Supporting Information

Synthesis of 2-Arylindoles by Rhodium-Catalyzed/Copper-Mediated Annulative Coupling of *N*-Aryl-2-Aminopyridines and Propargyl Alcohols *via* Selective C-H/C-C Activation

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I. General remarks

NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV II-400 spectrometer. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl₃ as the internal reference (CDCl₃: δ = 7.26 ppm) or DMSO-*d*₆ (δ = 2.50. ppm). The ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl₃ as the internal standard (CDCl₃: δ = 77.16 ppm) or DMSO-*d*₆ (δ = 39.52. ppm). High resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were obtained with a Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF (ESI). Melting points were determined in open glass capillaries and were uncorrected. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. *N*-aryl-2-aminopyridines and *tert*-propargl alcohols were prepared according to the literature procedures.^{1,2} All the solvents mentioned were dried before used.

II. General procedures

1. Representative procedures to access 2-arylindole derivatives



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1** (0.2 mmol), **2** (0.6 mmol), $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 12 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **3**.

2. A scale-up experiment of 1a



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1a** (1.0 mmol, 0.184 g), **2a** (3.0 mmol, 0.480 g), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (31.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (500.0 mg, 2.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (5.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 12 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **3a** (0.68 mmol, 0.193 g) in 68% yield.

III. Product transformations

- To a solution of 3a (0.2 mmol) in DMF (1.0 mL), POCl₃ (0.3 mmol) was added dropwisely and then the mixture was heated at 50 °C under air overnight. The reaction solution was then cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product 4 (70% yield).
- 2) To a solution of 3a (0.2 mmol) in CHCl₃ (3.0 mL), NBS (*N*-bromosuccinimide) (0.2 mmol) was added portionwisely and then the mixture was heated at r.t. under air for 5 h. The reaction solution was concentrated and purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product 5 (85% yield).

- 3) To a solution of **3a** (0.2 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL), Cul (0.2 mmol) and benzyl cyanide (0.3 mmol) was added and then the mixture was heated at 130 °C under air for 40 h. The reaction solution was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **6** (68% yield).
- 4) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a** (0.2 mmol), (4-MeOC₆H₄S)₂ (0.1 mmol), KIO₃ (0.02 mmol) and glycerol (1.0 mmol). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 6 h under air. The reaction solution was then cooled to room temperature and purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **7** (62% yield).



5) 3bb was obtained in a 45% yield according to the representative procedure. To a solution of 3bb (0.2 mmol) in DCM (1.0 mL), methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.24 mmol) was added dropwisely at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 12 h at r.t.. The solvent was removed under *vacuo*. Then, Pd(OH)₂/C (10 wt.%, 19.2 mg), NH₄HCO₃ (2.0 mmol) and MeOH (2.0 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After cooled to room temperature, the reaction solution was diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product 8 (32% yield).



6) Cleavage of the pyridyl directing group of 3a

To a solution of **3a** (0.2 mmol) in DCM (1.0 mL), methyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.24 mmol) was added dropwisely at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at r.t.. The solvent was removed under *vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in MeOH (2 mL). Aqueous NaOH solution (2 M, 1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the reaction solution was diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **11** (82% yield).



IV. Mechanistic studies

1. Synthesis of compound **12**

A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **2a** (0.2 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (40.0 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 2 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **12** in 55% yield.

2. The H/D exchange experiment of 1b



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1b** (0.2 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 2 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide [D]-**1b**. The deuterium incorporation was calculated from ¹H-NMR.



3. KIE experiments

A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1b** or $[D_6]$ -**1b** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 2 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide **3b** (12 mg) or $[D_4]$ -**3b** (12 mg) and the KIE value was measured to be 1.0.

A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1b** (0.1 mmol) and $[D_6]$ -**1b** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), $[Cp^*RhCl_2]_2$ (6.2 mg, 0.01 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 2 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide a mixture of **3b** and $[D_4]$ -**3b** (10 mg) and the KIE value was measured to be 1.1 according to ¹H-NMR.



4. Catalytic and stoichiometric reactions by using complex 13

A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **1b** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), complex **13** (4.4 mg, 0.01 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 12 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide **3b** in a yield of 65%.

A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with complex **13** (88 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (100.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL). The Schlenk tube was then sealed with a Teflon lined cap and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 12 hours under N₂. The reaction solution was then cooled to ambient temperature, diluted with 5 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide **3b** in a yield of 62%.



V. Experimental data for the described substances

5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3a)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded 3a as a

colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.85 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.24, 149.15, 139.97, 137.71, 136.96, 132.84, 130.66, 128.98, 128.69, 128.32, 127.34, 124.60, 121.86, 121.43, 120.29, 111.26, 105.41, 21.47. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺ 285.1392, found 285.1396.



2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3b)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3b** as a white solid (mp = 130–131 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (ddd, *J* = 4.8, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (ddd, *J* = 7.1, 6.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 8H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.07, 149.19, 139.96, 138.50, 137.76, 132.69, 128.75, 128.71, 128.32, 127.43, 123.02, 122.03, 121.62, 121.36, 120.57, 111.51, 105.62. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺ 271.1235, found 271.1238.



5-isopropyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3c)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3c** as a light yellow liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.08 – 2.96 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.21, 149.15, 142.15, 140.01, 137.65, 137.10, 132.88, 128.80, 128.71, 128.30, 127.32, 122.29, 121.81, 121.40, 117.47, 111.35, 105.60, 34.18, 24.60. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 313.1705, found 313.1708.



5-methoxy-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3d)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20/1, v/v) afforded **3d** as a white solid (mp = 91-92 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 – 8.60 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.24, 152.21, 149.15, 140.45, 137.72, 133.75, 132.78, 129.25, 128.72, 128.35, 127.44, 121.83, 121.44, 112.91, 112.53, 105.56, 102.31, 55.85. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O [M+H]⁺ 301.1341, found 301.1345.

2,5-diphenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3e)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3e** as a yellowish solid (mp = 130–131 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 – 8.62 (m, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (td, *J* = 7.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (ddd, *J* = 17.6, 9.4, 4.7 Hz, 3H), 7.35 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.00, 149.24, 142.27, 140.61, 138.01, 137.82, 134.83, 132.58, 129.20, 128.76, 128.67, 128.37, 127.55, 127.36, 126.48, 122.80, 121.93, 121.68, 119.03, 111.82, 105.91. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₅H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 347.1548, found 347.1550.



5-chloro-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3f)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3f** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 – 8.61 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.29 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.67, 149.25, 141.20, 137.90, 136.80, 132.16, 129.72, 128.78, 128.41, 127.81, 126.82, 123.15, 121.95, 121.91, 119.90, 112.72, 104.89. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₄ClN₂ [M+H]⁺ 305.0846, found 305.0849.



5-bromo-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3g)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3g** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.22 (m, 7H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.63, 149.25, 141.07, 137.90, 137.11, 132.12, 130.35, 128.79, 128.41, 127.82, 125.72, 122.99, 121.96, 121.94, 114.45, 113.14, 104.76. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₄⁷⁹BrN₂ [M+H]⁺ 349.0340, found 349.0343; calcd for C₁₉H₁₄⁸¹BrN₂ [M+H]⁺ 351.0320, found 351.0311.



1-(2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indol-5-yl)ethan-1-one (3h)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 6/1, v/v) afforded **3h** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (ddd, J = 7.9, 4.3, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.25, 151.34, 149.35, 141.59, 140.86, 138.04, 131.95, 131.14, 128.76, 128.42, 128.22, 127.90, 123.21, 122.54, 122.26, 122.07, 111.40, 106.32, 26.72. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O [M+H]⁺ 313.1341, found 313.1346.

2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-indole (3i)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3i** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.99 – 7.93 (m, 1H), 7.73 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (tdd, *J* = 4.1, 3.1, 1.6 Hz, 6H), 6.93 – 6.84 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.55, 149.51, 141.87, 139.77, 138.17, 132.08, 128.99, 128.60, 128.19, 128.12, 126.65 (q, ¹J_{C-F} = 271 Hz), 123.93 (q, ²J_{C-F} = 31 Hz), 122.38, 122.21, 119.73 (q, ³J_{C-F} = 4 Hz), 118.34 (q, ³J_{C-F} = 4 Hz), 112.01, 105.81. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₄F₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 339.1109, found 339.1113.



2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole-5-carbonitrile (3j)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3j** as a white solid (mp = 155-156 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 – 8.63 (m, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.00, 148.42, 141.31, 138.82, 137.16, 130.48, 127.86, 127.52, 127.42, 127.26, 124.86, 124.81, 121.55, 121.13, 119.50, 111.51, 104.22, 103.37. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₄N₃ [M+H]⁺ 296.1188, found 296.1190.



5-fluoro-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3k)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3k** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 14.3, 6.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.21 (m, 7H), 6.96 (td, *J* = 9.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.90 (d, ¹J_{C-F} = 235 Hz), 152.02, 149.35, 141.58, 137.99, 135.12, 132.49, 129.25 (d, ³J_{C-F} = 10 Hz), 128.91, 128.54, 127.88, 122.09, 121.91, 112.64 (d, ³J_{C-F} = 10 Hz), 111.24 (d, ²J_{C-F} = 26 Hz), 105.55 (d, ²J_{C-F} = 23 Hz), 105.53 (d, ⁴J_{C-F} = 4 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₄FN₂ [M+H]⁺ 289.1141, found 289.1143.



6-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3I)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3I** as a white solid (mp = 144–145 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (td, *J* = 7.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.18 (m, 6H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.20, 149.16, 139.36, 138.92, 137.75, 133.02, 132.83, 128.62, 128.29, 127.23, 126.52, 123.05, 122.09, 121.51, 120.21, 111.39, 105.56, 21.98. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺ 285.1392, found 285.1393.



6-chloro-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3m)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3m** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 – 8.61 (m, 1H), 7.72 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.61 (ddd, *J* = 9.4, 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.21 (m, 6H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.53, 148.26, 139.60, 137.71, 136.89, 131.16, 127.77, 127.66, 127.36, 126.67, 126.18, 120.96, 120.90, 120.87, 120.31, 110.69, 104.33. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₄ClN₂ [M+H]⁺ 305.0846, found 305.0849.



5,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3n)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3n** as a white solid (mp = 105–106 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.17 (m, 6H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 2.35 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.40, 149.12, 139.12, 137.66, 137.58, 132.98, 132.21, 130.01, 128.58, 128.26, 127.12, 127.04, 121.90, 121.30, 120.67, 111.83, 105.32, 20.66, 20.08. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1548, found 299.1550.



5,6-dichloro-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (30)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **30** as a yellowish solid (mp = 144–145 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 – 8.64 (m, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.66 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 6H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.29, 149.35, 141.77, 138.03, 137.10, 131.77, 128.76, 128.49, 128.28, 128.05, 126.65, 125.17, 122.14, 121.81, 121.34, 113.38, 104.65. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₁₃Cl₂N₂ [M+H]⁺ 339.0456, found 339.0460.



7-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3p)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3p** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 – 8.60 (m, 1H), 7.62 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.55, 148.66, 141.65, 137.54, 137.40, 132.75, 129.18, 128.97, 128.02, 127.32, 125.31, 125.11, 123.34, 121.81, 120.82, 118.62, 104.23, 19.54. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂ [M+H]⁺ 285.1392, found 285.1395.



5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(o-tolyl)-1H-indole (3q)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3q** as a white solid (mp = 149–150 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 – 8.53 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.06 (m, 5H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.04, 148.82, 138.97, 137.42, 137.37, 135.53, 132.91, 131.02, 130.58, 130.16, 128.86, 128.19, 125.58, 124.37, 120.80, 120.26, 120.06, 111.73, 105.91, 21.44, 20.17. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1548, found 299.1549.



5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(m-tolyl)-1H-indole (3r)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3r** as a white solid (mp = 106–107 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.0, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 20.2, 11.3, 6.2 Hz, 3H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.31, 149.07, 140.13, 137.95, 137.61, 136.91, 132.71, 130.59, 129.34, 128.98, 128.10, 128.08, 125.83, 124.47, 121.86, 121.34, 120.21, 111.21, 105.24, 21.42, 21.41. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1548, found 299.1551.

5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(p-tolyl)-1H-indole (3s)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3s** as a yellowish liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 – 8.61 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.08 – 7.01 (m, 3H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.34, 149.08, 140.06, 137.65, 137.17, 136.86, 130.56, 129.92, 129.02, 128.55, 124.36, 121.88, 121.34, 120.13, 111.18, 109.99, 104.91, 21.42, 21.21. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1548, found 299.1549.



2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3t)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3t** as a yellowish solid (mp = 155–156 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 – 8.61 (m, 1H), 7.64 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.26, 149.21, 140.41, 139.92, 139.60, 137.83, 137.08, 131.73, 130.71, 129.00, 128.96, 128.80, 127.41,

126.95, 126.92, 124.66, 121.93, 121.50, 120.28, 111.20, 105.48, 21.45. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for $C_{26}H_{21}N_2$ [M+H]⁺ 361.1705, found 361.1710.



2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3u)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3u** as a white solid (mp = 101–102 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 13.0, 9.5, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.95, 152.30, 149.07, 139.82, 137.67, 136.72, 130.54, 129.91, 129.03, 125.33, 124.21, 121.89, 121.35, 120.02, 113.78, 111.12, 104.42, 55.22, 21.43. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₂O [M+H]⁺ 315.1497, found 315.1499.



2-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3v)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3v** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.26 (d, ¹J_{C-F} = 246 Hz), 152.15, 149.38, 139.03, 137.95, 136.95, 130.88, 130.43 (d, ³J_{C-F} = 8 Hz), 129.13 (d, ⁴J_{C-F} = 3 Hz), 128.97, 124.77, 121.91, 121.69, 120.38, 115.50 (d, ²J_{C-F} = 21 Hz), 111.26, 105.37, 21.56. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₆FN₂ [M+H]⁺ 303.1298, found 303.1302.

2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3w)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3w** as a yellowish solid (mp = 111–112 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.00, 149.35, 138.74, 137.96, 137.07, 133.31, 131.39, 130.86, 129.81, 128.86, 128.58, 124.90, 121.80, 121.68, 120.40, 111.18, 105.70, 21.45. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₆ClN₂ [M+H]⁺ 319.1002, found 319.1005.

CO₂Me

methyl 4-(5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoate (3x)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3x** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (ddd, J = 4.9, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.65 (ddd,

 $J = 8.0, 7.5, 2.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 7.55 \text{ (d, } J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}, 7.50 - 7.44 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 7.34 - 7.30 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 7.23 \text{ (dd, } J = 7.5, 4.9, 1.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.10 - 7.04 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 6.93 \text{ (dt, } J = 8.0, 0.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 6.83 \text{ (d, } J = 0.7 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 3.90 \text{ (s, 3H)}, 2.46 \text{ (s, 3H)}. {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (100 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCI}_3) \delta 166.83, 151.91, 149.36, 138.74, 137.98, 137.34, 137.28, 130.94, 129.57, 128.77, 128.55, 128.27, 125.26, 121.73, 120.56, 111.16, 106.71, 52.15, 21.42. \text{ HRMS} (\text{ESI}^+): calcd for C_{22}H_{19}N_2O_2 \text{ [M+H]}^+ 343.1447, found 343.1448.$

1-(4-(5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3y)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3y** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 – 8.59 (m, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (td, *J* = 7.7, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.61, 151.91, 149.40, 138.64, 138.03, 137.44, 135.44, 130.99, 129.92, 128.76, 128.38, 125.35, 121.77, 121.72, 120.58, 111.15, 106.87, 26.61, 21.42. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₂O [M+H]⁺ 327.1497, found 327.1500.



4-(5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)benzonitrile (3z)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3z** as a white solid (mp = 104–105 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 – 8.55 (m, 1H), 7.73 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.5 Hz, 3H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.35 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.62, 149.55, 138.20, 137.82, 137.50, 137.36, 132.06, 131.18, 128.70, 128.63, 125.69, 121.99, 121.56, 120.74, 118.84, 111.08, 110.43, 107.37, 21.40. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₃ [M+H]⁺ 310.1344, found 310.1349.



5-methyl-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3aa)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3aa** as a yellowish solid (mp = 125-126 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.50 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 - 7.77 (m, 3H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.44 - 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 - 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.96, 148.75, 137.61, 137.37, 135.92, 133.49, 132.15, 130.77, 130.71, 128.91, 128.87, 128.46, 128.08, 126.40, 126.00, 125.90, 125.08, 124.63, 120.88, 120.35, 120.18, 111.71, 107.35, 21.47. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 335.1548, found 335.1549.



5-methyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3ab)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3ab** as a yellowish solid (mp = 129–130 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 – 7.68 (m, 4H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 5.9, 4.5, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.28, 149.18, 139.93, 137.79, 137.10, 133.24, 132.44, 130.74, 130.33, 129.04, 128.08, 127.78, 127.64, 127.50, 126.62, 126.32, 126.15, 124.72, 121.85, 121.42, 120.31, 111.29, 105.93, 21.46. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 335.1548, found 335.1551.



5-methyl-2-(phenanthren-9-yl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3ac)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3ac** as a yellowish solid (mp = 175–176 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 3.7 Hz, 2H), 8.47 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.4 Hz, 3H), 7.65 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.39 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.99, 148.74, 137.85, 137.54, 135.92, 131.19, 131.01, 130.74, 130.29, 130.21, 129.88, 129.73, 128.92, 128.88, 127.08, 126.83, 126.81, 126.76, 126.58, 124.72, 122.62, 122.52, 120.89, 120.24, 120.04, 111.79, 107.43, 21.49. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₈H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 385.1705, found 385.1708.



5-methyl-2-(pyren-1-yl)-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3ad)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3ad** as a yellowish solid (mp = 183–184 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (ddd, *J* = 29.2, 26.2, 13.0 Hz, 8H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 6.91 (s, 2H), 6.60 – 6.53 (m, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.98, 148.82, 137.99, 137.40, 136.15, 131.29, 130.98, 130.87, 130.85, 129.73, 129.05, 128.70, 127.98, 127.90, 127.82, 127.31, 126.10, 125.30, 125.18, 125.16, 124.75, 124.58, 124.38, 120.86, 120.60, 120.23, 111.77, 108.09, 21.51. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₃₀H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 409.1705, found 409.1709.



2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (3ae)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3ae** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 – 8.59 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.19 (ddd, J = 7.4, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, J = 5.4, 2.6 Hz, 4H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.37, 149.01, 140.27, 137.73, 137.55, 136.87, 132.60, 130.53, 129.05, 128.99, 126.52, 124.38, 121.89, 121.28, 120.17, 111.21, 105.12, 21.43, 21.27. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₂H₂₁N₂ [M+H]⁺ 313.1705, found 313.1710.



5-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-indole (3af)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3af** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 – 8.63 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.92 (td, *J* = 4.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.71 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.70, 149.33, 137.96, 136.99, 134.50, 133.17, 130.67, 128.59, 127.28, 126.41, 125.60, 124.77, 122.30, 122.21, 120.18, 110.84, 105.30, 21.43. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂S [M+H]⁺ 291.0956, found 291.0959.



5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (4)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **4** as a white solid (mp = 175–176 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.94 (s, 1H), 8.62 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.66 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.29 (ddd, *J* = 7.5, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.68, 150.35, 149.84, 149.53, 138.15, 135.74, 133.68, 131.04, 129.37, 128.93, 128.40, 126.24, 125.59, 122.92, 122.22, 121.86, 116.59, 111.09, 21.50. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O [M+H]⁺ 313.1341, found 313.1342.



3-bromo-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (5)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/dichloromethane = 5/1, v/v) afforded **5** as a white solid (mp = 134–135 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.61, 148.02, 136.70, 135.06, 134.13, 130.50, 129.70, 129.42, 127.19, 127.14, 127.04, 124.83, 120.58, 120.54, 118.06, 110.49, 93.73, 20.40. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₀H₁₆BrN₂ [M+H]⁺ 363.0497, found 363.0499.



5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole-3-carbonitrile (6)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **6** as a white solid (mp = 142–143 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 6H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.47, 149.63, 146.38, 138.38, 135.35, 133.09, 129.63, 129.46, 129.06, 128.94, 128.79, 127.99, 127.21, 126.49, 123.10, 122.23, 119.21, 116.38, 111.93, 88.14, 21.47. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₃ [M+H]⁺ 310.1344, found 310.1349.



3-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indole (7)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **7** as a white solid (mp = 177-178 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 5H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.04 (m, 3H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.75 – 6.70 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.58, 151.73, 149.14, 143.62, 137.80, 135.88, 131.62, 130.85, 130.73, 130.46, 129.62, 128.16, 128.08, 127.98, 125.57, 121.94, 121.84, 119.54, 114.52, 111.48, 104.92, 55.33, 21.51. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₇H₂₃N₂OS [M+H]⁺ 423.1531, found 423.1534.



N-(2-(1-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)acetamide (3bb)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1, v/v) afforded **3bb** as a colorless liquid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 9.6 Hz, 3H), 7.60 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.21 (ddd, *J* = 7.5, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.33, 151.25, 149.05, 138.21, 137.75, 136.35, 135.61, 131.23, 129.52, 128.49, 123.96, 123.48, 122.95, 122.15, 121.70, 121.62, 120.78, 120.60, 111.84, 106.88, 24.70. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₃O [M+H]⁺ 328.1450, found 328.1456.



N-(2-(1H-indol-2-yl)phenyl)acetamide (8)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, v/v) afforded **8** as a white solid (mp = 131–132 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.22 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.88, 136.63, 135.33, 134.13, 129.34, 129.23, 128.70, 124.49, 123.41, 122.79, 121.86, 120.73, 120.53, 111.18, 102.44, 24.78. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂O [M+H]⁺ 251.1184, found 251.1180.



5-methyl-2-phenyl-1H-indole (11)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 40/1, v/v) afforded **11** as a brown solid (mp = 216–217 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 136.91, 134.13, 131.49, 128.52, 128.44, 127.95, 126.54, 124.03, 122.95, 119.27, 109.51, 98.51, 20.44. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₄N [M+H]⁺ 208.1126, found 208.1129.

Ph-----Ph

1,4-diphenylbuta-1,3-diyne (12)

Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 100/1, v/v) afforded **11** as a white solid (mp = 85-86 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.40 – 7.31 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 132.52, 129.23, 128.46, 121.80, 81.56, 73.91. GC-MS: m/z = 202. Its characterization is in accordance with the literature (*J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, *84*, 4413).



Compound 13

13 was recrystalized form dichloromethane as a reddish brown solid (mp = $285-286 \, ^{\circ}$ C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 8.77 (s, 1H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.79 - 6.71 (m, 1H), 1.56 (s, 15H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.53, 151.94, 138.83, 138.19, 128.70, 122.78, 119.70, 114.59, 109.20, 98.96, 93.56, 93.47, 7.93. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₂₁H₂₄CIN₂NaRh [M+Na]⁺ 465.0581, found 465.0585.

VII. References

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