

Supporting Information

Employing TosMIC as a CIN1 ‘Two-atom Synthon’ in Imidazole Synthesis by Neighboring

Group Assistance Strategy

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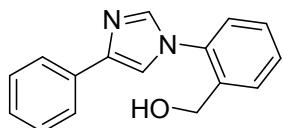
1. General

All substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200–300 mesh). ¹H spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆ on 400/600 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in parts per million relative to tetramethylsilane. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ¹³C spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO-d₆ on 100/150 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in ppm. HRMS were obtained on an Agilent QTOF 6540 MS/ Bruker 7-tesla FT-ICR MS equipped with an electrospray source.

2. General procedure for the synthesis of 4 (4aa as an example)

A sealed tube was charged with acetophenone (**1a**) (120 mg, 1.0 mmol), iodine (203 mg, 0.8 mmol) at room temperature, and DMSO (3 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 110 °C in metal heating block, after disappearance of the reactant (monitored by TLC), then added 2-aminobenzyl alcohol (**2a**) (123 mg, 1.0 mmol), FeCl₃ (162 mg, 1.0 mmol) and TosMIC (195 mg, 1.0 mmol) at 110 °C for another 1.0 h. After the reaction completed, the mixture was quenched with saturation Na₂S₂O₃ solution (50 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1) to yield the desired product **4aa** as a yellow solid (185.2 mg, 74% yield).

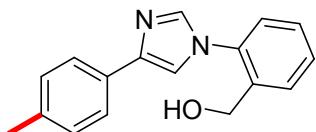
3. Characterization data for compounds 4



4aa

(2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4aa):

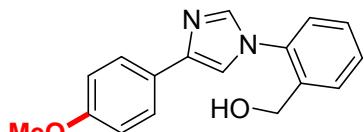
Yield 74%; 185.2 mg; red solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.95 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 140.9, 138.4, 136.9, 135.1, 134.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.6, 125.9, 124.5, 117.4, 58.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 251.11789, found 251.11797.



4ba

(2-(4-(p-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ba):

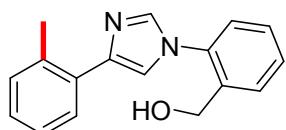
Yield 68%; 177.8 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 141.1, 138.2, 136.9, 135.7, 135.2, 131.4, 129.2, 128.4, 128.1, 125.8, 124.5, 116.8, 58.9, 20.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 265.13354, found 265.13364.



4ca

(2-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ca):

Yield 76%; 213.0 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.7, 141.5, 137.8, 136.3, 135.4, 130.0, 128.9, 128.4, 126.04, 125.97, 125.9, 115.7, 113.9, 59.8, 55.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 281.12845, found 281.12823.



4da

(2-(4-(o-tolyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4da):

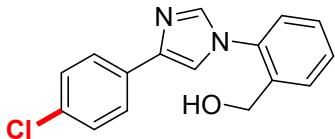
Yield 66%; 174.4 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.40 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 140.2, 137.5, 136.9, 135.2, 134.4, 133.3, 130.8, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.9, 126.5, 125.84, 125.81, 119.6, 58.9, 21.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 265.13354, found 265.13364.



4ea

(2-(4-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ea):

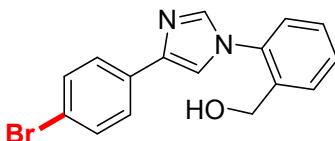
Yield 70%; 187.8 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.01–7.87 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.55 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 162.1, 160.5, 140.2, 138.5, 137.0, 135.2, 130.8, 129.3, 128.6, 128.2, 126.41, 126.36, 125.9, 117.2, 115.5, 115.4, 59.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{FN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 269.1085, found 269.1086.



4fa

(2-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4fa):

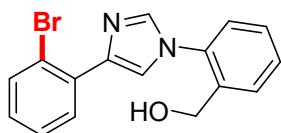
Yield 75%; 213.6 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.38 (m, 4H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 139.8, 138.6, 136.9, 135.0, 133.1, 131.2, 130.9, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 126.1, 125.9, 117.8, 58.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 285.07892, found 285.07901.



4ga

(2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ga):

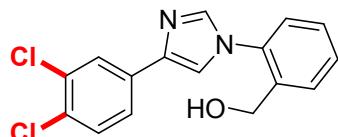
Yield 67%; 220.6 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.00 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 2H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 139.9, 138.6, 136.9, 135.1, 133.4, 131.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.1, 126.5, 125.8, 119.5, 117.9, 58.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 329.02840, found 329.02887.



4ha

(2-(4-(2-bromophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanole (4ha):

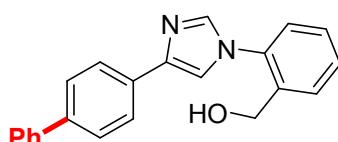
Yield 66%; 217.2 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.16–8.11 (m, 2H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.73–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 138.5, 137.7, 136.8, 135.1, 134.2, 133.6, 130.2, 129.5, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.7, 125.8, 120.5, 120.0, 59.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 329.02840, found 329.02863.



4ia

(2-(4-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ia):

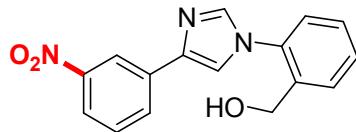
Yield 72%; 225.8 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.09 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.39 (m, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 138.8, 138.7, 136.9, 135.0, 134.9, 131.5, 130.7, 129.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 126.0, 125.8, 124.4, 118.7, 58.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 319.03994, found 319.04022.



4ja

(2-(4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ja):

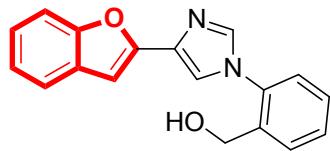
Yield 67%; 218.6 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.19–8.17 (m, 4H), 7.90–7.78 (m, 5H), 7.66–7.61 (m, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 7.47 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 4.64 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 140.7, 139.9, 138.6, 138.2, 136.9, 135.2, 133.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 126.9, 126.4, 125.8, 125.1, 117.6, 59.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 327.1492, found 327.1496.



4ka

(2-(4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ka):

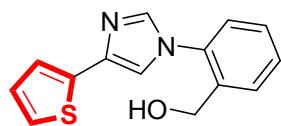
Yield 56%; 165.4 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.41 (m, 2H), 5.50 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 148.4, 139.0, 138.9, 136.9, 136.0, 135.0, 130.6, 130.1, 129.3, 128.7, 128.2, 125.9, 121.1, 119.1, 118.6, 59.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₄N₃O₃⁺ (M+H)⁺ 296.10297, found 296.10294.



4la

(2-(4-(benzofuran-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4la):

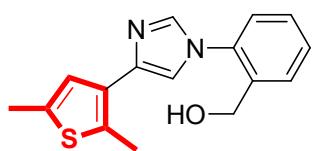
Yield 69%; 200.4 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25–7.16 (m, 3H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.3, 150.9, 138.7, 136.2, 135.2, 133.8, 130.3, 129.3, 129.0, 128.7, 126.1, 123.9, 122.8, 120.8, 118.3, 110.8, 101.0, 60.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₅N₂O₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 291.11280, found 291.11288.



4ma

(2-(4-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ma):

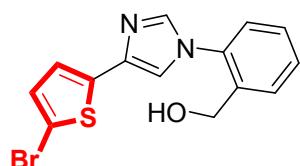
Yield 70%; 179.4 mg; brown solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.37–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.04 (m, 1H), 5.45 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 138.2, 137.9, 136.9, 136.4, 134.9, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 125.9, 123.7, 121.8, 116.4, 58.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N₂OS⁺ (M+H)⁺ 257.07431, found 257.07437.



4na

(2-(4-(2,5-dimethylthiophen-3-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4na):

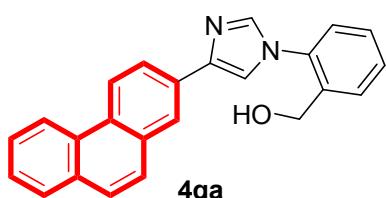
Yield 63%; 179.2 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 138.0, 137.5, 136.9, 135.2, 134.4, 130.8, 129.8, 129.2, 128.4, 128.1, 126.1, 125.8, 117.7, 58.9, 14.9, 14.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{OS}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 285.10561, found 285.10556.



4oa

(2-(4-(5-bromothiophen-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4oa):

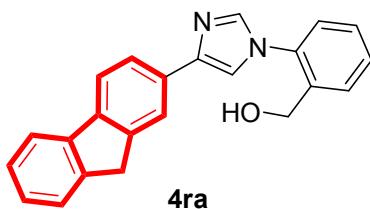
Yield 62%; 207.8 mg; brown oil; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.4, 138.0, 136.04, 136.01, 135.2, 130.3, 129.2, 128.7, 126.0, 122.3, 116.2, 110.2, 103.8, 60.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{BrN}_2\text{OS}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 334.98482, found 334.98492.



4qa

Yield 55%; 175.1 mg; white solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.80 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.76 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.44 (m, 2H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 140.9, 138.8, 137.0, 135.2, 132.7, 132.1, 131.5, 129.9, 129.4, 128.59, 128.57, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 126.5,

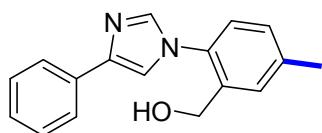
125.9, 124.0, 123.5, 123.4, 122.8, 118.1, 59.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₄H₁₉N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 351.1492, found 351.1496.



Yield 61%; 206.3 mg; white solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 2H), 7.96–7.82 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 143.8, 143.4, 141.6, 141.4, 139.9, 138.6, 137.1, 135.5, 133.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 127.0, 126.8, 126.1, 125.4, 123.7, 121.4, 120.4, 120.1, 117.6, 59.2, 36.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₁₉N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 339.339.1492, found 339.1493.



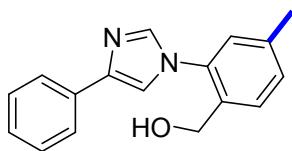
Yield 57%; 171.1 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.81–7.70 (m, 4H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.5, 138.2, 136.1, 135.2, 133.5, 132.5, 130.5, 130.0, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 126.1, 125.8, 125.5, 123.5, 123.1, 117.3, 59.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 301.1335, found 301.1339.



4ab

(5-methyl-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ab):

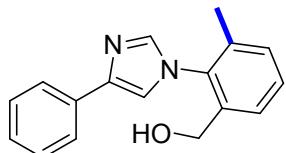
Yield 75%; 198.2mg; yellow oil; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.6, 139.2, 138.2, 135.9, 133.3, 133.0, 130.7, 129.1, 128.6, 127.0, 125.9, 124.8, 116.9, 60.0, 21.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 265.13354, found 265.13385.



4ac

(4-methyl-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ac):

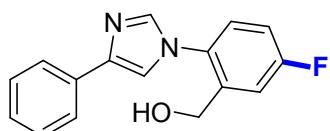
Yield 72%; 190.4 mg; yellow oil; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.6, 138.7, 138.0, 135.4, 133.3, 133.1, 130.1, 129.6, 128.5, 126.9, 126.4, 124.8, 116.7, 103.7, 59.7, 20.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 265.1335, found 265.1338.



4ad

(3-methyl-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ad):

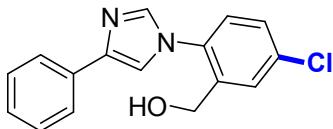
Yield 62%; 163.8 mg; yellow oil; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 4.39–4.28 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.5, 138.6, 137.7, 135.1, 133.9, 133.1, 129.5, 129.2, 128.4, 126.7, 126.3, 124.6, 116.2, 59.5, 17.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 265.1335, found 265.1340.



4ae

(5-fluoro-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ae):

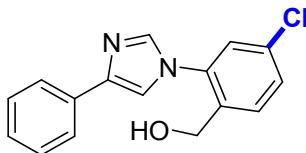
Yield 69%; 185.2 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.05–6.99 (m, 1H), 4.42 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.5, 161.8, 142.0, 139.7, 139.6, 138.0, 133.0, 131.0, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2, 124.8, 116.8, 116.3, 116.2, 115.2, 115.0, 59.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₄FN₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 269.1085, found 269.1088.



4af

(5-chloro-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4af):

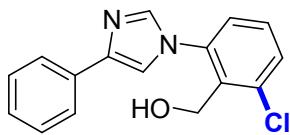
Yield 65%; 185.0 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.21–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.10 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.85 (s, 1H), 4.30 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.7, 138.4, 137.8, 134.8, 133.5, 132.7, 129.7, 128.6, 128.3, 127.2, 124.8, 116.6, 103.7, 59.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ 285.07892, found 285.07907.



4ag

(4-chloro-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ag):

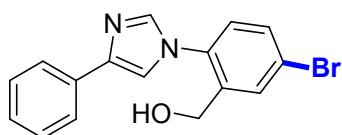
Yield 60%; 170.8 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 8.01 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.56 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 141.1, 138.4, 136.1, 135.9, 135.9, 133.9, 132.0, 130.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.7, 125.6, 124.5, 117.2, 58.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ 285.07892, found 285.07901.



4ah

(2-chloro-6-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ah):

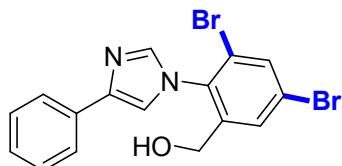
Yield 62%; 176.6 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 3/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27–7.18 (m, 2H), 4.58 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 142.1, 138.3, 138.2, 136.6, 133.6, 133.1, 130.1, 129.6, 128.6, 127.1, 124.94, 124.85, 116.9, 57.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺ 285.0789, found 285.0793.



4ai

(5-bromo-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ai):

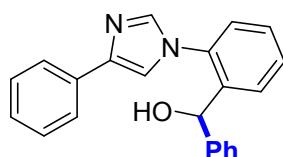
Yield 63%; 207.4 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.8, 138.5, 137.7, 133.9, 132.7, 132.6, 131.3, 128.5, 127.4, 127.2, 124.7, 122.8, 116.5, 59.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 329.0284, found 329.0286.



4aj

(3,5-dibromo-2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4aj):

Yield 57%; 232.6 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.34-4.24 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 142.6, 141.9, 137.7, 134.2, 132.8, 132.5, 131.0, 128.6, 127.3, 124.8, 124.1, 122.8, 116.0, 59.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 408.9369, found 408.9366.



4ak

(R)-phenyl(2-(4-phenyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4ak):

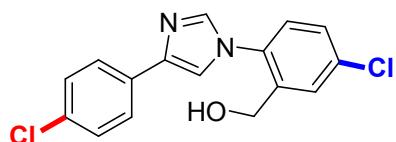
Yield 68%; 222.0 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 7.93 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 3H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 144.2, 141.1, 141.0, 138.5, 135.0, 134.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 126.3, 124.6, 117.6, 69.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 327.1492, found 327.1494.



4pf

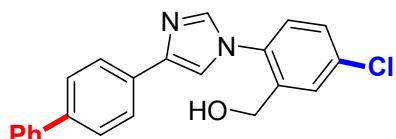
(5-chloro-2-(4-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)methanol (4pf):

Yield 59%; 194.0 mg; yellow oil; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 4.08-3.94 (m, 2H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 157.6, 141.2, 139.4, 138.1, 133.8, 133.0, 128.3, 127.8, 127.7, 126.6, 125.8, 115.9, 114.5, 63.0, 58.5, 14.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₁₈ClN₂O₂⁺ (M+H)⁺ 329.1051, found 329.1054.



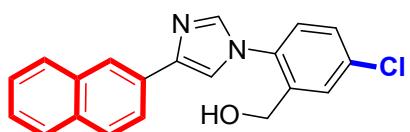
4ff

Yield 52%; 165.4 mg; white solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 3H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 140.3, 139.6, 138.8, 133.9, 133.5, 133.1, 131.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 127.9, 126.4, 117.9, 58.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₁₃Cl₂N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 319.0399, found 319.0405.



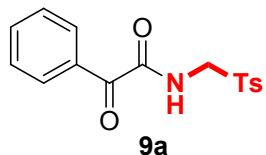
4jf

Yield 60%; 216.1 mg; white solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 3H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 4H), 7.52-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 141.3, 140.1, 139.6, 138.8, 138.6, 134.0, 133.5, 133.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 127.1, 126.7, 125.4, 117.6, 58.9. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₁₈ClN₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 361.1102, found 361.1108.

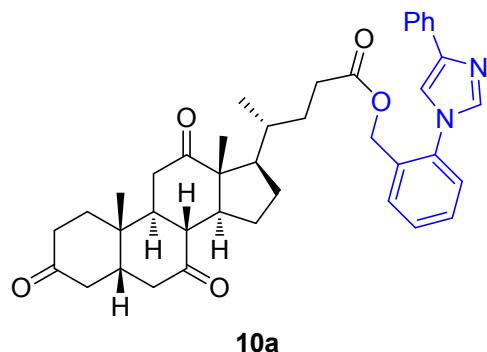


4sf 55%

Yield 55%; 183.7 mg; white solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.95 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.56–7.40 (m, 4H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 4.57 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 141.3, 139.4, 138.7, 133.8, 133.5, 133.3, 132.2, 131.6, 128.6, 128.2, 127.9, 127.7, 126.4, 125.5, 123.7, 122.4, 121.1, 117.8, 113.0, 58.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 335.0946, found 335.0953.



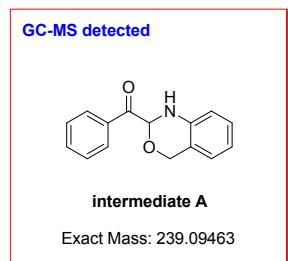
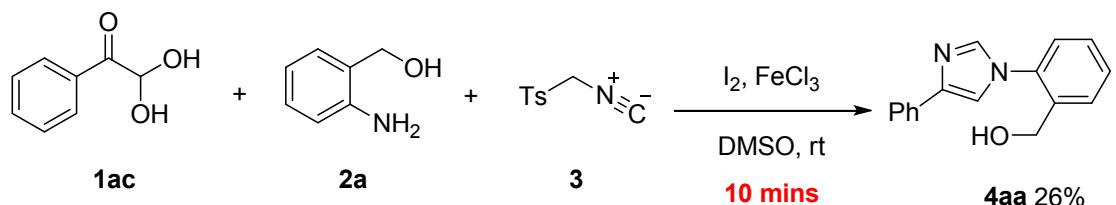
Yield 45%; 142.8 mg; yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.06 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.701 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.99 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 189.2, 165.1, 145.0, 134.9, 134.6, 132.4, 129.9, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 59.8, 21.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{NNaO}_4\text{S}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$ 340.0614, found 340.0610.



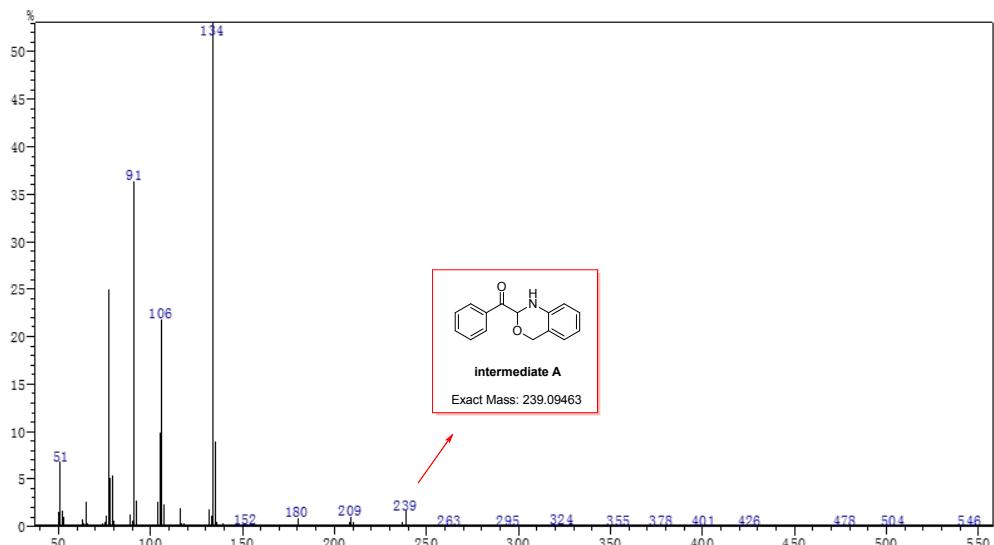
Yield 91%; 288.8 mg (0.5mmol scale); yellow solid; (Flash column chromatography eluent, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47 (s, 3H), 7.41–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.07–4.96 (m, 2H), 2.92–2.83 (m, 2H), 2.80 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.43–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.36–2.22 (m, 5H), 2.19–2.06 (m, 4H), 2.00–1.88 (m, 4H), 1.83–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.53 (m, 1H), 1.35 (s, 4H), 1.28–1.17 (m, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 211.6, 208.8, 208.4, 172.9, 141.9, 137.7, 136.2, 133.3, 131.2, 130.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.3, 126.7, 126.4, 124.5, 116.3, 61.4, 56.4, 51.3, 48.5, 46.3, 45.1, 45.0, 44.5, 42.3, 38.2, 36.0, 35.5, 35.0, 34.7, 31.0, 30.0, 27.2, 24.7, 21.4, 18.2, 11.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{47}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 635.3480, found 635.3489.

4. Evidence in support of the mechanism.

(1) We used GC-MS to monitor the reaction, and the possible intermediate A was observed (see below).



The GC-MS Spectra is listed below:



5. Crystallographic data and molecular structure of compounds 4ba/4ea/9a

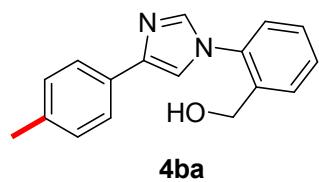
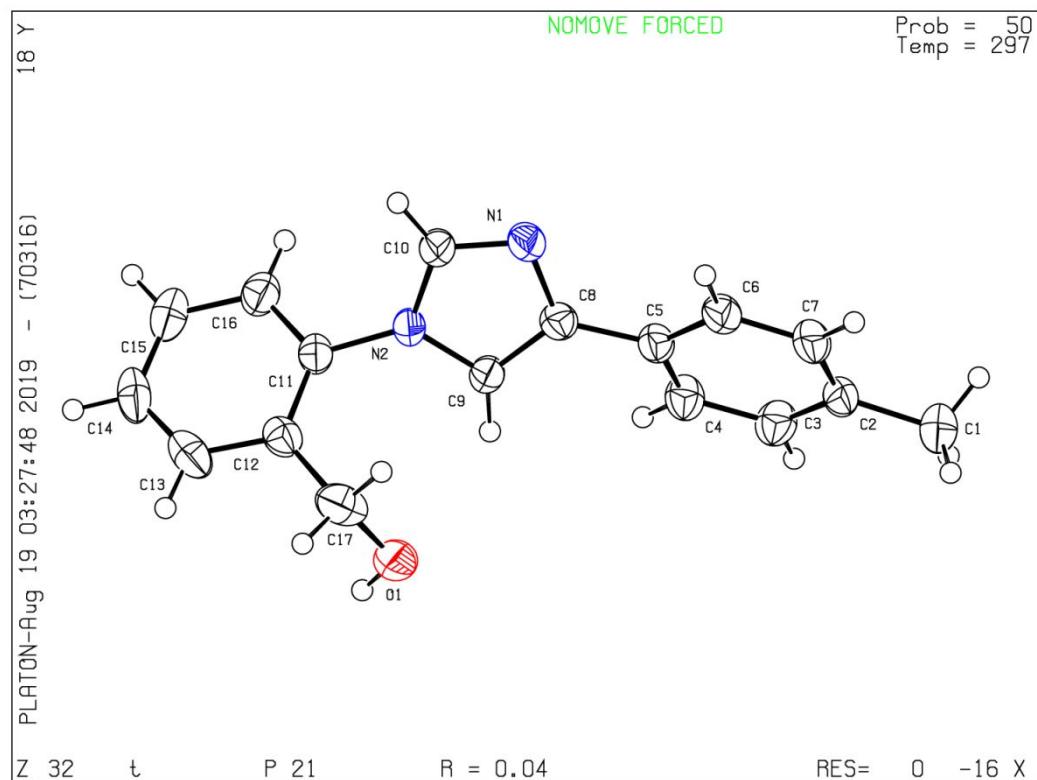


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure of **4ba**.

Crystal Data for Compound **4ba**: CCDC 1947784 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0049 Å Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=8.044 (3) b=7.672 (3) c=11.656 (4)
alpha=90 beta=104.363 (5) gamma=90
Temperature: 297 K

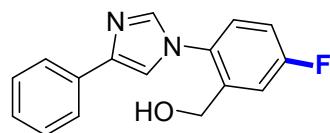
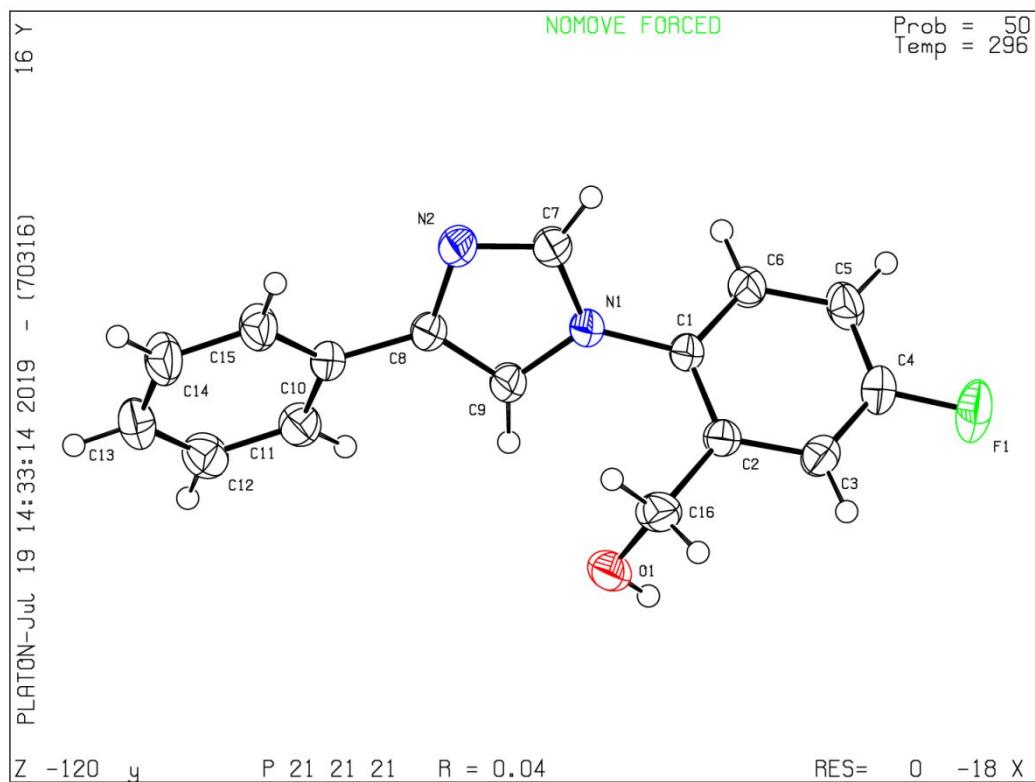
	Calculated	Reported
Volume	696.9 (4)	696.8 (4)
Space group	P 21	P 21
Hall group	P 2yb	P 2yb
Moiety formula	C17 H16 N2 O	?
Sum formula	C17 H16 N2 O	C17 H16 N2 O
Mr	264.32	264.32
Dx, g cm-3	1.260	1.260
Z	2	2
Mu (mm-1)	0.080	0.080
F000	280.0	280.0
F000'	280.11	
h,k,lmax	9,9,14	9,9,14
Nref	2590 [1399]	2381
Tmin, Tmax	0.990, 0.992	
Tmin'	0.990	

Correction method= Not given

Data completeness= 1.70/0.92 Theta(max) = 25.500

R(reflections) = 0.0385 (2272) wR2(reflections) = 0.1447 (2381)

S = 1.143 Npar= 184



4ae

Figure S2. X-ray crystal structure of **4ae**.

Crystal Data for Compound **4ae**: CCDC 1941804 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0025 Å Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=7.5557(11) b=8.1219(12) c=21.576(3)
 alpha=90 beta=90 gamma=90

Temperature: 296 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1324.1(3)	1324.0(3)
Space group	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21
Hall group	P 2ac 2ab	P 2ac 2ab
Moiety formula	C16 H13 F N2 O	C16 H13 F N2 O
Sum formula	C16 H13 F N2 O	C16 H13 F N2 O
Mr	268.28	268.28
Dx, g cm-3	1.346	1.346
Z	4	4
Mu (mm-1)	0.095	0.095
F000	560.0	560.0
F000'	560.27	
h,k,lmax	11,12,32	11,11,31
Nref	4550 [2609]	4275
Tmin, Tmax	0.989, 0.991	0.643, 0.746
Tmin'	0.989	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.643 Tmax=0.746
 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 1.64/0.94 Theta(max) = 31.904
 R(reflections) = 0.0448(4028) wR2(reflections) = 0.1181(4275)
 S = 1.121 Npar= 183

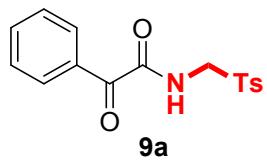
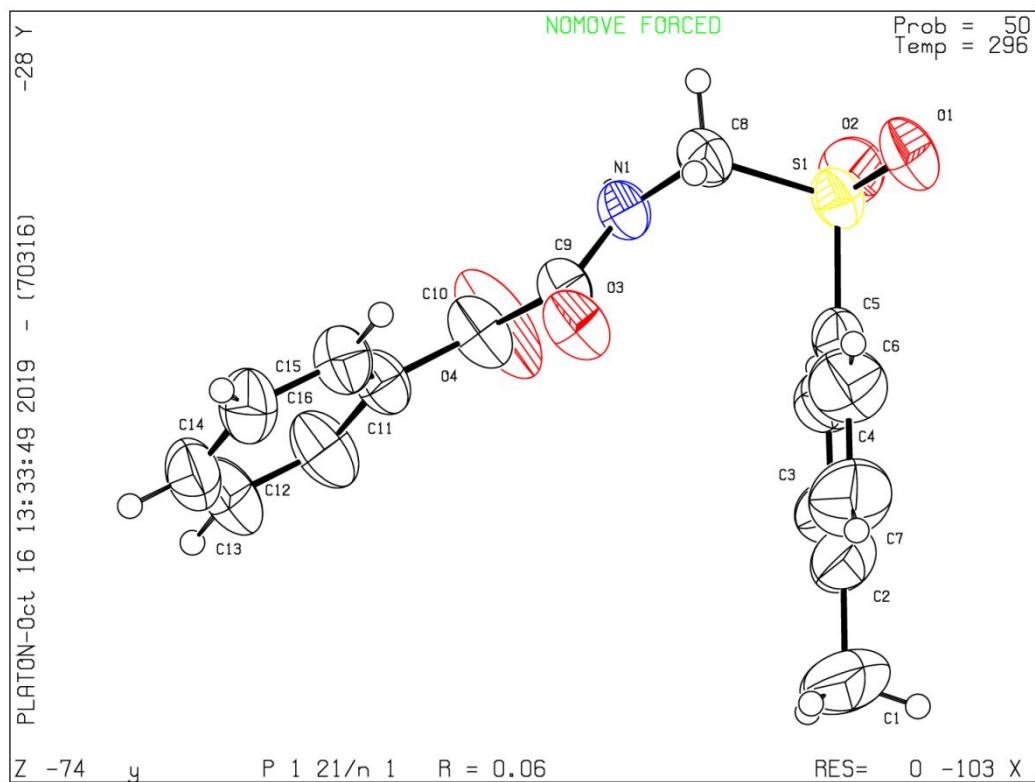


Figure S3. X-ray crystal structure of **9a**.

Crystal Data for Compound **9a**: CCDC 1959657 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0055 Å Wavelength=0.71073

Cell: a=16.377(3) b=6.4871(12) c=17.795(3)
alpha=90 beta=94.820(3) gamma=90
Temperature: 296 K

	Calculated	Reported
Volume	1883.8(6)	1883.8(6)
Space group	P 21/n	P 1 21/n 1
Hall group	-P 2yn	-P 2yn
Moiety formula	C16 H15 N O4 S [+ solvent]	C16 H15 N O4 S
Sum formula	C16 H15 N O4 S [+ solvent]	C16 H15 N O4 S
Mr	317.35	317.35
Dx, g cm-3	1.119	1.119
Z	4	4
Mu (mm-1)	0.186	0.186
F000	664.0	664.0
F000'	664.82	
h, k, lmax	19, 7, 21	19, 7, 21
Nref	3319	3306
Tmin, Tmax	0.978, 0.982	0.678, 0.746
Tmin'	0.978	

Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.678 Tmax=0.746
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN

Data completeness= 0.996	Theta (max) = 24.999
R(reflections)= 0.0584 (2539)	wR2 (reflections)= 0.1882 (3306)
S = 1.065	Npar= 200

6.¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 4

