

**Synthesis of Continuously Substituted Quinolines from *o*-
Alkenyl Aromatic Isocyanides by Palladium-Catalyzed
Intramolecular Imidoylative 6-*endo* Cyclization**

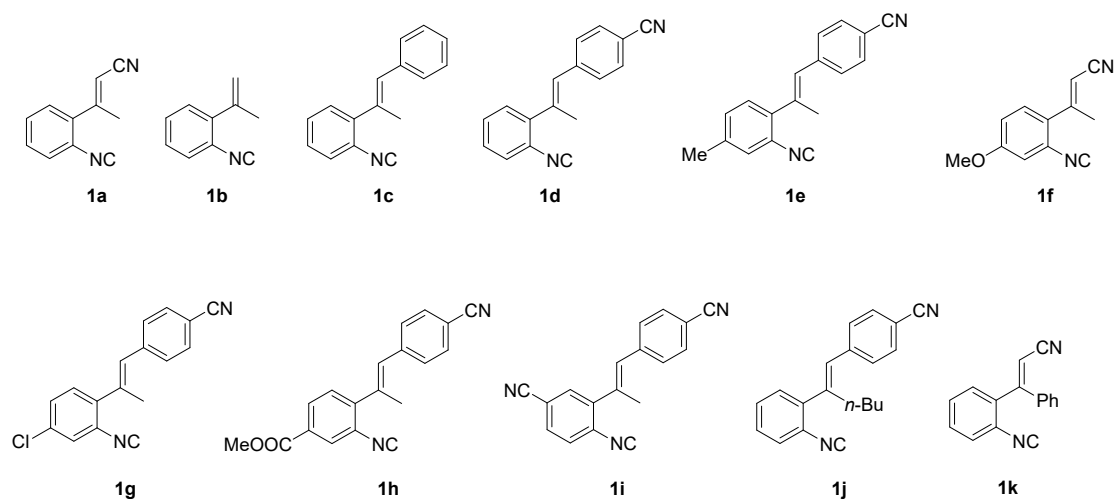
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1. General Information

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 400 MHz or 600 MHz spectrometer and calibrated using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference (CDCl_3 (^1H): $\delta = 7.24$ ppm; CDCl_3 (^{13}C): $\delta = 77.23$ ppm). High-resolution mass analysis was performed using a Thermo Scientific™ Q Exactive™ Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer. Melting points were determined on a Stanford Research Systems OptiMelt apparatus. The infrared (IR) spectra were acquired as thin films using a universal ATR sampling accessory on a Bruker Vertex 80 FT-IR spectrometer and the absorption frequencies are reported in cm^{-1} . Flash chromatography separations were carried out using silica gel columns. Isocyanides **1b**,¹ **1c**² and **1k**¹ were prepared according to literature procedure. All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used as is without further purification. All new compounds were characterized by ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, HRMS, and IR.

2. Preparation of *o*-alkenylaryl isocyanides



2.1 Preparation of **1a**, **1b** and **1f**



I can refer to the Ref 3.

To a solution of 2'-nitroacetophenone (8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and LiOH (9.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in THF (80.0 mL), was added diethyl cyanomethylphosphonate (1.56 g, 8.8 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The completed reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), washed with water (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (*E*)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)but-2-enitrile.

II can refer to the Ref 3

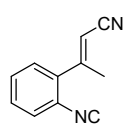
To a solution of (*E*)-3-(2-nitrophenyl)but-2-enitrile (7.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and Zinc (7.4 g, 114 mmol, 15.0 equiv.) in DCM (80.0 mL, 0.1 M), was added acetic acid (13.1 mL, 30.0 equiv.) dropwise over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The completed reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), washed with water (30 mL) and saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (*E*)-3-(2-aminophenyl)but-2-enitrile.

III can refer to the Ref 4.

To a solution of (*E*)-3-(2-aminophenyl)but-2-enitrile (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (4.0 mL, 0.50 M), was added acetic formic anhydride (6.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The completed reaction was quenched with water (15 mL) and extracted with DCM (20 mL x 3), The combined organic phase was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (*E*)-*N*-(2-(1-cyanoprop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)formamide.

To a solution of (*E*)-*N*-(2-(1-cyanoprop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)formamide (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and Et₃N (12 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) in THF (10.0 mL, 0.2 M), was added POCl₃ (3.0 equiv.) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 6 hours. The completed reaction was quenched with water (15 mL) and extracted with DCM (30 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford **1**.

(*E*)-3-(2-isocyanophenyl)but-2-enitrile (1a):

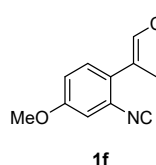


1a

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1a** (0.242 g, 72%) as a light-yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.49 – 7.40 (m,

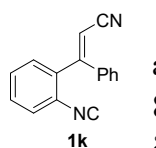
3H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 5.50 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.49 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 169.1, 157.7, 137.3, 130.2, 129.9, 128.4, 128.3, 125.6, 116.1, 101.7, 21.9; IR (neat): 2883, 2218, 2119, 1514, 754 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2^+$ 169.0760, found 169.0763.

