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# Ligand –Promoted Intramolecular Dehydrogenative Cross-Coupling with Cu Catalyst: A Direct Access to Polycyclic Heteroarenes

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## **Supporting Information**

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Scheme S1: Cross dehydrogenative coupling of 1a in presence of higher equivalent of Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>



Scheme S2: Transformation of cyclized product 2a to different derivatives



No 1-methyl-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde incorporated product.

Scheme S3: Coupling reactions for mechanistic studies

#### **Experimental Procedure:**

#### **General method**

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded in deuterated solvents with residual protonated solvent signal as internal reference on a BrückerAva-300 or JNM-ECA 400. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million using the solvent resonance internal standard (chloroform, 7.26 and 77.0 ppm or DMSO, 2.50 and 40.0 ppm). Data is reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, bs =broad singlet), coupling constant, and integration. FT-IR, infrared spectra were recorded on a Nicolet protégé 460 FTIR spectrometer and are reported in frequency of absorption. Electrospray and electron impact high resolution mass spectrometry was performed by Brücker mass spectrometer. The data is recorded as the ionization method followed by the calculated and measured masses. Solvents for starting material preparation and coupling reactions were dried before use.

#### **Preparation of starting materials:**

#### **Materials:**



The following starting materials were either purchased and used as it is or they were synthesized using known literature procedure. Compounds (**IVa**), (**IVb**) and (**IVc**) are purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Alfa aesar, used without further purification. Compounds (**IIa**) and (**IIb**) were prepared from indole following literature procedure.<sup>1</sup> Compounds (**IIIa-c**) were prepared from corresponding 3-carboxy or 3-nitro indole following literature procedure.<sup>2</sup> Compounds (**Ia-e**) were

prepared from the corresponding substituted benzimidazole and imidazole derivatives following literarure procedure.<sup>3</sup>

#### General procedure A for N-alkylation of 3-substituted indoles:

To a suspension of NaH (1.1 equivalent) in dry DMF at 0 °C was dropwise added a solution of indole-3-carboxyaldehyde or 3-nitroindole (**IIa** or **IIb**) (1.0 equivalent) in dry DMF and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-haloethyl)-1H-azole derivative (**Ia-e**) (1.0 equivalent) in DMF was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. Once the reaction completed, saturated brine solution was added to the reaction mixture and it was extracted with EtOAc (three times).



Scheme S4: Coupling of 1-(2-haloethyl)-1H-azole derivatives with 3-substituted indoles

The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Further, it was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide an organic residue. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the desired product.

#### General procedure B for N-alkylation of substituted imidazoles:

To a suspension of NaH (1.1 equivalent) in dry DMF at 0 °C was dropwise added a solution of azole derivatives (**IVa-d**) (1.0 equivalent) in dry DMF and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-bromoethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde or 1-(2-bromoethyl)-3-nitro-1H-indole (**IIIa-c**) (1.0 equivalent) in DMF was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The completion of reaction was monitored by TLC. Once the reaction completed, saturated brine solution was added to the reaction mixture and it was extracted with EtOAc (three times).

<sup>1. (</sup>a) P. N. Naik, A. Khan, R. S. Kusurkar, *Tetrahedron* 2013, **69**, 10733. (b) N. Nowrouzi, A. M. Mehranpour, E. Bashiri, Z. Shayan, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 2012, **53**, 4841.

<sup>2.</sup> W. Breitenstein, T. Ehara, C. Ehrhardt, P. Grosche, Y. Hitomi, Y. Iwaki, T. Kanazawa, K. Konishi, J. K. Maibaum, K. Masuya, A. Nihonyanagi, N. Ostermann, M. Suzuki, A. Toyao, F. Yokokawa, *PCT Int. Appl.* 2006, 633pp.

<sup>3.</sup> R. C. F. Jones, L. J. Crumpling, J. N. Iley, ARKIVOC 2011, 82.

The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . The resulting solution was filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide an organic residue. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to provide the desired product.



