Supporting Information for the Article entitled

Regioselective Synthesis of 1-Aryl-3,4substituted/annulated-5-(methylthio)pyrazoles and 1-Aryl-3-(methylthio)-4,5-substituted/ annulated Pyrazoles

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- 2. General procedure for dethiomethylation of pyrazoles 2 and 3 with Raney Nickel
- 3. Procedure for the preparation of 5- or 3-(methylsulfonyl)pyrazoles 16 and 18
- 4. Procedure for nickel-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions of **16** and **18** with *n*-Butyl Grignard Reagent: Synthesis of **17** and **19**
- ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 2a, 2g, 3a, 3g, 7i, 11i, 17, 19, 21l and 21m.

Experimental Section

General. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ and TMS was used as an internal reference. Melting points were uncorrected. Chromatographic purification was conducted by column chromatography using 100-200 mesh silica gel obtained. CH_2Cl_2 was distilled over P_2O_5 and stored over 4Å molecular sieves. THF, ether and benzene were distilled over sodium/benzophenone prior to use. NaH (as 60% suspension in oil) and potassium *t*-butoxide were purchased from the standard firms whereas NiCl₂(PPh₃)₂ and NiCl₂(dppp) catalysts were prepared¹ according to the literature procedure. *m*-CPBA (50-55% suspension in water) was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄.



3-(4'-Chlorophenyl)-5-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (2b)

Yield 70% (1.05 g); Light yellow solid; m.p. 61-62 °C; R_f 0.6 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 2924, 1595, 1502, 1479, 1431, 1361 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.0, 139.5, 139.3, 133.8, 131.4, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 126.9, 124.8, 105.4, 18.1; MS (m/z, %): 301 (M⁺, 100), 300 (50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃ClN₂S (300.81): C, 63.89; H, 4.36; N, 9.31 %. Found C, 63.97; H, 4.49; N, 9.21 %.



3-(4'-Methoxyphenyl)-5-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (2c)

Yield 94% (1.39 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 86-87 °C; R_f 0.46 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3050, 1610, 1594, 1535, 1499, 1455, 1393, 1358, 1294, 1245, 1175 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.6, 151.9, 139.6, 138.8, 128.9, 127.8, 126.9, 125.6, 124.8, 114.0, 105.1, 55.3, 18.1; MS (*m/z*, %): 297 (M+1, 100), 296 (M⁺, 90); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆N₂OS (296.40): C, 68.89; H, 5.44; N, 9.45 %. Found C, 68.75; H, 5.52; N, 9.34 %.



5-(Methylthio)-1,3,4-triphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (2d)

Yield 80% (1.37 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 97-98 °C; R_f 0.47 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3058, 2921, 1678, 1594, 1494, 1436, 1373 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.73 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.42-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.0, 139.7, 134.4, 132.9, 132.8, 130.4, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.06, 128.08, 127.7, 127.3, 125.8, 125.7, 18.7; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 343 (M+1, 100), 342 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈N₂S (342.46): C, 77.16; H, 5.30; N, 8.18 %. Found C, 77.25; H, 5.38; N, 8.11 %.



1,4-Diphenyl-3-(3'-pyridyl)-5-(methylthio)-1*H*-pyrazole (2e)

Yield 85% (1.46 g); White solid; m.p. 200-202 °C; $R_f 0.36$ (4:1 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3057, 2924, 1694, 1596, 1497, 1441, 1410 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.50 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.46 (m, 6H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.7, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.0, 147.7, 146.6, 139.4, 135.7, 135.1, 131.9, 130.1, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 126.1, 125.5, 123.3, 18.6; MS (m/z, %): 344 (M+1, 100); Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₇N₃S (343.44): C, 73.44; H, 4.99; N, 12.23 %. Found C, 73.33; H, 4.89; N, 12.31%.



