Reaction kinetics

#### a) Order in 1a

The order in **1a** was determined by obtaining the initial rate of the **2a** formation at differing amount of **1a**.



#### b) Order in MgCl<sub>2</sub>

The order in  $MgCl_2$  was determined by obtaining the initial rate of the **2a** formation at differing amount of  $MgCl_2$ .

MgCl <sub>2</sub> (M)	2a (10 <sup>-2</sup> M)	Iaitial Rate (10 <sup>-6</sup> M/s)
0.30	1.94	2.69
0.45	2.04	2.83
0.60	1.88	2.61
0.75	2.10	2.92
0.90	2.06	2.86



#### c) Order in NiCl<sub>2</sub>

The order in NiCl<sub>2</sub> was determined by obtaining the initial rate of the 2a formation at differing amount of NiCl<sub>2</sub>.

NiCl <sub>2</sub> (M)	2a (10 <sup>-2</sup> M)	Iaitial Rate (10 <sup>-6</sup> M/s)
0.01	1.22	1.69
0.015	1.44	2.00
0.02	2.00	2.78
0.025	2.90	4.03
0.030	4.46	6.19



#### d) Hammett studies

The Hammett plot was determined by obtaining the initial rate of the formation of corresponding 2 with different substrate 1.

	₩ <mark>Br</mark> _	Mg <b>Cl</b> <sub>2</sub> (3.0 equiv) NiCl <sub>2</sub> (10 mol%)	CI
R 1		Zn (3.0 equiv) DMA, RT, 12 h	2 R
R	yield	<b>2</b> (10 <sup>-2</sup> M)	laitial Rate (10 <sup>-6</sup> M/s)
ОМе	23%	4.6	6.39
Ph	17%	3.4	4.72
Н	15%	3.0	4.17
CO <sub>2</sub> Me	9%	1.8	2.50
CN	6%	1.2	1.67

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## 8. NMR Spectrum





S27













#### 7,630 7,624 7,620 7,620 7,608 7,603 7,603 7,492 7,492 7,487 7,487 7,487 7,487 7,487 7,487 7,465 7,465 7,465













<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>





**2r** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, 100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>











S41





S43



## 





<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz





<sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 400 MHz



240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 f1 (ppm)



400 MHz



S48









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





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

## 





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







<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>