(*E*)-3-(2-isocyano-4-methoxyphenyl)but-2-enitrile (**1f**)



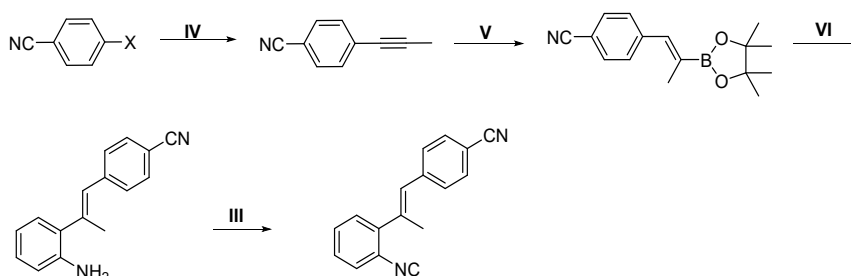
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1f** (0.322 g, 81%) as a colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.19 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 168.8, 160.4, 157.0, 129.4, 129.1, 124.3, 116.3, 115.9, 113.3, 100.6, 55.7, 21.7; IR (neat): 2881, 2208, 2113, 1508, 736 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ 199.0866, found 199.0872.

(*E*)-3-(2-isocyanophenyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile (**1k**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1k** (0.418 g, 91%) as a yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 8H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform- d) δ 169.2, 158.7, 136.7, 135.9, 130.9, 130.7, 130.6, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.2, 116.9, 99.3 (one carbon missing due to overlap); HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2^+$ 231.0917, found 231.0908.

2.2 Preparation of **1d-e** and **1g-1l**



IV can refer to the Ref 5.

To a solution of 4-Iodobenzonitrile (3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2$ (0.06 mmol, 0.02 equiv.) and CuI (0.12 mmol, 0.04 equiv.) in Et_3N (9.0 mL, 0.3 M) was added terminal alkyne (4.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was heated in a 55 $^\circ\text{C}$ oil bath under argon for 5 h. After cooling to room temperature, the completed reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), washed with water (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford 4-alkynylbenzonitrile.

V can refer to the Ref. 6.

To an oven dried schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar were added CuCl (0.15 mmol, 0.05 equiv.), NaOt-Bu (0.6 mmol, 0.2 equiv.), tri-*p*-tolylphosphine (0.3 mmol,

0.1 equiv.) and THF (2.4 mL) under nitrogen. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, bis(pinacolato)diboron (3.3 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) dissolved in THF (1.8 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min. Then, internal alkyne (3.0 mmol) was added followed by MeOH (6 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). The reaction was washed with THF (1.8 mL), sealed, and stirred until no starting material was detected by TLC. The reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and concentrated. The product was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (Z)-4-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile.

VI can refer to the Ref. 7.

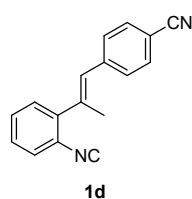
To a solution of (Z)-4-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile (3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 2-bromoaniline (3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in DMF (5.0 mL, 0.6 M) was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.15 mmol, 5 mol %) and Na₂CO₃ (2.0 M in H₂O, 3.0 equiv.) under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 80 °C under argon atmosphere overnight. After cooling to room temperature, the completed reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), washed with water (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (E)-4-(2-(2-aminophenyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile.

III can refer to the Ref 4.

To a solution of (E)-3-(2-aminophenyl)but-2-enenitrile (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in THF (4.0 mL, 0.50 M), was added acetic formic anhydride (6.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The completed reaction was quenched with water (15 mL) and extracted with DCM (20 mL x 3), The combined organic phase was washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (30 mL), dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford (E)-N-(2-(1-cyanoprop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)formamide.

To a solution of (E)-N-(2-(1-cyanoprop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)formamide (2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and Et₃N (12 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) in THF (10.0 mL, 0.2 M), was added POCl₃ (3.0 equiv.) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 6 hours. The completed reaction was quenched with water (15 mL) and extracted with DCM (30 mL x 3). The combined organic phase was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford **1**.

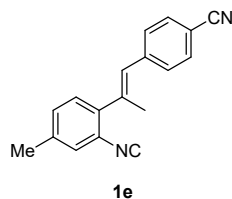
(E)-4-(2-(2-isocyanophenyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile (**1d**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1d** (0.316 g, 65%) as a light yellow solid; m.p.: 93-94 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 2.28 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 167.0, 142.2,

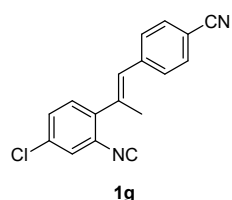
141.8, 137.8, 132.2, 130.3, 129.7, 129.6, 129.0, 128.4, 127.7, 124.3, 119.0, 110.6, 19.1; IR (neat): 2877, 2223, 2119, 1508, 752 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2^+$ 245.1073, found 245.1076.

