Supporting Information

Synthesis of β-Amino Acid Derivatives via Photoredox-Catalyzed Radical Cross-Coupling of Anilines and Diazo Compounds

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1. General information

Commercial reagents were purchased from Aldrich Chemical, Alfa Aesar, TCI, Strem, Acros, Energy Chemical, J&K Chemical, Innochem and were used as received. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on EMD precoated plates (silica gel 60 F254, Art 5715) and visualized by fluorescence quenching under UV light and by staining with phosphomolybdic acid or potassium permanganate, respectively. Column chromatography was performed on EMD Silica Gel 60 (300–400 Mesh) using a forced flow of 0.5–1.0 bar. ¹H NMR (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) and ¹⁹F (376 MHz) were measured on a Bruker AVANCE III–400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm) with respect to the residual solvent peak. Coupling constants are reported as Hertz (Hz), signal shapes and splitting patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. High Resolution Mass spectra were performed on Agilent 1260 Series (ESI Source). The blue LEDs were purchased from Kessil.

The diazoacetates $(1)^1$ and amines $(2)^2$ were prepared according to the literature procedure.

2. Numberings and structures of all compounds









3. Condition optimizations for β -amino acid ester 3aa

Table S1. Optimization of the conditions for 3aa^a



5CzBN (**XI**)

4CzTPN (**XII**)

Entry	РС	Solvent (x mL)	1a:2a	Additives	$Yield(\%)^b$
1	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	24
2	II	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	11
3	III	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	7
4	IV	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	10
5	V	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	15
6	VI	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	9
7	VII	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	6
8	VIII	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	7
9	IX	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	10
10	X	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	10
11	XI	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	14
12	XII	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	12
13	I	DCM (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	trace
14	Ι	1,4-Dioxane (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	trace
15	I	EtOH (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	trace
16	I	EA (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	17
17	Ι	DMF (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	trace
18	I	DMSO (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	-	trace
19	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	K ₂ CO ₃	31
20	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	KHCO ₃	44
21	Ι	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	K ₂ HPO ₄	24
22	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	KH ₂ PO ₄	17
23	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	Cs ₂ CO ₃	4
24	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	CsF	17
25	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1.5:1	K ₃ PO ₄	7
26	I	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	1:1.5	KHCO ₃	26
27	Ι	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	2.0:1	KHCO ₃	47

28	Ι	CH ₃ CN (2.0 mL)	3.0:1	KHCO ₃	56
29	Ι	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	KHCO ₃	70
30	-	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	KHCO ₃	N.R.
31 ^c	I	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	KHCO ₃	N.R.
32	I	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	AcOH	trace
33	I	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	PhCOOH	trace
34	I	CH ₃ CN (1.0 mL)	3.0:1	TsOH	trace

^{*a*}Unless indicated otherwise, the reaction was carried out in 0.2 mmol scale and catalyzed by **PC** (0.002 mmol, 1 mol %) in a solvent (x mL) with additive (0.30 mmol, 1.5 equiv) at 25 °C under the illumination of 45 W blue LEDs for 24 h. ^{*b*}Isolated yield. ^{*c*}No visible light irradiation.

4. Synthetic procedures of substrates 1

General synthetic procedure for substrates 1: Substrates **1a-1s** are known compounds, and the synthetic procedure for these substrates was followed by the literature method.¹



A solution of **S1** (5.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *p*-toluenesulfonyl azide (6.00 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in acetonitrile (20 mL) was treated with DBU (7.50 mmol, 1.5 equiv) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for overnight at room temperature. The resulting mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate. Then, the organic layer was concentrated in vacuo to give a residue, which was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to afford compound **1**.

5. Synthetic procedures and characterization data of products 3



In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 8 mL screw-cap test tube, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, then the following chemicals were added in turn: $Ir(ppy)_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (2.0 mg, 0.002 mmol, 1.0 mol%), KHCO₃ (30.1 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), diazo compound **1** (0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv), tertiary amine **2** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous CH₃CN (1.0 mL).The reaction tube was sealed with a Teflon screw cap, removed from the glove box. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously under 45W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. Next, the reaction mixture was transferred to a 50 mL round-bottom flask, diluted with 25 mL dichloromethane. The organic phase was concentrated under vacuum and purified through flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) on silica gel to afford pure products **3**.