Scheme S5: Coupling of 1-(2-bromoethyl)-1H-indole derivatives with substituted azoles



**Compound 1a:** Following the general procedure A, to the NaH (158 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 3.96 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (4 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (**IIa**) (522 mg, 3.6 mmol) in dry DMF (6 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-iodoethyl)-1H-benzimidazole (**Ia**) (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol) in DMF (6 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 94:6) to give the product **1a** as brown solid (416 mg, yield = 40%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.76 (1H, s), 8.34-8.31 (1H, m), 7.81 (1H, d, *J*= 7.5 Hz), 7.41-7.07 (8H, m), 4.61 (4H, bs); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.54, 138.05, 136.38, 125.50, 124.58, 123.59, 123.42, 122.77, 122.70, 120.84, 118.93, 109.11, 108.71, 46.76, 44.32; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 290.1249; found 290.1288; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub>1613, 1533, 1389, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1b: 1b' (1:1):** to the NaH (88 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 2.2 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (**IIa**) (290 mg, 2.0 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1:1 inseparable mixture of 1-(2-Iodo-ethyl)-5-methyl-1H-benzimidazole and 1-(2-Iodo-ethyl)-5-methyl-1H-benzimidazole (**Ib** and **Ib'**) (572 g, 2.0 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl

acetate: MeOH 98: 2) to give the product **1b: 1b' (1:1)** as white solid (236 mg, yield = 38%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.64 (1H, s), 9.61 (1H, s), 8.21 (2H, d, J = 4.2 Hz), 7.51-7.19 (10H, m), 6.99-6.92 (6H, m), 4.48 (8H, s), 2.38 (3H, s), 2.28 (3H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.43, 184.36, 138.13, 138.07, 136.25, 133.60, 125.36, 125.30, 125.01, 124.38, 124.20, 123.22, 122.48, 118.69, 109.01, 46.75, 46.51, 21.52, 21.34; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 340.1444; found 340.1460; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}$  1656, 1533, 1388, 748 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Compound 1c: Following the general procedure A, to the NaH (46 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.15 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (IIa) (153 mg, 1.05 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 5,6-Dichloro-1-(2-iodo-ethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole (Ic) (360 mg, 1.05 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 94:6) to give the product 1c as brown solid (132 mg, yield = 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 9.80 (1H, s), 8.07-8.02 (3H, m), 7.85 (1H, s), 7.67 (1H, s), 7.45-7.42 (1H, m), 7.22-7.19 (2H, m), 4.75 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 185.86, 136.51, 135.51, 133.53, 126.92, 125.17, 125.05, 124.07, 122.13, 115.16, 113.45, 111.39, 42.22; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 358.0508; found 358.0507; IR (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2922, 1632, 739 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1d:** Following the general procedure B, to the NaH (88 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 2.2 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a 4,5-Dichloroimidazole (IVa) (274 mg, 2.0 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-Bromoethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (IIIa) (500 mg, 2.0 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (DCM: MeOH 96:4) to give the product 1d as brown solid (272 mg, yield = 45%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR**  $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ : 9.89 (1H, s), 8.28-8.25 (1H, m), 7.34-7.26 (3H, m), 7.21-7.18 (2H, m), 6.83 (1H, s), 4.46 (2H, t, J = 5.4 Hz), 4.31 (2H, t, J = 5.7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.75, 137.94, 136.50, 134.60, 126.89, 125.36, 124.73, 123.52, 122.54, 119.05, 112.88, 109.04, 46.68, 45.45; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for  $(M+Na)^+$ : C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO: 330.0171; found 330.0184; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2362, 1656, 1576, 1395, 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1e:** Following the general procedure A, to the NaH (47 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.18 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (IIa) (156 mg, 1.07 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-iodoethyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (Id) (400 mg, 1.07 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was guenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate) to give the product 1e as brown solid (168 mg, yield = 40%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.82 (1H, s), 8.20 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz), 7.41-7.30 (6H, m), 7.24-7.16 (2H, m), 7.13-7.05 (6H, m), 6.71 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 4.22-4.15 (4H, m);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.71, 138.98, 138.06, 136.82, 136.68, 134.04, 130.71, 129.84, 129.58, 129.22, 128.76, 128.37, 128.27, 128.00, 126.87, 126.74, 125.50, 124.53, 123.38, 122.57, 119.07, 109.17, 47.74, 44.30; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for  $(M+H)^+$ : C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 392.1757; found 392.1758; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}$  1653, 1533, 1396, 753 cm<sup>-1</sup>