3-Methyl-5-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (2f)

Yield 96% (0.98 g); Pale yellow liquid; $R_f 0.44$ (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3046, 2925, 1597, 1518, 1500, 1457, 1421 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dt, J = 7.1, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (tt, J = 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.3, 139.3, 137.7, 128.6, 127.2, 124.2, 107.6, 17.6, 13.4; MS (m/z, %): 205 (M+1, 100), 204 (M⁺, 70); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂N₂S (204.29): C, 64.67; H, 5.92; N, 13.71 %. Found C, 64.76; H, 5.81; N, 13.65 %.



3-(Methylthio)-2-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[g]indazole (2i)

Yield 90% (1.31 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 91-92 °C; R_f 0.55 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 2943, 2892, 2831, 1592, 1494, 1471, 1401, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.29 (m, 3H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.7, 139.9, 136.7, 131.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 125.4, 122.9, 122.3, 29.3, 19.5, 18.9; MS (*m/z*, %): 293 (M+1, 100), 292 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆N₂S (292.40): C, 73.94; H, 5.52; N, 9.58 %. Found C, 74.02; H, 5.41; N, 9.65 %.





2-(4'-Fluorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)-4,5-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[g]indazole (7i)

Yield 88% (1.36 g); Pale yellow liquid; $R_f 0.64$ (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3059, 2927, 1508, 1472, 1438, 1399, 1222 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 6.9, 5.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.17 (m. 2H), 2.98 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.7 (d, J = 246.8 Hz), 148.7, 136.6, 135.9, 131.4, 129.1, 128.3, 127.9, 127.1 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 126.8, 122.9, 122.2, 115.5 (d, J = 23.0 Hz), 29.2, 19.4, 18.7; MS (m/z, %): 311 (M+1, 100), 310 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₅FN₂S (310.39): C, 69.65; H, 4.87; N, 9.03 %. Found C, 69.56; H, 4.91; N, 9.15 %.



3-(Methylthio)-2-phenyl-2,4-dihydro-indeno[1,2-c]pyrazole (2j)

Yield 51% (0.71 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 120-121 °C; R_f 0.57 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3052, 2921, 1595, 1528, 1491, 1427, 1348 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.9 (× 2C), 142.4, 139.9, 131.8, 129.3, 127.5, 127.4, 126.59, 126.56, 126.2, 122.9, 119.5, 28.7, 15.4; MS (m/z, %): 279 (M+1, 100), 278 (M⁺, 70); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄N₂S (278.37): C, 73.35; H, 5.07; N, 10.06 %. Found C, 73.27; H, 5.17; N, 9.95 %.





3-(Methylthio)-2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2*H*-indazole (2k)

Yield 79% (0.96 g); Pale yellow liquid; R_f 0.50 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 2943, 2892, 2831, 1592, 1494, 1471, 1401, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.1, 139.9, 130.8, 128.6, 127.3, 125.1, 122.5, 23.4, 23.2, 23.1, 21.1, 18.3; MS (*m/z*, %): 245 (M+1, 100), 244 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₆N₂S (244.36): C, 68.81; H, 6.60; N, 11.46 %. Found C, 68.70; H, 6.51; N, 11.59 %.

Procedure for Hydrolysis of 2h

The crude **2h** (~ 5 mmol) was treated with 50% aqueous AcOH (20 mL) and heated at 60 °C for 4 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was neutralized

with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL) and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with H_2O (3 × 100 mL), brine (100 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvent evaporated at reduced pressure to give aldehyde **8** which was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/hexane (1:9) as eluent.



5-(Methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carbaldehyde (8)

Yield 77% (0.84 g) (Yield was calculated from **1h**); Colourless solid; m.p. 79-80 °C; R_f 0.41 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3132, 2922, 2821, 1691, 1592, 1455, 1404, 1370, 1340 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 186.3, 151.7, 141.6, 138.7, 129.2, 129.0, 124.8, 105.9, 17.5; MS (*m/z*, %): 219 (M+1, 100), 218 (M⁺, 20); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀N₂OS (218.27): C, 60.53; H, 4.62; N, 12.83 %. Found C, 60.61; H, 4.68; N, 12.75 %.

Preparation of Phenylhydrazone 6a

A solution of 3,3-bis(methylthio)-1-phenyl-propan-1-one **5a** (1.13 g, 5 mmol) and phenylhydrazine (0.65 g, 6 mmol) in 50 mL EtOH and AcOH (0.2 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h (monitored by TLC). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give phenylhydrazone **6a**, which was found to be unstable upon purification. Therefore the **6a** was characterized only by its ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and used as such for the next step. [**6a** exists as a isomeric mixture of *cis/trans*, minor isomer δ value is given inside bracket and (2:1) ratio was determined by crude ¹H NMR]



N-[3,3-Bis(methylthio)-1-phenyl-propylidene]-*N*'-phenylhydrazine (6a)

Yield 93% (1.46 g); Colourless solid; $R_f 0.61$ (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ [7.95-7.97 (m, 2H)]7.86-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.53 (m, 2 × 7H), 6.93-7.00 (m, 2H)[6.81-6.86 (m, 2H)], 3.96 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H)[3.82 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H)], 3.28 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H)[3.10 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H)], 2.20 (s, 6H)[2.15 (s, 6H)]; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.2[144.8], [143.5]142.4, 137.6[133.4], 129.44[129.38], 129.2[129.1], 128.5[128.1], 127.8[125.6], 120.4[119.7], 113.4[112.6], [51.44]51.38, [42.8]33.6, 13.8[12.3].

BF₃·Et₂O Induced Cyclization of Phenylhydrazone 6a

To a solution of phenylhydrazone **6a** (5 mmol) in dry benzene (25 mL), BF₃·Et₂O (1.08 g, 7.5 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed with stirring for 4 h (monitored by TLC). It was neutralized with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL) and extracted with benzene (3×20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with H₂O (3×100 mL), brine (100 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/hexane (1:9) as eluent to give pure pyrazole **4a**.



1,3-Diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (4a)

Yield 70% (0.77 g); White solid; m.p. 84-85 °C (Lit. 84-85 °C)²; R_f 0.65 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3033, 1595, 1526, 1502, 1453, 1385, 1360 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.9, 140.2, 133.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.3, 125.8, 118.9, 105.0.



3b

5-(4'-Chlorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3b)

Yield 68% (1.02 g); Light yellow solid; m.p. 65-66 °C; R_f 0.6 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3054, 2924, 1597, 1499, 1480, 1455, 1428, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.26-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.4, 143.1, 139.5, 134.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.5, 125.0, 107.6, 15.6; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 301 (M⁺, 100), 300 (40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃ClN₂S (300.81): C, 63.89; H, 4.36; N, 9.31 %. Found C, 63.99; H, 4.47; N, 9.23 %.



5-(4'-Methoxyphenyl)-3-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3c)

Yield 80% (1.18 g); Orange liquid; R_f 0.46 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3002, 2929, 2837, 1612, 1546, 1500, 1458, 1357, 1292, 1251 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.20-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.07 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.53 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.6, 148.1, 144.2, 139.9, 129.9, 128.8, 127.2, 125.0, 122.5, 113.9, 107.1, 55.2, 15.7; MS (m/z, %): 297 (M+1, 100), 296 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₆N₂OS (296.40): C, 68.89; H, 5.44; N, 9.45 %. Found C, 68.91; H, 5.53; N, 9.56 %.



3-(Methylthio)-1,4,5-triphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3d)

Yield 75% (1.28 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 205-206 °C; R_f 0.65 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3055, 2923, 1595, 1547, 1499, 1445, 1385 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.16-7.27 (m, 13H), 7.03-7.05 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.8, 140.9, 139.8, 131.9, 130.3, 129.8, 129.7, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 126.9, 126.7, 124.9, 121.4, 15.1; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 343 (M+1, 100), 342 (M⁺, 60); Anal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈N₂S (342.46): C, 77.16; H, 5.30; N, 8.18 %. Found C, 77.05; H, 5.40; N, 8.12 %.



1-(4'-Fluorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)-5-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (11a)

Yield 69% (0.98 g); Orange liquid; R_f 0.64 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3060, 2925, 1510, 1482, 1422, 1365, 1316, 1222 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 6.7, 4.6, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.5 (d, J = 246.8 Hz), 148.4, 144.5, 135.8, 129.8, 128.6, 128.53, 128. 51, 126.8 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 115.7 (d, J = 23.0 Hz), 107.5, 15.6; MS (m/z, %): 285 (M+1, 100), 284 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃FN₂S (284.36): C, 67.58; H, 4.61; N, 9.85 %. Found C, 67.46; H, 4.72; N, 9.74 %.



1,4-Diphenyl-5-(3'-pyridyl)-3-(methylthio)-1*H*-pyrazole (3e)

Yield 69% (1.18 g); White solid; m.p. 200-202 °C: $R_f 0.36$ (4:1 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3046, 2924, 1595, 1566, 1497, 1385, 1356 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.49 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.19-7.38 (m, 11H), 7.16 (dd, J = 7.7, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.5, 149.0, 147.3, 139.2, 137.6, 137.5, 131.2, 129.7, 129.0, 128.5, 127.6, 127.2, 126.2, 125.2, 123.2, 122.2, 15.0; MS (m/z, %): 344 (M+1, 100), 343 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₇N₃S (343.44): C, 73.44; H, 4.99; N, 12.23 %. Found C, 73.53; H, 5.07; N, 12.12 %.



5-Methyl-3-(methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3f)

Yield 45% (0.46 g); Pale yellow liquid; R_f 0.44 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 2925, 1596, 1538, 1500, 1419, 1359, 1315 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.40 (m, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.6, 140.2, 139.5, 128.9, 127.5, 124.7, 106.9, 15.7, 12.4; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 205 (M+1, 100), 204 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂N₂S (204.29): C, 64.67; H, 5.92; N, 13.71 %. Found C, 64.78; H, 5.80; N, 13.64 %.



5-(Methylthio)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole-3-carbaldehyde (8)

Yield 51% (0.56 g) (Yield was calculated from **9h**); Colourless solid; m.p. 78-79 °C; R_f 0.41 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3131, 2922, 2821, 1693, 1592, 1454, 1404, 1372, 1339 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.48 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 186.3, 151.7, 141.6, 138.7, 129.2, 129.0, 124.8, 105.9, 17.5; MS (*m/z*, %): 219 (M+1, 100), 218 (M⁺, 20); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀N₂OS (218.27): C, 60.53; H, 4.62; N, 12.83 %. Found C, 60.61; H, 4.68; N, 12.75 %.



3-(Methylthio)-1-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[g]indazole (3i)

Yield 70% (1.02 g); Pale yellow viscous liquid; R_f 0.45 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3050, 2937, 1597, 1505, 1448, 1411, 1307, 1265 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.39-7.51 (m, 5H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.3, 140.6, 138.8, 137.2, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.6, 126.6, 126.2, 125.6, 123.1, 119.9, 30.3, 19.3, 15.8; MS (*m/z*, %): 293 (M+1, 100), 292 (M⁺, 50); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₆N₂S (292.40): C, 73.94; H, 5.52; N, 9.58 %. Found C, 73.83; H, 5.61; N, 9.46 %.





1-(4'-Fluorophenyl)-3-(methylthio)-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[g]indazole (11i)

Yield 72% (1.12 g); Light yellow solid; m.p. 108-109 °C; R_f 0.64 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3071, 2937, 1578, 1515, 1454, 1414, 1337, 1287, 1220 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.44 (ddd, J = 6.8, 4.8, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.14 (m, 3H), 6.97 (dt, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.1 (d, J = 246.8 Hz), 144.5, 138.9, 137.3, 136.6, 128.7, 127.8, 127.5 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 127.4, 126.3, 122.9, 119.8, 116.1 (d, J = 23.1 Hz), 30.3, 19.2, 15.7; MS (*m/z*, %): 311 (M+1, 100), 310 (M⁺, 100); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₅FN₂S (310.39): C, 69.65; H, 4.87; N, 9.03 %. Found C, 69.76; H, 4.78; N, 9.12 %.



3-(Methylthio)-2-phenyl-2,4-dihydro-indeno[1,2-c]pyrazole (2j)

Yield 51% (0.71 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 120-121 °C; $R_f 0.57$ (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3052, 2921, 1595, 1528, 1491, 1427, 1348 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.9 (× 2C), 142.4, 139.9, 131.8, 129.3, 127.5, 127.4, 126.59, 126.56, 126.2, 122.9, 119.5, 28.7, 15.4; MS (m/z, %): 279 (M+1, 100), 278 (M⁺, 70); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄N₂S (278.37): C, 73.35; H, 5.07; N, 10.06 %. Found C, 73.27; H, 5.17; N, 9.95 %.



3-(Methylthio)-2-phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2*H*-indazole (2k)

Yield 61% (0.74 g); Pale yellow liquid; R_f 0.50 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 2943, 2892, 2831, 1592, 1494, 1471, 1401, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.58 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.79-1.87 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.1, 139.9, 130.8, 128.6, 127.3, 125.1, 122.5, 23.4, 23.2, 23.1, 21.1, 18.3; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 245 (M+1, 100), 244 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₁₆N₂S (244.36): C, 68.81; H, 6.60; N, 11.46 %. Found C, 68.70; H, 6.51; N, 11.59 %.

General Procedure for Dethiomethylation of Pyrazoles 2 and 3 with Raney Nickel

To a solution of appropriate pyrazole (1 mmol) in ethanol (30 mL), Raney Nickel (W_4 , 4 times by weight) was added and the suspension was refluxed with stirring for 2-6 h (monitored by TLC). The reaction mixture was filtered through sintered funnel and the residue was washed with ethanol. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and passed through small silica gel column using EtOAc/hexane as eluent.



1,3-Diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (4a)

Yield 98% (0.22 g); White solid; m.p. 84-85 °C (Lit. 84-85 °C)²; R_f 0.65 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3033, 1595, 1526, 1502, 1453, 1385, 1360 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.35 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.9, 140.2, 133.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.3, 125.8, 118.9, 105.0.



4d

1,3,4-Triphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (4d)

Yield 93% (0.28 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 92-93 °C (Lit. 93-94 °C)³; R_f 0.50 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3060, 1599, 1555, 1503, 1436, 1402, 1352, 1217 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.53 (m,

2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.27 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.4, 139.9, 133.1, 132.8, 129.4, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 126.9, 126.6, 126.4, 122.9, 118.9.



3-Methyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (4f)

Yield 91% (0.14 g); Colourless viscous liquid (Lit. 35-36 °C)⁴; R_f 0.5 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3047, 2928, 1598, 1534, 1504, 1458, 1396, 1364, 1329, 1255 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dt, J = 7.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.5, 140.1, 129.3, 127.3, 125.8, 118.7, 107.4, 13.7.



2-Phenyl-4,5-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[g]indazole (4i)⁵

Yield 95% (0.23 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 102-103 °C; R_f 0.34 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3048, 2928, 1596, 1561, 1501, 1468, 1440, 1376, 1327, 1275 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 3H), 2.97 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.83 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.8, 140.4, 136.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.3, 127.7, 126.9, 125.8, 123.4, 122.6, 118.79, 118.76, 29.5, 19.3.



2-Phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2*H*-indazole (4k)

Yield 91% (0.18 g); Pale yellow viscous liquid (Lit. 48-49 °C)⁶; R_f 0.57 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 2943, 2892, 2831, 1592, 1494, 1471, 1401, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.75-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.70 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 140.3, 129.2, 125.5, 123.7, 118.5, 118.2, 23.43, 23.37, 23.35, 20.6.



1,5-Diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (10a)

Yield 88% (0.19 g); Colourless viscous liquid (Lit. 53 °C)²; R_f 0.48 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3050, 2921, 1597, 1501, 1449, 1385, 1265 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 8H) 7.15-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.8, 140.2, 139.9, 130.5, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 127.3, 125.1, 107.7.



1,4,5-Triphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (10d)

Yield 95% (0.28 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 207-208 °C (Lit. 212 °C)³; R_f 0.35 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3060, 1595, 1510, 1496, 1432, 1383 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.11-7.38 (m, 13H), 7.06 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 139.7, 139.2, 132.7, 130.4, 130.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.44, 128.39, 127.9, 127.2, 126.4, 125.1, 122.4.



5-Methyl-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (10f)⁴

Yield 85% (0.13 g); Pale yellow liquid; R_f 0.34 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 2922, 1748, 1560, 1455, 1261, 1144 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51 (brs, 1H) 7.37-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.32 (m, 1H), 6.13 (brs, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 138.7, 129.1, 127.6, 124.8, 118.8, 106.8, 12.4.



1-Phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[g]indazole (10i)

Yield 84% (0.21 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 125-126 °C (Lit. 127-129 °C)⁷; R_f 0.34 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3049, 2928, 1595, 1510, 1446, 1405, 1292, 1224 1162 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dt, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.9, 137.6 (× 2C), 137.4, 129.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.3, 126.8, 126.2, 125.5, 122.9, 120.1, 30.6, 19.9.



2-Phenyl-4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2*H*-indazole (4k)⁶

Yield 90% (0.18 g); Pale yellow liquid; $R_f 0.57$ (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 2943, 2892, 2831, 1592, 1494, 1471, 1401, 1355 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.54 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.75-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.70 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 140.3, 129.2, 125.5, 123.7, 118.5, 118.2, 23.43, 23.37, 23.35, 20.6.



1,3-Diphenyl-5-methyl-1*H*-pyrazole (13a)⁸

Yield 80% (0.19 g); Pale yellow viscous liquid; R_f 0.46 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3062, 1598, 1551, 1501, 1457, 1436, 1413, 1368, 1139 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.4, 140.1, 139.8, 133.2, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7, 127.5, 125.6, 124.9, 104.3, 12.5; MS (*m/z*, %): 235 (M+1, 100), 234 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₂ (234.30): C, 82.02; H, 6.02; N, 11.96 %. Found C, 82.11; H, 6.13; N, 11.84 %.



1,5-Diphenyl-3-methyl-1*H*-pyrazole (15a)⁸

Yield 74% (0.17 g); Colourless liquid; R_f 0.47 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3060, 2924, 1596, 1553, 1503, 1455, 1416, 1363, 1072 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21-7.29 (m, 8H), 7.15-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.3, 143.8, 139.8, 130.5, 128.9, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.2, 125.1, 107.7, 13.5; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 235 (M+1, 100), 234 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₂ (234.30): C, 82.02; H, 6.02; N, 11.96 %. Found C, 82.13; H, 6.11; N, 11.83 %.

Procedure for the Preparation of 5- or 3-(Methylsulfonyl)pyrazoles 16 and 18

A solution of *m*-CPBA (1.58 g, 9.15 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of pyrazoles **2a** or **3a** (1.1 g, 4.15 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) at 0 °C over a period of 0.5 h. The reaction mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 5-6 h (monitored by TLC). It was then poured into ice-cold water, washed with 10% NaHCO₃ solution (2 × 50 mL), water (50 mL), followed by brine (50 mL) and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum to give crude products which were purified by either crystallization using ether or by column chromatography over silica gel using hexane:EtOAc (10:2) as eluent to give **16** and **18** as colourless crystals.



1,3-Diphenyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazole (16)

Yield 85% (1.05 g); Colourless crystals; m.p. 146-148 °C; R_f 0.23 (4:1 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3071, 2925, 1592, 1527, 1497, 1453, 1402, 1323, 1152, 1106 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.33 (m, 1H), 2.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 142.8, 138.5, 131.3, 129.9, 129.2, 128.89. 128.86, 126.8, 125.8, 109.9, 43.8; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 299 (M+1, 100), 298 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₂O₂S (298.36): C, 64.41; H, 4.73; N, 9.39 %. Found C, 64.52; H, 4.64; N, 9.48 %.



1,5-Diphenyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazole (18)

Yield 82% (1.01 g); Colourless crystals; m.p. 122-123 °C; R_f 0.25 (4:1 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3061, 2926, 1595, 1497, 1480, 1451, 1423, 1364, 1315, 1154, 1120 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33-7.40 (m, 8H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.1, 145.2, 138.7, 129.2, 129.1, 128.75, 128.72, 128.69, 128.63, 125.4, 107.2, 43.2; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 299 (M+1, 100), 298 (M⁺, 40); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄N₂O₂S (298.36): C, 64.41; H, 4.73; N, 9.39 %. Found C, 64.52; H, 4.64; N, 9.48 %.

Procedure for Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions of 16 and 18 with *n*-Butyl Grignard Reagent: Synthesis of 17 and 19

A solution of *n*-butyl Grignard reagent (0.10 mmol) in Et₂O was added dropwise to a stirring suspension of NiCl₂(dppp) (0.16 g, 30 mol %) in 25 mL dry benzene under nitrogen atmosphere and the mixture was refluxed for 15 minutes. After the catalyst reduction, 1.90 mmol of the *n*-butyl Grignard reagent and a solution of pyrazoles **16** or **18** (0.3 g, 1.0 mmol) in dry benzene (20 mL) were added to the reaction mixture and refluxed for 12 h. It was then cooled, poured into 50 mL of saturated NH₄Cl solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×50 mL). The organic layer was dried (anhydrous Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to give crude products **17** or **19**, which were purified by column chromatography using hexane:EtOAc as eluent.



5-Butyl-1,3-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (17)

Yield 63% (0.17 g); Colourless solid; m.p. 49-50 °C; R_f 0.47 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (KBr): 3062, 2956, 1598, 1546, 1500, 1457, 1368, 1072, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 2.59 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.50-1.57 (m, 2H), 1.24-1.29 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.3, 145.7, 139.8, 133.2, 129.1, 128.5, 127.9, 127.7, 125.7, 125.5, 102.7, 30.8, 25.9, 22.3, 13.7; MS (*m*/*z*, %): 277 (M+1, 100), 276 (M⁺, 30); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀N₂ (276.38): C, 82.57; H, 7.29; N, 10.14 %. Found C, 82.65; H, 7.35; N, 10.06 %.





3-Butyl-1,5-diphenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (19)

Yield 60% (0.16 g); Colourless liquid; R_f 0.47 (9.2:0.8 hexanes-EtOAc); IR (CH₂Cl₂): 3059, 2955, 2927, 1596, 1552, 1503, 1455, 1375 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.13-7.29 (m, 10H), 6.30 (s, 1H), 2.73 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.61-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.34-1.42 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3, 143.4, 140.2, 130.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 126.9, 125.1, 106.7, 31.8, 28.0, 22.6, 13.9; MS (m/z, %): 277 (M+1, 100), 276 (M⁺, 20); Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₂₀N₂ (276.38): C, 82.57; H, 7.29; N, 10.14 %. Found C, 82.65; H, 7.35; N, 10.06 %.

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S31



























S39