Reaction Setup

Medium-sized screw-cap test tubes (8 mL) were used for all 0.1 mmol scale reactions: Fisher13 x 100 mm tubes (Cat. No. 14-959-35C), Cap with Septa: Thermo Scientific ASM PHN CAP w/PTFE/SIL (Cat. No. 03378316)





Figure S1. Photochemical reaction set up and spectrum of the blue LEDs.

methyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-phenylpropanoate (3aa)³:



3aa was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (37.7 mg, 70%) from diazo compound **1a** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.19 (m, 7H), 6.73 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 14.4,

8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 8.7, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, J = 14.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.6, 148.4, 137.1, 129.3, 128.9, 128.1, 127.7, 116.6, 112.2, 56.7, 52.2, 49.6, 39.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₉NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 270.1489, found m/z 270.1490.

methyl 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ba):



3ba was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (29.3 mg, 51%) from diazo compound **1b** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 2H),

7.14 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.76 – 6.69 (m, 3H), 4.36 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (dd, J = 14.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, J = 14.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3) δ 172.9, 160.6 (d, J = 244.7 Hz), 148.4, 129.56 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 129.6, 129.3 (d, J = 8.1 Hz) 129.2, 124.5 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 124.3 (d, J = 14.9 Hz), 116.7, 115.7 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 112.2, 55.6, 52.3, 42.7, 39.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -117.50; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈FNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 288.1394, found m/z 288.1391.

methyl 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ca):



3ca was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (31.0 mg, 54%) from diazo compound **1c** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.11 – 7.05 (m, 2H),

7.03 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 4.09 (dd, J = 14.2, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, J = 8.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, J = 14.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 162.9 (d, J = 245.2 Hz), 148.3, 139.4 (d, J = 7.4 Hz), 130.3 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 129.3, 123.9 (d,

J = 3.0 Hz), 116.8, 115.1 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 114.7 (d, J = 20.9 Hz), 112.3, 56.7, 52.3, 49.3, 39.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -112.33; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈FNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 288.1394, found m/z 288.1396.

methyl 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3da):



3da was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (35.1 mg, 58%) from diazo compound **1d** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.24 (m, 2H),

7.23 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.79 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 4.09 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, J = 14.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 148.2, 138.9, 134.7, 130.1, 129.4, 128.2, 127.9, 126.4, 116.8, 112.2, 56.7, 52.4, 49.2, 39.4. ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈ClNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 304.1099, found m/z 304.1096.

methyl 2-(3-bromophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ea):



3ea was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (34.7 mg, 50%) from diazo compound **1e** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 2H),

7.25 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.67 (m, 3H), 4.08 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, J = 14.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 148.2, 139.2, 131.1, 130.9, 130.4, 129.4, 126.8, 122.9, 116.9, 112.3, 56.7, 52.4, 49.2, 39.4. ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈BrNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 348.0594, found m/z 348.0595.

methyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propanoate (3fa):



3fa was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (34.4 mg, 51%) from diazo compound **1f** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H),

6.79 - 6.67 (m, 3H), 4.17 - 4.07 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.62 (dd, J = 13.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 148.2, 138.0, 131.6, 131.2 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 129.4, 129.3, 124.9 (q, J = 3.9 Hz), 124.6 (q, J = 3.4 Hz), 123.9 (q, J = 272.7 Hz), 117.0, 112.3, 56.7, 52.4, 49.3, 39.3; 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.60; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₈H₁₈F₃NO₂+Na)⁺ requires m/z 360.1182, found m/z 360.1183.

methyl 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ga):



3ga was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (36.1 mg, 60%) from diazo compound 1g and tertiary amine 2a; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.30 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 6.90 (m, 1H),

6.89 - 6.87 (m, 1H), 6.86 - 6.83 (m, 1H), 6.77 - 6.69 (m, 3H), 4.10 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 8.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.61 (dd, J = 14.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (s, 3H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 159.9, 148.4, 138.5, 129.9, 129.3, 120.4, 116.6, 113.8, 113.0, 112.2, 56.6, 55.3, 52.2, 49.6, 39.3. ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₈H₂₁NO₃+H)⁺ requires m/z 300.1594, found m/z 300.1595.

methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ha):



3ha was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (30.8 mg, 54%) from diazo compound **1h** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.77 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, *J* = 8.4,

5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, J = 14.2, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.4, 162.3 (d, J = 244.8 Hz), 148.3, 132.8 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 129.7 (d, J = 8.0 Hz), 129.3, 116.7, 115.7 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 112.2, 56.8, 52.3, 48.7, 39.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.72; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈FNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 288.1394, found m/z 288.1394.

methyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ia):



3ia was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (31.5 mg, 52%) from diazo compound **1i** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.62 (m, 3H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 8.3,

5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.56 (dd, J = 14.4, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 148.2, 135.5, 133.6, 129.5, 129.3, 129.0, 116.8, 112.2, 56.7, 52.3, 48.9, 39.4.; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈CINO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 304.1099, found m/z 304.1097.

methyl 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3ja)⁴:



3ja was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (32.5 mg, 47%) from diazo compound **1j** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.77 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 8.3,

5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, J = 14.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.1, 148.2, 136.0, 132.0, 129.8, 129.3, 121.7, 116.8, 112.2, 56.6, 52.3, 49.0, 39.4; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₇H₁₈BrNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 348.0594, found m/z 348.0592.

methyl 4-(1-methoxy-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-1-oxopropan-2-yl)benzoate (3ka):



3ka was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (41.9 mg, 64%) from diazo compound **1k** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 4.17 – 4.07 (m, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H),

3.61 (dd, J = 13.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 166.8, 148.2, 142.2, 130.1, 129.5, 129.4, 128.2, 116.9, 112.2, 56.6, 52.4, 52.2, 49.5, 39.4.; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₉H₂₁NO₄+H)⁺ requires m/z 328.1543, found m/z 328.1542.



3la was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (62.2 mg, 96%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.76 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 9.1,

4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, J = 14.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 150.6, 148.5, 133.9, 129.2, 128.9, 127.6, 125.8, 116.5, 112.2, 56.7, 52.1, 49.2, 39.2, 34.5, 31.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₁H₂₇NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 326.2115, found m/z 326.2111.

methyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-(p-tolyl)propanoate (3ma):



3ma was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (44.1 mg, 78%) from diazo compound **1m** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.65 (m, 3H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (dd, *J* = 8.8,

5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.56 (dd, J = 14.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 148.4, 137.4, 134.0, 129.6, 129.3, 127.9, 116.5, 112.2, 56.7, 52.2, 49.2, 39.3, 21.2; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₈H₂₁NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 284.1645, found m/z 284.1645.

methyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoate (3na):



3na was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (29.9 mg, 50%) from diazo compound **1n** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.92 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.69 (m, 3H), 4.10 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 8.6 Hz,

1H), 3.99 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.58 (dd, J = 14.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 159.1, 148.4, 130.3, 129.3, 129.2, 129.1, 116.5, 114.2, 114.0, 112.2, 56.8, 55.3, 52.2, 48.7, 39.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₈H₂₁NO₃+H)⁺ requires m/z 300.1594, found m/z 300.1592.

ethyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-phenylpropanoate (30a)⁵:



benzyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-phenylpropanoate (3pa):



3pa was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (37.3 mg, 54%) from diazo compound **1p** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.28 (m, 3H),

7.27 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.66 (m, 3H), 5.13 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, J = 12.4 Hz, 1H), 4.15 – 4.06 (m, 2H), 3.62 (dd, J = 12.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.0, 148.4, 136.9, 135.7, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 116.6, 112.3, 66.7, 56.7, 49.8, 39.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₃H₂₃NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 346.1802, found m/z 346.1800.

isopropyl 3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)-2-phenylpropanoate (3qa):



3qa was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (38.8 mg, 65%) from diazo compound **1q** and tertiary amine **2a**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.31 (m, 1H),

7.31 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.70 (m, 3H), 5.01 (p, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.60 (dd, J = 14.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 1.21 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 148.5,

137.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.0, 127.5, 116.5, 112.2, 68.4, 56.7, 50.1, 39.3, 21.7, 21.5; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₁₉H₂₃NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 298.1802, found m/z 298.1801.

methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methyl(o-tolyl)amino)propanoate (3lb):



3lb was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (40.8 mg, 60%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2b**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 7.03 – 6.97 (m, 1H), 3.80 (dd, *J* = 10.3, 4.9 Hz,

1H), 3.72 - 3.66 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.27 (dd, J = 12.5, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 151.2, 150.3, 134.3, 134.1, 131.1, 127.7, 126.4, 125.5, 123.7, 120.9, 59.0, 51.9, 49.9, 43.4, 34.5, 31.3, 17.8; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for ($C_{22}H_{29}NO_2+H$)⁺ requires m/z 340.2271, found m/z 340.2267.

methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methyl(m-tolyl)amino)propanoate (3lc):



3lc was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (49.8 mg, 73%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2c**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.58 – 6.50 (m, 3H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 13.9,

9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dd, J = 9.1, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.59 (dd, J = 13.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 150.5, 148.6, 138.9, 134.0, 129.1, 127.6, 125.8, 117.5, 113.0, 109.4, 56.8, 52.1, 49.2, 39.3, 34.5, 31.3, 22.0; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₂H₂₉NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 340.2271, found m/z 340.2269.

methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-((3-methoxyphenyl)(methyl)amino)propanoate (3ld):



3ld was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (46.9 mg, 66%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2d**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.36 – 6.24 (m, 3H), 4.09 - 4.00 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, J = 11.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 174.0, 161.9, 151.2, 151.0, 135.2, 130.6, 128.6, 126.5, 106.1, 102.7, 99.5, 57.5, 55.2, 52.3, 49.9, 39.5, 35.0, 31.6; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₂H₂₉NO₃+H)⁺ requires m/z 356.2220, found m/z 356.2220.

methyl 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-((4-fluorophenyl)(methyl)amino)propanoate (3le):



3le was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (54.9 mg, 80%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2e**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.61 (m, 2H), 4.05 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (dd,

J = 9.1, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 3.51 (dd, J = 14.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.7, 155.6 (d, J = 235.4 Hz), 150.6, 145.4 (d, J = 1.7 Hz), 133.8, 127.6, 125.8, 115.6 (d, J = 22.1 Hz), 113.6 (d, J = 7.3 Hz), 57.5, 52.1, 49.2, 39.5, 34.5, 31.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -129.07. ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₁H₂₆FNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 344.2020, found m/z 344.2018.

methyl 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-((4-chlorophenyl)(methyl)amino)propanoate (3lf):



3lf was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (59.3 mg, 82%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2f**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.67 – 6.58 (m, 2H), 4.07 (dd, *J* = 14.6,

9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (dd, J = 9.0, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.57 (dd, J = 14.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.6, 150.7, 147.1, 133.6, 129.0, 127.6, 125.8, 121.4, 113.4, 56.7, 52.2, 49.0, 39.3, 34.6, 31.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₁H₂₆ClNO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 360.1725, found m/z 360.1718.

methyl 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methyl(*p*-tolyl)amino)propanoate (3lg):



3lg was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (36.6 mg, 54%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2g**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.42 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.99 (m, 2H), 6.68 – 6.64 (m, 2H), 4.07 – 3.99 (m,

2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 3.53 (dd, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone) δ 174.1, 151.1, 147.7, 135.2, 130.4, 128.6, 126.5, 126.2, 113.6, 57.8, 52.2, 49.9, 39.4, 35.0, 31.6, 20.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₂H₂₉NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 340.2271, found m/z 340.2271.

methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-methyl-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)butanoate (31h):



3li was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (38.9 mg, 55%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2h**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.97 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.75 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H), 0.73 (d,

J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.67 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.7, 150.5, 149.6, 133.4, 129.2, 128.3, 123.9, 123.6, 121.9, 51.3, 40.9, 34.4, 32.4, 31.4, 19.6, 17.8; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₃H₃₁NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 354.2428, found m/z 354.2428.

methyl 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-(diphenylamino)propanoate (3li):



3lh was obtained as a colorless sticky oil (47.2 mg, 61%) from diazo compound **1l** and tertiary amine **2i**; Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100:1; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 6H), 6.98 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 6.85 (m, 4H), 4.50 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95

(dd, J = 14.2, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.5, 150.6, 147.8, 133.8, 129.3, 127.8, 125.7, 121.7, 121.4, 55.9, 52.1, 49.5, 34.5, 31.3; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₆H₂₉NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 388.2271, found m/z 388.2271.

6. Procedure for one-mmol-scale reaction



In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 8 mL screw-cap test tube, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, then the following chemicals were added in turn: $Ir(ppy)_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ (10.0 mg, 0.01 mmol, 1.0 mol%), KHCO₃ (150.5 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), diazo compound **11** (3.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), tertiary amine **2a** (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous CH₃CN (5.0 mL). The reaction tube was sealed with a Teflon screw cap, removed from the glove box. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously under 45W blue LEDs at room temperature for 24 h. Next, the reaction mixture was transferred to a 50 mL round-bottom flask, diluted with 25 mL dichloromethane. The organic phase wasconcentrated under vacuum and purified through flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1) on silica gel to afford pure products **31a** (266.5 mg, 82% yield).