Compound 1f: Following the general procedure A, to the NaH (53 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.32 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a 3-Nitroindole (IIb) (200 mg, 1.2 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2iodoethyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole (Id) (449 mg, 1.2 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 96:4) to give the product 1f as white solid (282 mg, yield = 56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.37 (1H, s), 8.05 (1H, d, J =7.8 Hz), 7.86 (1H, bs), 7.37-7.09 (11H, m), 6.92 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 4.51 (2H, bs), 4.32 (2H, bs);<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 137.90, 135.40, 133.03, 130.77, 129.70, 129.26, 129.08, 128.68, 128.51, 126.71, 126.48, 124.66, 124.58, 120.67, 120.02, 111.49, 47.86, 44.43; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 409.1659; found 409.1666; IR (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 1525, 1443, 1372, 757 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1g:** Following the general procedure A, to the NaH (68 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.69 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added a 3-Nitroindole (**IIb**) (250 mg, 1.54 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-chloroethyl)-4,5-ditolyl-*1H*-imidazole (**Ie**) (480 mg, 1.54 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the

resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 94:6) to give the product **1g** as brown solid (202 mg, yield = 30%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.26 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.69 (1H, s), 7.45-7.22 (7H, m), 7.09-7.03 (4H, m), 6.76 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz), 4.33 (2H, t, J = 6.0 Hz), 4.23 (2H, t, J = 5.7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 137.76, 137.32, 135.53, 135.35, 133.01, 132.41, 130.54, 130.10, 129.79, 129.03, 128.34, 128.08, 127.01, 126.38, 124.53, 124.49, 120.73, 119.99, 111.51, 47.97, 44.17, 21.29, 21.09; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 437.1972; found 437.1968; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2362, 1524, 1447, 1307, 756 cm<sup>-1</sup>



Compound 1h: Following the general procedure B, to the NaH (139 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 3.48 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (4 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added 3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxylate (IVb) (660 mg, 3.17 mmol) in dry DMF (6 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-Bromoethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (IIIa) (800 mg, 3.17 mmol) in DMF (6 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 98:2) to give the product 1h as brown solid (782 mg, yield = 65%). <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.94 (1H, s),8.35-8.32 (1H, m), 7.47-7.26 (4H, m),7.25 (1H, s), 4.77 (2H, t, J = 5.4 Hz), 4.58 (2H, t, J = 5.4 Hz), 4.21 (2H, q, J = 7.2 Hz), 1.26 (3H, t, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 185.16, 160.49, 141.16, 138.45, 137.55, 125.05, 124.08, 123.11, 121.56, 118.28, 112.58, 111.10, 60.97, 52.42, 46.41, 14.48; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for  $(M+Na)^+$ : C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>: 402.1036; found 402.1045; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub>1724, 1645, 1301, 1143, 1052 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1i:** Following the general procedure B, to the NaH (35 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 0.88 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added 1,2,4-Triazole (**IVc**) (55 mg, 0.8 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-Bromoethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (**IIIa**) (200 mg, 0.8 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (DCM: MeOH 95:5) to give the product **1i** as brown solid (82 mg, yield = 43%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.72 (1H, s), 8.17 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 8.08 (1H, s), 7.99-7.87 (1H, m), 7.52 (1H, s), 7.21-7.17 (3H, m), 4.60-4.49 (4H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.57, 152.85, 143.97, 138.17, 136.46, 125.24, 124.50, 123.33, 122.42, 118.75, 109.24, 48.77, 46.26; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for

 $(M+Na)^+$ : C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>NaO: 263.0903; found 263.0903; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2923, 1653, 1529 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 1j:** Following the general procedure B, to the NaH (72 mg, 60 wt%) in mineral oil, 1.8 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added 1,2,4-Triazole (IVc) (113 mg, 1.64 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2bromoethyl)-3-nitro-1H-indole (IIIb) (440 mg, 1.64 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 98:2) to give the product 1j as brown solid (130 mg, yield = 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.22-8.20 (1H, m), 7.96 (1H, bs), 7.74 (1H, s), 7.61 (1H, bs), 7.37-7.28 (2H, m),7.20 (1H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 4.69-4.63 (2H, m), 4.55 (1H, t, J = 5.4 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 152.20, 135.56, 133.27, 128.26, 124.69, 124.52, 120.39, 120.00, 111.80, 145.09. **HRMS** (ES+) cald. For  $(M+H)^+$ : C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 258.0983; 48.71, 46.77; (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2362, 1522, 1302, 739 cm<sup>-1</sup> found 258.0985; IR



**Compound1k**<sup>4</sup>: Following the general procedure A or B, to the NaH (76 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.9 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (**IIa**) (250 mg, 1.72 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(2-Bromoethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbaldehyde (**IIIa**) (434 mg, 1.72 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 98:2) to give the product **1j** as brown solid (130 mg, yield = 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.72 (1H, s), 8.27 (2H, bs), 7.28-7.14 (6H, m), 7.00 (2H, s), 4.55 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 185.15, 141.20, 137.52, 125.11, 124.17, 123.15, 121.59, 118.20, 111.14, 46.52.



**Compound11<sup>5</sup>:** Following the general procedure B, to the NaH (70 mg, 60 wt% in mineral oil, 1.76 mmol) suspension in dry DMF (2 mL) at 0 °C was dropwise added benzimidazole (**IVd**) (189 mg, 1.6 mmol) in dry DMF (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at rt for 30 min. A solution of 1-(3-bromopropyl)-1*H*-indole-3-carbaldehyde (**IIIc**) (424 mg, 1.6 mmol) in DMF (4 mL) was added to it and the resulting solution was heated at 80 °C for 16 hr. The reaction mixture was quenched according to general procedure and the resulting organic residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 98:2) to give the product **11** as white solid (485 mg, yield

= 80%).after purification with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 92:8) the product **11** was obtained as brown solid. Yield: 80%. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.95 (1H, s), 8.29-8.26 (1H, m), 8.11 (1H, s), 7.82 (1H, t, J = 2.1 Hz), 7.61 (1H, s), 7.33-7.18 (6H, m), 4.25-4.18 (4H, m), 2.59-2.50 (2H, m).

<sup>4.</sup> A. Agarwal, S. Porwal, P. M. S. Chauhan, Lett. Org. Chem. 2006, 3, 712.

<sup>5.</sup> D. G. Di Pintori, M. F. Greaney, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 1209.

### General procedure C for dehydrogenative cross coupling of N-alkylated 3indolecarboxaldehydes:

To a sealed tube with screw cap was loaded N-alkylated 3-indole carboxaldehyde or N-alkylated 3-nitroindole (1 equiv), copper acetate (1 equiv), 1,10-phenanthrolene (2 equiv), silver carbonate (2 equiv) and potassium carbonate (2 equiv) in xylene. The reaction mixture was stirred in a preheated silicon oil bath at 140 °C for 12h. The mixture was allowed to cool and transferred to a silica gel column. The product was eluted with a mixture of solvents to obtain pure product.



Scheme S6: Dehydrogenative cross coupling of heteroaromatics



**Compound 2a**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1a** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 3:2) to afford product **2a** as yellow solid (36 mg, yield: 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 11.11 (1H, s), 8.45 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.48-7.30 (6H, m), 4.65 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 187.65, 143.84, 141.66, 136.24, 133.43, 125.49, 125.22, 124.29, 123.88, 123.56, 123.28, 120.50, 116.35, 109.16, 109.12, 40.36, 40.21; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 288.1131; found 288.1118; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 1643, 1419, 1329, 733 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2b:2b'** (1:1): Following the general procedure C, substrate **1b:1b'** (1:1) (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (55 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 3:2) to afford product **2b:2b'** (1:1) as white solid (28 mg, yield: 45%). <sup>1</sup>H **NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.97 (2H, s), 8.34 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.47 (1H, s), 7.30-7.19 (8H, m), 7.13-7.01 (2H, m), 4.51 (4H, s), 2.43 (3H, s), 2.36 (3H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 188.01, 136.60, 135.12, 134.01, 131.90, 126.38, 125.87, 125.69, 125.52, 124.17, 123.48, 120.16,116.39, 109.55, 109.36, 109.07, 40.54, 22.19, 21.83; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for  $(M+H)^+$ : C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 302.1288; found 302.1299; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2360, 1642, 745 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2c**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1c** (71 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 1:1) to afford product **2c** (**1:1**) as white solid (28 mg, yield: 40%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 10.96 (1H, s), 8.27-8.18 (1H, m), 8.09 (1H, s), 7.77 (1H, d, J = 8.4 Hz),7.48-7.43 (1H, m), 7.39-7.30 (1H, m), 4.80 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 186.84, 144.48, 143.32, 136.97, 133.91, 133.61, 126.68, 126.02, 125.67, 125.02, 124.32, 122.33, 121.18, 115.65, 113.21, 111.76, 40.46; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 356.0352; found 356.0351; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 1642, 1341, 1034, 753 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2d**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1d** (62 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 2:3) to afford product **2d** as white solid (22 mg, yield: 35%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 10.66 (1H, s), 8.20 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.45-7.29 (2H, m), 4.68 (2H, t, J = 6 Hz), 4.52 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 185.86, 136.51, 135.51, 133.53, 126.92, 125.17, 125.05, 124.08, 122.13, 115.17, 113.45, 111.39, 42.22; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO: 328.0015; found 328.0013; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max} 2922$ , 1642, 1340, 752 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2e**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1e** (70 mg, 0.18 mmol), copper acetate (33 mg, 0.18 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (65 mg, 0.36 mmol), silver carbonate (99 mg, 0.36 mmol) and potassium carbonate (50 mg, 0.36 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 1:1) to

