Supporting Information

# Photoinduced C–H arylation of 1,3-azoles via copper/photoredox dual catalysis

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#### **1** General remarks

**General conditions:** Catalytic reactions were performed under a  $N_2$  atmosphere using predried glassware and standard Schlenk techniques. THF and MeCN were purified by a MBraun MB SPS-800 solvent purification system, degassed by multiple cycles of freeze-pump-thaw method and dried over 4 Å molecular sieves. All substrates and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and were used without further purification except those mentioned in the following section.

**Chromatographic methods:** TLC was performed on Merck TLC Silica Gel 60  $F_{254}$  with detection under UV light at 254 nm. Chromatographic separations were carried out on Merck Geduran SI-60 (40–63 µm, 230–400 mesh ASTM). GC-MS chromatograms were recorded on Agilent 7890B and Agilent 5977B. HPLC chromatograms were recorded on an Agilent 1290 Infinity using CHIRALPAK® IA-3 column (3.0 µm particle size; Ø: 4.6 mm and 250 mm length).

IR Spectroscopy: IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker FT-IR alpha-P device.

**Mass spectrometry:** ESI-MS was recorded on Bruker Daltonik micrOTOF and maXis. The ratios of mass to charge (m/z) are reported and the intensity relative to the base peak (I = 100) is given in parentheses.

**Melting point:** Melting points (m.p.) were measured on Stuart<sup>®</sup> melting point apparatus SMP3, values are uncorrected.

**Spectroscopic methods:** Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy was performed at 300 MHz, 400 MHz, 500 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H NMR), 101 MHz, 126 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C NMR, APT), 377 MHz (<sup>19</sup>F NMR) on Bruker Avance III HD 300, Avance Neo 400, and Avance III HD 500 instruments. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are provided in ppm and spectra refered to solvent signal (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 7.26 ppm (<sup>1</sup>H NMR); 77.16 ppm (<sup>13</sup>C NMR)). Fluorescene spectra were measured on a Jasco spectrofluorometer FP-8500.

## 2 Synthesis of starting materials

All compounds except those shown in the following scheme were obtained from commercial sources. 10-Phenylphenothiazine (PTH) was synthesized through a procedure reported by Zhao and Guo.<sup>[1]</sup> Before use, PTH was further purified by Kugelrohr distillation. The shown compounds were synthesized according to literature procedures.



#### 2.1 Synthesis of 1,3-azoles

The following compounds are known. Analytical data match with those reported in the literature.

**1-Methyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (1a): Synthesized according to Breit with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[2]</sup>** 

**1-Ethyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (4a): Synthesized according to Rit with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[3]</sup>** 

**1-Isopropyl-1***H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole** (**4b**): Synthesized according to Yagi with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[4]</sup>

**1-Benzyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (4c): Synthesized according to Xia with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[5]</sup>** 

**1-Phenyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (4d): Synthesized according to Dong with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[6]</sup>** 

**1-Methyl-1***H***-benzo**[*d*]**imidazole-2***-d* ([**D**<sub>1</sub>]**-1a**): Synthesized according to Ong with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[7]</sup>

**1,5,6-Trimethyl-1***H***-benzo[***d***]imidazole (4f): Synthesized according to Breit.<sup>[2]</sup> Analytical data match with reported data.<sup>[4]</sup>** 

**1-Methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1***H***-imidazole (4g)**: Synthesized according to Breit.<sup>[2]</sup> Analytical data match with reported data.<sup>[8]</sup>

**5-Phenyloxazole (4k)**: Synthesized according to Piguel with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[9]</sup>

**5-(Pyridin-2-yl)oxazole (4l)**: Synthesized according to Piguel.<sup>[9]</sup> Analytical data match with reported data.<sup>[10]</sup>

**5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)oxazole (4o)**: Synthesized according to Piguel with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[9]</sup>

(1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-iodobenzoate (2p): Synthesized according Reiser with analytical data matching with reported data.<sup>[11]</sup>

Synthesis of benzyl 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1-carboxylate (4e)



The synthesis follows a modified procedure described by Kwon.<sup>[12]</sup>

A round-bottom Schlenk flask was charged with benzimidazole (10 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and pyridine (20 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). At 0 °C, benzyl chloroformate (15 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added slowly. The resulting solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h and for 18 h at ambient temperature. Afterwards, all volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the

residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOAc 1:1) to obtain the desired product as colorless solid (2.27 g, 90%).

#### **M.p.**: 74 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.04 – 8.00 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 5.51 (s, 2H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 149.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 144.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 141.8 (CH), 134.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.3 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 120.9 (CH), 114.5 (CH), 69.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1745$ , 1451, 1389, 1359, 1343, 1285, 1235, 1054, 744, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 527 (60) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 275 (100) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 275.0791, found 275.0796.

#### 2.2 Synthesis of aryl iodides

#### **General Procedure A:**



In a round-bottom Schlenk flask, the corresponding alcohol (5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and NEt<sub>3</sub> (6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL). At 0 °C, 4-iodobenzoyl chloride (6.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 18 h. Afterwards, the reaction was quenched by the addition of water (40 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 50 mL). Combined organic phases were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the corresponding aryl iodide.



#### 3,7-Dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl 4-iodobenzoate (2q)

Following general procedure A, citronellol was used for the synthesis of compound  $2\mathbf{r}$  which was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 25:1) as colorless oil (1.72 g, 89%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.79$  (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (tt, J = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.41 – 4.28 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.88 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.51 (m, 8H), 1.46 – 1.32 (m, 1H), 1.23 (dddd, J = 13.6, 9.3, 7.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 166.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.8 (CH), 131.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.1 (CH), 130.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 124.6 (CH), 100.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 63.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.8 (CH) ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2908$ , 1719, 1586, 1393, 1264, 1176, 1099, 1007, 845, 752 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 795 (25) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 409 (100) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>2</sub>INa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 409.0635, found 409.0635.