(E)-4-(2-(2-isocyano-4-methylphenyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile (1e)



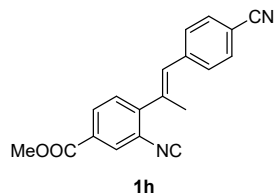
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1e** (0.397 g, 77%) as a light yellow solid; m.p.: 87-88 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.69 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 3H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.8, 148.4, 146.4, 143.3, 139.7, 135.1, 132.2, 131.5, 129.7, 128.3, 126.5, 126.2, 120.3, 111.8, 16.8 (one carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2879, 2225, 2117, 1508, 729 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2^+$ 259.1230, found 259.1932.

(E)-4-(2-(4-chloro-2-isocyanophenyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile (1g)



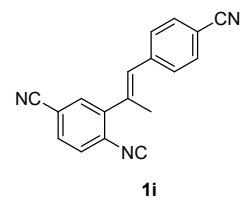
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1g** (0.40 g, 53%) as a light yellow solid. m.p.: 104-105 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.68 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 2.26 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.7, 141.5, 140.7, 136.7, 133.8, 132.3, 130.9, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 127.6, 125.1, 118.9, 110.9, 19.0; IR (neat): 2882, 2223, 2119, 1512, 727 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{ClN}_2^+$ 279.0689, found 279.0685.

Methyl (E)-4-(1-(4-cyanophenyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-3-isocyanobenzoate (1h)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1h** (0.428 g, 71%) as a light yellow solid; m.p.: 179-180 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 168.4, 165.2, 146.3, 141.4, 137.0, 132.3, 131.2, 130.6, 129.8, 129.4, 128.9, 124.6, 118.9, 111.0, 52.8, 18.9 (one carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2884, 2220, 2117, 1514, 748 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ 303.1128, found 303.1141.

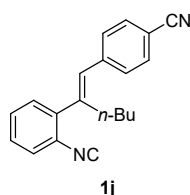
(E)-3-(1-(4-cyanophenyl)prop-1-en-2-yl)-4-isocyanobenzonitrile (1i)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1i** (0.242 g, 45%) as a light yellow solid. m.p.: 138-139 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.73 – 7.68 (m, 3H), 7.66 (dd, $J = 8.2, 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 2.28 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 143.4, 140.9, 135.7, 133.1, 132.4, 132.0, 129.8, 128.7, 125.5, 118.8, 117.2, 113.8, 111.4, 18.9 (two carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2884, 2227, 2119, 1512, 729 cm^{-1} ; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3^+$ 270.1026;

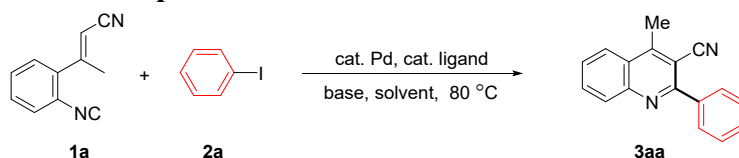
found 270.1041.

(*E*)-4-(2-(2-isocyanophenyl)hex-1-en-1-yl)benzonitrile (**1j**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **1j** (0.314 g, 55%) as colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 2.66 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.24-1.29 (m, 4H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8, 142.7, 142.0, 140.8, 132.3, 130.2, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 128.3, 127.6, 124.9, 119.0, 110.7, 31.4, 30.5, 22.7, 13.9; IR (neat): 2954, 2225, 2119, 1508, 752 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₀H₁₉N₂⁺ 287.1543, found 287.1542.

3. Reaction conditions optimization^a



entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Ligand (mol%)	Base (equiv.)	Solvent	Addition of 1a	Yield (%)
1	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	PPh ₃ (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	24
2	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	PPh ₃ (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	24
3	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	PPh ₃ (40)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	37
4	Pd ₂ (dba) ₃ (5)	PPh ₃ (40)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	21
5	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	44
6	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	P(<i>o</i> -tol) ₃ (40)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
7	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	RuPhos (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
8	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	Ad ₂ P <i>n</i> -Bu (0.4)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	29
10	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	BINAP (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
11	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	dppm (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	11
12	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	DPEphos (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	25
13	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	Xantphos (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
14	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	dppe (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
15	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	dppp (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	9
16	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	dppb (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	trace
17	Pd(dba) ₂ (10)	dppf (20)	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	N.R.
20 ^b	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	35
21 ^c	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 1 h	30
22	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	one portion	trace
23	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 2 h	62
24	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	2.0 mL over 2 h	48
25	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	68
26	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	2.0 mL over 4 h	56
27	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3.5 h	45
29	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	dioxane	1.0 mL over 3 h	31