afford product **2e** as yellow solid (44 mg, yield: 63%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 11.15 (1H, s), 8.48 (1H, d, J = 5.1 Hz), 7.61 (3H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 7.53 (3H, s), 7.46-7.44 (3H, m), 7.36 (4H, s), 4.47 (2H, t, J = 5.7 Hz), 4.31(2H, d, J = 5.7 Hz); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 186.26, 139.27, 136.16, 135.19, 133.80, 130.41, 129.68, 129.25, 128.93, 128.37, 127.02, 126.58, 124.94, 124.27, 123.34, 121.56, 112.78, 110.76, 41.42; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 390.1600; found 390.1608; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 1637, 1469, 1346, 1123, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2f**: : Following the general procedure C, substrate **1f** (73 mg, 0.18 mmol), copper acetate (33 mg, 0.18 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (65 mg, 0.36 mmol), silver carbonate (99 mg, 0.36 mmol) and potassium carbonate (50 mg, 0.36 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 1:1) to afford product **2f** as yellow solid (60 mg, yield: 83%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8.14 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz),7.47-7.44 (2H, m), 7.38-7.33 (3H, m), 7.27-7.19 (5H, m), 7.13-7.09 (3H, m), 4.30 (2H, t, J = 5.1 Hz), 4.10 (2H, t, J = 6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 139.55, 134.88, 134.49, 134.34, 130.97, 130.65, 129.86, 129.77, 129.34, 128.86, 128.57, 127.57, 127.29, 125.52, 124.93, 123.99, 121.75, 120.72, 111.89, 41.65, 40.66; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 407.1508; found 407.1501; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}1637$ , 1260, 749 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2g**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1g** (87 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 2:3) to afford product **2g** as yellow solid (73 mg, yield: 84%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.20 (1H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.75 (1H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.45-7.38 (8H, m), 7.11 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 4.62 (2H, bs), 4.34 (2H, bs), 2.42 (3H, s), 2.28 (3H,s); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 139.59, 139.30, 136.73, 134.61, 134.32, 131.78, 130.80, 130.31, 129.41, 128.71, 127.23, 126.43, 125.46, 124.87, 123.90, 121.78, 120.70, 111.84, 41.56, 41.24, 21.51, 21.29; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 435.1787; found 435.1788; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max} 2922$ , 1560, 1344, 741 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2h**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1h** (76 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (55 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 1:1) to afford product **2h** as colorless solid (15 mg, yield: 20%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.18 (1H, s), 8.43 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.51-7.38 (3H, m), 4.72 (2H, t, J = 4.8 Hz), 4.61 (2H, t, J = 5.1 Hz), 4.42 (2H, q, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.37 (3H, t, J = 7.2 Hz); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 184.47, 161.27, 136.00, 134.05, 129.62, 125.83, 125.70, 123.89, 122.54, 114.66, 111.86, 109.44, 62.02, 47.49, 40.53, 13.72; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>: 400.0879; found 400.0876; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}1725$ , 1658, 1338, 1302, 1137, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2i**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1i** (50 mg, 0.21 mmol), copper acetate (38 mg, 0.21 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (76 mg, 0.42 mmol), silver carbonate (116 mg, 0.42 mmol) and potassium carbonate (58 mg, 0.42 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 3:2) to afford product **2i** as white solid (34 mg, yield: 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.88 (1H, s), 8.45 (1H, d, J = 7.5Hz), 8.11 (1H, s), 7.41-7.35 (3H, m), 4.76 (2H, d, J = 4.8 Hz), 4.63 (2H, bs); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 186.15, 152.73, 144.97, 137.10, 133.18, 125.74,125.08, 124.27, 122.50, 114.49, 111.85, 45.38; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>NaO: 261.0752; found 261.0781; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}$  2922, 1644, 1044, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2j**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1j** (51 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (36 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (72 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (110 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (55 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 3:2) to afford product **2j** as yellow solid (26 mg, yield: 50%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 8.39 (1H, s), 8.27 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.92 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz)

