### Supporting information

# One-Pot Synthesis of 3-Methyl-2-Arylimidazo[1,2-a]Pyridines

## through Calcium Carbide as an Alkyne Source

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#### **Table of contents**

1. Reaction Intermediates Detection by HRMS (page 2)

2. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR and <sup>19</sup>F NMR Spectra for the Products **3a–3u**, **4a–4f**, **5a–5e** (page 4)

#### **1. Reaction Intermediates Detection by HRMS**



For the reaction of **1a**, **2p** and calcium carbide to synthesize **3p**, when the reaction is carried out under standard conditions for 5 h, the important intermediate and target product could be detected by HRMS analysis.

Intrmediate A:



HRMS (ESI): *m*/*z* (M+H)<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>: 261.0022; Found: 261.0017.

The mass spectrum is as follow.



Intermediate **F** or Compound **3p** :



HRMS (ESI): *m/z* (M+H)<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>: 287.0178; Found: 287.0174.

The mass spectrum is as follow.









Fig. S2 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3a)



Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(o-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (3b)



Fig. S4<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(o-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine (3b)



Fig. S5 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(*m*-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3c)



Fig. S6 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(*m*-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3c)



Fig. S7 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3d)



Fig. S8 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3d)



Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-ethylphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3e)



Fig. S10 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-ethylphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3e)



Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3f)



Fig. S12 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3f)



Fig. S13 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl) -3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3g)



Fig. S14 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3g)



Fig. S15 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3h)



Fig. S16 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3h)



Fig. S17 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]

pyridine (3i)



Fig. S18 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3i)



Fig. S19 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3j)



Fig. S20 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3j)



Fig. S21 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3k)



Fig. S22 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3k)



Fig. S24 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

(**3l**)



Fig. S25 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]

pyridine (3l)



Fig. S26<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine



Fig. S27 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3m)



Fig. S28 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]

pyridine (3m)



Fig. S29 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3n)



Fig. S30 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3n)



Fig. S31 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-bromophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (30)



Fig. S32 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(3-bromophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (30)



Fig. S33 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3p)



Fig. S34 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3p)



Fig. S35 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 4-(3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (3q)



Fig. S36 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 4-(3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)

benzonitrile (3q)



Fig. S37 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3r)



Fig. S38 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo [1,2-*a*]pyridine (3r)



Fig. S39<sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]

pyridine (3r)





Fig. S40 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(furan-2-yl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (3s)



Fig. S42 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3-methyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine

(**3**t)



Fig. S44 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of (*E*)-2-(2-methoxystyryl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (3u)



Fig. S45 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of (*E*)-2-(2-methoxystyryl)-3-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]

pyridine (3u)



Fig. S46 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3,7-dimethyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (4a)



Fig. S48 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3,6-dimethyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (4b)





Fig. S50 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3,5-dimethyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (4c)



Fig. S52 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 7-chloro-3-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (4d)



Fig. S54 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 6-chloro-3-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine

(**4e**)



pyridine (4e)



Fig. S56 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 7-bromo-3-methyl-2-phenylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (4f)





Fig. S58 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (5a)



Fig. S59 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (5a)



Fig. S60 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (5b)



Fig. S61 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2pyridine (5b)



Fig. S62 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 3,6-dimethyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo

[1,2-*a*]pyridine (5c)





Fig. S64<sup>19</sup>F (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) NMR of 3,6-dimethyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo [1,2-*a*]pyridine (5c)



Fig. S65 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(furan-2-yl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine (5d)



Fig. S66 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2-(furan-2-yl)-3,6-dimethylimidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (5d)





(5e)



Fig. S68 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3,6-dimethyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)imidazo[1,2-*a*] pyridine (5e)