(*R*)-2,5,7,8-Tetramethyl-2-((4*R*,8*R*)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl 4-iodobenzoate (2r)

Following general procedure A but at 40 °C instead of room temperature,  $\alpha$ -tocopherol was used for the synthesis of compound **2s** which was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 250:1 to 25:1) as colorless oil (2.97 g, 90%).

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.89 – 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.61 – 1.05 (m, 25H), 0.89 – 0.86 (m, 12H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 164.8$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 149.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.1 (CH), 131.7 (CH), 129.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 125.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 117.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 101.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 75.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 40.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.9 (CH), 32.9 (CH), 32.8 (CH), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 23.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2952, 2925, 1736, 1587, 1462, 1393, 1268, 1093, 1008, 751 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 1343 (55) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 683 (100) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>

**HR MS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>53</sub>INaO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 683.2932, found 683.2937.

## 4 **Optimization studies**

Table S1. Optimization of photoredox catalyst.

N N Me 1a	Cul (20 mol%) PC (2.0 mol%) K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> , THF blue LEDs, RT, 18 h	Me 3a
Entry	Photoredox catalyst	<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>
1	[Ir(ppy) <sub>3</sub> ]	11
2	$[Ir(p-F-ppy)_3]$	33
3	$[Ru(bpy)_3]Cl_2 \cdot 6 H_2O$	$5^b$
4	$[Ru(bpy)_3](PF_6)_2$	$0^b$
5	[Cu(dmp) <sub>2</sub> ]Cl	$0^b$
6	[Mes-Acr]BF4	$7^b$
7	Eosin Y	$12^{b}$
8	DDQ	$0^b$

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (20 mol%), photoredox catalyst (PC) (2.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 mmol), THF (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, blue LEDs; yield of isolated product. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. ppy = 2-Phenylpyridine. bpy = 2,2'-Bipyridine. dmp = 2,9-Dimethyl-1,10-phenantroline. Mes-Acr = 9-Mesityl-10-methylacridinium. DDQ = 2,3-Dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone.

Table S2. Optimization of solvent.

N N H		Cul (20 mol%) [lr( <i>p</i> -F-ppy) <sub>3</sub> ] (2.0 mol%)	Me Ne	
Ме 1а	Me <sup>-</sup> Za	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4,</sub> solvent blue LEDs, RT, 18 h	м́е За	
Entry		Solvent	<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>	
1		THF	38	
2		Et <sub>2</sub> O	$11^{b}$	
3		1,4-dioxane	$4^b$	
4		DCE	$0^b$	
5		DMF	$0^b$	

6	DMA	$0^b$
7	MeCN	$7^b$
8	DMA/THF (1:1)	$0^b$
9	MeCN/THF (3:1)	68
10	MeCN/THF (2:1)	71
11	MeCN/THF (1:1)	59
12	MeCN/THF (1:2)	65
13	MeCN/THF (1:3)	60

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (20 mol%),  $[Ir(p-F-ppy)_3]$  (2.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 mmol), solvent (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, blue LEDs; yield of isolated products. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

Table S3. Optimization of copper source.

N N	t	[Cu] (20 mol%) [Ir( <i>p</i> -F-ppy) <sub>3</sub> ] (2.0 mol%)	
Me 1a	' Me Za	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4,</sub> MeCN/THF (2:1) blue LEDs, RT, 18 h	Ме За
Entry		[Cu]	<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>
1		CuI	71
2		CuBr	51
3		CuOAc	63
4		CuTC	62
5	[	Cu(MeCN) <sub>4</sub> ]PF <sub>6</sub>	71
6		Cu <sub>2</sub> O	$0^b$

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), [Cu] (20 mol%), [Ir(*p*-F-ppy)<sub>3</sub>] (2.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 mmol), MeCN/THF (2:1) (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, blue LEDs; yield of isolated products. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. TC = thiophene-2-carboxylate.

N		Cul (20 mol%) [lr( <i>p</i> -F-ppy) <sub>3</sub> ] (2.0 mol%)	Me Ne
Me 1a	Me Za	base, MeCN/THF (2:1) blue LEDs, RT, 18 h	Me 3a
Entry		Base	<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>
1		K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	71
2		$K_2CO_3$	55
3		$Cs_2CO_3$	36 <sup>b</sup>
4		LiO <sup>t</sup> Bu	$0^b$
5		KO <sup>t</sup> Bu	$0^b$
6		KOAc	$0^b$
7		KOPiv	$0^b$
8		DIPEA	$0^b$

**Table S4.** Optimization of base.

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (20 mol%),  $[Ir(p-F-ppy)_3]$  (2.0 mol%), base (0.75 mmol), MeCN/THF (2:1) (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, blue LEDs; yield of isolated products. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. Piv = Pivaloyl. DIPEA = *N*,*N*-Diisopropylethylamine.

**Table S5.** Optimization of photoredox catalyst, catalyst loading and excess of aryl halide.

N N N		Cul (20 mol%) [lr( <i>p</i> -F-ppy) <sub>3</sub> ] (2.0 mol%)	Me Ne	
Me	Me Me	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4,</sub> MeCN/THF (2:1)	Me	
1a	2a	blue LEDs, RT, 18 h	3a	
Entry	Deviation	from standard conditions	<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>	
1			71	
2	PTH in	PTH instead of [Ir( <i>p</i> -F-ppy) <sub>3</sub> ]		
3	15 mol % CuI		57	
4	10 mol % CuI		40	
5	2.0 equiv. <b>2a</b>		57	
6		1.5 equiv. <b>2a</b>	55	
7	1.2 equiv. <b>2a</b>		39	
8	1	S1 instead of 2a		
9	\$	S2 instead of 2a	$0^c$	



<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (20 mol%),  $[Ir(p-F-ppy)_3]$  (2.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 mmol), MeCN/THF (2:1) (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, blue LEDs (450 nm); yield of isolated products. <sup>*b*</sup> PTH (5.0 mol%), violet LEDs (390 nm). <sup>*c*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard. PTH = 10-Phenylphenothiazine. Tol = Tolyl.

М М М		Cul (20 mol%) PTH (5.0 mol%)	N N Me	
Me 1a	Me <sup>-</sup> 2a	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4,</sub> MeCN/THF (2:1) 390 nm, RT, 18 h	Me 3a	
Entry	Deviation from standard conditions		<b>Yield</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>	
1			77	
2	no CuI		$0^b$	
3	no photocatalyst (450 nm)		$0^b$	
4	no photocatalyst (390 nm)		44	
5		no light	$0^b$	

 Table S6. Control experiments.

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.75 mmol), CuI (20 mol%),  $[Ir(p-F-ppy)_3]$  (2.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 mmol), MeCN/THF (2:1) (1 mL), RT, 18 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, 390 nm; yield of isolated products. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as internal standard.

## 5 Light-induced copper-catalyzed C–H arylation

#### General procedure B: Light-induced copper-catalyzed C-H arylation



The corresponding azole (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), aryl iodide (0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), CuI (9.5 mg, 50  $\mu$ mol, 20 mol%), 10-phenylphenothiazine (PTH) (3.4 mg, 12.5  $\mu$ mol, 5.0 mol%) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were filled in in an oven-dried 10 mL vial equipped with a teflon-coated stir bar. The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and was evacuated and purged with N<sub>2</sub> three times before the addition of MeCN (0.67 mL) and THF (0.33 mL). Liquid starting materials were added before the solvent. Afterwards, the vial was wrapped with parafilm and the reaction mixture was stirred under violet light irradiation (390 nm, 2 × Kessil PR160L, internal temperature of the reaction mixture was determined to be 35 °C). After 18 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel which was washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the residue via column chromatography on silica gel yielded the arylated azoles.



**Figure S1.** Reaction setup equipped with  $2 \times \text{Kessil}$  lamps A360N and  $2 \times \text{fans}$ .



**Figure S2.** Reaction setup equipped with  $2 \times \text{Kessil lamps PR160L}$  and  $2 \times \text{fans.}$ 

## 6 Characterization data



#### 1-Methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3a)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3a** (42.8 mg, 77%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 118 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.84 - 7.80$  (m, 1H), 7.69 - 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 - 7.29 (m, 4H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 154.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.5 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 127.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 122.7 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.6 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1612, 1438, 1381, 831, 820, 747, 725, 700, 570, 498 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 467 (8) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 245 (7) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 223 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 223.1230, found 223.1233.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[13]</sup>



#### 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3b)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodoanisole (175 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) yielded **3b** (34.6 mg, 58%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 116 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.86 - 7.77$  (m, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 - 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.34 - 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 154.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.0 (CH), 122.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 122.6 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 114.3 (CH), 109.6 (CH), 55.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1705$ , 1612, 1461, 1434, 1281, 1252, 1176, 1025, 838, 746 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 499 (40)  $[2M+Na]^+$ , 261 (35)  $[M+Na]^+$ , 239 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ . **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>  $[M+H]^+$  239.1179, found 239.1184. The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[13]</sup>



#### 2-[4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3c)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-(tert-butyl)-4-iodobenzene (195 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) yielded **3c** (35.0 mg, 53%) as colorless solid. **M.p.**: 154 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.85 - 7.81$  (m, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 - 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 - 7.28 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 1.38 (s, 9H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 154.0$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 153.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.3 (CH), 127.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 125.7 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.6 (CH), 35.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2947$ , 1613, 1485, 1461, 1435, 1379, 1326, 837, 746, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 551 (12) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 529 (5) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 287 (10) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 265 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $C_{18}H_{21}N_2^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 265.1699, found 265.1704.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[14]</sup>



#### 1-Methyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3d)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodobenzene (153 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3d** (31.2 mg, 60%) as brown solid.

**M.p.**: 68 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.86 - 7.82$  (m, 1H), 7.79 - 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.55 - 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41 - 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35 - 7.30 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 153.9$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 122.8 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.7 (CH), 31.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 3053$ , 1469, 1461, 1441, 1379, 1327, 1022, 776, 733, 694 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 439 (40) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 231 (34) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 209 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 209.1073, found 209.1083.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[15]</sup>



#### 4-(1-Methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzonitrile (3e)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodobenzonitrile (172 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 2:1) yielded **3e** (30.9 mg, 60%) as colorless solid.

**M.p.**: 203 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.85 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 151.6$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.6 (CH), 130.1 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 123.2 (CH), 120.4 (CH), 118.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 113.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 110.0 (CH), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2224$ , 1611, 1461, 1437, 1408, 1328, 1278, 1051, 845, 749 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 256 (35) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 234 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 234.1026, found 234.1030.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[16]</sup>



#### 1-Methyl-2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3f)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-iodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (204 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) yielded **3f** (37.3 mg, 54%) as colorless solid. **M.p.**: 104 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.86 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 152.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.7 (q, *J* = 32.7 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH), 125.8 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz, CH), 124.0 (q, *J* = 273.2 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 123.5 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 109.9 (CH), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -62.8 ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v}$  = 1619, 1462, 1324, 1170, 1124, 1072, 1016, 850, 744, 420 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 575 (55) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 299 (38) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 277 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 277.0947, found 277.0955.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[15]</sup>



#### 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3g)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-fluoro-4-iodobenzene (166 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 6:1) yielded **3g** (19.8 mg, 35%) as brown solid.

**M.p.**: 96 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.84 - 7.80$  (m, 1H), 7.76 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.41 - 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, J = 8.7, 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 163.8 (d, *J* = 250.3 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 153.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, CH), 126.6 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 123.0 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 116.0 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz, CH), 109.8 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = -110.6$  ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1606, 1486, 1460, 1437, 1380, 1278, 1223, 1158, 841, 743 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 475 (45) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 249 (38) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 227 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{12}FN_2^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 227.0979, found 227.0982.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[13]</sup>



#### 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3h)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-chloro-4-iodobenzene (179 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 6:1) yielded **3h** (14.0 mg, 23%) as brown solid.

**M.p.**: 107 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.84 - 7.79$  (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 - 7.29 (m, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 152.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.9 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.2 (CH), 122.8 (CH), 120.1 (CH), 109.8 (CH), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v}$  = 2925, 1470, 1459, 1434, 1402, 1326, 1092, 1013, 836, 741 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 509 (65)  $[M(^{35}Cl)+M(^{37}Cl)+Na]^+$ , 507 (100)  $[M(^{35}Cl)+M(^{35}Cl)+Na]^+$ , 267 (20)  $[M(^{37}Cl)+Na]^+$ , 265 (65)  $[M(^{35}Cl)+Na]^+$ , 245 (12)  $[M(^{37}Cl)+H]^+$ , 243 (40)  $[M(^{35}Cl)+H]^+$ .

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 265.0503, found 265.0505.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[16]</sup>



#### Methyl 4-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzoate (3i)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and methyl 4-iodobenzoate (195 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 3:1) yielded **3i** (38.6 mg, 58%) as brown solid.

**M.p.**: 114 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.19$  (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.85 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 166.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 152.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 109.9 (CH), 52.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2950, 1722, 1612, 1461, 1434, 1274, 1109, 1017, 864, 746 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 555 (100) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 289 (56) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 267 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 267.1128, found 267.1130.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[16]</sup>



## 1-Methyl-2-(*m*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3j)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 3-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3j** (33.3 mg, 60%) as brown oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.88 - 7.78$  (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 - 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.28 (m, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 154.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.6 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 130.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 128.5 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 122.8 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.7 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 3050, 1483, 1458, 1436, 1377, 1326, 1287, 877, 790, 743 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 245 (15) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 223 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 223.1230, found 223.1234.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[17]</sup>



## 2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3k)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 3-iodoanisole (176 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3k** (42.8 mg, 72%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 87 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.88 - 7.78$  (m, 1H), 7.46 - 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.35 - 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.05 (ddd, J = 8.3, 2.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 159.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 153.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 122.6 (CH), 121.8 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 116.0 (CH), 114.8 (CH), 109.7 (CH), 55.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2938$ , 1706, 1579, 1453, 1376, 1238, 1033, 880, 735, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 499 (100) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 261 (40) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 239 (95) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 239.1179, found 239.1186. The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[15]</sup>



#### 1-Methyl-2-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3l)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-iodo-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (204 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3l** (49.8 mg, 92%) as yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.07$  (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 7.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 152.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.7 (CH), 131.3 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 131.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.4 (CH), 126.6 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz, CH), 126.4 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz, CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (q, *J* = 272.4 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 123.0 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>**F-NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -62.7 ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2357, 1733, 1717, 1699, 1684, 1419, 849, 808, 745, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

MS (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 575 (30) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 299 (15), 277 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 277.0947, found 277.0954.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[18]</sup>



#### 2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3m)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-iodo-3,5-dimethylbenzene (174 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3m** (28.9 mg, 49%) as orange oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.87 - 7.78$  (m, 1H), 7.40 - 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.33 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 154.2$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (CH), 130.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.3 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.6 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2918$ , 1601, 1473, 1440, 1375, 1324, 1283, 1006, 855, 742 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 495 (30) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 259 (20) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 237 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 237.1386, found 237.1390.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[19]</sup>



#### 2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3n)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-iodo-3,5-dimethoxybenzene (198 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3n** (33.5 mg, 50%) as brown solid. **M.p.**: 103 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.86 - 7.80$  (m, 1H), 7.41 - 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.34 - 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 161.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 153.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.0 (CH), 122.6 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.8 (CH), 107.6 (CH), 102.1 (CH), 55.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1595$ , 1454, 1383, 1325, 1291, 1206, 1157, 1063, 1040, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 559 (30) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 291 (20) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 269 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 269.1285, found 269.1291.



#### 1-Methyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (30)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 2-iodothiophene (158 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 8:1 to 6:1) yielded **30** (18.2 mg, 34%) as yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.86 - 7.74$  (m, 1H), 7.58 (dd, J = 3.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.39 - 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.33 - 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 (dd, J = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 148.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 128.8 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 123.1 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 109.5 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. IR (ATR):  $\tilde{v}$  = 2925, 1460, 1441, 1411, 1385, 1324, 1286, 1227, 740, 712 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 237 (35) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 215 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 215.0637, found 215.0642. The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[13]</sup>



## (1*R*,2*S*,5*R*)-2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2yl)benzoate (3p)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and (1R,2S,5R)-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl 4-iodobenzoate (290 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 7.5:1) yielded **3p** (49.8 mg, 51%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.21$  (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.89 – 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.45 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 4.98 (td, J = 10.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.21 – 2.11 (m, 1H), 1.99 (pd, J = 6.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.81 – 1.69 (m, 2H), 1.64 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.21 – 1.10 (m, 2H), 1.00 – 0.90 (m, 1H), 0.95 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 3H), 0.82 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 165.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 152.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 120.2 (CH), 109.9 (CH), 75.5 (CH), 47.4 (CH), 41.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 34.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.0 (CH), 31.6 (CH), 26.7 (CH), 23.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2955$ , 1711, 1613, 1459, 1272, 1177, 1096, 1017, 778, 738 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 781 (50) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 413 (14) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 391 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 391.2380, found 391.2377.



#### 3,7-Dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl 4-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzoate (3q)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl 4-iodobenzoate (290 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 7.5:1) yielded **3q** (31.0 mg, 32%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.19$  (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.90 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 5.11 (m, 1H), 4.45 – 4.36 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.11 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.93 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.53 (m, 8H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.26 (m, 1H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 166.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 152.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 120.2 (CH), 109.9 (CH), 64.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 35.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.9 (CH), 25.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2910, 1713, 1714, 1461, 1379, 1268, 1178, 1097, 1017, 738 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 781 (17) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 391 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 391.2380, found 391.2370.



## (*R*)-2,5,7,8-Tetramethyl-2-((4*R*,8*R*)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl 4-(1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-yl)benzoate (3r)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and (*R*)-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-2-((4*R*,8*R*)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)chroman-6-yl 4-iodobenzoate (495 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **3r** (66.5 mg, 40%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.41$  (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.91 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.64 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.88 – 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.69 – 1.49 (m, 5H), 1.44 – 1.36 (m, 3H), 1.32 – 1.22 (m, 11H), 1.17 – 1.06 (m, 6H), 0.90 – 0.83 (m, 12H).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 164.8$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 152.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 149.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.6 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 127.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 125.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.5 (CH), 123.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.0 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 117.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 109.9 (CH), 75.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 40.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH), 32.9 (CH), 32.8 (CH), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 23.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 20.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 19.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2952, 2924, 1731, 1461, 1271, 1234, 1090, 1016, 862, 738 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 1329 (35) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 687 (35) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 665 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>61</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 665.4677, found 665.4669.



#### 2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (3s)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 1-fluoro-2-iodobenzene (167 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 6:1) yielded **3s** (6.8 mg, 12%) as yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.87 - 7.83$  (m, 1H), 7.74 (ddd, J = 7.4, 7.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 - 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.45 - 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.38 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.27 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 160.3$  (d, J = 250.0 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 149.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 132.7 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, CH), 132.2 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, CH), 124.9 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, CH), 123.1 (CH), 122.6 (CH), 120.2 (CH), 118.6 (d, J = 14.7 Hz, C<sub>q</sub>), 116.0 (d, J = 21.4 Hz, CH), 109.8 (CH), 31.2 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = -113.1$  ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2924, 2854, 1622, 1474, 1452, 1356, 1328, 1226, 765, 744 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 475 (60) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 249 (55) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 227 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 227.0979, found 227.0986.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[20]</sup>



#### 1-Ethyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (5a)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-ethyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (36.5 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **5a** (45.0 mg, 76%) as yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.87 - 7.78$  (m, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 - 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.35 - 7.29 (m, 4H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 153.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 127.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 122.7 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 110.0 (CH), 39.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2357, 1733, 1699, 1520, 1457, 1419, 824, 746, 503, 455 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 495 (20) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 473 (1) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 259 (20) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 237 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 237.1386, found 237.1388.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[21]</sup>



#### 1-Isopropyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (5b)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-isopropyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (40.1 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **5b** (40.1 mg, 64%) as brown solid.

#### **M.p.**: 156 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.86 - 7.79$  (m, 1H), 7.68 - 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.31 - 7.22 (m, 2H), 4.84 (hept, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.65 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 153.9$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 139.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 133.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.5 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 122.2 (CH), 122.1 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 112.4 (CH), 48.9 (CH), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2357, 1733, 1717, 1699, 1684, 1457, 1260, 823, 748, 609 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 773 (22) [3M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 523 (40) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 501 (6) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 273 (25) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 251 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{19}N_2^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 251.1543, found 251.1550.



#### 1-Benzyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (5c)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-benzyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (52.1 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **5c** (46.3 mg, 62%) as colorless solid.

**M.p.**: 137 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.16 (m, 8H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 154.5$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 136.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.1 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 122.7 (CH), 120.0 (CH), 110.6 (CH), 48.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 3030, 1614, 1482, 1453, 1384, 1354, 822, 745, 728, 695 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 619 (85) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 321 (50) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 299 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 299.1543, found 299.1546.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[22]</sup>



#### 1-Phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (5d)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (48.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **5d** (49.8 mg, 70%) as yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.42 (m, 5H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 4.7, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 152.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 139.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 127.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.3 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 119.9 (CH), 110.5 (CH), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v}$  = 2357, 1717, 1699, 1655, 1323, 1250, 1185, 741, 606, 509 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 875 (23) [3M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 591 (32) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 569 (5) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 307 (14) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 285 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 307.1206, found 307.1205.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[23]</sup>



#### Benzyl 2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1-carboxylate (5e)

The general procedure B was followed using benzyl 1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-1-carboxylate (63.1 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 3:1) yielded **5e** (45.4 mg, 53%) as brown solid. **M.p.**: 123 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): *δ* = 8.05 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 7.22 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 154.2$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 150.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 133.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.4 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 128.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 128.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 125.2 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 115.0 (CH), 69.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2357, 1743, 1699, 1602, 1568, 1247, 1066, 822, 748, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>.$ 

**MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 707 (98) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 365 (92) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 343 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 343.1441, found 343.1433.



1,5,6-Trimethyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (5f)

Following a modification of general procedure B, the title compound was obtained by using 1,5,6-trimethyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (40.1 mg, 0.25 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (218 mg, 1.00 mmol), [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>]PF<sub>6</sub> (28.0 mg, 75 µmol), 10-phenylphenothiazine (PTH) (3.4 mg, 12.5 µmol) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in MeCN/THF (2:1, 0.5 mL). After stirring for 48 h under 390 nm irradiation, the product **5f** was obtained as yellow solid (26.9 mg, 43%) through the purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1). **M.p.**: 109 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): *δ* = 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 153.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 141.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 139.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.4 (CH), 129.4 (CH), 127.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 119.9 (CH), 109.9 (CH), 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2918$ , 1481, 1461, 1437, 1381, 1321, 1019, 997, 823, 728 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 523 (45) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 273 (25) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 251 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 251.1543, found 251.1546.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[13]</sup>



#### 1-Methyl-4,5-diphenyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole (5g)

The general procedure B was followed using 1-methyl-4,5-diphenyl-1*H*-imidazole (58.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded **5g** (37.0 mg, 46%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 215 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.64$  (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 5H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 148.2$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.0 (CH), 130.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.4 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 129.1 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 128.2 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 33.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1601, 1503, 1484, 960, 825, 776, 731, 698, 512, 413 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**MS** (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 671 (55)  $[2M+Na]^+$ , 347 (30)  $[M+Na]^+$ , 325 (100)  $[M+H]^+$ . **HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>  $[M+Na]^+$  347.1519, found 347.1522. The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[24]</sup>



#### Methyl 1-methyl-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazole-5-carboxylate (5h)

Following a modification of general procedure B, the title compound was obtained by using methyl 1-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-5-carboxylate (35.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (218 mg, 1.00 mmol), [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>]PF<sub>6</sub> (28.0 mg, 75  $\mu$ mol), 10-phenylphenothiazine (PTH) (3.4 mg, 12.5  $\mu$ mol) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in MeCN/THF (2:1, 0.5 mL). After stirring for 48 h under 390 nm irradiation, the product **5h** was obtained as colorless solid (28.8 mg, 50%) through the purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1).

**M.p.**: 112 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 161.3$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 153.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 139.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.4 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 126.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 51.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2949$ , 1702, 1519, 1449, 1359, 1298, 1218, 1111, 826, 506 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 483 (100) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 253 (47) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 231 (92) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 231.1128, found 231.1139.



#### 2-(p-Tolyl)benzo[d]oxazole (5i)

The general procedure B was followed using benzoxazole (29.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 25:1) yielded **5i** (41.3 mg, 79%) as yellow solid.

#### **M.p.**: 116 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.15$  (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.79 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.54 (m, 1H), 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 163.4$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 150.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 142.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 125.0 (CH), 124.6 (CH), 124.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 120.0 (CH), 110.6 (CH), 21.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1622$ , 1556, 1502, 1452, 1243, 1178, 1056, 821, 745, 502 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m/z* (relative intensity): 210 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m/z* calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 210.0913, found 210.0920. The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[25]</sup>



#### 2-(p-Tolyl)oxazole (5j)

The general procedure B was followed using oxazole (17.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 20:1) yielded **5j** (22.7 mg, 57%) as yellow oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): *δ* = 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.4 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 125.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1613, 1494, 1362, 1261, 1139, 1103, 919, 824, 730, 504 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI) m/z (relative intensity): 160 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 160.0757, found 160.0760.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[26]</sup>



5-Phenyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)oxazole (5k)

The general procedure B was followed using 5-phenyloxazole (36.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 10:1) yielded **5k** (22.7 mg, 57%) as yellow solid.

#### **M.p.**: 66 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.01$  (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 161.5$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 151.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 140.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.6 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.4 (CH), 124.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 124.2 (CH), 123.5 (CH), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1612$ , 1497, 1134, 1020, 952, 824, 761, 730, 689, 486 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 493 (50) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 258 (100) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 236 (72) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NONa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 258.0889, found 258.0893. The spectral data is in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[27]</sup>



#### 5-(Pyridin-2-yl)-2-(p-tolyl)oxazole (5l)

Following a modification of general procedure B, the title compound was obtained by using 5-(pyridin-2-yl)oxazole (36.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (218 mg, 1.00 mmol),  $[Cu(MeCN)_4]PF_6$  (28.0 mg, 75 µmol), 10-phenylphenothiazine (PTH) (3.4 mg, 12.5 µmol) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) in MeCN/THF (2:1, 0.5 mL). After stirring for 48 h under 390 nm irradiation, the product **5l** was obtained as yellow solid (39.0 mg, 66%) through purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 10:1).

#### **M.p.**: 114 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.64 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.84 – 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 162.4$  (C<sub>q</sub>), 150.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 150.1 (CH), 147.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 141.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 137.0 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 124.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 122.8 (CH), 119.2 (CH), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1604, 1576, 1491, 1468, 1425, 1133, 955, 822, 777, 730 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 495 (42) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 259 (100) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 237 (30) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI): *m*/*z* calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ONa<sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 259.0842, found 259.0849.



#### 2-(*p*-Tolyl)benzo[*d*]thiazole (5m)

The general procedure B was followed using benzothiazole (33.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 20:1) yielded **5m** (34.9 mg, 62%) as brown solid.

## **M.p.**: 76 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0, 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 168.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 154.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 141.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.9 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 125.1 (CH), 123.2 (CH), 121.7 (CH), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. **IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v}$  = 3023, 1610, 1483, 1434, 1313, 1229, 962, 818, 759, 729 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 248 (7) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 226 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NS<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 226.0685, found 226.0687.

The spectral data is in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[15]</sup>

## 2-(p-Tolyl)thiazole (5n)

The general procedure B was followed using benzothiazole (21.3 mg, 0.25 mmol) and 4iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol). Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 30:1) yielded **5n** (25.0 mg, 57%) as colorless oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 168.8 (C_q)$ , 143.7 (CH), 140.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 118.5 (CH), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2920$ , 1484, 1143, 1056, 973, 817, 723, 710, 632, 480 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 198 (23) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 176 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NS<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 176.0528, found 176.0534.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[28]</sup>

## 7 Gram scale synthesis



#### 5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-phenyloxazole (50)

5-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)oxazole (1.03 g, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), CuI (190 mg, 1.0 mmol, 20 mol%), PTH (68 mg, 0.25 mmol, 5.0 mol%) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (3.18 g, 15 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were filled in a 100 mL round-bottom Schlenk-flask equipped with a teflon-coated magnetic stir bar. After evacuating and backfilling with N<sub>2</sub> for three times, iodobenzene (3.06 g, 15 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) was added before the addition of MeCN (13.3 mL) and THF (6.7 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 18 h under violet LED irradiation (390 nm) using the standard experimental setup for photoreactions. Afterwards, the crude reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica which was washed with EtOAc (250 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1) yielded balsoxin (**50**) (1.01 g, 72%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 96 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 8.13 - 8.05$  (m, 2H), 7.53 - 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 151.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 149.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 149.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.3 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 127.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.3 (CH), 122.4 (CH), 121.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 117.4 (CH), 111.6 (CH), 107.6 (CH), 56.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 56.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2937, 1594, 1505, 1253, 1221, 1142, 1025, 856, 805, 710 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

MS (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 304 (95) [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 282 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 282.1125, found 282.1125.

The spectral data are in accordance with those reported in the literature.<sup>[9]</sup>



## 8 Ligand optimization atroposelective synthesis of benzimidazole 7

Scheme S1. Ligand optimization for the atroposelective, copper-catalyzed arylation.

#### **Experimental Procedure using CN-BOX ligand**



In a glovebox, CuI (3.8 mg, 20  $\mu$ mol, 20 mol%) and CN-BOX (6.6 mg, 20  $\mu$ mol, 20 mol%) were filled in an oven-dried 10 mL vial and MeCN (0.5 mL) and THF (0.25 mL) were added subsequently. The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at ambient temperature before 1- (naphthalen-1-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (24.4 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 4-iodotoluene (65 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (64 mg, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added. The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and wrapped with parafilm. The vial was transferred out of the glovebox and the reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature (fan cooling) under violet LED irradiation (390 nm) for 18 h. Afterwards, the crude reaction mixture was filtered through a short plug of silica which was washed with EtOAc (20 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by column chromatography

(hexane/EtOAc 5:1) yielded 1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (7) (8.7 mg, 26%) as yellow solid.

**M.p.**: 163 °C.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.01 (td, *J* = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (dt, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 153.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 143.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 139.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 138.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 133.9 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.7 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.2

(C<sub>q</sub>), 127.1 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 123.1 (CH), 123.0 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 111.0 (CH), 21.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**IR** (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 1597, 1450, 1411, 1367, 1318, 1265, 825, 802, 774, 744 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

**MS** (ESI) *m*/*z* (relative intensity): 691 (40) [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, 669 (15) [2M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 357 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (15), 335 (100) [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

**HRMS** (ESI): m/z calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 335.1548, found 335.1543.

**R**<sub>t</sub> (IA-3 column, *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH 90/10, 1.0 mL/min, 250.4 nm): tr(major) = 9.58 min, tr(minor) = 17.54 min, 79.5:20.5 er


# **9** Mechanistic experiments

#### 9.1 Intermolecular competition experiment



1-Methylbenzimidazole (**1a**) (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), 4-iodotoluene (**2a**) (81.8 mg, 375  $\mu$ mol), 1-iodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (**2f**) (102 mg, 375  $\mu$ mol), CuI (9.5 mg, 50.0  $\mu$ mol, 20 mol%), PTH (3.4 mg, 12.5  $\mu$ mol, 5.0 mol%) and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were filled in a 10 mL vial equipped with a teflon-coated stir bar. The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and was evacuated and purged with N<sub>2</sub> three times before MeCN (0.67 mL) and THF (0.33 mL) were added. Afterwards, the vial was wrapped with parafilm. The resulting solution was stirred under violet light irradiation (2 × Kessil PR160L, internal temperature was determined to be 35 °C). After 18 h, the resulting mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with EtOAc and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard affording a product ratio **3f/3a** = 1.25.



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of competition experiment between 2a and 2f with benzimidazole 1a. Blue dot = 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (internal standard), green dot = 3a (Me), red dot = 3f (CF<sub>3</sub>).

#### 9.2 Kinetic isotope effect

The kinetic isotope effect (KIE) was determined running two independent reactions in parallel with either 1-methylbenzimidazole (1a) or 1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-2-*d* ([D]<sub>1</sub>-1a).



Following general procedure B, the reactions were set up using 1-methylbenzimidazole (1a) 66.1 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) or 2-deutero-1-methylbenzimidazole ( $[D]_1$ -1a) (66.6 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 4-iodotoluene (327 mg, 1.50 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), CuI (19.0 mg, 0.10 mmol, 20 mol%), PTH (6.9 mg, 25.0 µmol, 5.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (318 mg, 1.50 mmol,

3.0 equiv.) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (18.0 mg, 10.7 mmol) in MeCN (1.33 mL) and THF (0.67 mL). The reactions were stirred under 390 nm irradiation. Aliquots of 20  $\mu$ L were taken after 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200 and 220 min and filtered through a short plug of silica gel. The silica plug was flushed with EtOAc and the resulting solution was analyzed by GC.

A linear regression was applied for the reaction in the interval 100 to 180 min. The quotient of the obtained slopes gave the KIE value.

<i>t</i> (min)	H (1st run)	H (2nd run)	D (1st run)	D (2nd run)
20	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
40	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
60	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1
80	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.9
100	6.6	6.2	7.5	6.8
120	11.2	9.6	13.0	11.4
140	16.5	15.1	19.8	18.9
160	20.3	21.0	28.0	28.3
180	28.1	26.0	35.8	36.1
200	28.7	30.5	41.3	40.3
220	30.7	34.0	44.7	43.0
Rate	0.26025	0.25539	0.35821	0.37785
$R^2$ (linear fit)	0.9860	0.9936	0.9944	0.9879

Table S7. Yield *versus* time profile for 1a and [D]<sub>1</sub>-1a.

 $\text{KIE} = k_{\text{H}} / k_{\text{D}}$ 

 $KIE_1 = 0.26025 / 0.3821 = 0.7265$ 

 $KIE_2 = 0.25539 / 0.37785 = 0.6759$ 

**Overall KIE = 0.70** 



Figure S4. Conversion *versus* time profile of 3a for 1a and [D]<sub>1</sub>-1a.

# 9.3 Radical scavenger experiments



To an oven-dried 10 mL vial with a teflon-coated stir bar 1-methylbenzimidazole (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 4-iodotoluene (164 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), CuI (50.0  $\mu$ mol, 20 mol%), PTH (3.4 mg, 12.5  $\mu$ mol, 5.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (159 mg, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and the radical scavenger (1.0 equiv.) were added. The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and evacuated and purged with N<sub>2</sub> three times before the addition of MeCN (0.67 mL) and THF (0.33 mL). After wrapping the vial with parafilm, the resulting solution was stirred under violet light irradiation. After 18 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel and washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the crude reaction mixture was analyzed by HRMS. Further purification by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc 5:1) afforded product **3a**.

Entry	Radical scavenger (1.0 equiv.)	Yield (%)
1		77
2	TEMPO	12
3	Galvinoxyl	0
4	BHT	0

 Table S8. Product yield of 3a in radical scavenger experiment.

Yield of isolated products. TEMPO = 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidinyloxyl. BHT = butylated hydroxytoluene.





b)



**Figure S5.** HRMS spectra of a) TEMPO-tolyl and b) galvinoxyl-tolyl adduct. Top: measured, bottom: simulated.

# 9.4 On/off experiment

A 10 mL glass vial was charged with 1-methylbenzimidazole (66.1 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 4-iodotoluene (327 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3.0 equiv.), CuI (19.0 mg, 0.10 mmol, 20 mol%), PTH (6.9 mg, 25.0  $\mu$ mol, 5.0 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (318 mg, 1.50 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (19.8 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added as internal standard. The vial was sealed with a rubber septum and wrapped with parafilm. The vial was evacuated and purged with N<sub>2</sub> three times before the addition of MeCN (1.33 mL) and THF (0.67 mL). Starting with lights turned on, aliquots of 20  $\mu$ L were taken every 45 min. In the same interval, the light was turned on or off, respectively. The aliquots were diluted with CDCl<sub>3</sub>, filtered through a short plug of silica gel and analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy to determine the yield of product **3a**.

Entry	Light	<i>t</i> (min)	Yield (%)
1	On	45	2
2	Off	90	2
3	On	135	6
4	Off	180	6
5	On	225	15
6	Off	270	15
7	On	315	31

Table S9. Yield *versus* time profile for arylated benzimidazole 3a in the on/off experiment.



**Figure S6.** On/off experiment showing the influence of the visible light irradiation on the formation of **3a**.

## 9.5 Determination of quantum yield

The quantum yield measurements were conducted by following a literature procedure.<sup>[29]</sup> All preparations were carried out in the dark.

1) Preparation of ferrioxalate solution.

In a volumetric flask, potassium ferrioxalate trihydrate (295 mg) and  $H_2SO_4$  (140  $\mu$ L) were diluted to finale volume of 50 mL  $H_2O$ .

2) Preparation of buffer solution.

In a volumetric flask, NaOAc (2.48 g) and  $H_2SO_4$  (0.5 mL) were diluted to a finale volume of 50 mL.

The quantum yield was determined by irradiating the ferrioxalate solution (2 mL) for 10 s with the standard reaction setup for 390 nm reactions. Subsequently, buffer solution (4 mL) containing 1,10-phenantroline (2 mg) was added and the resulting solution was diluted to a finale volume of 10 mL. The sample solution was then stored in the dark for 1 h to enable complete complex formation. Afterwards, the absorbance of this solution was measured using a quartz cuvette (l = 1 cm) at 510 nm (with  $\epsilon = 11100 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>[30]</sup> Following the same procedure for a non-irradiated sample, the quantum yield was determined based on the different absorbances.

Calculation number of photons.

Absorbance  $A_0$  of Fe<sup>2+</sup> at 510 nm (non-irradiated sample):  $A_0 = 0.0256$ 

Absorbance A of  $Fe^{2+}$  at 510 nm (irradiated sample): A = 4.0312 (after 10 s irradiation)

Difference Absorbance:  $A - A_0 = 4.0312 - 0.0256 = 4.0056$ 

$$[Fe^{2+}] = \frac{A - A_0}{\epsilon (Fe^{2+}_{510 \text{ nm}}) \cdot l} = \frac{4.0056}{11100 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1} \cdot 1 \text{ cm}} = 3.6086 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$
$$n(Fe^{2+}) = 3.6086 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ M} \cdot 0.010 \text{ L} = 3.6086 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol}$$

With a quantum yield  $\Phi = 1.14$  for the ferrioxalate actinometer at 405 nm<sup>[30]</sup> (Annotation: It is assumed that the value for the quantum yield is also applicable for 390 nm irradiation):

$$n(\text{photons}) = \frac{n(\text{Fe}^{2+})}{\Phi} = \frac{3.6086 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol}}{1.14} = 3.1654 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol}$$
$$n(\text{photons/s}) = \frac{n(\text{photons})}{t} = \frac{3.1654 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol}}{10 \text{ s}} = 3.1654 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ mol s}^{-1}$$

With the overall product formation rate  $n(\text{product/s}) = 2.1485 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ mol s}^{-1}$  obtained from the KIE experiment, the quantum yield is:

Quantum Yield	n(product/s)	$\frac{2.1485 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ mol s}^{-1}}{-0.07 - 706}$
	$\frac{1}{n(\text{photons/s})}$	$3.1654 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ mol s}^{-1} = 0.07 = 7\%$

# 9.6 Fluorescence quenching experiment

The fluorescence quenching experiment was performed by preparing sample solutions of PTH [PTH] = 2 mM and varying concentrations of 4-iodotoluene (**2a**) in MeCN/THF (2:1). Before the measurement, the sample solutions were degassed by sparging with N<sub>2</sub>. Fluoresence spectra were determined with a fixed excitation wavelength of 390 nm. The Stern-Volmer plot was obtained by plotting the  $I_0/I$  ratio against the quencher concentration after determining the intensity of the fluorescence emission spectrum of PTH at 445 nm.



Figure S7. Fluorescence emission spectra of PTH with varying concentrations of 2a.



Figure S8. Stern-Volmer plot for PTH with increasing concentation of 4-iodotoluene.

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# 11 NMR Spectra













160 150 140 130 120 110 100 δ/ppm 220 210 





![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -22t

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_0.jpeg)

10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 δ/ ppm

![](_page_61_Figure_0.jpeg)

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-45 -50 -55 -60 -65 -70 -75 -80 -85 -90 -35 -100 -105 -110 -115 -120 -125 -130 -135 -140 -145 8/ppm

----113.07









220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 δ/ppm









**5h** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

















220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 δ/ppm