30	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	DMF	1.0 mL over 3 h	22
31	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	DCE	1.0 mL over 3 h	13
32	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	DMSO	1.0 mL over 3 h	36
33	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	MeCN	1.0 mL over 3 h	19
34	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	NMP	1.0 mL over 3 h	13
35	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene: MeCN 1:1	1.0 mL over 3 h	26
36	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene:DMS 01:1	1.0 mL over 3 h	28
37 ^d	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	49
38 ^e	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	51
39 ^f	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	43
40	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (5)	-	CsOPiv (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	31
41	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	Na ₂ CO ₃ (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	trace
42	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	trace
43	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	NaOAc (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	trace
44	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	Et ₃ N (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	trace
45	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (0.6) /PivOH (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	67
46 ^g	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ (10)	-	Cs ₂ CO ₃ (0.6) /TMCA (1.2)	Toluene	1.0 mL over 3 h	95

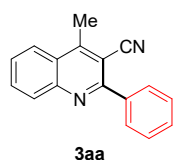
^aReaction conditions: to a solution of **2a** (1.5 equiv.), Pd catalyst, ligand and base in solvent (1.0 mL) at 80 °C under Ar, was added a solution of **1a** (0.2 mmol) in solvent as indicated by using a syringe pump. ^b100 °C. ^c60 °C. ^d2.0 equiv. of **2a**. ^e2.0 equiv. of **2a**. ^f0.83 equiv. of **2a**. ^g2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid (TMCA).

4. Preparation of Quinolines

4.1 from aryl iodides

To a 20 mL vial was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.0236 g, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), Cs₂CO₃ (0.0391 g, 0.12 mmol, 0.6 equiv.), TMCA (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropane carboxylic acid) (0.0341 g, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and a solution of aryl iodide (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in toluene (1 mL) under argon. The resulting mixture was heated at 80 °C heating block for 30 min. Then a solution of isocyanide (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture dropwise over 3 h using a syringe pump. After further 1 h, the completed reaction was diluted with DCM (20 mL) and washed with satd. NaHCO₃ (20 mL x 2). The combined aqueous phase was back extracted with DCM (15 mL x 2). The combined organic phase was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford the quinoline product **3**.

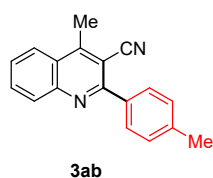
4-Methyl-2-phenylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3aa**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3aa** (0.046 g, 95%) as a light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.91 (m,

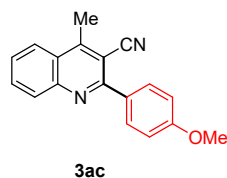
2H), 7.90 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.9, 153.3, 148.4, 132.8, 131.2, 130.4, 129.7, 129.1, 128.3, 125.7, 124.8, 117.9, 18.2 (two carbon missing due to overlap); The spectroscopic data are in accordance with those reported in literature.⁸

4-Methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ab**)



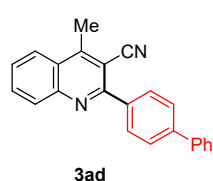
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ab** (0.046 g, 89%) as light yellow solid; m.p.: 136-139 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.76 (m, 3H), 7.65 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 153.0, 148.1, 140.3, 135.7, 132.6, 130.7, 129.5, 129.3, 127.8, 125.2, 124.5, 117.8, 106.5, 21.7, 18.0; IR (neat): 2924, 2210, 1584, 1341; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₈H₁₅N₂⁺ 259.1230, found 259.1230.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ac**)



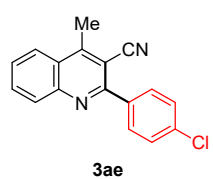
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ac** (0.023 g, 41%) as light yellow solid; m.p.: 182-183 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.97 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.2, 158.1, 153.1, 148.1, 132.6, 130.9, 130.6, 127.7, 125.1, 124.5, 118.0, 114.2, 106.3, 55.6, 18.0 (one carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat) : 3060, 2240, 1551, 1495, 1380 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₈H₁₅N₂O⁺ 275.1179, found 275.1179.

2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ad**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ad** (0.057 g, 89%) as a white solid; m.p.: 145-146 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.0, 153.0, 148.0, 142.8, 140.5, 137.2, 132.5, 130.7, 129.7, 128.9, 127.8, 127.8, 127.4, 127.3, 125.2, 124.4, 117.6, 106.3, 17.9; IR (neat): 2922, 2218, 1490, 1272, 846, 740; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₁₇N₂⁺ 321.1386, found 321.1391.

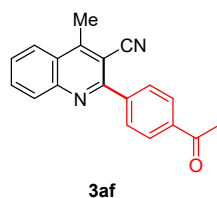
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ae**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ae** (0.041 g, 74%) as a white solid; m.p.: 190-191 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.83 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.9, 152.9, 147.6, 136.4, 136.1, 132.4, 130.4, 128.7, 127.9, 125.0, 124.2, 117.1, 105.9, 17.7 (one

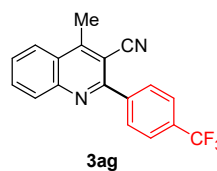
carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2900, 2360, 1514, 1269, 1095, 740; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{17}H_{12}CN_2^+$ 279.0684, found 279.0680.

