Supporting Information

KOBu^t/DMSO Mediated α-C–H Vinylation of N-Benzyl Ketimines with Acetylene Gas: Stereoselective Synthesis of (*E*,*Z*) 2-Azadienes

Ivan A. Bidusenko, Elena Yu. Schmidt, Nadezhda I. Protsuk, Igor A. Ushakov, Alexander V. Vashchenko, Andrei V. Afonin, and Boris A. Trofimov

A. E. Favorsky Irkutsk Institute of Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, 1 Favorsky Str., 664033 Irkutsk, Russia

Table of Contents

1. General information	S2
2. Starting materials	S2
3. Synthesis of 2-azadienes 2 (general procedure)	S5
4. X-Ray diffraction analysis of 2-azadiene 2k	S13
5. References	S14
6. NMR Spectra	S16

1. General information

¹H (400.1 MHz), ¹³C (100.6 MHz), and ¹⁵N (40.5 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV400 instrument in CDCl₃. The assignment of signals in the ¹H NMR spectra was made using COSY and NOESY experiments. Resonance signals of carbon atoms were assigned based on ¹H-¹³C HSOC and ¹H-¹³C HMBC experiments. The ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts (δ) were referenced to hexamethyldisiloxane (0.05 ppm and 2.0 respectively). The chemical shifts were recorded in ppm. Coupling constants (J) in hertz (Hz) were measured from one-dimensional spectra and multiplicities were abbreviated as following: s (singlet), d (doublet), dd (doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triplets), dq (doublet of quartets), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). The values of the $\delta^{15}N$ were measured through the 2D ¹H-¹⁵N HMBC experiment. The ¹⁵N chemical shifts were referenced to CH₃NO₂. IR spectra were taken with FT-IR. Melting points (uncorrected) were measured on a Kofler micro hot-stage apparatus. The microanalyses were performed on a Flash EA 1112 Series elemental analyzer. Thin layer chromatography was carried out on Merck silica gel 60 F_{254} pre-coated aluminium foil sheets (eluent: hexane/diethyl ether = 1:3) and were visualized using UV light (254 nm). Column chromatography was carried out using slurry packed Sigma Aldrich silica gel, 70-230 mesh, pore size 60 Å (eluent: hexane/diethyl ether). Aldehydes, amines and all other chemicals and solvents are commercially available and were used without further purification.

2. Starting materials

Imines **1** were synthesized by published procedure¹ from ketones and amines in the presence of PCl₅. Physical-chemical characteristics of imines **1a,d-i,k,n,p,s** were identical to the literature data.²

N-benzyl-1-phenylpropan-1-imine (1b)



1b was prepared from propiophenone (50 mmol, 6.709 g) and benzylamine (50 mmol, 5.358 g) as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers in a 2:1 molar ratio (9.192 g, 82% yield). Light yellow oil. B.p. = 111-117 °C (1 mm Hg). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₆H₁₇N (235.33): C, 86.05; H, 7.67; N, 6.27; found: C, 86.17; H, 7.61; N, 6.19. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3059, 3028, 2973, 2932, 2880, 1632, 1577, 1492, 1450, 1347, 1322, 1286, 1231, 1179, 1079, 1036, 919, 769, 732, 697. *E*-**1b**. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.98-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.15 (m, 8H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 2.80 (q, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.14 (t, ³*J*

= 7.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 170.4, 140.7, 139.7, 129.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 127.0, 126.5, 54.8, 22.0, 11.6. Z-1b. ¹H NMR: δ 7.44-7.16 (m, 8H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 2.62 (q, ³J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.13 (t, ³J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 173.8, 140.7, 138.5, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.5, 126.4, 126.3, 56.7, 35.2, 10.9.

N-benzyl-1-phenylpropan-1-imine (1c)



1c was prepared from 1-phenylbutan-1-one (50 mmol, 7.411 g) and benzylamine (50 mmol, 5.358 g) as a mixture of *E*/*Z* isomers in a 2:1 molar ratio (10.216 g, 86% yield). Light yellow oil. B.p. = 116-120 °C (1 mm Hg). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₇H₁₉N (235.33): C, 86.03; H, 8.07; N, 5.90; found: C, 86.14; H, 8.12; N, 5.62. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3059, 3028, 2961, 2933, 2873, 1683, 1634, 1579, 1492, 1451, 1375, 1347, 1307, 1287, 1216, 1180, 1061, 1028, 917, 900, 735, 698. *E*-**1c**. ¹H NMR: δ 7.94-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.21 (m, 8H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 2.82 (dd, ³*J* = 6.5 Hz, ³*J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.70 -1.56 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 169.5, 140.8, 140.1, 129.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 127.0, 126.5, 55.1, 30.8, 20.5, 14.3. *Z*-**1c**. ¹H NMR: δ 7.51-7.21 (m, 8H, 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 2.66 (dd, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, ³*J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.71-1.54 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, ³*J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 173.0, 140.6, 138.5, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.5, 126.4, 126.3, 56.8, 44.2, 19.7, 13.9.

1-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-N-benzylethan-1-imine (1j)



1j was prepared from 1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (50 mmol, 9.813 g) and benzylamine (50 mmol, 5.358 g) as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers in a 17:1 molar ratio (11.678 g, 82% yield). Light yellow solid. M.p. = 108-109 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₂₁H₁₉N (285.39): C, 88.38; H, 6.71; N, 4.91; found: C, 88.54; H, 6.55; N, 4.85. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3060, 3029, 2884, 1679, 1628, 1603, 1552, 1488, 1446, 1403, 1371, 1348, 1276, 1236, 1160, 1125, 1082, 1047, 1005, 906, 841, 763, 727, 693. *E*-**1j**. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.96-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.75 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR**: δ 165.5, 142.4, 140.7, 140.6, 140.0, 128.9, 128.5, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.6, 55.8, 15.8.

(E)-N-Benzyl-1-(furan-2-yl)ethan-1-imine (11)



11 was prepared from 2-acetylfuran (50 mmol, 5.506 g) and benzylamine (50 mmol, 5.358 g). Yellow solid (6.878 g, 69% yield). M.p. = 37-39 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₃H₁₃NO (199.25): C, 78.36; H, 6.58; N, 7.03; found: C, 78.52; H, 6.46; N, 6.98. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3140, 3111, 3084, 3060, 3028, 2957, 2920, 2862, 1628, 1575, 1487, 1450, 1365, 1349, 1291, 1223, 1162, 1103, 1071, 1050, 1015, 945, 886, 820, 739, 698. ¹H NMR: δ 7.47 (dd, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, ⁴*J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.81 (dd, ³*J* = 3.4 Hz, ⁴*J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd, ³*J* = 3.4 Hz, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 157.3, 154.3, 144.0, 140.1, 128.4, 127.8, 126.6, 111.4, 111.2, 55.3, 14.9.

(E)-N-Benzyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-imine (1m)



1m was prepared from 2-acetylthiophene (50 mmol, 6.309 g) and benzylamine (50 mmol, 5.358 g). Light yellow oil (8.983 g, 83% yield). B.p. = 127-128 °C (1 mm Hg). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₃H₁₃NS (215.31): C, 72.52; H, 6.09; N, 6.51; S, 14.89; found: C, 72.78; H, 5.92; N, 6.46; S, 14.71. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3065, 3028, 2919, 2861, 1621, 1529, 1494, 1432, 1367, 1347, 1279, 1234, 1063, 1030, 845, 707. ¹H NMR: δ 7.39-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 1H), 6.99 (dd, ³*J* = 5.2 Hz, ³*J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 160.6, 147.7, 140.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 54.8, 15.5.

N-(4-Methylbenzyl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (10)



10 was prepared from acetophenone (50 mmol, 6.008 g) and *p*-tolylmethanamine (50 mmol, 6.059 g) as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers in a 13:1 molar ratio (9.487 g, 85% yield). Colorless solid. M.p. = 46-50 °C. B.p. = 140-145 °C (1 mm Hg). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{16}H_{17}N$ (223.32): C, 86.05; H, 7.67; N, 6.27; found: C, 86.29; H, 7.51; N, 6.13. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3084, 3051, 3021, 2919, 2864, 1682, 1634, 1576, 1514, 1446, 1415, 1369, 1345, 1279, 1179, 1110, 1032, 801, 763, 694. *E*-**10**. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.89-7.80 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 4.69 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C **NMR**: δ 165.7, 141.2, 137.6, 136.0, 129.6, 129.1, 128.2, 127.7, 126.8, 55.5, 21.2, 15.8.

N-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (1q)



1q was prepared from acetophenone (50 mmol, 6.008 g) and (4-fluorophenyl)methanamine (50 mmol, 6.258 g) as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers in a 13:1 molar ratio (8.418 g, 74% yield). Colorless solid. M.p. = 33-36 °C. B.p. = 123-124 °C (1 mm Hg). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₅H₁₄FN (227.28): C, 79.27; H, 6.21; F, 8.36; N, 6.16; found: C, 79.36; H, 6.33; F, 8.24; N, 6.02. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3058, 3029, 2869, 1684, 1634, 1605, 1577, 1508, 1444, 1420, 1368, 1347, 1277, 1222, 1155, 1086, 1034, 1023, 845, 822, 762, 694. *E*-**1q**. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.92-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.04-6.98 (m, 2H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C **NMR**: δ 165.9, 161.7 (d, ¹*J* = 243.9 Hz), 140.9, 136.4 (d, ⁴*J* = 2.5 Hz), 129.7, 129.2 (d, ³*J* = 7.8 Hz), 128.2, 126.7, 115.1 (d, ²*J* = 21.2 Hz), 54.9, 15.7.

N-(Furan-2-ylmethyl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (1r)



1r was prepared from acetophenone (50 mmol, 6.008 g) and furan-2-ylmethanamine (50 mmol, 4.856 g) as a mixture of E/Z isomers in a 10:1 molar ratio (8.173 g, 82% yield). Yellow oil. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₃H₁₃NO (199.25): C, 78.36; H, 6.58; N, 7.03; found: C, 78.52; H, 6.44; N, 6.86. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3143, 3113, 3058, 3029, 2913, 2872, 1684, 1634, 1600, 1583, 1501, 1445, 1368, 1335, 1282, 1333, 1183, 1146, 1078, 1008, 922, 890, 807, 761, 735, 695. *E*-**1r**. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.83-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.31 (m, 4H), 6.32 (dd, ³*J* = 2.8 Hz, ³*J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (d, ³*J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR**: δ 167.1, 153.8, 141.6, 140.8, 129.7, 128.1, 126.8, 110.3, 106.4, 49.3, 15.7.

3. Synthesis of 2-azadienes 2 (general procedure)

Acetylene gas was bubbled through a mixture of imine **1** (5 mmol) and KOBu^t (5 mmol, 0.561 g) in DMSO (50 mL) at 40 °C (oil bath) for 30 min (acetylene flow rate ~15 cm³/min). Then, the reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O (100 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (20 mL × 7). The combined organic extract was washed with H₂O (20 mL × 3) and dried over K₂CO₃ for 1 h. Et₂O was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the pure 2-azadiene **2** was obtained by column chromatography [SiO₂, eluent: hexane/Et₂O = 20:1].

Note:

Acetylene gas was delivered to the reaction mixture from commercially available acetylene cylinder or from Kipp apparatus charged with CaC_2 . In the experiment under pressure (~2 atm, Table 1, entry 11), acetylene was fed (from commercially available acetylene cylinder) into 250-mL steel Parr reactor equipped with mechanical stirrer and manometer. During all the above operations with acetylenes special safety requirements³ should be carefully and rigorously observed. Especially no any contacts with acetylenes with copper items should be mandatory avoided.

Precautions:

Please be aware of potential safety hazards associated with the on scale use of DMSO as solvent, especially in the presence of basic additives at increased temperatures.⁴

Physical-chemical characteristics of 2-azadiene 2a were identical to the literature data.⁵

(E)-1-Phenyl-N-((Z)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2a)



Following the general procedure, **2a** was prepared from **1a** (5 mmol, 1.046 g). **2a** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.847 g, 72% yield). $R_f = 0.48$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{17}H_{17}N$ (235.33): C, 86.77; H, 7.28; N, 5.95; found: C, 86.83; H, 7.16; N, 5.81. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3055, 3033, 2963, 2917, 2855, 1638, 1601, 1581, 1443, 1367, 1333, 1285, 1250, 1180, 1153, 1112, 1078, 1029, 969, 926, 756, 741, 692. ¹H NMR: δ 8.39-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 1H), 5.50 (q, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.58 (d, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.7, 147.6, 139.4, 138.1, 130.5, 128.5, 128.4, 127.3, 127.2, 125.1, 104.2, 17.5, 12.8. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -53.5.

(*E*)-1-Phenyl-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)propan-1-imine (2b)



Following the general procedure, **2b** was prepared from **1b** (5 mmol, 1.117 g). **2b** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.773 g, 62% yield). $R_f = 0.43$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{19}N$ (249.36): C, 86.70; H, 7.69; N, 5.61; found: C, 86.92; H, 7.76; N, 5.28. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3054, 3033, 2973, 2929, 2871, 1636, 1580, 1492, 1449, 1378, 1320, 1300, 1238, 1180, 1108, 1078, 1033, 985, 922,

803, 761, 731, 694. ¹**H NMR**: δ 7.97-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 5.48 (q, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (q, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (t, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR**: δ 171.4, 147.3, 138.5, 138.2, 130.3, 128.6, 128.4, 127.7, 127.3, 125.1, 103.8, 23.9, 13.1, 11.6.

(E)-1-Phenyl-N-((Z)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)butan-1-imine (2c)



Following the general procedure, **2c** was prepared from **1c** (5 mmol, 1.187 g). **2c** was isolated with admixture of isomer **2c'** (~20%) as a yellow oil (1.040 g, 79% yield). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₉H₂₁N (263.38): C, 86.64; H, 8.04; N, 5.32; found: C, 86.91; H, 7.86; N, 5.22. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3056, 3030, 2962, 2930, 2872, 1635, 1577, 1489, 1448, 1378, 1292, 1239, 1176, 1121, 1076, 1027, 752, 693. **2c**: ¹H NMR: δ 7.97-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 1H), 5.47 (q, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.52 (m, 2H), 1.61 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.43-1.29 (m, 2H), 0.74 (t, ³*J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 170.5, 147.4, 138.8, 138.7, 130.2, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 127.3, 125.2, 104.0, 32.9, 20.5, 14.4, 11.7. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -52.0. **2c'**: ¹H NMR: δ 7.98-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 5.38 (t, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (q, ³*J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (dq, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t, ³*J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 171.2, 145.9, 138.5, 138.2, 130.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.3, 125.2, 111.6, 23.9, 20.9, 14.1, 13.1. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -52.8.

(Z)-1,1-Diphenyl-*N*-(1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)methanimine (2d)



Following the general procedure, **2d** was prepared from **1d** (5 mmol, 1.357 g). **2d** was isolated as a yellow solid (0.996 g, 67% yield). $R_f = 0.53$. M.p. = 122-124 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{22}H_{19}N$ (297.40): C, 88.85; H, 6.44; N, 4.71; found: C, 88.96; H, 6.32; N, 4.63. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3056, 3030, 2958, 2917, 2854, 1622, 1571, 1517, 1491, 1443, 1316, 1288, 1178, 1069, 1032, 1003, 757, 695. ¹H NMR: δ 7.81-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.01 (m, 2H), 5.14 (q, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (d, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 168.5, 148.3, 139.7, 139.4, 137.3, 130.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 125.2, 103.8, 13.3.



Following the general procedure, **2e** was prepared from **1e** (5 mmol, 1.117 g). **2e** was isolated as a light yellow solid (0.810 g, 65% yield). $R_f = 0.49$. M.p. = 51-53 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{19}N$ (249.36): C, 86.70; H, 7.68; N, 5.62; found: C, 86.87; H, 7.53; N, 5.55. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3079, 3051, 3031, 2960, 2918, 2856, 1637, 1613, 1567, 1511, 1494, 1441, 1404, 1366, 1335, 1288, 1250, 1182, 1078, 1032, 969, 817, 756, 723, 694. ¹H NMR: δ 7.93-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 1H), 5.49 (q, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.57 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.5, 147.6, 140.7, 138.1, 136.7, 129.1, 128.3, 127.3, 127.2, 125.1, 104.1, 21.4, 17.3, 12.8.

(E)-1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-N-((Z)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2f)



Following the general procedure, **2f** was prepared from **1f** (5 mmol, 1.136 g). **2f** was isolated as a yellow oil (1.013 g, 80% yield). $R_f = 0.49$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{17}H_{16}FN$ (253.32): C, 80.60; H, 6.37; F, 7.50; N, 5.53; found: C, 80.84; H, 6.24; F, 7.48; N, 5.41. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3056, 2962, 2917, 2856, 1639, 1599, 1550, 1505, 1440, 1411, 1367, 1289, 1231, 1157, 1099, 1079, 1031, 969, 936, 838, 759, 726, 695. ¹H NMR: δ 8.05-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.04 (m, 2H), 5.49 (q, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.56 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 164.4 (d, ¹*J* = 250.5 Hz), 164.4, 147.5, 138.0, 135.5 (d, ⁴*J* = 3.1 Hz), 129.3 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz), 128.4, 127.4, 125.1, 115.3 (d, ²*J* = 21.6 Hz), 104.3, 17.3, 12.8. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -53.5.

(*E*)-1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2g)



Following the general procedure, **2g** was prepared from **1g** (5 mmol, 1.219 g). **2g** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.917 g, 68% yield). $R_f = 0.49$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{17}H_{16}CIN$ (269.77): C, 75.69; H, 5.98; Cl, 13.14; N, 5.19; found: C, 75.88; H, 5.92; Cl, 13.09; N, 5.02. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3054, 2967, 2915, 2855, 1638, 1593, 1568, 1489, 1441, 1398, 1367, 1334, 1286, 1250, 1178, 1095, 1030, 1019, 830, 778, 748, 696. ¹**H NMR**: δ 8.01-7.90 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 5.49 (q, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.56 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³**C NMR**: δ 164.5, 147.4, 137.9, 137.7, 136.6, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.4, 125.1, 104.4, 17.3, 12.8.

(*E*)-1-(4-Bromophenyl)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2h)



Following the general procedure, **2h** was prepared from **1h** (5 mmol, 1.441 g). **2h** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.864 g, 55% yield). $R_f = 0.48$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{17}H_{16}BrN$ (314.23): C, 64.98; H, 5.13; Br, 25.43; N, 4.46; found: C, 65.12; H, 5.06; Br, 25.51; N, 4.28. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3051, 2961, 2917, 2855, 1637, 1589, 1550, 1488, 1440, 1393, 1367, 1334, 1286, 1251, 1178, 1078, 1032, 1011, 825, 767, 745, 693. ¹H NMR: δ 7.91-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.16 (m, 1H), 5.49 (q, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.55 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 164.7, 147.4, 138.1, 137.9, 131.6, 128.8, 128.4, 127.5, 125.1, 125.0, 104.4, 17.3, 12.9.

(*E*)-1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2i)



Following the general procedure, **2i** was prepared from **1i** (5 mmol, 1.197 g). **2i** was isolated as a light yellow solid (0.995 g, 75% yield). $R_f = 0.44$. M.p. = 71-72 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{19}NO$ (265.36): C, 81.47; H, 7.22; N, 5.28; found: C, 81.54; H, 7.19; N, 5.23. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3050, 3005, 2958, 2927, 2914, 2844, 1635, 1603, 1574, 1510, 1444, 1422, 1366, 1303, 1251, 1176, 1032, 836, 807, 757, 723, 694. ¹H NMR: δ 7.97-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.96-6.84 (m, 2H), 5.44 (q, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 1.52 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 164.7, 161.6, 147.6, 138.2, 132.1, 128.8, 128.3, 127.2, 125.1, 113.7, 104.2, 55.4, 17.2, 12.8. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -58.8.



Following the general procedure, **2j** was prepared from **1j** (5 mmol, 1.427 g). **2j** was isolated as a light yellow solid (0.950 g, 61% yield). $R_f = 0.50$. M.p. = 93-95 °C. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₂₃H₂₁N (311.43): C, 88.71; H, 6.80; N, 4.50; found: C, 88.87; H, 6.71; N, 4.39. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3053, 3033, 2959, 2917, 2854, 1636, 16.04, 1552, 1489, 1442, 1401, 1367, 1334, 1287, 1252, 1187, 1122, 1074, 1036, 843, 791, 757, 720, 694. ¹H NMR: δ 8.14-8.03 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 1H), 5.51 (q, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.59 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.3, 147.6, 143.3, 140.6, 138.2, 138.1, 129.0, 128.4, 127.8, 127.9, 127.4, 127.3, 127.2, 125.2, 104.2, 17.4, 12.9. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -52.8.

(*E*)-1-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2k)



Following the general procedure, **2k** was prepared from **1k** (5 mmol, 1.297 g). **2k** was isolated as a light yellow solid (0.985 g, 69% yield). $R_f = 0.50$. M.p. = 91-93 °C Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₂₁H₁₉N (285.39): C, 88.38; H, 6.71; N, 4.91; found: C, 88.38; H, 6.71; N, 4.91. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3070, 3038, 2964, 2916, 2854, 1624, 1552, 1529, 1492, 1432, 1367, 1328, 1285, 1255, 1239, 1060, 1023, 968, 915, 848, 758, 714. ¹H NMR: δ 8.36-8.31 (m, 1H), 8.30-8.25 (m, 1H), 7.94-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 5.52 (q, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.60 (d, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.5, 147.7, 138.1, 136.7, 134.5, 133.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 126.4, 125.1, 124.4, 104.2, 17.4, 12.9. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -51.2.

(E)-1-(Furan-2-yl)-N-((Z)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2l)



Following the general procedure, **2l** was prepared from **1l** (5 mmol, 0.996 g). **2i** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.755 g, 67% yield). $R_f = 0.44$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₅H₁₅NO (225.29):

C, 79.97; H, 6.71; N, 6.22; found: C, 80.15; H, 6.62; N, 6.13. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3111, 3041, 1963, 2918, 2857, 1680, 1632, 1576, 1485, 1441, 1389, 1368, 1331, 1296, 1254, 1227, 1165, 1105, 1077, 1020, 950, 898, 815, 752, 712, 646, 596. ¹H NMR: δ 7.54 (d, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, ³*J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, ³*J* = 3.3 Hz, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (q, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.59 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 157.0, 153.7, 146.8, 144.6, 138.1, 128.4, 127.3, 125.2, 112.5, 111.8, 105.1, 16.7, 12.9.

(*E*)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-Phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-imine (2m)



Following the general procedure, **2m** was prepared from **1m** (5 mmol, 1.077 g). **2m** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.772 g, 64% yield). $R_f = 0.43$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{15}H_{15}NS$ (241.35): C, 74.65; H, 6.26; N, 5.80; S, 13.28; found: C, 74.86; H, 6.14; N, 5.75; S, 13.16. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3070, 3038, 2964, 2916, 2854, 1624, 1529, 1492, 1432, 1367, 1328, 1285, 1255, 1239, 1060, 1023, 968, 915, 848, 758, 714. ¹H NMR: δ 7.45-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, ${}^{3}J = 5.0$ Hz, ${}^{3}J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.52 (q, ${}^{3}J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.59 (d, ${}^{3}J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 160.7, 146.6, 146.3, 138.0, 129.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 127.3, 125.1, 105.3, 17.5, 12.9.

(*E*)-1-Phenyl-*N*-((*Z*)-1-(*p*-tolyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (20)



Following the general procedure, **20** was prepared from **10** (5 mmol, 1.117 g). **20** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.536 g, 43% yield). $R_f = 0.50$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{19}N$ (249.36): C, 86.70; H, 7.68; N, 5.62; found: C, 86.82; H, 7.61; N, 5.56. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3052, 3028, 2965, 2918, 2858, 1637, 1576, 1509, 1443, 1367, 1332, 1286, 1253, 1182, 1115, 1081, 1029, 970, 931, 827, 798, 764, 694. ¹H NMR: δ 8.03-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.03 (m, 2H), 5.45 (q, ${}^{3}J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.56 (d, ${}^{3}J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.5, 147.5, 139.4, 137.0, 135.2, 130.4, 129.1, 128.4, 127.2, 125.0, 103.2, 21.2, 17.4, 12.8.



Following the general procedure, **2p** was prepared from **1p** (5 mmol, 1.197 g). **2p** was isolated as a light yellow oil (0.643 g, 48% yield). $R_f = 0.31$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{19}NO$ (265.36): C, 81.47; H, 7.22; N, 5.28; found: C, 81.64; H, 7.14; N, 5.17. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3056, 3036, 3000, 2955, 2932, 2909, 2853, 2835, 1638, 1606, 1577, 1509, 1463, 1446, 1417, 1365, 1333, 1284, 1246, 1178, 1112, 1081, 1034, 970, 934, 837, 800, 764, 751, 693. ¹H NMR: δ 8.06-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.33 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.37 (m, 2H), 5.37 (q, ³J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.55 (d, ³J = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.4, 159.0, 147.1, 139.3, 130.7, 130.4, 128.4, 127.1, 126.2, 113.7, 102.2, 55.2, 17.3, 12.7.

(*E*)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-(4-Fluorophenyl)prop-1-en-1-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (2q)



Following the general procedure, **2q** was prepared from **1q** (5 mmol, 1.136 g). **2q** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.646 g, 51% yield). $R_f = 0.50$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{17}H_{16}FN$ (253.32): C, 80.60; H, 6.37; F, 7.50; N, 5.53; found: C, 80.79; H, 6.28; F, 7.42; N, 5.46. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3056, 2963, 2916, 2856, 1638, 1602, 1549, 1505, 1442, 1406, 1367, 1333, 1287, 1229, 1158, 1091, 1029, 970, 932, 841, 809, 763, 694. ¹H NMR: δ 8.03-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.93 (m, 2H), 5.41 (q, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.56 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 165.9, 162.4 (d, ¹*J* = 246.1 Hz), 146.7, 139.2, 134.3 (d, ⁴*J* = 2.6 Hz), 130.6, 128.5, 127.2, 126.7 (d, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz), 115.2 (d, ²*J* = 21.2 Hz), 104.0, 17.4, 12.8.

(E)-N-((Z)-1-(Furan-2-yl)prop-1-en-1-yl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (2r) and (E)-1-(furan-2-yl)-N-(2-phenylbut-3-en-2-yl)methanimine (2r')



Following the general procedure, $2\mathbf{r}$ and $2\mathbf{r'}$ were prepared from $1\mathbf{r}$ (5 mmol, 0.996 g). $2\mathbf{r}$ was isolated as a yellow oil (0.687 g, 61% yield). $R_f = 0.47$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{15}H_{15}NO$ (225.29): C, 79.97; H, 6.71; N, 6.22; found: C, 80.11; H, 6.65; N, 6.13. **IR** (film): v_{max}

3142, 3112, 3057, 3033, 2965, 2915, 2855, 1638, 1572, 1548, 1493, 1443, 1368, 1284, 1219, 1159, 1032, 1010, 944, 888, 766, 735, 691. ¹H NMR: δ 8.04-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, ³*J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (dd, ³*J* = 3.2 Hz, ³*J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (d, ³*J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (q, ³*J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.57 (d, ³*J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 167.9, 151.3, 141.8, 139.7, 139.3, 130.6, 128.5, 127.3, 111.1, 105.5, 103.4, 17.2, 12.0. **2r'** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.034 g, 3% yield). R_f = 0.39. ¹H NMR: δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, ³*J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (dd, ³*J* = 3.4 Hz, ³*J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, ³*J* = 17.4 Hz, ³*J* = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (d, ³*J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (d, ³*J* = 17.4 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 152.5, 148.3, 145.5, 144.9, 144.0, 128.3, 127.2, 126.9, 114.9, 114.3, 111.8, 68.1, 27.5. ¹⁵N NMR: δ -43.1.

(E)-1-Phenyl-N-((Z)-1-(pyridin-3-yl)prop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-imine (2s)



Following the general procedure, **2s** was prepared from **1s** (5 mmol, 1.051 g). **2s** was isolated as a yellow oil (0.628 g, 53% yield). $R_f = 0.26$. Elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{16}H_{16}N_2$ (236.32): C, 81.32; H, 6.82; N, 11.85; found: C, 81.47; H, 6.69; N, 11.78. **IR** (film): v_{max} 3070, 3048, 2999, 2958, 2938, 2835, 1621, 1598, 1582, 1561, 1487, 1462, 1434, 1362, 1321, 1279, 1270, 1249, 1224, 1191, 1185, 1153, 1043. 994, 981, 876, 864, 795, 741, 688. ¹H NMR: δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, ${}^{3}J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.05-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.68 (d, ${}^{3}J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.19 (dd, ${}^{3}J = 8.0$ Hz, ${}^{3}J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.55 (q, ${}^{3}J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.60 (d, ${}^{3}J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR: δ 166.4, 148.2, 146.6, 144.9, 138.8, 133.6, 132.1, 130.6, 128.4, 127.1, 123.1, 105.8, 17.4, 12.7.

4. X-Ray diffraction analysis of 2-azadiene 2k

The determination of the unit cell and the data collection for (*E*)-1-(naphtalen-2-yl)-*N*-((*Z*)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-mine (**2k**) was performed on a Bruker D8 Venture Photon 100 CMOS diffractometer with MoK_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$) at 297.0(2) K using the ω - φ scan technique. A specimen of <u>C₂₁H₁₉N</u>, approximate dimensions 0.37 mm x 0.08 mm x 0.05 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured. The integration of the data using a monoclinic unit cell with *P2₁/n* space group yielded a total of 27864 reflections to a maximum θ angle of 26.0° (0.81 Å resolution), of which 3174 were independent (completeness = 100%, Rint = 7.11%, Rsig = 4.43%) and 1663 were greater than $2\sigma(F2)$. The final cell constants of $\mathbf{a} = 12.154(12)$ Å, $\mathbf{b} = 6.023(6)$ Å, $\mathbf{c} = 22.30(3)$ Å, $\beta = 99.32(3)^{\circ}$, Z= 4, volume = 1611(3) Å³. Data were corrected for absorption effects using the multi-scan method (SADABS). The ratio of minimum to maximum apparent transmission was 0.922. The structure was solved and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL Software Package.⁶ The H atoms were determined by rider method.



Figure 2. X-ray structure of (E)-1-(naphtalen-2-yl)-N-((Z)-1-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)ethan-1-mine (**2k**). Thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability.

The final anisotropic full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 with 201 variables converged at R1 = 5.61%, for the observed data and wR2 = 15.16% for all data. The goodness-of-fit was 1.073. The largest peak in the final difference electron density synthesis was 0.130 e-/Å³ and the deepest hole was -0.190 e-/Å³. On the basis of the final model, the calculated density was 1.177 g/cm³ and F(000), 608 e-.

Atomic coordinates, bond lengths, bond angles and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) and allocated the deposition numbers CCDC **1968359.** These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif</u>.

5. References

- 1. Curtin, D. Y.; Grubbs, E. J.; McCart, C. G.; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1966, 88, 2775-2786.
- For imines 1a, see: a) Naeimi, H.; Salimi, F.; Rabiei, K; J. Mol. Catal. Chem. 2006, 260, 100-104. b) For imine 1d, see: Texier-Boullet, F.; Synthesis 1985, 679-681. c) For imine 1e-i,k, see: Wang, C.; Wu, X.; Zhou, L.; Sun, J.; Chem.: Eur. J. 2008, 14, 8789-8792. d) For imine 1n, see: Gnanaprakasam, B.; Zhang, J.; Milstein, D.; Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2010, 49, 1468-1471. e) For imine 1p, see: Chen, F.; Wang, T.; He, Y.; Ding, Z.; Li, Z.; Xu, L.; Fan, Q.-H.; Chem.: Eur. J. 2011, 17, 1109-1113. f) For imine 1s, see: Pandey, S.; Srivastava, R. S.; Med. Chem. Res. 2011, 20, 1091-1101.

- 3. Trotuş, I.-T.; Zimmermann, T.; Schueth, F. Chem. Rev. 2014, 114, 1761–1782.
- (a) Lam, T. T.; Vickery, T.; Tuma, L. Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry 2006, 85, 25-30.
 (b) Wang, Z.; Richter, S. M.; Gates, B. D.; Grieme, T. A. Org. Process Res. Dev. 2012, 16, 1994-2000.
 (c) Wang, Z.; Richter, S. M.; Bellettini, J. R.; Pu, Y.-M.; Hill, D. R. Org. Process Res. Dev. 2014, 18, 1836-1842.
 (d) Yang, Q.; Sheng, M.; Henkelis, J. J.; Tu, S.; Wiensch, E.; Zhang, H.; Zhang, Y.; Tucker, C.; Ejeh, D. E. Org. Process Res. Dev. 2019, 23, 2210-2217.
- 5. Wenkert, E.; Han, A.; *Heterocycles* **1990**, 30, 929-937.
- 6. Sheldrick G. M. Acta Crystallogr. 2008, 64, 112-122.

6. NMR Spectra



¹³C NMR Spectrum of **1b** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)







 ^{13}C NMR Spectrum of 1j (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)





¹³C NMR Spectrum of **1m** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)



 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 ^{13}C NMR Spectrum of **10** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)









S24



2D COSY Spectrum of 2a



2D NOESY Spectrum of 2a



2D ¹H-¹³C HSQC Spectrum of **2a**



2D¹H-¹³C HMBC Spectrum of 2a



2D ¹H-¹⁵N HMBC Spectrum of **2a**





¹³C NMR Spectrum of **2c** (with admixture of **2c'**, 100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)









 13 C NMR Spectrum of **2f** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)







¹³C NMR Spectrum of **2i** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)





 13 C NMR Spectrum of **2k** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)





S41















¹³C NMR Spectrum of **2s** (100.6 MHz, CDCl₃)



¹³C NMR Spectra (100.6 MHz, DMSO). Spectrum A: imine 1a in DMSO; Spectrum B: imine 1a in the KOBu^t/DMSO system