8.1 Hz), 7.68-7.53 (3H, m), 4.88 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 152.22, 143.50, 134.69, 126.26, 125.82, 125.25, 125.16, 121.14, 120.89, 112.37, 45.14, 41.50; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for  $(M+Na)^+$ : C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>5</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>: 278.0654; found 278.0648; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2362, 1483, 1305, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 2k**: Following the general procedure C, substrate **1k** (63 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (37 mg, 0.2 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (73 mg, 0.4 mmol), silver carbonate (111 mg, 0.4 mmol) and potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 2:3) to afford product **2k** as yellow solid (31 mg, yield: 50%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.14 (2H, s), 8.45 (2H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.40-7.33 (6H, m), 4.54 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 185.03, 136.23, 125.91, 124.16,123.19, 118.27, 116.52, 109.24, 41.08; HRMS (ES+) cald. for (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub>: 337.09476; found 337.0939; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 2923, 1432, 1337, 1043, 745 cm<sup>-1</sup>



**Compound 21**<sup>2</sup>: Following the general procedure C, substrate **11** (123 mg, 0.37 mmol), copper acetate (67 mg, 0.37 mmol), 1,10phenanthrolene (133 mg, 0.74 mmol), silver carbonate (204 mg, 0.74 mmol) and potassium carbonate (102 mg, 0.74 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140 °C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: hexane 3:2) to afford product **21** as yellow solid (15 mg, yield: 12%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.63 (1H, s), 8.52 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.93 (1H, d, J = 6.3 Hz); **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: 302.1288; found 302.1314.



**Compound 2m**: Substrate **1d** (63 mg, 0.21 mmol),  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (5 mg, 0.02 mmol),  $Cu(OAc)_2$  (113 mg, 0.63 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (29 mg, 0.21 mmol) was placed in a sealed tube and anhydrous DMA (1 mL) was added to it. After degasification the resulting solution was heated to 120 °C for 8h. The resulting solution was quenched with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with brine solution, dried and evaporated in vacuum. After column chromatography pure compound **2m** (3:2 ethyl acetate: hexane) along with **2d** (2:3 Ethyl acetate: hexane),

were both obtained as yellow solid in 1:1 ratio [combined yield for **2m** and **2d**= 17 mg (30%)]. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 10.77 (1H, s), 8.34 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.29-7.19 (3H, m), 6.96 (1H, s), 4.40 (4H, s); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 186.17, 136.65, 136.14, 134.45, 130.15, 125.00, 124.99, 123.96, 122.11, 118.29, 113.15, 111.33, 43.49; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+Na)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>NaO: 294.0405; found 294.0387



