

**TBHP mediated oxidation of *N*-2-alkynylphenyl  
 $\alpha$ -amino carbonyl compounds to oxalic amides using  
visible light photoredox catalysis and its application  
in synthesis of 2-aryl indoles**

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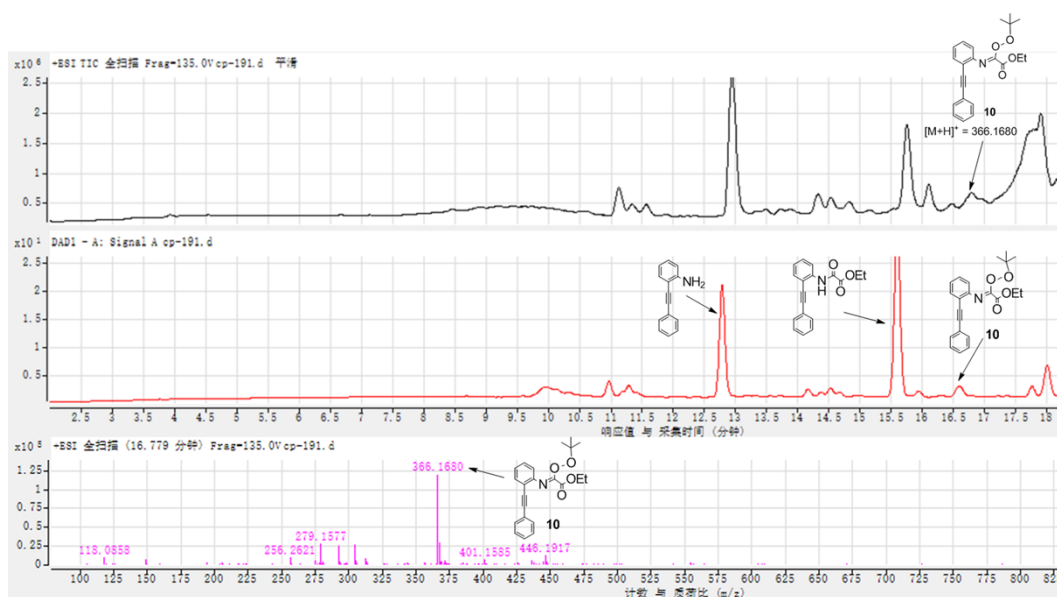
### General:

Column chromatography silica gel (200-300 mesh) and TCL plate were purchased from Qingdao Meijin Chemical Inc(Qingdao; China); HRMS data were obtained in the ESI mode on a Agilent 6530 Q-TOF/MS system;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer and chemical shifts were given in  $\delta$  with TMS as an internal reference.

### Representative experimental procedure for visible light promoted oxidation of *N*-2-alkynyl glycine esters (1) to *N*-2-alkynylphenyl oxalic amides (2):

A solution of *N*-2-alkynyl glycine ester **1** (1.0 mmol), 4.0 eq of TBHP (6M in decane), CuBr (20mol%), and Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (2mol%) in the super dried mixed solvent of MeCN/DMSO (4 mL,  $V_{\text{MeCN}}:V_{\text{DMSO}}=4:1$ ) was irradiated with 26W compact fluorescent lamp for 24 h at room temperature. After the reaction was completed, the resulting mixture was washed with water (5 mL×3). The organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent were removed via vacuo and theresidue was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>) with hexane/acetone (40:1) to give target compounds **2**.

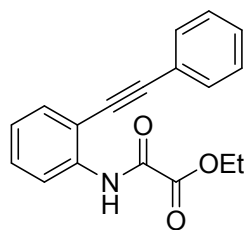
### HPLC-Q-TOF analysis for intermediate 10



**Figure 1s.** HPLC-Q-TOF analysis of the photocatalytic reaction (sample from Table 1, entry 4)

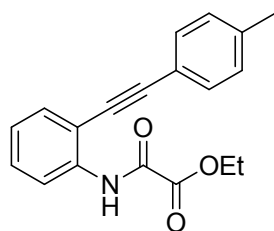
**Characterization data of compounds 2**

**ethyl 2-oxo-2-((2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)amino)acetate (2a):**



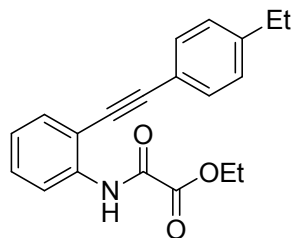
obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 57%; mp: 84.5-86.0°C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 8.49 (brd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.54 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.15 (td,  $J = 8.4, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 160.8, 153.9, 137.5, 131.7, 131.6, 131.6 (overlapped), 129.8, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7 (overlapped), 124.8, 122.3, 119.2, 113.2, 97.8, 83.7, 63.7, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$  294.1125; found 294.1117.