2-(4-acetylphenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (3af)



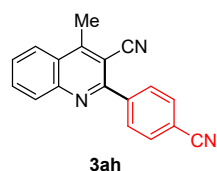
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3af** (0.045 g, 79%) as a white solid; m.p.: 196-197 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.12-8.16 (m, 3H), 8.05 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.75 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 197.8, 157.3, 153.3, 147.9, 142.6, 137.9, 132.8, 130.8, 129.7, 128.7, 128.4, 125.5, 124.5, 117.3, 106.3, 27.0, 18.0; IR (neat): 2910, 2362, 1745, 1513, 1274, 738; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{19}H_{15}N_2O^+$ 287.1179, found 287.1176.

4-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ag)



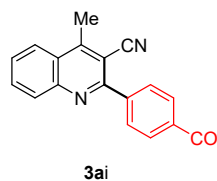
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ag** (0.057 g, 91%) as a white solid; m.p.: 151-152 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.94 – 7.86 (m, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.0, 153.4, 147.9, 141.7, 132.9, 132.1 (q, $J = 33$ Hz), 130.8, 129.8, 128.5, 125.7 (q, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 125.5, 124.5, 117.3, 106.2, 18.0 (one carbon missing); ^{19}F NMR (377 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -62.74; IR (neat): 2917, 2221, 1546, 1325, 1114, 846; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{18}H_{12}F_3N_2^+$ 313.0947, found 313.0947.

2-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ah)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ah** (0.033 g, 62%) as a white solid; m.p.: 223-224 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.19 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.96 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.86 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.3, 153.6, 147.9, 142.5, 133.1, 132.5, 130.8, 130.1, 128.7, 125.6, 124.6, 118.6, 117.1, 113.7, 106.0, 18.1; IR (neat): 2898, 2358, 1507, 1269, 732; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{18}H_{12}N_3^+$ 270.1026, found 270.1031.

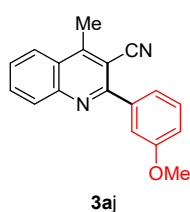
ethyl 4-(3-cyano-4-methylquinolin-2-yl)benzoate (3ai)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ai** (0.039 g, 62%) as a white solid; m.p.: 148-149 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20-8.24 (m, 3H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.92 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 4.43 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.5, 157.6, 153.4, 148.1, 142.5, 133.0, 131.8, 131.0, 130.1, 129.5, 128.5, 125.6, 124.7, 117.5, 106.5, 61.5, 18.2, 14.6; IR

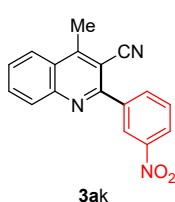
(neat): 2904, 2210, 1714, 1514, 1272, 744; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{20}H_{17}N_2O_2^+$ 317.1285, found 317.1281.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (3aj)



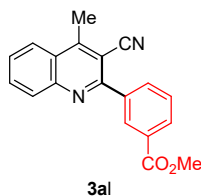
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3aj** (0.035 g, 63%) as a white solid; m.p.: 129-130 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.07 (ddd, $J = 8.2, 2.6, 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.5, 158.0, 152.7, 147.6, 139.3, 132.3, 130.4, 129.5, 127.7, 125.0, 124.1, 121.4, 117.2, 116.0, 114.0, 106.2, 55.3, 17.7; The spectroscopic data is in accordance with those reported in literature.⁹

4-Methyl-2-(3-nitrophenyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ak)



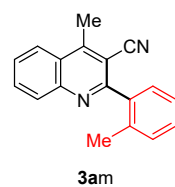
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ak** (0.036 g, 62%) as a white solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.87 – 8.83 (m, 1H), 8.46 – 8.35 (m, 1H), 8.32 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.96 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.79 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H); The spectroscopic data is in accordance with those reported in literature.⁹

Methyl 3-(3-cyano-4-methylquinolin-2-yl)benzoate (3al)



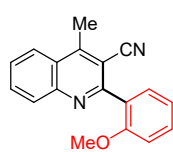
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3al** (0.040 g, 66%) as a white solid; m.p.: 174-175 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.26 – 8.17 (m, 2H), 8.17 – 8.09 (m, 2H), 7.92 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.05 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.7, 157.4, 153.2, 147.9, 138.7, 133.5, 132.7, 131.0, 130.8, 130.7, 130.6, 128.9, 128.2, 125.4, 124.5, 117.3, 106.3, 52.5, 18.0; IR (neat): 2898, 2216, 1718, 1570, 1276, 752; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_2^+$ 303.1128, found 303.1131.

4-Methyl-2-(*o*-tolyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3am)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3am** (0.021 g, 40%) as a white solid; m.p.: 147-148 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.18 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dd, $J = 8.5, 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.37 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.1, 152.1, 147.7, 138.3, 136.1, 132.5, 130.9, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.0, 126.1, 125.3, 124.5, 116.8, 108.3, 19.8, 17.8; IR (neat): 2914, 2220, 1589, 1344, 721; HRMS (ESI) m/z : $[M+H]^+$ calculated for $C_{18}H_{15}N_2^+$ 259.1230, found 259.1230.

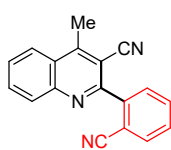
2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (3an)



3an

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3an** (0.035 g, 64%) as a white solid; m.p.: 219-220 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.8, 157.3, 151.3, 148.3, 132.3, 131.6, 131.0, 130.8, 128.2, 128.0, 125.6, 124.6, 121.4, 117.5, 111.6, 109.5, 55.7, 18.0; IR (neat): 2902, 2358, 1558, 1257, 752; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₈H₁₅N₂O⁺ 275.1179, found 275.1182.

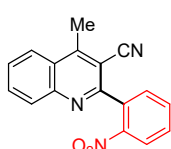
2-(2-Cyanophenyl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ao)



3ao

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ao** (0.038 g, 71%) as a white solid; m.p.: 212-213 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.6, 153.4, 147.7, 141.7, 134.2, 133.2, 132.9, 131.0, 130.5, 130.2, 129.0, 125.9, 124.7, 117.8, 116.7, 113.0, 107.1, 18.2; IR (neat): 2892, 2225, 1570, 1271, 779; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₈H₁₂N₃⁺ 270.1026, found 270.1030.

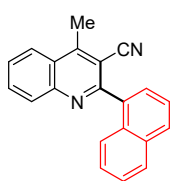
4-Methyl-2-(2-nitrophenyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ap)



3ap

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ap** (0.036 g, 62%) as a white solid; m.p.: 200-201 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 7.91 – 7.85 (m, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.7, 152.1, 148.0, 147.6, 134.2, 133.9, 132.8, 131.8, 130.7, 130.6, 128.5, 125.6, 125.2, 124.6, 116.4, 107.4, 17.9; IR (neat): 2910, 2216, 1516, 1338, 750; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₁₂N₃O₂⁺ 290.0924, found 290.0921.

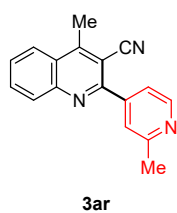
4-Methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3aq)



3aq

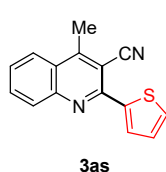
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3aq** (0.031 g, 52%) as a white solid; m.p.: 136-137 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.78 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.71 – 7.60 (m, 3H), 7.56 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.1, 152.4, 147.8, 135.9, 134.2, 132.7, 131.5, 130.8, 130.2, 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 127.0, 126.4, 125.5, 125.2, 124.5, 116.8, 109.0, 17.9 (one carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2916, 2216, 1514, 1309, 727; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₁₅N₂⁺ 295.1230, found 295.1231.

4-Methyl-2-(2-methylpyridin-4-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (3ar)



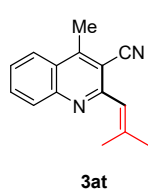
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ar** (0.034 g, 65%) as a white solid; m.p.: 178-179 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.70 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.78 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.2, 156.1, 153.4, 149.6, 147.8, 145.8, 132.9, 130.7, 128.6, 125.6, 124.5, 122.9, 120.5, 116.9, 106.0, 24.7, 17.9; IR (neat): 2912, 2214, 1525, 1446, 1309, 750; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₁₄N₃⁺ 260.1182, found 260.1182.

4-Methyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3as**)



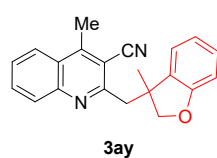
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3as** (0.020 g, 40%) as a white solid; m.p.: 142-143 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.31 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.6, 150.7, 148.0, 142.9, 132.8, 130.6, 130.5, 129.4, 128.8, 127.8, 125.2, 124.6, 118.0, 103.8, 18.0; IR (neat): 2883, 2358, 1525, 1461, 1311, 719; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₁₁N₂S⁺ 251.0638, found 251.0649.

4-Methyl-2-(2-methylprop-1-en-1-yl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3at**)



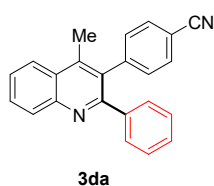
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3at** (0.020 g, 46%) as a light-yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 2.94 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.2, 150.2, 146.6, 146.4, 130.9, 129.1, 126.1, 123.4, 123.2, 120.5, 115.9, 106.5, 26.6, 19.4, 16.5; IR (neat): 2896, 2356, 1774, 1514, 1309, 727; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₅H₁₅N₂⁺ 223.1230, found 223.1225.

4-Methyl-2-((3-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-3-yl)methyl)quinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ay**)



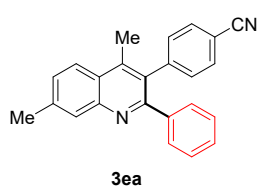
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ay** (0.034 g, 54%) as a yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.10 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.87 – 7.79 (m, 1H), 7.69 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 – 6.87 (m, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.3, 157.8, 151.3, 147.4, 134.6, 132.1, 130.1, 128.4, 127.4, 124.8, 124.2, 123.2, 120.5, 117.0, 109.7, 108.4, 82.2, 46.4, 46.2, 24.8, 17.5; IR (neat): 2920, 2218, 1548, 1307, 825, 752; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₁₉N₂O⁺ 315.1492, found 315.1490.

4-(4-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-3-yl)benzonitrile (**3da**)



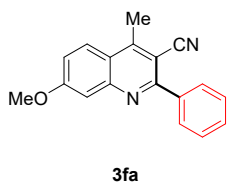
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3da** (0.051 g, 79%) as a white solid; m.p.: 264-265 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.21 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.1, 147.2, 144.4, 142.2, 140.7, 132.2, 131.8, 131.7, 130.5, 129.7, 129.6, 127.9, 126.9, 126.8, 124.1, 118.6, 111.1, 16.3 (one carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2914, 2220, 1506, 1309, 729; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₁₇N₂⁺ 321.1386, found 321.1389.

4-(4,7-Dimethyl-2-phenylquinolin-3-yl)benzonitrile (**3ea**)



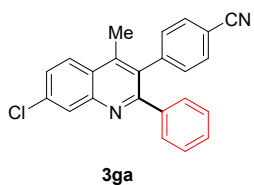
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ea** (0.036 g, 54%) as a colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 7H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.1, 147.4, 144.6, 141.9, 140.8, 140.1, 131.8, 131.8, 131.4, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 127.83, 127.8, 124.8, 123.8, 118.7, 111.0, 21.7, 16.2; IR (neat): 2918, 2223, 1506, 1276, 702; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₄H₁₉N₂⁺ 335.1543, found 335.1536.

7-methoxy-4-methyl-2-phenylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3fa**)



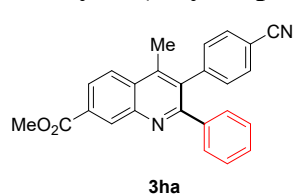
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3fa** (0.029 g, 52%) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 2.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 163.0, 159.3, 152.0, 150.2, 138.5, 129.8, 129.1, 128.5, 125.6, 120.9, 120.4, 117.7, 108.5, 104.2, 55.8, 17.6; IR (neat): 2887, 2356, 1514, 1311, 728; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₈H₁₅N₂O⁺ 275.1179, found 275.1180.

4-(7-Chloro-4-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-3-yl)benzonitrile (**3ga**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ga** (0.053 g, 79%) as a colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 7H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.1, 147.5, 143.8, 142.4, 140.1, 135.6, 132.3, 131.8, 131.5, 129.5, 129.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 125.5, 125.2, 118.5, 111.1, 16.3; IR (neat): 2883, 1512, 1311, 1101, 669; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₁₆ClN₂⁺ 335.0997, found 335.1000.

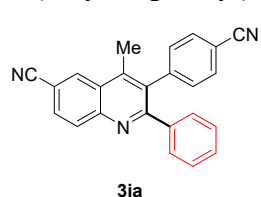
Methyl 3-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-methyl-2-phenylquinoline-7-carboxylate (**3ha**)



3ha

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ha** (0.039 g, 52%) as a white solid; m.p.: 151-152 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.92 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 7H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.8, 159.2, 146.6, 144.0, 142.4, 140.3, 133.9, 133.0, 132.1, 131.6, 131.3, 129.7, 129.5, 128.3, 128.1, 126.5, 124.7, 118.7, 111.4, 52.6, 16.6; IR (neat): 2908, 1714, 1523, 1309, 678; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₅H₁₉N₂O₂⁺ 379.1441, found 379.1442.

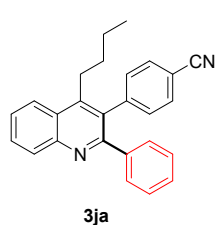
3-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-methyl-2-phenylquinoline-6-carbonitrile (**3ia**)



3ia

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ia** (0.049 g, 71%) as a white solid; m.p.: 149-150 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.50 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 7H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 161.2, 148.3, 143.5, 143.2, 133.9, 132.2, 131.9, 131.6, 131.0, 130.6, 129.7, 128.7, 128.2, 119.0, 118.6, 111.8, 110.6, 16.6 (two carbon missing due to overlap); IR (neat): 2908, 2223, 1514, 1309, 736; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₄H₁₆N₃⁺ 346.1339, found 346.1340.

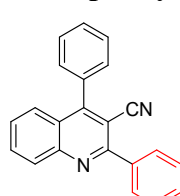
4-(4-Butyl-2-phenylquinolin-3-yl)benzonitrile (**3ja**)



3ja

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ja** (0.035 g, 49%) as a colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.81 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 2.96 – 2.84 (m, 2H), 1.66 – 1.49 (m, 3H), 1.36 – 1.28 (m, 3H), 0.85 – 0.78 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.2, 147.7, 147.0, 144.3, 140.8, 131.8, 131.7, 131.6, 130.6, 129.62, 129.59, 127.83, 127.80, 126.9, 125.9, 124.1, 118.6, 111.4, 33.0, 29.2, 23.0, 13.6; IR (neat): 2866, 2223, 1506, 730; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₆H₂₃N₂⁺ 363.1856, found 363.1865.

2,4-Diphenylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3ka**)



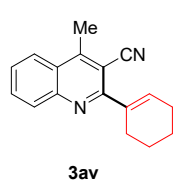
3ka

Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ka** (0.038 g, 63%) as a white solid; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.90 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.7, 156.6, 148.7, 138.3, 134.8, 132.7, 130.3, 130.1, 129.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.0, 124.9, 117.4, 105.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₂H₁₅N₂⁺ 307.1230, found 307.1222.

4.2 from vinyl triflates

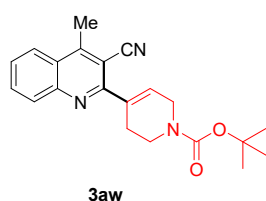
To a 20 mL vial was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.0236 g, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), Cs₂CO₃ (0.0391 g, 0.12 mmol, 0.6 equiv.) TMCA (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropane carboxylic acid) (0.0341 g, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and a solution of vinyl triflate (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in toluene (1 mL) under argon. The resulting mixture was heated at 60 °C heating block for 30 min. Then a solution of isocyanide (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture dropwise over 3 h using a syringe pump. After further 1 h, the completed reaction was diluted with DCM (20 mL) and washed with satd. NaHCO₃ (20 mL x 2). The combined aqueous phase was back extracted with DCM (15 mL x 2). The combined organic phase was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford the quinoline product **3**.

2-(Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-4-methylquinoline-3-carbonitrile (**3av**)



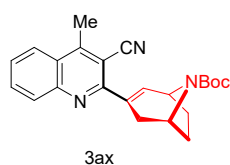
Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3av** (0.026 g, 53%) as a light-yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 6.37 (tt, *J* = 3.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.66 – 2.59 (m, 2H), 2.36 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.82 – 1.72 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.8, 152.1, 147.3, 136.8, 132.8, 131.9, 130.1, 127.1, 124.9, 124.0, 117.3, 105.9, 27.3, 25.5, 22.4, 21.5, 17.5; IR (neat): 3039, 2931, 2223, 1554, 1444, 754; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₁₇N₂⁺ 249.1386, found 249.1394.

tert-butyl 4-(3-cyano-4-methylquinolin-2-yl)-3,6-dihydropyridine-1(2*H*)-carboxylate (**3aw**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3aw** (0.032 g, 46%) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.10 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.87 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.86 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 6.54 – 6.33 (m, 1H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.97 (s, 3H), 2.79 (s, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.4, 154.7 (br), 152.6, 147.3, 135.4 (br), 132.3, 130.2, 128.9 (br), 127.6, 125.1, 124.2, 117.2, 105.4, 79.7, 43.2 (br), 40.1 (br), 28.40, 27.4 (br), 17.6; HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₂₄N₃O₂⁺ 350.1863, found 350.1869.

tert-butyl 3-(3-cyano-4-methylquinolin-2-yl)-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-2-ene-8-carboxylate (**3ax**)



Flash chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) afforded **3ax** (0.033 g, 44% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.08 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 4.74 – 4.42 (m, 2H), 3.26-3.23 (m, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.62 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (d, *J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (s, 2H), 1.88 – 1.92 (m, 1H), 1.49 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ

158.1, 154.2, 152.7, 147.6, 136.9, 134.2, 132.3, 130.6, 127.8, 125.3, 124.4, 117.5, 105.8, 79.8, 53.8, 52.1, 35.8, 34.8, 29.6, 28.6, 17.9; IR (neat): 2914, 2356, 2214, 1523, 1315, 746; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₃H₂₆N₃O₂⁺ 376.2020, found 376.2024.

5. Scale up of 3aa

To a 100 mL RBF was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.118 g, 0.1 mmol, 0.1 equiv.), Cs₂CO₃ (0.195 g, 0.6 mmol, 0.6 equiv.) TMCA (2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropane carboxylic acid) (0.171 g, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and a solution of phenyl iodide (1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) in toluene (5.0 mL) under argon. The resulting mixture was heated at 80 °C in an oil bath for 30 min. Then a solution of (*E*)-3-(2-isocyanophenyl)but-2-enitrile (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in toluene (5 mL) was added to the reaction dropwise over 3 h using a syringe pump. After a further 1 h, the completed reaction was diluted with DCM (50 mL) and washed with satd. NaHCO₃ (50 mL x 2). The combined aqueous phase was back extracted with DCM (30 mL x 2). The combined organic phase was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica Gel, PE/EtOAc) to afford the quinoline **3** (0.22 g, 90%).

6. References

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7. Copies of NMR Spectroscopies