7. Synthetic procedures and characterization data of compounds 4-5

 $\begin{array}{c} \overset{fBu}{\overset{Me}{\overset{}}} & \overset{NaOH}{\overset{H_2O/MeOH}{}} & \overset{Me}{\overset{Me}{}} & \overset{Me}{\overset{H_2O/MeOH}{}} \\ 3la & 4, 62\% \text{ yield} \end{array}$

Synthetic procedure and characterization data of compound 4:

To a mixture of NaOH (20.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 0.25 mL H₂O was added the solution of compound **3la** (32.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) in 0.75 mL MeOH, which was stirred at 50 °C for 2 h. After cooling to 0 °C, the mixture was treated with an aqueous solution of 1 N HCl to pH = 1 and extracted with EtOAc (3×5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (15.0 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (dichloromethane/methanol = 10/1) to afford pure product **4**. **2-(4-(***tert***-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propanoic acid (4):** 62% yield (19.3 mg); colorless sticky oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20 – 7.04 (m, 6H), 6.67 – 6.55 (m, 3H), 3.95 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (s, 1H), 3.33 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.20 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.0, 150.4, 149.9, 137.6, 129.9, 128.7, 126.1, 117.3, 113.5, 58.2, 52.7, 39.9, 35.1, 32.1; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₀H₂₅NO₂+H)⁺ requires m/z 312.1958, found m/z 312.1955.

Synthetic procedure and characterization data of compound 5:



To a mixture of LiAlH₄ (16.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 0.5 mL THF was added the solution of compound **3la** (32.6 mg, 0.1 mmol) in 0.5 mL THF, which was stirred at 50 °C for 10 min. After the completion of the reaction which was indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was

purified through flash column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 4/1) to afford pure product 5.

2-(4-(*tert***-butyl)phenyl)-3-(methyl(phenyl)amino)propan-1-ol (5):** 81% yield (24.2 mg); colorless sticky oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 7.34 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.68 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.56 (m, 1H), 3.94 (dd, J = 14.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 – 3.76 (m, 3H), 3.42 (dd, J = 14.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24 – 3.09 (m, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone- d_6) δ 150.2, 149.9, 140.2, 129.8, 128.8, 125.9, 116.5, 112.8, 64.9, 56.5, 47.2, 39.6, 34.9, 31.7, 31.7; ESI FTMS exact mass calcd for (C₂₀H₂₇NO+H)⁺ requires m/z 298.2165, found m/z 298.2162.

8. Stern-Volmer fluorescence quenching experiments

A Hitachi F-7000 fluoresence spectrometer was used to record the emission intensities. All $Ir(ppy)_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ solutions were excited at 400 nm and the emission intensity at 553 nm was observed. CH₃CN was degassed with a stream of Ar for 30 min. In a typical experiment, the emission spectrum of a 2×10^{-5} M solution of $Ir(ppy)_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$ in CH₃CN was collected. Then, appropriate amount of quencher was added to the measured solution in a quartz cuvette and the emission spectrum of the sample was collected. I₀ and I represent the intensities of the emission in the absence and presence of the quencher at 553 nm.



Figure S2. Emission spectra of 2×10^{-5} M Ir(ppy)2(dtbbpy)PF6 at $\lambda ex = 400$ nm showing the quenching effect of increasing of aniline **2a**.



Figure S3. Emission spectra of 2×10^{-5} M Ir(ppy)2(dtbbpy)PF6 at $\lambda ex = 400$ nm showing the quenching effect of increasing of diazoacetate **1a**.



Figure S4. The Stern–Volmer plot.

Stern–Volmer quenching experiments demonstrated that aniline 2a significantly quenched the fluorescence of Ir(ppy)₂(dtbbpy)PF₆, whereas diazoacetate 1a had a much weaker effect.

9. References

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10. NMR spectra of all products

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3aa:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ba:**







-70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -21 f1 (ppm) -10 -20 -30 -50 -60

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ca:**



S30

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ca:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3da:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ea:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3fa:**



¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3fa:**







¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ga:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ha:**







¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ia:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ja:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ka**:



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3la:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3ma:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3na:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **30a:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3pa:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3qa:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3lb**:



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3lc:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) of compound **3ld**:



110 100 f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3le:**



¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3le:**



20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2 f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3lf:**



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) of compound **3lg**:







¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **3li**:



fl (ppm)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound **4**:



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6) of compound 5:

