Transition Metal-Catalyzed Synthesis of Pyrroles from Dienyl Azides

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General. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature using Bruker DRX 500 or Varian DRX 300 spectrometers. The data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm from internal tetramethylsilane on the δ scale, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. High resolution mass spectra were acquired on a JEOL GCMate II or Thermo Finnigan LTQ FT spectrometer, and were obtained by peak matching. Melting points were acquired on a Thomas Hoover Uni-Melt, capillary melting point apparatus and are reported uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on Sorbent Technologies 0.25 mm extra hard silica gel plates with UV254 fluorescent indicator. Liquid chromatography was performed using forced flow (flash chromatography) of the indicated solvent system on Sorbent Technologies $60\text{\AA}(40 - 60 \text{ }\mu\text{m})$ mesh silica gel (SiO₂). Medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) was performed using Thomson SINGLE StEP pumps to force flow the indicated solvent system down columns that had been packed with Sorbent Technologies $60\text{\AA}(40 - 60 \text{ }\mu\text{m})$ mesh silica gel (SiO₂). All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen in glassware, which had been oven-dried. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were commercially obtained and, where appropriate, purified prior to use. Acetonitrile, Methanol, Toluene, THF, Et₂O, and CH₂Cl₂ were dried by filtration through alumina according to the procedure of Grubbs.¹ Metal salts were stored in an MBraun labmaster nitrogen atmosphere dry box.

I. Preparation of α , β **-unsaturated nitriles**

A. General procedure for the preparation of α , β -unsaturated nitriles

The requisite α , β -unsaturated nitriles were prepared from acetonitrile and aromatic or heteroaromatic aldehydes following the method reported by DiBiase and co-workers.²



In a 100 mL, three-necked round bottom flask, equipped with a pressure equalizing addition funnel, reflux condenser, N₂ purge, powdered KOH was added to dry acetonitrile. The mixture was heated to reflux (internal temperature $83 \pm 3^{\circ}$ C), and a solution of the aldehyde in acetonitrile was added at once. After the addition was complete, stirring was continued for the specified time and then the hot solution was poured onto cracked ice. This mixture was extracted with 3 × 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phases were washed with brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) to afford the product.

B. α,β -Unsaturated nitrile syntheses



Nitrile (s1).² The general procedure was followed using a solution of 4.98 g of 2,3-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of a 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 3.5 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s1, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 88:12 (NMR)], as a white solid (4.33 g, 76%). The spectral data matched that reported by DiBiase and co-workers:² E-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.68 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 7.02 (m, 1H), 6.97 (m, 1H), 5.98 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); Z-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.74 (dd, $J_I = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 1H), 5.48 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 6H); IR (thin film): 2216, 1576, 1480, 1267, 1071, 748 cm⁻¹.



Nitrile (s2).² The general procedure was followed using a solution of 3.60 g of *o*-tolualdehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of a 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 9 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s2, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 82:18 (NMR)], as a pale waxy solid (2.15 g, 51%). The spectral data matched that reported by DiBiase and co-workers.² *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.70 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 2H), 5.81 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.93 (d, J = 7.5, 1H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 2H), 5.53 (d, J = 12, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H).



Nitrile (s3).³ The general procedure was followed using a solution of 3.60 g of *m*-tolualdehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of a 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 9 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s3, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 82:18 (NMR)], as a white solid (1.92 g, 45%). The spectral data matched that reported by Andrus and co-workers.³ *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.66-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.28 (m, 4H), 5.86 (d, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.66-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H).



Nitrile (s4).⁴ The general procedure was followed using a solution of 5.00 mL of 4-*tert*-butylbenzaldehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 8 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s4**, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 83:17 (NMR)], as yellow oil (4.83 g, 87%). The spectral data matched that reported by Fairhurst and co-workers:⁴ *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.37-7.44 (m, 5H), 5.84 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 1.33 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 155.0, 150.5, 129.0, 127.3, 126.1, 118.5, 95.3, 35.0, 31.1. *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 154.7, 148.6, 130.9, 127.3, 125.9, 117.8, 94.0, 35.0, 31.1.



Nitrile (s5).⁵ The general procedure was followed using a solution of 5.55 g of 4-bromo-benzaldehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 2 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s5, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 93:7 (NMR)], as a white solid (3.50 g, 63%). The spectral data matched that reported by Peppe and co-workers:⁵ *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.56 (dd, J_1 = 14.0 Hz, J_2 = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.35 (m, 3H), 5.88 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 149.2, 132.4 (2C), 130.4, 128.7, 117.8, 97.0. *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.66-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H).



Nitrile (s6).² The general procedure was followed using a solution of 5.68 mL of 2-chloro-benzaldehyde (50 mmol) in 20 mL of acetonitrile and 30 mL of 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 1 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s6** as a white solid (2.52 g, 31%). The spectral data matched that reported by DiBiase and co-workers:² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 1.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.31 (m, 1H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 146.5, 134.5, 132.1, 131.7, 127.4, 126.9, 117.8, 99.0.



Nitrile (s7). The general procedure was followed using a solution of 5.25 g of 2,6-dichlorobenzaldehyde (30 mmol) in 12 mL of acetonitrile and 20 mL of a 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 2 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s7**, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 87:13 (NMR)], as a white solid (1.75 g, 29%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) *E*-isomer: δ 7.54 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.24 (m, 1 H), 6.20 (d, J = 17.0 Hz, 1H); *Z*-isomer: δ 5.87 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), other resonances obscured by *E*-isomer. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 144.2, 134.9, 130.8, 130.6, 129.1, 117.2, 105.8.



Nitrile (s8).⁶ The general procedure was followed using a solution of 5.25 mL of 3-fluoro-benzaldehyde (50 mmol) in 20 mL acetonitrile and 30 mL of a 1.78 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 20 sec. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s8** as a white solid (2.91 g, 40%). The spectral data matched that reported by Happer and co-workers:⁶ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.35-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 5.90 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.0 (d, *J*_{CF} = 246 Hz), 149.2, 135.6 (d, *J*_{CF} = 6.2 Hz), 130.8 (d, *J*_{CF} = 7.5 Hz), 123.5, 118.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 117.7, 113.7 (d, *J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 98.0.



Nitrile (s9).^{6,7} The general procedure was followed using a solution of 9.09 g of *p*-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde (51.1 mmol) in 21 mL acetonitrile and 40 mL of a 1.28 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 30 sec. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s9, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 98:2 (NMR)], as an off-white solid (1.88 g, 19%). The spectral data for the *E*-isomer matched that reported by Happer and co-workers,⁶ and the spectral data for the *Z*-isomer matched that reported by Nakao and co-workers.⁷ Selected spectral data for *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 147.0, 136.7, 132.6 (q, J = 32.5 Hz), 129.2, 125.9, 123.6 (q, J = 270 Hz), 116.7, 98.0. Selected spectral data for *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.85 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H) other peaks obscured by *E* isomer; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 148.8, 127.6, 126.1, 120.4, 99.3. Selected spectral data for the mixture: IR (thin film) 3030, 2219, 1621, 1416, 1322, 1113, 1066, 1015, 970, 851, 813 cm⁻¹.



Nitrile (s10).^{8,9} The general procedure was followed using a solution of 2.50 g of 2-naphthaldehyde (15.7 mmol) in 7 mL acetonitrle and 18 mL of a 0.87 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 3 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s10**, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers [E:Z = 75:25 (NMR)], as an off-white solid (1.07 g, 38%). The spectral data for the *E*-isomer matched that reported by Addrus and co-workers,⁸ and the spectral data for the *Z*-isomer matched that reported by

Nenajdenko and co-workers:⁹ Selected spectral data for *E* isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.81-7.91 (m, 4H), 7.49-7.58 (m, 4H), 5.96 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 150.6, 134.6, 133.1, 131.0, 130.5, 129.7, 129.1, 128.8, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 122.2, 96.3. Selected spectral data for *Z* isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.03 (dd, *J*₁ = 8 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), other peaks obscured by *E* isomer; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 148.7, 134.3, 133.0, 131.2, 128.9, 126.9, 124.8, 118.4, 117.6, 95.1, other peaks obscured by *E* isomer. Selected spectral data for the mixture: IR (thin film) 2220, 1623, 1416, 1325, 1266, 1113, 1067, 971, 815, 739 cm⁻¹.



Nitrile (s11).¹⁰ The general procedure was followed using 4.5 mL of thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde (48.1 mmol) in 20 mL acetonitrile and 30 mL of a 1.60 M solution of KOH in acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 1 min. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product s11, an inseparable mixture of isomers [E:Z = 72:28 (NMR)], as a beige liquid (3.62 g, 56%). The spectral data matched that reported by Morton and co-workers.¹⁰ Selected spectral data for E isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.34-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.00-7.03 (m, 1H), 5.56 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 142.8, 138.4, 131.5, 129.5, 128.5, 118.2, 94.3. Selected spectral data for Z isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.53-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.14 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 140.8, 137.8, 132.4, 130.3, 127.7, 117.6, 91.8. Selected spectral data for the mixture: IR (thin film) 3106, 2213, 1604, 1420, 1361, 1218, 1049, 954, 857, 802 cm⁻¹.

II. Preparation of cinnamaldehydes

C. General procedure for the preparation of cinnamaldehyde



To a solution of the α , β -unsaturated nitrile (1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF at -78 °C was slowly added DIBAL-H (1.0 M in hexanes, 1.2 equiv). The mixture was kept cold for an additional 2 hours, and then warmed gradually to room temperature for 2 hours. The remaining alkyl aluminum salts were quenched at 0°C slowly through addition of a 10% aqueous solution of HCl. The resulting mixture then diluted with 20 mL of water and 20 mL of Et₂O. The phases were separated and the resulting aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2 × 20 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic phases were washed with 2 × 20 mL of distilled water and 1 × 20 mL of brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the heterogeneous mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product.

D. Cinnamaldehyde syntheses



Cinnamaldehyde (s12). The general procedure was followed using 2.00 g of 2,3-dimethoxy-*trans*-cinnamic acid nitrile (10.6 mmol), 12.7 mL of DIBAL-H (12.7 mmol), and 30 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s12** as a white solid (0.98 g, 49%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.73 (d, J

= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.10 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.0 (m, 1H), 6.75 (dd, $J_{I} = 16$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 194.3, 153.1, 148.5, 147.4, 129.7, 128.1, 124.4, 119.2, 114.9, 61.4, 55.9; IR (thin film): 1676, 1480, 1270, 1124, 1003 cm⁻¹.



Cinnamaldehyde (s13).¹¹ The general procedure was followed using 2.00 g of nitrile s2 (10.6 mmol), 12.7 mL of DIBAL-H (12.7 mmol), and 30 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s13 as a white solid (0.98 g, 49%). The spectral data matched that reported by Battistuzzi and co-workers:¹¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.73 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.67 (dd, $J_1 = 16$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): & 193.8, 150.2, 137.9, 132.8, 131.1, 131.0, 129.6, 126.8, 126.6, 19.7.



Cinnamaldehyde (s14).¹¹ The general procedure was followed using 2.00 g of nitrile s3 (13.97 mmol), 16.8 mL of DIBAL-H (16.8 mmol), and 30 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s14 as a white solid (0.98 g, 49%). The spectral data matched that reported by Battistuzzi and co-workers:¹¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ 9.70 (d, J = 7.8, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 15.9, 1H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 6.71 (dd, $J_1 = 16.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); IR (thin film): 1679, 1290, 1125, 972, 119 cm⁻¹.



Cinnamaldehyde (s15).¹¹ The general procedure was followed using 4.83 g of nitrile s4 (26 mmol), 30 mL of DIBAL-H (30 mmol), and 70 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s15 as a light yellow solid (2.90 g, 59%). The spectral data matched that reported by Battistuzzi and co-workers:¹¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.68 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.53 (m, 5H), 6.70 (dd, J₁ = 15.9 Hz, J₂ = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 193.7, 155.0, 152.7, 131.2, 128.3, 127.8, 126.0, 34.9, 31.0.



Cinnamaldehyde (s16).¹² The general procedure was followed using 3.45 g of nitrile **s5** (17 mmol), 20 mL of DIBAL-H (20 mmol), and 50 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded s16 as a light vellow solid (2.06 g, 59%). The spectral data matched that reported by Avery and co-workers:¹² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.71 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 3H), 6.70 (dd, J₁ = 16.0 Hz, $J_2 = 7.6$ Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 193.7, 155.0, 152.7, 131.2, 128.3, 127.8, 126.0.



Cinnamaldehyde (s17).¹² The general procedure was followed using 1.64 g of 2-chloro-*trans*-cinnamic acid nitrile (10 mmol), 12 mL of DIBAL-H (12 mmol), and 30 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s17** as a light yellow solid (0.95 g, 57%). The spectral data matched that reported by Avery and co-workers:¹² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.70-9.75 (m, 1H), 7.86-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.45 (m, 3H), 6.64-6.71 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 193.5, 147.9, 135.1, 131.9, 130.4, 130.3 (2C), 127.8, 127.2.



Cinnamaldehyde (s18).¹³ The general procedure was followed using 1.75 g of nitrile **s7** (8.85 mmol), 10.2 mL of DIBAL-H (10.2 mmol), and 25 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s18** as a pale yellow solid (0.62 g, 23%). The spectral data matched that reported by Hashem and co-workers:¹³ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.77 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J*₁ = 16 Hz, *J*₂ = 7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): 193.8, 145.8, 136.3, 135.1, 131.2, 130.6, 129.0; IR (thin film): 1686, 1431, 1117, 975, 776 cm⁻¹.



Cinnamaldehyde (s19).¹¹ The general procedure was followed using 2.91 g of nitrile **s8** (20 mmol), 22 mL of DIBAL-H (22 mmol), and 60 mL of THF. Purification via MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **s19** as a light yellow oil (2.0 g, 67%). The spectral data matched that reported by Battistuzzi and co-workers:^{11 1}H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.17 (m, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 193.4, 163.0 (d, *J*_{CF} = 246 Hz), 151.0, 136.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 7.5 Hz), 130.7 (d, *J*_{CF} = 7.5 Hz), 129.6, 124.4, 118.1 (d, *J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 114.7 (d, *J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz).



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Cinnamaldehyde (s21).¹² The general procedure was followed using 0.490 g of nitrile **s10** (2.73 mmol), 3.6 mL of DIBAL-H (3.55 mmol), and 9.1 mL of THF. Purification by MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes)

afforded the product **s21** as a flocculent light yellow powder (0.200 g, 40%). The spectral data matched that reported by Avery and co-workers:¹² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.76 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.87 (q, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.59 (m, 2H), 6.83 (dd, *J*₁ = 16.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 193.7, 152.8, 134.7, 133.2, 131.6, 130.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 123.6; IR (thin film) 1668, 1618, 1122, 829, 751 cm⁻¹.



s22 Cinnamaldehyde (s22).¹⁵ The general procedure was followed using 2.00 g of nitrile **s11** (14.8 mmol), 19 mL of DIBAL-H (19.2 mmol), and 50 mL of THF. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product **s22** as a yellow oil (0.980 g, 48%). The spectral data matched that reported by Krasnaya and co-workers:¹⁵ ⁻¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, $J_I = 5.0$, $J_2 = 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, $J_I = 11.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 192.9, 144.4, 139.3, 132.1, 130.4, 128.7, 127.4; IR (thin film) 2820, 1670, 1612, 1421, 1360, 1226, 1118, 1045, 961, 858, 817 cm⁻¹.

III. Preparation of dienyl azides

E. General procedure for the preparation of dienyl azide

The requisite dienyl azides were prepared in one step from the condensation of methyl azidoacetate and aromatic or heteroaromatic cinnamaldehyde following the method reported by Moody and co-workers.¹⁶ The yields were not optimized.

To a cooled (-22 °C) solution of NaOMe (1.52 equiv) in MeOH was added a solution of cinnamaldehyde (1 equiv) and methyl azidoacetate (3 – 4 equiv) dropwise over 1 hour. The resulting reaction mixture was warmed to –10 °C. After four hours, the heterogeneous mixture was diluted with 20 mL of water and 20 mL of Et₂O. The phases were separated, and the resulting aquesous phase was extracted with an additional 2×20 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic phases were washed with 2×20 mL of distilled water and 1×20 mL of brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, and the heterogeneous mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product.

F. Dienyl azide syntheses

Dienyl azide (3).¹⁷ The general procedure was followed using 0.493 g of sodium methoxide (9.13 mmol), 3 mL of methanol, 1.00 mL of cinnamaldehyde (7.94 mmol), and 3.66 g of methyl azidoacetate (31.8 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **3** as a yellow solid (0.836 g, 46%). The spectral data matched that reported by Geist and co-workers:¹⁷ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.49-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.17 (dd, $J_1 = 11$ Hz, $J_2 = 15.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.83-6.75 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s,

3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.6, 139.1, 136.3, 129.0, 128.8, 127.2, 127.1, 125.4, 122.1, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2125, 1711, 1370, 1234, 1072, 970, 748 cm⁻¹.



Dienyl azide (5a). The general procedure was followed using 0.749 g of sodium methoxide (13.9 mmol), 3.5 mL of methanol, 1.50 g of 4-methoxy-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (9.25 mmol), and 3.19 g of methyl azidoacetate (27.7 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5a** as a yellow solid (1.20 g, 50%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.44-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.05-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.74 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.7, 160.4, 139.0, 129.1, 128.8, 127.8, 124.2, 120.1, 114.2, 55.3, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2118, 1710, 1510, 1252, 1174, 971 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₃O₃: 259.0957, found 259.0959.



Dienyl azide (5b). The general procedure was followed using 0.499 g of sodium methoxide (9.23 mmol), 3.0 mL of methanol, 1.00 g of 2-methoxy-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (6.17 mmol), and 2.82 g of methyl azidoacetate (24.6 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5b** as a yellow solid (0.81 g, 50%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, *J*₁ = 4.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.7, 157.4, 134.2, 130.2, 128.3, 127.3, 125.3, 124.7, 122.5, 120.8, 111.0, 55.5, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2116, 1709, 1588, 1434, 1246, 752 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₃N₃: 259.0957, found 259.0958.



Dienyl azide (5c). The general procedure was followed using 0.316 g of sodium methoxide (5.85 mmol), 2.25 mL of methanol, 0.75 g of 2,3-dimethoxy-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (3.90 mmol), and 1.80 g of methyl azidoacetate (15.6 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5c** as a yellow solid (0.12 g, 11%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (m, 1H), 6.81 (m, 1H), 3.87 (m, 6H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.6, 153.0, 147.5, 133.4, 130.5, 127.7, 125.3, 124.2, 123.2, 118.2, 112.7, 61.2, 55.8, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2129, 1711, 1481, 1271, 1080 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₄N₃: 289.1063, found 289.1061.



Dienyl azide (5d). The general procedure was followed using 0.277 g of sodium methoxide (5.13 mmol), 1.5 mL of methanol, 0.5 g of 2-methyl-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (3.42 mmol), and 1.57 g of methyl azidoacetate (13.7 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5d** as a yellow solid (0.754 g, 91%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.63-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz,

1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.6, 136.6, 136.5, 135.0, 130.6, 128.8, 127.5, 126.3, 125.7, 125.2, 123.0, 52.6, 19.7; IR (thin film): 2114, 1711, 1370, 1232, 1072, 970, 754 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₂N₃: 243.1008, found 243.1009.



Dienyl azide (5e). The general procedure was followed using 0.277 g of sodium methoxide (5.13 mmol), 1.5 mL of methanol, 0.500 g of 3-methyl-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (3.42 mmol), and 1.57 g of methyl azidoacetate (13.7 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5e** as a yellow solid (0.248 g, 30%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.76 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.6, 139.3, 138.4, 136.2, 129.9, 128.7, 127.8, 127.3, 125.2, 124.6, 122.0, 52.6, 21.3; IR (thin film): 2123, 1711, 1369, 1227, 970 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₂N₃: 243.1008, found: 243.1010.



Dienyl azide (5f). The general procedure was followed using 0.84 g of sodium methoxide (15 mmol), 5 mL of methanol, 1.88 g of 4-*tert*-butyl-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (10.0 mmol), and 3.89 mL of methyl azidoacetate (40.0 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5f** as a yellow oil (1.94 g, 68%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.38-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.14 (dd, J_1 = 15.8 Hz, J_2 = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76-6.82 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.6, 152.4, 139.1, 133.6, 127.5, 127.1, 125.7, 124.9, 121.4, 52.6, 34.7, 31.2; IR (thin film): 2961, 2905, 2120, 1713, 1605, 1371, 1235, 972 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₉O₂N₃: 285.1477, found: 285.1478.



Dienyl azide (5g). The general procedure was followed using 0.80 g of sodium methoxide (14 mmol), 5 mL of methanol, 2.00 g of 4-bromo-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (9.5 mmol), and 3.70 mL of methyl azidoacetate (38 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5g** as a yellow solid (1.48 g, 50%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (dd, *J*₁ = 15.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70-6.74 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.5, 137.5, 135.2, 132.0, 128.6, 126.5, 126.0, 122.9, 122.8, 52.7; IR (thin film): 2125, 2105, 1710, 1438, 1260, 1234, 1069, 967 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂N₃Br: 306.9956, found 306.9956.



Dienyl azide (5h). The general procedure was followed using 0.80 g of sodium methoxide (14 mmol), 5 mL of methanol, 1.57 g of 2-chloro-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (9.50 mmol), and 3.70 mL of methyl azidoacetate (38.0 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5h** as a yellow solid (0.98 g, 39%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.68 (dd, J_1 = 7.5 Hz, J_2 = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J_1 = 7.5 Hz, J_2 = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.28 (m, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.4, 134.3, 134.2, 133.9, 130.0, 129.7, 127.0, 126.8, 126.6, 126.3, 124.3, 52.7; IR (thin film): 2121, 1716, 1641, 1436, 1368, 1235,

967, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂N₃Cl: 263.0462, found: 263.0465.



Dienyl azide (5i). The general procedure was followed using 0.078 g of sodium methoxide (1.44 mmol), 1.0 mL of methanol, 0.168 g of 2,6-dichloro-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (0.959 mmol), and 0.473 g of methyl azidoacetate (4.11 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5i** as a pale yellow solid (0.280 g, 98%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.37-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 16 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 11 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.4, 134.6, 133.3, 132.1, 130.4, 128.82, 128.76, 127.2, 126.2, 52.8; IR (thin film): 2129, 1715, 1232, 973, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₉Cl₂N₃O₂: 297.0072, found: 297.0070.



Dienyl azide (5j). The general procedure was followed using 1.12 g of sodium methoxide (20 mmol), 7 mL of methanol, 2.00 g of 3-fluoro-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (13.3 mmol), and 5.18 mL of methyl azidoacetate (53.0 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5j** as a yellow solid (1.58 g, 48%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.11-7.32 (m, 4H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69-6.75 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.3, 163.0 (d, *J*_{CF} = 244 Hz), 138.6 (d, *J*_{CF} = 7.5 Hz), 137.3, 130.2 (d, *J*_{CF} = 8.8 Hz), 126.2 (2C), 123.3, 123.1, 115.6 (d, *J*_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 113.3 (d, *J*_{CF} = 22.5 Hz), 52.6; IR (thin film): 2127, 1709, 1576, 1435, 1374, 1230, 973, 757 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂N₃F: 247.0757, found: 247.0760.



Dienyl azide (5k). The general procedure was followed using 0.320 g of sodium methoxide (5.98 mmol), 2.7 mL of methanol, 0.719 g of aldehyde **s20** (3.99 mmol), and 1.6 mL of methyl azidoacetate (16.0 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:2:98 – 10:2:88 EtOAc:Et₃N:hexanes) afforded **5k**, an inseparable mixture of regioisomers (94:6, *E:Z*), as a flocculent off-white solid (0.060 g, 5%): Selected spectral data for *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.5, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J_I* = 16.0 Hz, *J₂* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.4, 139.7, 136.9, 130.3 (q, *J_{CF}* = 20.0 Hz), 127.3, 127.0, 125.9, 125.8, 125.7, 124.5, 52.8. Selected spectral data for *Z* isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.87 (dd, *J_I* = 15.0, *J₂* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), other peaks obscured by *E* isomer; ¹³C NMR δ 130.5, 130.2, 128.5, 127.0, 126.0, 125.1, 122.9, 52.8. Selected spectral data for mixture: IR (thin film) 2121, 1716, 1331, 1286, 1246, 1108, 820, 758 cm⁻¹. HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₀O₂NF₃: 269.06636, found 269.06615.



Dienyl azide (51). The general procedure was followed using 0.251 g of aldehyde **s21** (1.38 mmol), 0.54 mL of methyl azidoacetate (5.51 mmol), 0.112 g of sodium methoxide (2.07 mmol), 0.92 mL of methanol, and 2 mL of DMF. Purification by MPLC (0:100 - 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product **51**, an inseparable mixture of isomers (95:5 *E:Z*) an off-white solid (0.102 g, 26%). Spectral data for *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500

MHz) δ 7.77-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.68 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, $J_1 = 14.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 11.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (dd, $J_1 = 11.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.6, 139.2, 133.9, 133.7, 133.5, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 127.2, 126.7, 126.6, 125.5, 123.5, 122.5, 52.7. Selected spectral data for *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.93 (dd, $J_1 = 16.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), other peaks obscured by *E* isomer. Data for the mixture: IR (thin film) 2123, 1697, 1334, 1279, 1232 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₃O₂N: 251.0946, found: 251.0948.



Dienyl azide (5m). The general procedure was followed using 0.663 g of sodium methoxide (12.3 mmol), 3.0 mL of methanol, 1.00 g of *trans*-3-(2-furyl)acrolein (8.19 mmol), and 3.77 g of methyl azidoacetate (32.8 mmol). Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **5m** as a brown solid (0.70 g, 39%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.02 (dd, J_1 = 15.5 Hz, J_2 = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.5, 152.6, 143.7, 126.6, 125.4, 125.3, 120.6, 112.1, 111.7, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2123, 1709, 1364, 1236, 755 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₀H₉O₃N₃: 219.06440, found 219.06440.



Dienyl azide (5n). The general procedure was followed using 0.947 g of aldehyde **s22** (6.86 mmol), 3.15 g of methyl azidoacetate (27.4 mmol), 0.557 g of sodium methoxide (10.3 mmol), and 4.5 mL of methanol. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product **5n** as a bold yellow solid (0.480 g, 30%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.28 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.0, *J*₂ = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.5, 142.0, 131.6, 128.4, 128.0, 126.9, 126.7, 125.1, 121.8, 52.7; IR (thin film) 1679, 1323, 1172, 1122, 1066, 982, 822 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₀H₉O₂NS: 207.0354, found 207.0356.

Dienyl azide (7a). To a cooled (–78 °C) solution of lithium diisopropylamide [2.95 mL of diisopropylamine (21.00 mmol), 9.24 mL of *n*-butyllithium (2.5 M solution in hexanes, 23.00 mmol) stirred at –78 °C for 0.5 hour] in 10 mL of THF was added a solution of 1.66 mL of crotonaldehyde (20.0 mmol) and 7.78 mL of methyl azidoacetate (80 mmol) dropwise over 1 hour. The resulting reaction mixture was warmed to –10 °C. After four hours, the heterogeneous mixture was diluted with 20 mL of water and 20 mL of Et₂O. The phases were separated and the resulting aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2 × 20 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic phases were washed with 2 × 20 mL of distilled water and 1 × 20 mL of brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the heterogeneous mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by flash chromatography (with 2% Et₃N) afforded **7a** as yellow oil (1.84 g, 55%, with 5% another isomer): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 6.52 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39-6.44 (m, 1H), 6.00-6.07 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.83 (dd, *J₁* = 7.0 Hz, *J₂* = 1.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.6, 138.3, 127.4, 125.6, 123.4, 52.3, 18.8; IR (thin film): 2122, 1716, 1635, 1436, 1372, 1238, 1072, 974; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₇H₉O₂N₃: 167.0695, found 167.0696.



Dienyl azide (7b). The same procedure as **7a** was followed for **7b** using 2.21 mL of diisopropylamine (15.75 mmol), 6.6 mL of *n*-butyllithium (2.5 M solution in hexanes, 16.5 mmol), 7.5 mL of THF, 1.74 mL of *trans*-2-hexen-1-al (15.0 mmol) and 6.90 g of methyl azidoacetate (60.0 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:2:98 – 10:2:88 EtOAc:Et₃N:hexanes) afforded the product as yellow oil (1.91 g, 65%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 6.59-6.57 (m, 1H), 6.46-6.40 (m, 1H), 6.09-6.03 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.18-2.14 (m, 2H), 1.49 (m, 2H), 0.93-0.89 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.8, 143.8, 127.8, 124.4, 123.6, 52.5, 35.3, 22.0, 13.7; IR (thin film): 2122, 1716, 1437, 1240, 974, 760 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₉H₁₃O₂N₃: 195.1008, found: 195.1010.



Dienyl azide (7c). The same procedure as **7a** was followed for **7c** using 1.11 mL of diisopropylamine (7.89 mmol), 3.4 mL of *n*-butyllithium (2.5 M solution in hexanes, 8.68 mmol), 4 mL of THF, 0.6 mL of 1-cyclohexene-1-carboxaldehyde (5.26 mmol) and 2.42 g of methyl azidoacetate (21.0 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:2:98 – 10:2:88 EtOAc:Et₃N:hexanes) afforded **7c** as yellow oil, (with 10% starting material): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.17-6.16 (m, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.43-2.41 (m, 2H), 2.19-2.17 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.55 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 164.5, 138.2, 134.3, 130.2, 122.0, 52.6, 27.6, 26.6, 22.6, 21.3; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₃O₂N: 179.0946, found: 179.0946.

Dienyl azide (7d). The general procedure was followed using 5.00 mL of α -methyl-*trans*-cinnamaldehyde (35.1 mmol), 2.84 g of sodium methoxide (53.0 mmol), 14.0 mL of methyl azidoacetate (140 mmol), and 23 mL of methanol. Purification using MPLC (0:2:98 – 10:2:88 EtOAc:Et₃N:hexanes) afforded **7d** as an 88:12 mixture of stereoisomers as a yellow-orange, low-melting solid (0.939 g, 11%). Spectral data for the *E*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.31-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 164.3, 138.2, 136.9, 133.5, 131.2, 129.5, 128.3, 127.6, 124.2, 52.8, 17.3.; Selected spectral data for the *Z*-isomer: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), other peaks obscured by E isomer. Spectral data for the mixture: IR (thin film) 2122, 1715, 1375, 1271, 1254 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for Cl₃H₁₃N₃O₂: 243.10078, found 243.10072.

Dienyl azide (7e). The same procedure as **7a** was followed for **7e** using 2.95 mL of diisopropylamine (21.0 mmol), 9.24 mL of *n*-butyllithium (2.5 M solution in hexanes, 23.0 mmol), 10 mL of THF, 3.33 g of α -chlorocinnam-aldehyde (20.0 mmol) and 7.78 mL of methyl azidoacetate (80.0 mmol). Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **7e** as yellow solid (0.15 g, 3%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.41 (m, 3H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.2, 134.4, 133.8, 129.9, 128.9, 128.3, 125.9, 124.6, 124.3, 53.1; IR (thin film): 2130, 1721, 1605, 1436, 1381, 1247, 1088, 732 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂N₃Cl: 263.0462, found: 263.0465.



Dienyl azide (7f). To a cooled (-30 °C) solution of *t*-BuOK (1.06 g, 9 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in 4 mL of THF was added a solution of cinnamaldehyde (0.76 mL, 6.0 mmol, 1 equiv) and *tert*-butyl azidoacetate (3.76 g, 24.0 mmol, 4 equiv) dropwise over 1 hour. The resulting reaction mixture was warmed to -10 °C. After six hours, the heterogeneous mixture was diluted with 20 mL of water and 20 mL of Et₂O. The phases were separated and the resulting aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2×20 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic phases were washed with 2×20 mL of distilled water and 1×20 mL of brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **7f** as yellow oil (0.53 g, 38%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J*_I = 15.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dd, *J*_I = 11.2 Hz, *J*_I = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 1.59 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.0, 138.3, 136.4, 128.7 (2C), 127.1, 126.7, 126.1, 122.3, 83.0, 28.0; IR (thin film): 2139, 2106, 1702, 1369, 1242, 1151, 969, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₂N: 271.1321, found 271.1298.



Dienyl azide (7g). To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of 1 mL of cinnamaldehyde (3.78 mmol), 2.44 g of α -azidoacetophenone (15.13 mmol) and 5 mL THF was added a solution of 0.943 g of KHMDS (4.73 mmol) in 4 mL of THF dropwise over 1 hour. The resulting reaction mixture was kept cold in -78 °C. After four hours, the heterogeneous mixture was diluted with 20 mL of methanol and 20 mL of water. The resulting aqueous solution was extracted with 3 × 20 mL of Et₂O. The combined organic phases were washed with 2 × 20 mL of distilled water and 1 × 20 mL of brine. The resulting organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, and the heterogeneous mixture was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **7g** as a brown solid (0.056 g, 5%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 7.51-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J_1 = 16 Hz, J_2 = 11 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.00 (m, 6H), 6.14 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (d, J = 11 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CD₃COCD₃, 125 MHz) δ 191.1, 140.3, 137.1, 136.5, 133.7, 132.3, 131.3, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 127.4, 122.2; IR (thin film): 2106, 1644, 1366, 1279, 971 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₃ON₃: 275.1059, found 275.1036.



Dienyl azide (7h).¹⁷ The general procedure was followed using 0.272 g of sodium methoxide (5.04 mmol), 2.0 mL of methanol, 0.70 g of β -phenylcinnamaldehyde (0.959 mmol), and 0.473 g of methyl azidoacetate (4.11 mmol). Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded **7h** as a pale yellow solid (0.280 g, 98%). The spectral data matched that reported by Geist and co-workers:¹⁷ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.45-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.33 (m, 5H), 7.23-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, $J_I = 1$ Hz, $J_I = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, $J_I = 1$ Hz, $J_I = 11.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.782-3.779 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 163.6, 149.7, 141.4, 138.7, 130.5 (2C), 128.6, 128.3 (2C), 128.2, 126.2, 124.6, 121.1, 52.6; IR (thin film): 2122, 1712, 1378, 1075, 768 cm⁻¹

IV. Metal-catalyzed synthesis of pyrroles from dienyl azides

A. General procedure for the screening of catalysts to promote the decomposition of vinyl azides H_{a}

Ph
$$(V_2 Me)$$
 metal salt (x% mol) $(V_3 Me)$ $(V_3 Me)$

To a mixture of 0.010 g of dienyl azide **3** (0.044 mmol) and metal salt (2 - 100% mol) was added 0.100 – 0.200 mL of solvent. After 16h, the heterogenous mixture was filtered through SiO₂. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting mixture was dissolved in 1.5 mL of CDCl₃ and 0.007 mL of dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) was added. The area of H_a or H_b peak in pyrrole was compared with the area of the peak of dibromomethane to derive a ¹H NMR yield.

Table s1.	Optimization of reac	tion conditions			
entry	metal salt (mol, %)	yield, % ^a	entry	metal salt (mol, %)	yield, % ^a
1	Rh ₂ (OAc) ₄ (10) ^b	22	11	Cu(OTf) ₂ (5)	>95
2	$Rh_2(O_2CCF_3)_4(2)^b$	42	12	$CuCl_2(5)$	19
3	$Rh_2(O_2CC_3F_7)_4(2)^b$	>95	13	ZnCl ₂ (5)	86
4	$Pd(OTf)_{2}(10)^{b}$	50	14	$SiO_2(50)^{b}$	15
5	HOTf $(2)^{b}$	n.a.	15	AuOTf (10) ^b	5
6	FeCl ₃ (10)	54	16	$MgBr_2(5)$	12
7	FeBr ₃ (15)	76	17	Ti(O ['] Pr) ₄ (5)	n.a.
8	FeCl ₂ (15)	86	18	TiCl ₄ (5)	n.a.
9	CuCl (5)	5	19	Hg $(OTf)_2(5)$	39
10	(CuOTf) ₂ PhH (5)	95	20	Hg (OTf) ₂ (100)	55

^a As determined using ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^b PhMe as solvent, 40 °C.

B. Scope of pyrrole formation using ZnI₂, Rh₂(O₂CC₃F₇)₄, and Cu(OTf)₂ as catalyst

Гable s2.	Comparison of Znl ₂ -,	$Rh_2(O_2CC_3F_7)_4$ -,	and Cu(OTf)2- mediated	processes
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Entry	substrate	product	Znl ₂ yield, %	Rh ₂ (O ₂ CC ₃ F ₇) ₄ yield, %	Cu(OTf) ₂ yield, %
1	Ph N ₃ 3	Ph-N-CO ₂ Me	>95 ^a (93) ^b	>95 (96)	>95 ^a
2	MeO 5a CO ₂ Me	MeO 6a CO ₂ Me	>95 (83)	90 (71)	88
3	OMe CO ₂ Me N ₃ 5b	OMe N H Gb	>95 (96)	84 (66)	87
4	MeO NaO Sc	MeO H Gc	>95 (92)	67	>95
5	Me CO ₂ Me N ₃ 5d	Me CO ₂ Me 6d	>95 (90)	>95 (88)	72
6	Me N ₃ 5e	Me CO ₂ Me	>95 (77)	>95	>95
7	t-Bu 5f	t-Bu 6f	>95 (90)	75(66)	69

Ta Entry	ible s2 (continued). substrate	Comparison of ZnI ₂ -	<u>, Rh₂(O₂CC₃F₇)₄-,</u> Znl ₂	and Cu(OIf) ₂ - mediate Rh ₂ (O ₂ CC ₃ F ₇) ₄	d processes Cu(OTf)
8	CO ₂ Me	N CO ₂ Me	>95 (82)	>95 (93)	yieid, %
9	Br 5g 5g Cl N ₃ Cl N ₃ Sh	Br H 6g Cl N CO ₂ Me 6h	89 (80)	>95 (97)	52
10	CI CI N ₃ Si	CI N CO ₂ Me	>95 (70)	>95 (97)	92
11	F Sj CO ₂ Me N ₃	F CO ₂ Me	83 (70) ^c	>95 (98)	61
12	F ₃ C 5k	F ₃ C 6k	38 (37)	>95 (85)	10
13	CO ₂ Me N ₃	N H H H	85 (71) ^c	33	10
14	O N ₃ 5m	Gr CO ₂ Me	21 (n.a.)	72	23
15	S N ₃ 5n	S CO ₂ Me H	47 (41) ^e	47	25
16	Me CO ₂ Me N ₃ 7a	Me Ne CO ₂ Me	60 (59)	65 (51)	64
17	n-Pr N ₃ 7b	<i>n</i> -Pr N 8b	85 (72)	n.a.	83
18	CO ₂ Me N ₃ 7c	N CO ₂ Me	73 (71)	n.a	n.a.
19	Ph CO ₂ Me Me N ₃ 7d	Ph N CO ₂ Me	>95 (86)	>95	82
20	Ph CI N ₃ 7e	Ph N CO ₂ Me	94 (75)	82	88
21	Ph CO ₂ t-Bu N ₃ 7f	Ph- H Bf	93 (89)	53	78
22	Ph	Ph	43 (n.a.)	29	93 (72)

^{*}As determined using ¹H NMR spectroscopy. ^bIsolated yield after flash chromatography over SiO₂. ^c ZnI₂ (10% mol) employed. ^d Starting material was recovered. ^e ZnI₂ (10% mol), 40 ^oC.

CO₂Me

0 (n.a.)^d

0

0

C. Optimized general procedure

23

To a mixture of 0.100 g of dienyl azide **3** (0.436 mmol) and 0.007 g of ZnI_2 (5% mol) was added 0.300 mL of solvent (1.5 M). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15h. The heterogenous mixture was filtered through SiO₂. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) provided the pyrrole. For more electron deficient arenes, increased catalyst loading (10% mol) was required.



Pyrrole (4).¹⁸ The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **3** (0.436 mmol), 0.007 g of ZnI₂ (0.022 mmol), and 0.300 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole as a white solid (0.082 g, 93%): mp 145-146 °C. The spectral data matched that reported by Knight and co-workers:¹⁸ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.78 (br s, 1H), 7.63-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 1H), 6.99-6.97 (m, 1H), 6.56-6.54 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.8, 137.1, 131.3, 128.9, 127.7, 124.8, 123.0, 116.9, 108.0, 51.6; IR (thin film): 3307, 1680, 1275, 1004 cm⁻¹.



Pyrrole (6a). The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **5a** (0.386 mmol), 0.006 g of ZnI₂ (0.019 mmol), and 0.260 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6a** as a white solid (0.074 g, 83%): mp 144-146 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.32 (br s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97-6.93 (m, 3H), 6.44-6.43 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.8, 159.3, 137.2, 126.2, 124.2, 122.3, 117.0, 114.3, 107.1, 55.3, 51.5; IR (thin film): 3323, 1686, 1477, 1275, 1006, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₃N: 231.08955, found: 231.08963.



Pyrrole (6b). The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **5b** (0.386 mmol), 0.006 g of ZnI₂ (0.019 mmol), and 0.260 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6b** as a white solid (0.086 g, 96%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 10.41 (br s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, $J_1 = 7.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dt, $J_1 = 7.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.96 (dd, $J_1 = 3.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, $J_1 = 3.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.5, 155.4, 134.5, 128.4, 127.4, 121.8, 121.3, 119.4, 115.7, 111.6, 108.1, 55.7, 51.3; IR (thin film): 3442, 1699, 1476, 1259, 1146, 758 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₃N: 231.0895, found 231.0898.



Pyrrole (6c). The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **5c** (0.346 mmol), 0.0055 g of ZnI₂ (0.017 mmol), and 0.230 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6c** as a white solid (0.083 g, 92%): mp 69-70 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 10.47 (br s, 1H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.08 (td, J_1 = 8 Hz, J_2 = 1 Hz, 1H), 6.96-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.83 (m, 1H), 6.62-6.60 (m, 1H), 3.90-3.87 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.4, 153.3, 145.4, 133.8, 124.7, 124.3, 122.5, 119.2, 115.8, 111.4, 108.9, 60.6, 55.9, 51.4; IR (thin film): 3439, 1700, 1262, 1005, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₄N: 261.1001, found: 261.0989.



Pyrrole (6d). The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **5b** (0.411 mmol), 0.007 g of ZnI₂ (0.021 mmol), and 0.280 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6d** as a colorless oil (0.083 g, 92%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.42 (br s, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 3H), 6.98 (dd, $J_1 = 4$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.35 (dd, $J_1 = 3.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3$ Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.6, 136.4, 135.7, 131.5, 131.1, 128.5, 128.1, 126.2, 122.3, 116.0, 110.9, 51.5, 21.0; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₂N: 215.0946, found: 215.0947.



Pyrrole (6e). The general procedure was followed with 0.096 g of dienyl azide **5e** (0.40 mmol), 0.006 g of ZnI₂ (0.020 mmol), and 0.260 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6e** as a white solid (0.083 g, 92%): mp 118-119 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.69 (br s, 1H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.54 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.9, 138.7, 137.3, 131.3, 128.9, 128.6, 125.6, 122.9, 122.0, 116.9, 108.0, 51.6, 21.5; IR (thin film): 3330, 1694, 1439, 1275, 1148, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₃O₂N: 215.0946, found 215.0947.



Pyrrole (6f). The general procedure was followed with 0.055 g of dienyl azide **5f** (0.193 mmol), 0.003 g of ZnI₂ (0.010 mmol), and 0.130 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6f** as a white solid (0.045 g, 90%): mp 149-150 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.65 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (dd, *J*₁ = 3.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.8, 150.9, 137.2, 128.6, 125.9, 124.6, 122.6, 116.9, 107.7, 51.5, 34.6, 31.2; IR (thin film): 3294, 3259, 2955, 1691, 1479, 1292, 1266, 799 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₉O₂N: 257.1416, found 257.1418.



Pyrrole (6g). The general procedure was followed with 0.086 g of dienyl azide **5g** (0.279 mmol), 0.005 g of ZnI₂ (0.016 mmol), and 0.190 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6g** as a white solid (0.064 g, 82%): mp 182-183 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.43 (br s, 1H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.45 (m, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J_1 = 3.8, J_2 = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.7, 135.7, 132.1, 130.3, 126.2, 123.4, 121.6, 116.9, 108.4, 51.7; IR (thin film): 3311, 1687, 1461, 1440, 1284, 1268, 794, 758 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂NBr: 278.9895, found 278.9895.



Pyrrole (6h). The general procedure was followed with 0.056 g of dienyl azide **6g** (0.212 mmol), 0.003 g of ZnI₂ (0.010 mmol), and 0.140 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification using MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6h** as a white solid (0.040 g, 80%): mp 88-89 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.85 (br s, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, *J*₁ = 4.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.0, *J*₂ = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.5, 133.6, 130.9, 130.8, 129.9 (2C), 128.7, 127.2, 123.1, 115.7, 111.4, 51.6; IR (thin film): 3300, 1686, 1458, 1442, 1290, 1248, 1154, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂NCI: 235.0400, found 235.0403.



Pyrrole (6i). The general procedure was followed with 0.059 g of dienyl azide **5i** (0.198 mmol), 0.003 g of ZnI₂ (0.010 mmol), and 0.140 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6i** as a white solid (0.036 g, 70%): mp 110-112 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.23 (br s, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.40-6.38 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.5, 135.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.8, 128.4, 122.9, 115.2, 113.0, 51.5; IR (thin film):3299, 1698, 1558, 1251 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₉Cl₂NO₂: 269.0010, found 269.0011.



Pyrrole (6j). The general procedure was followed with 0.058 g of dienyl azide **5j** (0.234 mmol), 0.008 g of ZnI₂ (0.025 mmol), and 0.160 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **6j** as a white solid (0.036 g, 70%): mp 121-123 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.92 (br s, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 3H), 6.96-7.01 (m, 2H), 6.56 (dd, J_1 = 3.8 Hz, J_2 = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 163.1 (d, J_{CF} = 242 Hz), 162.2, 136.2, 133.6 (d, J_{CF} = 8.8 Hz), 130.3 (d, J_{CF} = 8.8 Hz), 123.5, 120.7, 117.1, 114.3 (d, J_{CF} = 8.8 Hz), 111.9 (d, J_{CF} = 22.5 Hz), 108.6, 51.8; IR (thin film): 3318, 1691, 1474, 1286, 1201, 1153, 780, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂NF: 219.0696, found 219.0696.



Pyrrole (6k). The general procedure was followed using 0.016 g of dienyl azide **5k** (0.005 mmol), 0.002 g of Rh₂(pfb)₄, and 0.036 mL of toluene. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the pyrrole **6k** as a white solid (0.013 g, 88%): mp 196-197 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.67 (br s, 1H), 7.64-7.71 (m, 4H), 6.96-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.62-6.65 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) 161.7, 134.9 (d, 68.75 Hz), 129.5 (d, 32.50 Hz), 126.1, 126.0, 125.1 (t, 268.75 Hz), 124.8, 124.1, 117.0, 109.3, 51.8; IR (thin film) 3313, 1692, 1279, 1158, 1116, 845, 798, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₀O₂NF₃: 269.0664, found 269.0663.



Pyrrole (61). The general procedure at 40 °C was followed using 0.065 g dienyl azide **51** (0.232 mmol), 0.008 mg ZnI₂ (0.025 mmol), and 0.160 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product **61** as a yellow solid (0.041 g, 71%): mp 150-152 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.85 (br s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.88 (m, 3H), 7.73 (dd, $J_I = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.66-6.69 (m, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.8, 137.0, 133.5, 132.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 127.8, 126.8, 126.2, 123.3, 123.2, 123.1, 117.1, 108.6, 51.7; IR (thin film) 3323, 1687, 1278, 1233, 1148, 791, 753 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₃O₂N: 251.0946, found 251.0946.



Pyrrole (6m).¹⁸ To a mixture of 0.041 g of dienyl azide **5m** (0.188 mmol) and 0.003 g of ZnI₂ (0.009 mmol) was added 0.140 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 15h, the heterogenous mixture was filtered through SiO₂. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting mixture was dissolved in 1.5 mL of CDCl₃ and 0.007 mL of dibromomethane (0.1 mmol) was added. The areas of the MeO peaks were compared with the area of the peak of dibromomethane to derive a 1H NMR yield: 21%. The spectral data matched that reported by Knight and co-workers:¹⁸ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.45 (br s, 1H), 7.42-7.41 (m, 1H), 6.92 (dd, $J_I = 4.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.54 (m, 1H), 6.45 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.4, 146.8, 141.7, 128.3, 122.3, 116.6, 111.7, 107.0, 105.3, 51.6; IR (thin film): 3296, 1693, 1280, 1146, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₀H₉O₃N: 191.0582, found 191.0584.



Pyrrole (6n). The general procedure was followed using 0.100 g of dienyl azide **5n** (0.42 mmol), 0.014 g of ZnI₂ (0.04 mmol), and 0.280 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded the product **6n** as a yellow solid (0.036 g, 41%): mp 105-106 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.41 (br s, 1H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.04-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.42-6.44 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.6, 134.5, 131.5, 127.9, 124.6, 123.1, 122.7, 116.9, 108.6, 51.7; IR (thin film) 3313, 1686, 1481, 1323, 1269, 1223, 1143, 760 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₀H₉O₂NS: 207.0354, found 207.0356.



Pyrrole (8a).¹⁹ The general procedure was followed with 0.079 g of dienyl azide **7a** (0.473 mmol), 0.008 g of ZnI₂ (0.025 mmol), and 0.320 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **8a** as a white solid (0.039 g, 59%): mp 93-94 °C. The spectral data matched that reported by Yoshida and co-workers:¹⁹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.26 (br s, 1H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.8, 134.0, 121.0, 116.2, 109.0, 51.3, 13.2; IR (thin film): 3310, 2922, 1680, 1492, 1330, 1267, 1041, 771 cm⁻¹.



Pyrrole (8b).¹⁸ The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of dienyl azide **7a** (0.512 mmol), 0.008 g of ZnI₂ (0.026 mmol), and 0.320 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **8b** as a colorless oil (0.062 g, 72%). The spectral data matched that reported by Knight and co-workers:¹⁸ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.98 (br s, 1H), 6.83-6.82 (m, 1H), 5.98-5.96 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.64 (m, 2H), 0.97-0.94 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.7, 138.7, 120.8, 116.0, 108.1, 51.2, 29.8, 22.5, 13.8; IR (thin film):3308, 1684, 1494, 1226, 769 cm⁻¹.



Pyrrole 8c.²⁰ The general procedure was followed with 0.100 g of crude dienyl azide 7c, 0.008 g of ZnI₂ (0.026 mmol), and 0.320 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **8c** as a white solid (0.053 g, 70%): mp 150-152 °C. The spectral data matched that reported by May and co-workers:²⁰ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.00 (br s, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.60 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.82-1.79 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.73 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.0, 133.6, 120.1, 119.7, 114.4, 51.2, 23.5, 22.93, 22.89, 22.7.



Pyrrole (8d).²¹ The general procedure was followed using 0.101 g of dienyl azide **7d** (0.413 mmol), 0.007 g of ZnI₂ (0.021 mmol) and 0.28 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) over neutral alumina afforded the product **8d** as a white powder (0.076 g, 86%): mp 110-111 °C. The spectral data matched that reported by Lakhlifi and co-workers:²¹ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.22 (br s, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.7, 133.8, 132.3, 128.8, 127.5, 127.0, 121.2, 118.4, 118.2, 51.5, 12.5; IR (thin film) 3303, 1696, 1445, 1266, 1217, 1184, 762 cm⁻¹.



Pyrrole (8e). The general procedure was followed using 0.101 g of dienyl azide **7d** (0.413 mmol), 0.007 g of ZnI₂ (0.021 mmol) and 0.28 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification via MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) over neutral alumina afforded the product **8d** as a white powder (0.076 g, 86%): mp 145-146 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ 9.70 (br s, 1H), 7.72 (dd, J_1 = 8.8 Hz, J_2 = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 161.3, 132.3, 129.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.0, 120.9, 116.5, 111.3, 51.9; IR (thin film): 3291, 3271, 1699, 1448, 1221, 1154, 828, 769 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₀O₂NCI: 235.0400, found 235.0403.



Pyrrole (8f). The general procedure was followed with 0.084 g of dienyl azide **7f** (0.310 mmol), 0.005 g of ZnI₂ (0.016 mmol), and 0.200 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification by flash chromatography (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **8f** as a white solid (0.067 g, 89%): mp 90-91 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 9.47 (br s, 1H), δ 7.55-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J*₁ = 4.0 Hz, *J*₂=2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.58 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 160.8, 136.2, 131.5, 128.9, 127.5, 124.8, 124.6, 116.1, 107.7, 80.9, 28.3; IR (thin film): 3320, 2977, 1669, 1464, 1275, 1149, 980, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (EI) *m* / *z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₇O₂N: 243.1259, found 243.1256.



Pyrrole (8g).²² The general procedure was followed with 0.040 g of dienyl azide **7g** (0.145 mmol), 0.003 g of Cu(OTf)₂ (0.007 mmol), and 0.100 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Purification MPLC (0:100 – 30:70 EtOAc:hexanes) afforded pyrrole **8g** as a white solid (0.026 g, 72%): mp 163-164 °C. The spectral data matched that reported by Pale-Grosdemange and co-workers:²² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 10.11 (br s, 1H), 9.94-9.20 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J_1 = 4.0 Hz, J_2 = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, J_1 = 4.0 Hz, J_2 = 2.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 184.5, 139.1, 138.4, 131.8, 131.7, 130.9, 129.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 125.2, 121.2, 108.8; IR (thin film):3303, 1615, 1559, 1471, 1276, 1160, 762 cm⁻¹.

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