**ethyl 2-oxo-2-((2-(p-tolyethynyl)phenyl)amino)acetate (2b):**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 52%; mp: 104.0-106.0 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (brt,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.14 (td,  $J = 7.6, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 160.8, 153.9, 139.4, 137.4, 131.6, 131.6 (overlapped), 131.5, 129.6, 129.6 (overlapped), 129.5, 124.8, 119.3, 119.2, 113.5, 98.0, 83.1, 63.8, 21.7, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$  308.1281; found 308.1289.

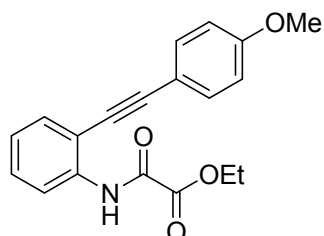
**ethyl 2-((2-((4-ethylphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2c)**



obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 49%;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.26 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.7, 153.8, 145.5, 137.3, 131.6, 131.6

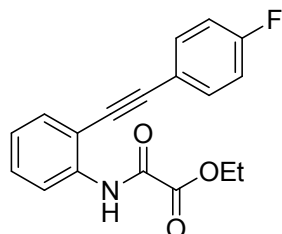
(overlapped), 131.4, 129.5, 128.1, 128.1(overlapped), 124.7, 119.3, 119.1, 113.4, 97.9, 83.0, 63.7, 28.9, 15.3, 14.0; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}NO_3$  322.1438; found 322.1446.

**ethyl 2-((2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2d)**



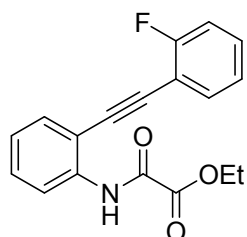
obtained as gray solid, isolated yield 46%; mp: 89.5-91.0°C;  $^1H$ NMR (400MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 8.47 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.50 (dd,  $J = 7.6$ , 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (brt,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H) 7.14 (brt,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.9, 160.3, 153.9, 137.3, 133.3, 133.3 (overlapped), 131.4, 129.4, 124.8, 119.2, 114.4, 114.4, 114.4 (overlapped), 113.7, 97.9, 82.5, 63.8, 55.5, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}NO_4$  324.1230; found 324.1237.

**ethyl 2-((2-((4-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2e)**



obtained as gray solid, isolated yield 50 %; mp: 118.0-120.0°C;  $^1H$ NMR (400MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.92 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd,  $J = 7.6$ , 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (dt,  $J = 1.6$ , 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (td,  $J = 1.2$ , 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (100MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.1 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 249$  Hz), 161.0, 153.7, 137.5, 133.7, 133.6, 131.5, 128.8, 124.9, 119.2, 118.5 (d,  $J_{F-C} = 3.4$  Hz), 116.1, 116.0, 113.1, 96.7, 83.5, 63.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{15}FNO_3$  312.1030; found 312.1036.

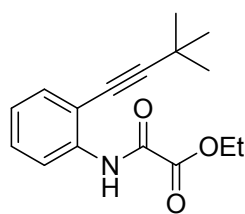
**ethyl 2-((2-((2-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2f)**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 54%; mp: 72.3-74.0 °C;  $^1H$ NMR (400MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.83 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td,  $J = 7.2$ , 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd,  $J = 1.2$ , 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 3H), 4.43 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H),

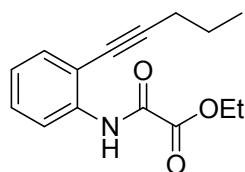
1.41 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  162.6 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 251$  Hz), 160.6, 154.1, 137.6, 133.4, 131.9, 130.8 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 7.8$  Hz), 130.2, 124.8, 124.3 ( $J_{\text{F-C}} = 3.7$  Hz), 119.4, 115.7 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 20.4$  Hz), 112.9, 111.1 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 15.5$  Hz), 90.8, 88.7 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 3.0$  Hz), 63.8, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}_3$  312.1030; found 312.1035.

**ethyl 2-((2-(3,3-dimethylbut-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2g)**



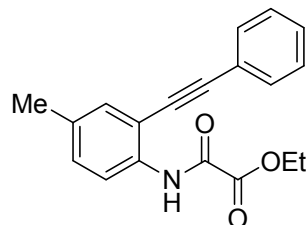
obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 43%;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.81 (s, 1H), 8.43 (brd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td,  $J = 8.8, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.9, 153.9, 137.5, 131.5, 129.0, 124.6, 119.0, 113.9, 107.3, 73.8, 63.7, 31.0, 31.0 (overlapped), 31.0 (overlapped), 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$  274.1438; found 274.1447.

**ethyl 2-oxo-2-((2-(pent-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)amino)acetate (2h)**



obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 41%;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.80 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (td,  $J = 1.2, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.08 (td,  $J = 1.2, 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.51 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.72 (dt,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.9, 153.9, 137.6, 131.7, 129.0, 124.7, 119.1, 114.0, 99.0, 75.4, 63.7, 22.3, 21.7, 14.2, 13.7; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_3$  260.1281; found 260.1288.

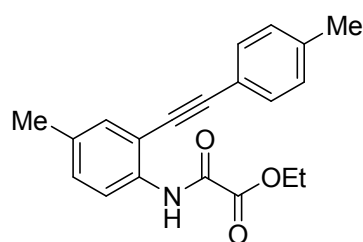
**ethyl 2-((4-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2i)**



obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 33%;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.88 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 5H) 7.19 (dd,  $J = 8.4, 1.6$

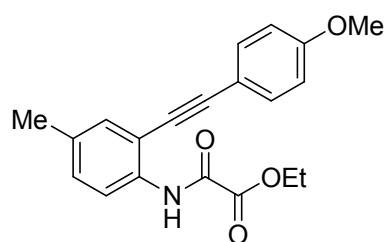
Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  161.0, 153.8, 135.2, 134.6, 131.7, 131.7 (overlapped), 130.6, 129.0, 128.7, 128.7 (overlapped), 122.4, 119.2, 113.2, 97.4, 83.9, 63.8, 20.9, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$  308.1281; found 308.1291.

**ethyl 2-((4-methyl-2-(*p*-tolylethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2j)**



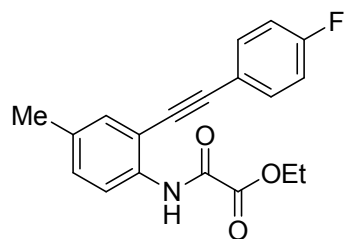
obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 37%; mp: 125.0-127.0 °C;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.87 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.34 (brs, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 7.17 (brs, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.9, 153.8, 139.3, 135.1, 134.6, 131.8, 131.6, 131.6 (overlapped), 130.4, 129.4, 129.4 (overlapped), 119.4, 119.2, 113.4, 97.6, 83.3, 63.8, 21.7, 20.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3$  322.1438; found 322.1442.

**ethyl 2-((2-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-4-methylphenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2k)**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 42%; mp: 78.5-80.5°C;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.88 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.17 (brd,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  161.0, 160.3, 153.8, 135.0, 134.6, 133.3, 133.3(overlapped), 131.7, 130.2, 119.1, 114.5, 114.4, 114.4 (overlapped), 113.6, 97.5, 82.7, 63.8, 55.5, 21.0, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)  $m/z$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4$  338.1387; found 338.1394.

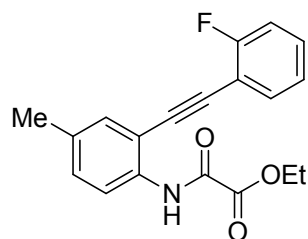
**ethyl 2-((2-((4-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-4-methylphenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2l)**



obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 39%;

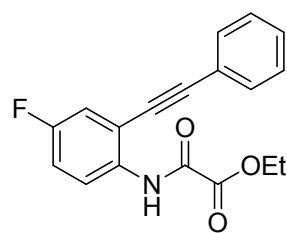
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.85 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.33 (brs, 1H), 7.20 (brd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.9 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 249.0 Hz), 160.9, 153.6, 135.0, 134.5, 133.6, 133.5, 131.7, 130.5, 119.1, 118.4 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.5 Hz), 116.0, 115.8, 112.8, 96.1, 83.6, 63.7, 20.8, 14.0; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub> 326.1187; found 326.1192.

**ethyl 2-((2-((2-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-4-methylphenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2m)**



obtained as yellow viscous oil, isolated yield 32%; <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 1.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.15 (m, 3H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.6 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 250.8 Hz), 160.7, 154.0, 135.3, 134.7, 133.5, 131.0, 130.7 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 7.9 Hz), 124.5 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.7 Hz), 119.5, 115.8 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 30.5 Hz), 112.8, 111.2 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 5.7 Hz), 90.4, 89.0 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 63.8, 20.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub> 326.1187; found 326.1198.

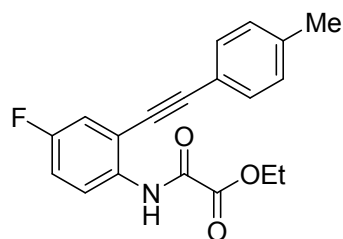
**ethyl 2-((4-fluoro-2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2n)**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 69%; mp: 84.0-86.0°C; <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.87 (s, 1H), 8.48 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.3 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 3H) 7.23 (dd, *J* = 0.7, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (td, *J* = 0.7, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 160.8, 159.0 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 243.9 Hz), 153.8, 134.0, 131.8, 131.8 (overlapped), 129.5, 128.8, 121.8, 120.9 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.2 Hz), 118.0 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 2.4 Hz), 116.8 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 22.3 Hz), 114.9 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 9.8 Hz), 98.6, 82.7 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.2 Hz), 64.0, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) *m/z*: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub> 312.1030; found 312.1031.

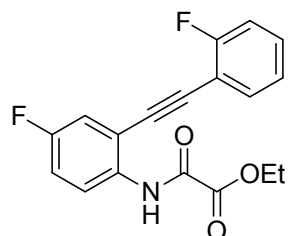
**ethyl 2-((4-fluoro-2-(p-tolyethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2o)**





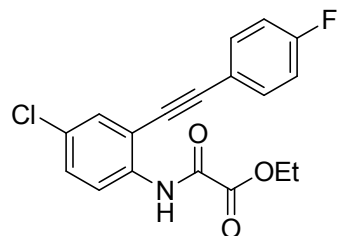
obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 55%; mp: 107.5-109.5°C;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.87 (s, 1H), 8.46 (dd,  $J = 5.2, 9.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.08 (td,  $J = 2.8, 8.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.8, 159.0 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 243.8$  Hz), 153.8, 139.8, 133.9, 131.8, 131.8 (overlapped), 129.5, 129.5 (overlapped), 120.8 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.5$  Hz), 118.8, 117.9 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 24.3$  Hz), 116.6 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 22.3$  Hz), 115.2 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.7$  Hz), 98.9, 82.2, 3.9, 21.8, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{FNO}_3$  326.1187; found 326.1193.

**ethyl 2-((4-fluoro-2-((2-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2p)**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 56%; mp: 93.7-95.0°C;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.76 (s, 1H), 8.48 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td,  $J = 7.2, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.12 (m, 3H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  162.7 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 251.5$  Hz), 160.6, 159.0 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 244$  Hz), 154.0, 134.0 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 2.6$  Hz), 133.5, 131.3 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 7.9$  Hz), 124.4 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 3.7$  Hz), 121.2 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 8.2$  Hz), 118.3 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 24.3$  Hz), 117.2 ( $J_{\text{F-C}} = 22.1$  Hz), 115.8 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 30.3$  Hz), 114.5 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 19.6$  Hz), 110.6 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 15.5$  Hz), 91.6, 87.7, 63.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z:  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_2\text{NO}_3$  330.0936; found 330.0932.

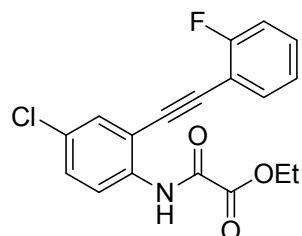
**ethyl 2-((4-chloro-2-((4-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2q)**



obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 49%; mp: 106.0-108.0°C;  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.87 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd,  $J = 8.8, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 2H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.3 (d,  $J_{\text{F-C}} = 250$  Hz), 160.8, 153.8, 136.1, 133.9, 133.8, 131.0, 129.9, 120.3, 118.0, 117.9, 116.3, 116.1, 114.7, 97.8, 82.3, 64.0, 14.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF)

m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClFNO<sub>3</sub> 346.0641; found 346.0645.

***ethyl 2-((4-chloro-2-((2-fluorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)amino)-2-oxoacetate (2r)***



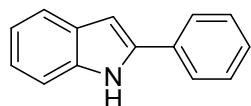
obtained as yellow solid, isolated yield 38%; mp: 112.0-113.8°C; <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.81 (s, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.8 (d, *J* = 150 Hz), 160.5, 154.1, 136.2, 133.6, 131.5, 131.3 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 8.2 Hz), 130.3, 130.0, 124.4 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.4 Hz), 120.6, 116.0, 115.8, 114.5, 91.9, 87.6, 64.0, 14.2; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClFNO<sub>3</sub> 346.0641; found 346.0651.

***Representative experimental procedure for synthesis of 2-aryl indoles (12) with N-2-alkynylphenyl oxalic amides (2) as starting materials:***

To a 10 mL scintillation flask was charged with **2** (0.5 mmol), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (20 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.0 eq) and MeCN (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70°C for 2 h. The resulting mixture was poured into 30 mL water and then extracted with AcOEt (20 mL × 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent were removed via vacuo and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>) with hexane/acetone (40:1) to give compounds **12**.

***Characterization data of compounds 12***

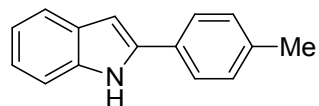
***2-phenyl-1H-indole (12a)***



obtained as white amorphous powder, isolated yield 95%; <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.34(s, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 3H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21(td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 1.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 138.0, 137.0, 132.5, 129.4, 129.2, 129.2

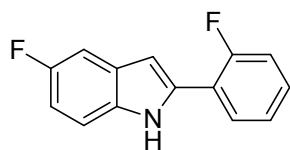
(overlapped), 127.8, 125.3, 125.3 (overlapped), 122.5, 120.8, 120.4, 111.0, 100.1;  
HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N 194.0964; found 194.0960.

### **2-(*p*-tolyl)-1H-indole (12b)**



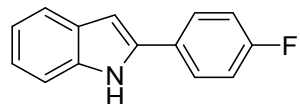
obtained as white amorphous powder, isolated yield 91%;  
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 138.2, 137.8, 136.8, 129.8, 129.8 (overlapped), 129.7, 129.5, 125.2, 125.2 (overlapped), 122.3, 120.7, 120.3, 110.9, 99.6, 21.4;  
HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N 208.1121; found 208.1113.

### **5-fluoro-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole (12c)**



obtained as white amorphous powder, isolated yield 88%;  
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.87 (s, 1H), 7.71 (brt, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.16 (m, 5H), 6.96 (brt, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 159.4 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 245 Hz), 158.3 (d, *J* = 245.0 Hz), 134.5, 133.3, 129.5 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 9.0 Hz), 128.6 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 10.1 Hz), 128.2 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 4.0 Hz), 125.0(d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.1 Hz), 119.7 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 10.1 Hz), 116.7 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 23.0 Hz), 111.8 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 9.6 Hz), 111.3 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 26.4 Hz), 105.4 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 23.4 Hz), 101.7 (dd, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 4.7, 4.7 Hz); HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N 230.0776; found 230.0783.

### **2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole (12d)**



obtained as white amorphous powder, isolated yield 90%;  
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.40 (brd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 3H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.6 (d, *J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 246 Hz), 137.2, 137.0, 129.4, 128.8 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.1 Hz), 127.1, 127.0, 122.6, 120.8, 120.5, 116.3, 116.1, 111.0, 100.1; HRMS (ESI-QTOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FN 212.0876; found 212.0869.

**Table s1.** Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **2q**.

Identification code	mo_2q_0m
Empirical formula	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>13</sub> ClFNO <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	345.74
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n
Unit cell dimensions	a = 14.191(2) Å    alpha = 90 deg. b = 4.4973(7) Å    beta = 95.570(2) deg. c = 25.988(4) Å    gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1650.7(4) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.391 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.257 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	712
Crystal size	0.70 x 0.06 x 0.05 mm
Theta range for data collection	1.57 to 28.30 deg.
Limiting indices	-18<=h<=18, -5<=k<=5, -34<=l<=34
Reflections collected / unique	15559 / 4056 [R(int) = 0.0691]
Completeness to theta = 28.30	99.7 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9873 and 0.8404
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	4056 / 0 / 218
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.049
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0596, wR2 = 0.1059
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0986, wR2 = 0.1197
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.382 and -0.358 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

**Table s2.** Atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{Å}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for compound **2q**.  $U(\text{eq})$  is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor.

	x	y	z	$U(\text{eq})$
Cl(1)	-4050(1)	14864(2)	500(1)	22(1)
F(1)	269(1)	-1630(4)	3316(1)	38(1)
O(1)	2275(1)	9804(4)	848(1)	25(1)
O(2)	1399(1)	7474(5)	1398(1)	54(1)
O(3)	750(1)	12663(6)	448(1)	70(1)
N(1)	-174(1)	10129(5)	966(1)	18(1)
C(1)	-107(2)	394(6)	2966(1)	24(1)
C(2)	-1018(2)	1345(6)	3000(1)	24(1)
C(3)	-1407(2)	3381(5)	2637(1)	19(1)
C(4)	-875(2)	4413(5)	2249(1)	16(1)
C(5)	-1269(2)	6488(5)	1864(1)	17(1)
C(6)	-1572(2)	8183(5)	1536(1)	15(1)
C(7)	-1810(1)	10278(5)	1129(1)	14(1)
C(8)	-1084(2)	11285(5)	835(1)	14(1)
C(9)	646(2)	10870(6)	776(1)	23(1)
C(10)	1480(2)	9127(6)	1046(1)	22(1)
C(11)	3129(2)	8324(7)	1080(1)	31(1)
C(12)	3924(2)	9278(7)	779(1)	30(1)
C(13)	-2727(2)	11387(5)	1017(1)	16(1)
C(14)	-2909(2)	13440(5)	626(1)	16(1)
C(15)	-2198(2)	14425(5)	334(1)	17(1)
C(16)	-1286(2)	13334(5)	440(1)	17(1)
C(17)	55(2)	3401(6)	2230(1)	21(1)
C(18)	441(2)	1358(6)	2591(1)	26(1)

**Table s3.** Bond lengths [Å] and angles [deg] for compound **2q**

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Cl(1)-C(14)	1.742(2)
F(1)-C(1)	1.357(3)
O(1)-C(10)	1.320(3)
O(1)-C(11)	1.459(3)
O(2)-C(10)	1.194(3)
O(3)-C(9)	1.192(3)
N(1)-C(9)	1.349(3)
N(1)-C(8)	1.403(3)
N(1)-H(1)	0.8800
C(1)-C(18)	1.376(4)
C(1)-C(2)	1.373(3)
C(2)-C(3)	1.389(3)
C(2)-H(2)	0.9500
C(3)-C(4)	1.397(3)
C(3)-H(3A)	0.9500
C(4)-C(17)	1.401(3)
C(4)-C(5)	1.440(3)
C(5)-C(6)	1.192(3)
C(6)-C(7)	1.433(3)
C(7)-C(13)	1.397(3)
C(7)-C(8)	1.416(3)
C(8)-C(16)	1.389(3)
C(9)-C(10)	1.532(3)
C(11)-C(12)	1.496(3)
C(11)-H(11A)	0.9900
C(11)-H(11B)	0.9900
C(12)-H(12A)	0.9800
C(12)-H(12B)	0.9800
C(12)-H(12C)	0.9800
C(13)-C(14)	1.380(3)
C(13)-H(13)	0.9500
C(14)-C(15)	1.392(3)
C(15)-C(16)	1.387(3)
C(15)-H(15)	0.9500
C(16)-H(16)	0.9500
C(17)-C(18)	1.386(3)
C(17)-H(17)	0.9500
C(18)-H(18)	0.9500
C(10)-O(1)-C(11)	116.24(19)
C(9)-N(1)-C(8)	128.7(2)
C(9)-N(1)-H(1)	115.6

C(8)-N(1)-H(1)	115.6
F(1)-C(1)-C(18)	118.2(2)
F(1)-C(1)-C(2)	118.5(2)
C(18)-C(1)-C(2)	123.2(2)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	118.4(2)
C(1)-C(2)-H(2)	120.8
C(3)-C(2)-H(2)	120.8
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	120.2(2)
C(2)-C(3)-H(3A)	119.9
C(4)-C(3)-H(3A)	119.9
C(3)-C(4)-C(17)	119.5(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	121.1(2)
C(17)-C(4)-C(5)	119.3(2)
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	177.9(2)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	172.5(2)
C(13)-C(7)-C(8)	119.1(2)
C(13)-C(7)-C(6)	122.41(19)
C(8)-C(7)-C(6)	118.50(19)
C(16)-C(8)-N(1)	122.97(19)
C(16)-C(8)-C(7)	120.2(2)
N(1)-C(8)-C(7)	116.9(2)
O(3)-C(9)-N(1)	126.8(2)
O(3)-C(9)-C(10)	122.0(2)
N(1)-C(9)-C(10)	111.2(2)
O(2)-C(10)-O(1)	126.2(2)
O(2)-C(10)-C(9)	122.9(2)
O(1)-C(10)-C(9)	110.8(2)
O(1)-C(11)-C(12)	107.0(2)
O(1)-C(11)-H(11A)	110.3
C(12)-C(11)-H(11A)	110.3
O(1)-C(11)-H(11B)	110.3
C(12)-C(11)-H(11B)	110.3
H(11A)-C(11)-H(11B)	108.6
C(11)-C(12)-H(12A)	109.5
C(11)-C(12)-H(12B)	109.5
H(12A)-C(12)-H(12B)	109.5
C(11)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
H(12A)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
H(12B)-C(12)-H(12C)	109.5
C(14)-C(13)-C(7)	119.8(2)
C(14)-C(13)-H(13)	120.1
C(7)-C(13)-H(13)	120.1
C(13)-C(14)-C(15)	121.3(2)
C(13)-C(14)-Cl(1)	119.29(17)

C(15)-C(14)-Cl(1)	119.37(18)
C(16)-C(15)-C(14)	119.5(2)
C(16)-C(15)-H(15)	120.3
C(14)-C(15)-H(15)	120.3
C(8)-C(16)-C(15)	120.2(2)
C(8)-C(16)-H(16)	119.9
C(15)-C(16)-H(16)	119.9
C(18)-C(17)-C(4)	120.2(2)
C(18)-C(17)-H(17)	119.9
C(4)-C(17)-H(17)	119.9
C(1)-C(18)-C(17)	118.4(2)
C(1)-C(18)-H(18)	120.8
C(17)-C(18)-H(18)	120.8

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Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:



**Table s4.** Anisotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for compound **2q**.

The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:

$$-2 \pi^2 [ h^2 a^{*2} U11 + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U12 ]$$

	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
Cl(1)	14(1)	31(1)	22(1)	0(1)	-2(1)	6(1)
F(1)	54(1)	31(1)	27(1)	9(1)	-10(1)	9(1)
O(1)	13(1)	36(1)	26(1)	6(1)	3(1)	5(1)
O(2)	21(1)	75(2)	67(2)	54(1)	9(1)	13(1)
O(3)	19(1)	110(2)	82(2)	81(2)	16(1)	18(1)
N(1)	15(1)	22(1)	18(1)	8(1)	3(1)	3(1)
C(1)	38(1)	17(1)	16(1)	3(1)	-10(1)	2(1)
C(2)	36(1)	20(1)	14(1)	0(1)	2(1)	-2(1)
C(3)	24(1)	17(1)	15(1)	-1(1)	0(1)	-2(1)
C(4)	22(1)	12(1)	13(1)	-1(1)	-3(1)	-2(1)
C(5)	18(1)	18(1)	16(1)	-3(1)	3(1)	-4(1)
C(6)	14(1)	17(1)	15(1)	-1(1)	2(1)	-2(1)
C(7)	16(1)	15(1)	11(1)	-2(1)	0(1)	0(1)
C(8)	13(1)	17(1)	12(1)	-1(1)	-2(1)	1(1)
C(9)	16(1)	32(2)	20(1)	10(1)	2(1)	4(1)
C(10)	16(1)	27(1)	24(1)	4(1)	2(1)	2(1)
C(11)	15(1)	36(2)	42(2)	8(1)	0(1)	9(1)
C(12)	15(1)	46(2)	29(2)	-13(1)	0(1)	4(1)
C(13)	14(1)	19(1)	16(1)	-5(1)	2(1)	-2(1)
C(14)	14(1)	21(1)	14(1)	-3(1)	-2(1)	2(1)
C(15)	19(1)	20(1)	12(1)	1(1)	-2(1)	3(1)
C(16)	16(1)	21(1)	14(1)	1(1)	1(1)	0(1)
C(17)	24(1)	22(1)	17(1)	-2(1)	1(1)	-1(1)
C(18)	26(1)	22(1)	27(1)	-2(1)	-6(1)	2(1)

**Table s5.** Hydrogen coordinates (  $\times 10^4$ ) and isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for compound **2q**.

	x	y	z	U(eq)
H(1)	-132	8732	1204	22
H(2)	-1374	629	3266	28
H(3A)	-2036	4073	2654	23
H(11A)	3050	6138	1061	38
H(11B)	3260	8905	1447	38
H(12A)	3802	8590	421	45
H(12B)	4518	8417	935	45
H(12C)	3971	11452	784	45
H(13)	-3223	10730	1210	19
H(15)	-2337	15834	65	21
H(16)	-797	13991	241	20
H(17)	423	4118	1970	25
H(18)	1068	641	2579	31

**Table s6.** Torsion angles [deg] for compound **2q**.

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F(1)-C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	-179.0(2)
C(18)-C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	0.0(4)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	0.1(4)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)-C(17)	-0.6(3)
C(2)-C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	179.0(2)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	-163(7)
C(17)-C(4)-C(5)-C(6)	17(7)
C(4)-C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	-33(9)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)-C(13)	-172.4(18)
C(5)-C(6)-C(7)-C(8)	7(2)
C(9)-N(1)-C(8)-C(16)	5.0(4)
C(9)-N(1)-C(8)-C(7)	-174.6(2)
C(13)-C(7)-C(8)-C(16)	-0.4(3)
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)-C(16)	-179.4(2)
C(13)-C(7)-C(8)-N(1)	179.3(2)
C(6)-C(7)-C(8)-N(1)	0.2(3)
C(8)-N(1)-C(9)-O(3)	-1.1(5)
C(8)-N(1)-C(9)-C(10)	177.7(2)
C(11)-O(1)-C(10)-O(2)	1.5(4)
C(11)-O(1)-C(10)-C(9)	179.0(2)
O(3)-C(9)-C(10)-O(2)	174.7(3)
N(1)-C(9)-C(10)-O(2)	-4.1(4)
O(3)-C(9)-C(10)-O(1)	-2.9(4)
N(1)-C(9)-C(10)-O(1)	178.3(2)
C(10)-O(1)-C(11)-C(12)	176.8(2)
C(8)-C(7)-C(13)-C(14)	-0.2(3)
C(6)-C(7)-C(13)-C(14)	178.9(2)
C(7)-C(13)-C(14)-C(15)	0.5(4)
C(7)-C(13)-C(14)-Cl(1)	-178.66(17)
C(13)-C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	-0.3(4)
Cl(1)-C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	178.87(18)
N(1)-C(8)-C(16)-C(15)	-179.1(2)
C(7)-C(8)-C(16)-C(15)	0.6(3)
C(14)-C(15)-C(16)-C(8)	-0.3(3)
C(3)-C(4)-C(17)-C(18)	0.9(4)
C(5)-C(4)-C(17)-C(18)	-178.7(2)
F(1)-C(1)-C(18)-C(17)	179.3(2)
C(2)-C(1)-C(18)-C(17)	0.3(4)
C(4)-C(17)-C(18)-C(1)	-0.8(4)

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Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

**Table s7.** Hydrogen bonds for compound **2q** [A and deg.].

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D-H...A	d(D-H)	d(H...A)	d(D...A)	<(DHA)
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