Compound 3a: Indium metal (20 mg, 0.17 mmol) was finely cut and placed in round bottomed flask. To it was added 4 mL of DMF, allyl bromide (51 mg, 0.42 mmol) and sodium iodide (84 mg, 0.56 mmol) and the solution was allowed to stir at rt for 30 mins until indium dissolves and form complex. A solution of compound 2a (40 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 2 mL DMF was added to it and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The formation of product was monitored by TLC. The resulting reaction mixture was quenched in saturated ammonium chloride solution and extracted with ethyl acetate twice. The organic layer was washed with brine and the solvent was removed in vacuum which after column purification (Ethyl acetate: hexane 2:3) yielded product 3a as yellow solid (34 mg, yield: 75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):7.78-7.75 (1H, m), 7.66 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.36-7.28 (5H, m), 7.20-7.16 (1H, m), 6.01-5.91 (1H, m), 5.33 (1H, t, J = 13.5 Hz), 5.12 (1H, d, J = 17.4 Hz), 5.04 (1H. d. J = 9.9 Hz), 4.57-4.36 (4H, m), 2.88-2.81 (1H, m), 2.75-2.66 (1H, m); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 144.36, 142.55, 136.43, 135.66, 133.55, 126.82, 124.32, 123.24, 123.12, 122.39, 120.79, 120.24, 119.52, 116.85, 109.35, 109.06, 67.58, 43.82, 40.78, 40.13; HRMS (ES+) cald. for  $(M+K)^+$ : C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>19</sub>KN<sub>3</sub>O: 368.1159; found 368.1170; **IR** (thin film): v<sub>max</sub> 3254, 2921, 1422, 736 cm<sup>1</sup>



**Compound 3b**: A solution of compound **2a** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol) in nitromethane (1 mL) containing ammonium acetate (15.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) was refluxed for 1h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was then dissolved in 30 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water (10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, provided the product **3b** as bright red solid (63 mg, yield 95%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 9.55 (1H, d, J = 15.0 Hz), 8.37 (1H, d, J = 15.0 Hz), 8.16 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.88-7.78 (3H, m), 7.48-7.34 (4H, m), 4.79 (1H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 148.73, 147.36, 142.49, 139.24, 138.85, 137.90, 136.92, 130.17, 130.03, 129.03, 128.39, 128.29, 126.76, 124.89, 116.71, 115.92, 111.91, 45.56, 45.46; HRMS (ES+) cald. for

 $(M+H)^+$ : C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 331.1189; found 331.1187; **IR** (thin film):  $v_{max}1619, 1307, 1273, 729 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 



**Compound 3c**: To a solution of compound **2a** (50 mg, 0.17 mmol) in ethanol (1.5 mL) was added *p*-bromophenyl hydrazine hydrochloride (39 mg, 0.17 mmol) and AcOH (10  $\mu$ L, 0.17 mmol) and stirred at rt for overnight. The resulting solution was filtered and the solid was dried in vucuum to afford hydrazone **3c** as red solid (71 mg, yield 90%); <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, DMSO-d\_6): 9.17 (1H, s), 8.42 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.73-7.66 (3H, m), 7.40-7.25 (7H, m), 7.06 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 4.69 (4H, d, J = 3.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75 MHz, DMSO-d\_6): 145.30, 142.75, 140.05, 137.94, 134.61, 133.49, 132.40, 125.84, 124.96, 124.53, 123.70, 122.50, 117.80, 114.37, 111.71, 111.34, 109.81, 41.53; **HRMS** (ES+) cald. for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrN<sub>5</sub>: 456.0818; found 456.0838; IR (thin film):  $v_{max}$  2362, 1622, 1483, 742 cm<sup>-1</sup>

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#### Dimeric compound:

Following the general procedure C, substrate **1a** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol), copper acetate (74 mg, 0.4 mmol), 1,10-phenanthrolene (146 mg, 0.8 mmol), potassium carbonate (56 mg, 0.4 mmol) in xylene (1mL) was heated at 140°C for 12h. The reaction mixture was purified according to general procedure with silica gel column chromatography (Ethyl acetate: MeOH 96:4) to afford dimeric product as yellow solid (yield: 16%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.48 (2H, s), 7.86 (2H, m),7.71 (2H, d, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.32-7.24 (6H, m), 7.06-7.02 (8H, s), 4.89 (4H, t, J = 6.3 Hz), 4.61 (4H, t, 6.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>CNMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>+4 drops of DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): 184.56, 138.55, 136.73, 133.78, 126.61, 125.71, 124.55, 124.39, 123.18, 121.86, 119.25, 118.61, 110.38, 109.07, 46.19, 45.31; **ESI-MS** for (M+H)<sup>+</sup>: C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 577.0999.

# NMR Spectra:





























































# Crystal structure for compound 2h:



