

## Supporting Information

### Synthesis of Silafluorenes and Silaindenes via Silyl Radicals from Arylhilosilanes: Intramolecular Cyclization and Intermolecular Annulation with Alkynes

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## **1. General considerations**

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**General.** Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in a flame-dried, sealed Schlenk reaction tube under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates coated with 0.25 mm 230–400 mesh silica gel containing a fluorescent indicator. Preparative thin-layer chromatography (PTLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed GF254 silica gel plates. Visualization was accomplished by exposure to a UV lamp. All the products in this article are compatible with PTLC or standard silica gel chromatography. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh) using standard methods.

**Structural analysis.** NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer and chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz in NMR solvents ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) and referenced internally to corresponding solvent resonance, and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz and referenced to corresponding solvent resonance. Coupling constants are reported in Hz with multiplicities denoted as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet) and br (broad). Infrared spectra were collected on a Thermo Fisher Nicolet 6700 FT-IR spectrometer using ATR (Attenuated Total Reflectance) method. Absorption maxima ( $\nu$  max) are reported in wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were acquired with an EI source. Single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of **5c** was carried out by Mr. Yousong Ding on a Bruker apex duo equipment at Center for Applied Chemistry Research, Frontier Institute of Science and Technology, Xi'an Jiaotong University.

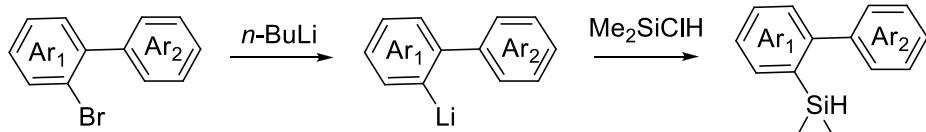
**Materials.** Commercial reagents were purchased from J&K, Energy, Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, Acros Organics, Strem Chemicals, TCI and used as received unless otherwise stated. Hexane, THF,  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , benzene were purified by distillation over sodium and stored under  $\text{N}_2$ .

## 2. Intramolecular homolytic aromatic silylation of biphenylhydrosilanes

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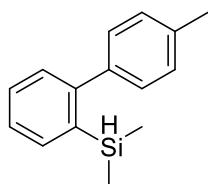
### 2.1 Preparation of starting materials

A. General procedure A for synthesis of biphenylhydrosilanes:



*n*-BuLi (1.5 mL, 3.75 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-bromo-1,1'-biphenyl (582.8 mg, 2.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. After stirring for 15 min, dimethylchlorosilane (354.8 mg, 3.75 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added dropwise at -78 °C to the mixture, then the mixture was warmed to 25 °C slowly. After 24 h, a saturated solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl in H<sub>2</sub>O was added and the mixture was extracted using EA (ethyl acetate). The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was isolated by column chromatography on silica gel (PE, petroleum ether) to give 2-(dimethylsilyl)biphenyl.<sup>1</sup>

#### (1b) dimethyl(4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)silane



The general procedure A was followed using 2-bromo-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl (617.9 mg, 2.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material, **1b** was obtained as a colorless liquid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 5H), 4.48 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 0.07 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.6 Hz, 6H).

Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 226.1178

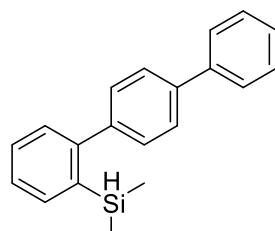
Molecular Weight: 226.3940

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 149.5, 141.0, 136.9, 136.2, 135.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.7, 126.4, 21.4, -2.8.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 226.1178, Found: 226.1174.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3050, 2956, 2117, 1464, 1249, 1124, 881, 835, 762, 731, 708 .

#### (1g) [1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-2-yldimethylsilane



The general procedure A was followed using 2-bromo-1,1':4',1"-terphenyl (773.0 mg, 2.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material, **1g** was obtained as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm 7.66 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 5H), 7.49-7.43 (m, 5H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 3H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 0.11 (s, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm 149.0, 142.9, 140.9, 140.1, 136.2, 135.3, 129.8, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 127.5, 127.2, 126.7, 126.6, -2.8.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 288.1334, Found: 288.1339.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3026, 2955, 2096, 1465, 1426, 1249, 1123, 891, 756, 697.

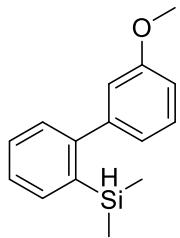
Chemical Formula: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 288.1334

Molecular Weight:

288.4650

**(1i) (3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)dimethylsilane**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>OSi

Exact Mass: 242.1127

Molecular Weight: 242.3930

1209, 877, 836, 761, 730, 701 .

The general procedure A was followed using 2-bromo-3'-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl (657.8 mg, 2.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material, **1j** was obtained as a colorless liquid.

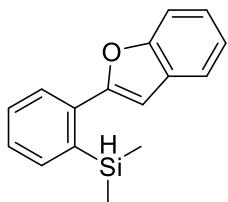
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.90 (m, 3H), 4.36 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 0.09 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm 159.30, 149.3, 145.3, 136.1, 135.3, 129.2, 129.1, 126.6, 121.9, 114.8, 113.1, 55.4, -2.8.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>OSi (M<sup>+</sup>): 242.1127, Found: 242.1121.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3052, 3000, 2955, 2902, 2833, 2116, 1583, 1463, 1247, 1216,

**(1k) 2-(benzofuran-2-yl)phenyl)dimethylsilane**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSi

Exact Mass: 252.0970

Molecular Weight: 252.3880

The general procedure A was followed using 2-(2-bromophenyl)benzofuran (682.8 mg, 2.5 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material, **1k** was obtained as a colorless liquid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm 7.74 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.24 (m, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 4.56 (m, 1H), 0.34 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 2.0 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 157.8, 154.6, 136.6, 136.3, 136.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.0, 127.8, 124.2, 123.1, 121.1, 111.1, 103.2, -2.6.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSi (M<sup>+</sup>): 252.0970, Found: 252.0967.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3053, 2954, 2923, 2111, 1445, 1247, 898, 877, 764, 747, 724.

## 2.2. Synthesis of silafluorenes

### A. Optimization of reaction parameters

**Table S1.** Optimization of radical initiator<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Radical initiator	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	di- <i>tert</i> -butyl peroxide	79
2	benzoyl peroxide	19
3	azodiisobutyronitrile	trace
4	<i>tert</i> -butyl hydroperoxide <sup>c</sup>	n.r.

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: biphenyl-2-yldimethylsilane (0.1 mmol), radical initiator (0.3 mmol), benzene (0.5 ml) under 130 °C and N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. <sup>b</sup>Yields based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude products with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene added as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup>70% solvent in H<sub>2</sub>O.

**Table S2.** Optimization of additive<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Additive	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq)	75
2	<sup>t</sup> BuLi(3.0 eq)	64
3	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (3.0 eq)	60
4	CsCO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq)	43

5	LiOMe(3.0 eq)	68
6	'BuOK(3.0 eq)	n.r.
7	LiOAc(3.0 eq)	67
8	PhCOONa(3.0 eq)	65
9	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq)	67
10	KOAc(3.0 eq)	72
11	KHCO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq)	72
12	Na <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (3.0 eq)	72
13	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq), Phenanthroline(20 mol%)	23
14	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq), TMEDA(20 mol%)	8
15	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (3.0 eq), DMEDA(20 mol%)	10

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: biphenyl-2-yldimethylsilane (0.1 mmol), DTBP (0.3 mmol), additive, benzene (0.5 ml) under 130 °C and N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. <sup>b</sup>Yields based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude products with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene added as an internal standard.

**Table S3.** Optimization of solvent<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Solvent	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	acetonitrile	47
2	benzene	66 <sup>c</sup>
3	toluene	39
4	dioxane	57
5	1,2-dichloroethane	36
6	water	7
7	trifluorotoluene	84 (77) <sup>d</sup>
8	chlorobenzene	78
9	1,2-dichlorobenzene	63
10	<i>tert</i> -butylbenzene	65
11	tetrachloromethane	trace
12	1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	trace

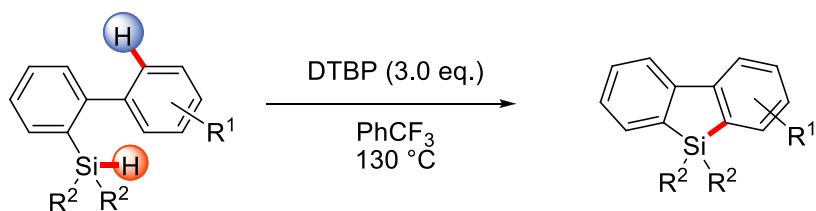
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: biphenyl-2-yldimethylsilane (0.1 mmol), DTBP (0.3 mmol), solvent (0.5 ml) under 130 °C and N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. <sup>b</sup>Yields based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude products with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene added as an internal standard. <sup>c</sup>The reaction was performed under air. <sup>d</sup>Isolated yield shown in parenthesis.

**Table S4.** Optimization of other reaction parameters<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Radical initiator	Temperature (°C)	Time (h)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	DTBP(2.0 eq)	130	24	61
2	DTBP(4.0 eq)	130	24	72
3	DTBP(3.0 eq)	130	20	80
4	DTBP(3.0 eq)	130	36	81
5	DTBP(3.0 eq)	130	48	72
6	DTBP(3.0 eq)	120	24	73
7	DTBP(3.0 eq)	140	24	75
8	DTBP(3.0 eq)	150	24	75

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: biphenyl-2-yldimethylsilane (0.1 mmol), DTBP, trifluorotoluene (0.5 ml) under certain temperature and N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for a certain period of time. <sup>b</sup>Yields based on <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude products with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene added as an internal standard.

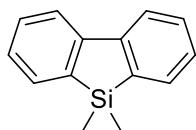
B. General procedure B for synthesis of silafluorenes:



In a dried Schlenk flask (25 mL in volume) equipped with a stirring bar were placed with biphenylhydrosilanes (0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq, if solid). After evacuation and refill with dry nitrogen for three times, DTBP (137.8 uL, 0.75 mmol, 3.0 eq.) and PhCF<sub>3</sub> (1.0 mL) were added with syringes under a stream of nitrogen. The resulting mixture was allowed to stir at 130 °C for 36 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated and then purified by column chromatography on silica gel or PTLC (PE as the eluting solvent) to give the target products.

C. Spectra data of silafluorenes:

**(2a) 5,5-dimethyl-5H-dibenzo[b,d]silole,<sup>1</sup> CAS: 13688-68-1**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 210.0865

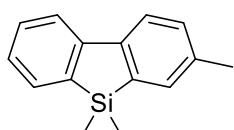
Molecular Weight: 210.3510

The general procedure B was followed using biphenyl-2-yldimethylsilane **1a** (53.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2a** was obtained as yellow oil (40.6 mg, 77%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.43 (s, 6H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.1, 121.0, 127.5, 130.3, 132.9, 139.1, 147.9..

**(2b) 3,5,5-trimethyl-5H-dibenzo[b,d]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 224.1021

Molecular Weight: 224.3780

The general procedure B was followed using dimethyl(4'-methylbiphenyl-2-yl)silane **1b** (56.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2b** was obtained as yellow oil (37.1 mg, 66%).

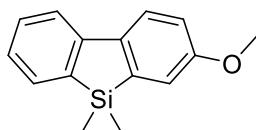
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.41 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 7.24 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.1, 21.5, 120.7, 120.8, 127.1, 130.3, 131.1, 132.8, 133.6, 137.1, 138.8, 139.1, 145.3, 148.0.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 224.1021, Found: 224.1022.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2919, 1619, 1275, 1259, 1062, 764, 750, 672.

**(2c) 3-methoxy-5,5-dimethyl-5H-dibenzo[b,d]silole,<sup>1</sup> CAS: 1252259-64-5**



Chemical Formula:

C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSi

Exact Mass: 240.0970

Molecular Weight:

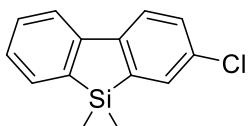
240.3770

The general procedure B was followed using (4'-methoxybiphenyl-2-yl)dimethylsilane **1c** (60.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2c** was obtained as yellow oil (40.7 mg, 68%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.43 (s, 6H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 6.97 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.1, 55.5, 115.7, 118.0, 120.3, 122.1, 126.5, 130.4, 132.8, 138.3, 140.8, 141.1, 147.9, 159.4.

**(2d) 3-chloro-5,5-dimethyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole,<sup>1</sup> CAS: 1252259-63-4**



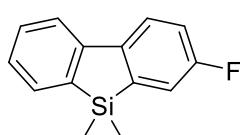
Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ClSi  
Exact Mass: 244.0475  
Molecular Weight: 244.7930

The general procedure B was followed using (4'-chlorobiphenyl-2-yl)dimethylsilane **1d** (74.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2d** was obtained as yellow solid (58.0 mg, 79%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.43 (s, 6H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.2, 121.0, 122.2, 127.7, 130.3, 130.5, 132.7, 133.0, 133.6, 138.7, 141.6, 146.2, 146.9.

**(2e) 3-fluoro-5,5-dimethyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole,<sup>1</sup> CAS: 1252259-62-3**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>FSi  
Exact Mass: 228.0771  
Molecular Weight: 228.3414

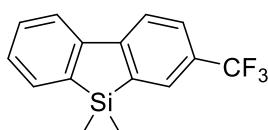
The general procedure B was followed using (4'-fluorobiphenyl-2-yl)dimethylsilane **1e** (69.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2e** was obtained as yellow oil (46.6 mg, 68%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.42 (s, 6H), 7.08 (td, *J* = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.77 (m, 2H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.2, 117.1 (d, *J* = 23 Hz), 119.1 (d, *J* = 20 Hz), 120.7, 122.4 (d, *J* = 7 Hz), 127.2, 130.5, 133.0, 138.6, 142.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 143.8 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 147.1, 162.8 (d, *J* = 247 Hz).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -115.81.

**(2f) 5,5-dimethyl-3-(trifluoromethyl)-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole,<sup>1</sup> CAS: 1252259-61-2**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>Si  
Exact Mass: 278.0739  
Molecular Weight: 278.3492

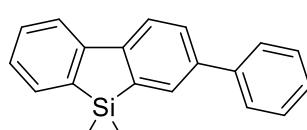
The general procedure B was followed using dimethyl(4'-(trifluoromethyl)biphenyl-2-yl)silane **1f** (70.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2f** was obtained as white solid (56.7 mg, 82%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.46 (s, 6H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.86-7.91 (m, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.3, 120.9, 121.7, 124.8 (q, *J* = 271 Hz), 127.4 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 128.5, 129.2 (q, *J* = 32 Hz), 129.5 (q, *J* = 4 Hz), 130.6, 133.1, 139.6, 140.0, 146.5, 151.3.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -62.20.

**(2g) 5,5-dimethyl-3-phenyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Si  
Exact Mass: 286.1178  
Molecular Weight: 286.4490

The general procedure B was followed using [1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-2-yldimethylsilane **1g** (72.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2g** was obtained as yellow solid (53 mg, 74%).

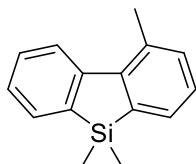
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.52 (s, 6H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.89-7.94 (m, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.1, 121.1, 121.3, 127.2, 127.3, 127.5, 128.9, 129.3, 130.4, 131.6, 132.9, 139.2, 139.8, 140.3, 141.4, 147.1, 147.6.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 286.1178, Found: 286.1181.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3045, 2957, 1594, 1464, 1433, 1388, 1246, 1130, 1064, 841, 779, 754, 692.

**(2h) 1,5,5-trimethyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole<sup>1</sup>, CAS: 252259-84-9**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 224.1021

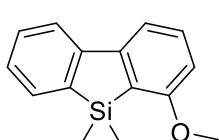
Molecular Weight: 224.3780

The general procedure B was followed using dimethyl(2'-methylbiphenyl-2-yl)silane **1h** (56.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2h** was obtained as yellow oil (35.7 mg, 64%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.41 (s, 6H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 7.19-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 6.8, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.1, 24.4, 125.8, 126.6, 127.0, 130.1, 130.5, 132.9, 134.4, 134.5, 140.5, 140.7, 146.2, 149.8.

**(2i) 4-methoxy-5,5-dimethyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSi

Exact Mass: 240.0970

Molecular Weight: 240.3770

The general procedure B was followed using (3'-methoxybiphenyl-2-yl)dimethylsilane **1i** (60.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2i** was obtained as yellow oil (48 mg, 67%).

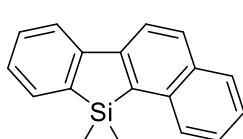
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.44 (s, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -3.6, 55.5, 109.1, 114.1, 121.3, 125.7, 127.6, 130.0, 132.5, 132.7, 140.0, 147.7, 149.7, 164.2.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>OSi (M<sup>+</sup>): 240.0970, Found: 240.0972.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3058, 2955, 1591, 1568, 1558, 1472, 1430, 1243, 1107, 842, 799, 782, 756, 724.

**(2j) 11,11-dimethyl-11*H*-benzo[*b*]naphtho[2,1-*d*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 260.1021

Molecular Weight: 260.4110

The general procedure B was followed using dimethyl(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)phenyl)silane **1j** (65.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2j** was obtained as yellow oil (33.6 mg, 52%).

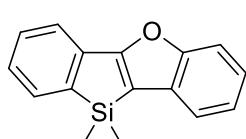
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.62 (s, 6H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88-8.02 (m, 5H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -2.5, 120.1, 121.4, 125.8, 127.0, 127.7, 128.8, 129.3, 130.6, 131.3, 133.0, 133.4, 137.1, 137.4, 139.5, 147.1, 148.4.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 260.1021, Found: 260.1024.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3045, 2956, 2918, 2850, 1585, 1455, 1247, 1147, 1128, 993, 843, 824, 776, 760, 744, 716, 686.

**(2k) 10,10-dimethyl-10*H*-benzo[4,5]silolo[3,2-*b*]benzofuran**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OSi

Exact Mass: 250.0814

Molecular Weight: 250.3720

The general procedure B was followed using 2-(benzofuran-2-yl)phenyl)dimethylsilane **1k** (63.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2k** was obtained as yellow oil (36.3 mg, 58%).

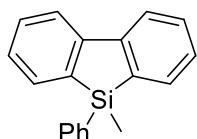
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.50 (s, 6H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.42 (td, J = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -3.4, 111.8, 113.3, 119.5, 122.0, 123.4, 123.9, 127.8, 130.0, 130.9, 132.7, 139.0, 142.3, 158.6, 169.5.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>OSi (M<sup>+</sup>): 250.0814, Found: 250.0818.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2955, 2922, 2849, 1733, 1455, 1257, 1123, 841, 814, 784, 746.

**(2l) 5-methyl-5-phenyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole<sup>1</sup>, CAS: 87522-65-4**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 272.1021

Molecular Weight: 272.4220

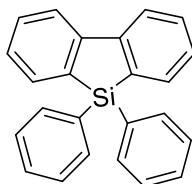
134.6, 134.8, 137.5, 148.5.

The general procedure B was followed using 2-(benzofuran-2-yl)phenyl)dimethylsilane **1l** (68.6 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2k** was obtained as yellow oil (33.4 mg, 49%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.73 (s, 3H), 7.22-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.44 (td, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) -4.9, 121.1, 127.7, 128.2, 130.0, 130.6, 133.5, 134.6, 134.8, 137.5, 148.5.

**(2m) 5,5-diphenyl-5*H*-dibenzo[*b,d*]silole<sup>2</sup>, CAS: 5550-08-3**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 334.1178

Molecular Weight: 334.4930

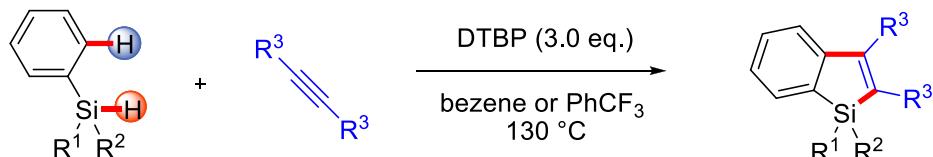
The general procedure B was followed using [1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yldiphenylsilane **1m** (101.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 eq.) as starting material. **2m** was obtained as yellow solid (66.8 mg, 67%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 7.30-7.42 (m, 8H), 7.48 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 7.78 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 121.3, 127.9, 128.3, 130.2, 130.9, 132.8, 134.1, 135.7, 136.0, 148.9.

### 3. Intermolecular silyl radical cascades with alkynes

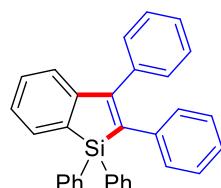
#### A. General procedure C for synthesis of silafluorenes:



In a dried Schlenk flask (25 mL in volume) equipped with a stirring bar were placed with alkynes (0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq, if solid) and arylhydrosilanes (0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq, if solid). After evacuation and refill with dry N<sub>2</sub> for three times, alkynes (0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq, if liquid) and arylhydrosilanes (0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq, if liquid), DTBP (110.8 uL, 0.60 mmol, 3.0 eq.) and PhCF<sub>3</sub> or benzene (0.8 mL) were added with syringes under a stream of N<sub>2</sub>. The resulting mixture was allowed to stir at 130 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was concentrated and then purified by column chromatography on silica gel or PTLC (hexane as the eluting solvent) to give the target products.

#### B. Spectra data of silaindenes:

**(5a) 1,1,2,3-tetraphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 436.1647

Molecular Weight: 436.6290

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-diphenylethyne (53.4 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhCF<sub>3</sub> as solvent. **5a** was obtained as a white-yellow solid (58.5 mg, 67%).

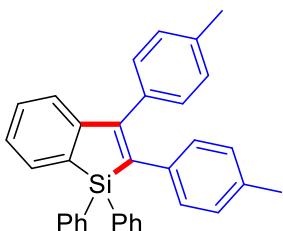
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 6.92-6.94 (m, 2H), 7.00-7.06 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.36 (m, 12H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.6, 2H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.71 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 124.6, 126.0, 127.4, 127.4, 128.0, 128.3, 128.6, 129.3, 129.9, 130.3, 130.4, 132.5, 133.1, 135.7, 135.9, 138.1, 139.8, 140.1, 151.7, 155.8.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 436.1647, Found: 436.1650.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3050, 2923, 1584, 1483, 1439, 1428, 1111, 762, 739, 695, 669.

### (5b) 1,1-diphenyl-2,3-di-p-tolyl-1H-benzo[b]silole



The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-di-p-tolylethyne (61.9 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhH as solvent. **5b** was obtained as white solid (65.7 mg, 71%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 6.75-6.92 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.43 (m, 8H), 7.63 (dd, J = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 3H), 7.68 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

Chemical Formula: C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 464.1960

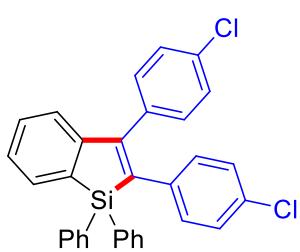
Molecular Weight: 464.6830

135.9, 136.8, 136.9, 136.9, 139.4, 152.1, 155.4.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 464.1960, Found: 464.1965.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 2920, 1583, 1511, 1428, 1111, 837, 818, 773, 739, 726, 697.

### (5c) 2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1,1-diphenyl-1H-benzo[b]silole



The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethyne (74.1 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhCF<sub>3</sub> as solvent. **5c** was obtained as white solid (71.4 mg, 71%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 6.83-6.85 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 7H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 4H), 7.74 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

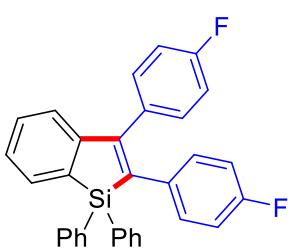
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ ppm 124.5, 127.7, 128.4, 128.4, 129.0, 130.4, 130.5, 130.6, 131.2, 131.8, 131.9, 133.4, 133.5, 135.4, 135.8, 136.0,

138.1, 139.8, 150.9, 155.0.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>22</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 504.0868, Found: 504.0864.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3066, 2924, 1588, 1559, 1467, 1112, 773, 746, 695.

### (5d) 2,3-bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1,1-diphenyl-1H-benzo[b]silole



The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyne (64.3 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhH as solvent. **5d** was obtained as white-yellow solid (76.4 mg, 81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 6.75 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.07 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.4, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 115.2 (d, J = 21 Hz), 115.7 (d, J = 21 Hz), 124.4, 127.6, 128.4, 130.5, 130.5, 130.7 (d, J = 8 Hz), 131.6 (d, J = 8 Hz), 132.1, 133.3, 133.6 (d, J = 4 Hz), 135.4, 135.7 (d, J = 4 Hz), 135.8, 139.7, 151.3, 154.8, 161.3 (d, J = 245

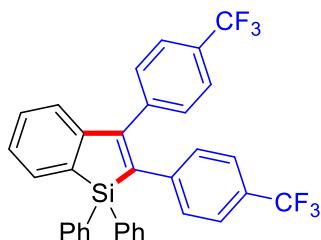
Hz), 162.2 (d,  $J$  = 245 Hz).

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -116.19, -114.34.

HRMS (EI $^+$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_2\text{Si}$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ): 472.1459, Found: 472.1461.

IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3049, 2927, 1601, 1507, 1496, 1223, 1112, 835, 818, 741, 729.

### (5e) 1,1-diphenyl-2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole



Chemical Formula:  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_6\text{Si}$

Exact Mass: 572.1395

Molecular Weight: 572.6254

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne (94.3 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material,  $\text{PhCF}_3$  as solvent. **5e** was obtained as a colorless liquid (71.0 mg, 62%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 6.98 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.48 (m, 12H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 5H), 7.77 (dd,  $J$  = 6.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H).

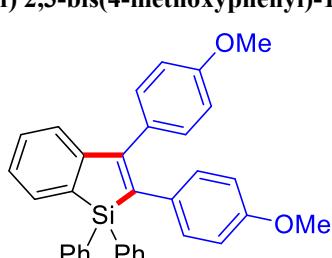
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 124.6, 125.1 (q,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 125.6 (q,  $J$  = 3 Hz), 126.8 (q,  $J$  = 271 Hz), 126.9 (q,  $J$  = 271 Hz), 127.8, 128.0, 128.4, 128.7 (q,  $J$  = 28 Hz), 129.0, 130.0, 130.6, 130.6, 131.3, 133.4, 135.3, 135.7, 136.2, 140.4, 141.2, 143.2, 150.4, 155.5.

$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm -62.48, -62.45.

HRMS (EI $^+$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_6\text{Si}$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ): 572.1395, Found: 572.1398.

IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3052, 1614, 1429, 1320, 1164, 1106, 852, 742, 709, 696.

### (5f) 2,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,1-diphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole



Chemical Formula:  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_2\text{Si}$

Exact Mass: 496.1859

Molecular Weight: 496.6810

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyne (71.5 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material,  $\text{PhH}$  as solvent. **5f** was obtained as white solid (55.6 mg, 56%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 6.58 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.36 (m, 5H), 7.42 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.67 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

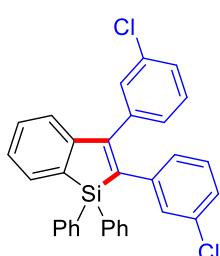
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 55.2, 55.4, 113.5, 114.2, 124.3, 127.0, 128.3, 130.2, 130.3, 130.6, 130.7, 131.1, 132.3, 132.8, 133.0, 135.6, 135.9,

138.9, 152.2, 154.2, 157.8, 158.9.

HRMS (EI $^+$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_2\text{Si}$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ): 496.1859, Found: 496.1864.

IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3011, 2957, 1606, 1497, 1244, 1116, 1100, 833, 746, 725, 698.

### (5g) 2,3-bis(3-chlorophenyl)-1,1-diphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole



Chemical Formula:

$\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{22}\text{Cl}_2\text{Si}$

Exact Mass: 504.0868

Molecular Weight: 505.5130

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(3-chlorophenyl)ethyne (74.1 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material,  $\text{PhH}$  as solvent. **5g** was obtained as white solid (67.7 mg, 67%).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 6.78 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.95-7.02 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 7.36 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 5H), 7.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

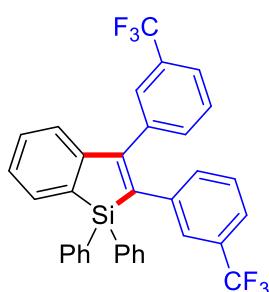
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  ppm 124.7, 126.4, 127.3, 127.9, 128.1, 128.5, 128.9, 129.4, 129.6, 130.0, 130.6, 130.6, 131.6, 133.4, 133.9, 134.6, 135.4, 135.8,

136.3, 139.4, 140.0, 141.4, 150.7, 155.2.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>22</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 504.0868, Found: 504.0874.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3067, 2922, 2851, 1468, 1112, 1100, 780, 738, 725, 696.

#### (5h) 1,1-diphenyl-2,3-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole



Chemical Formula: C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>6</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 572.1395

Molecular Weight: 572.6254

138.2, 140.2, 140.6, 150.5, 155.5.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -62.78, -63.15.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>6</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 572.1395, Found: 572.1399.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3048, 2997, 2954, 1497, 1177, 1110, 833, 737, 699.

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-bis(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne (94.3 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhH as solvent. **5h** was obtained as white solid (97.3 mg, 85%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 7.04-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.41 (m, 8H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 5H), 7.76 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 122.9 (q, J = 4 Hz), 124.6, 124.6 (q, J = 4 Hz), 125.8 (q, J = 4 Hz), 126.6 (q, J = 4 Hz), 126.7 (q, J = 272 Hz), 126.8 (q, J = 272 Hz), 127.9, 128.1, 128.6, 128.7, 129.3, 129.7, 130.3 (q, J = 32 Hz), 130.7, 130.8, 131.4, 132.2, 133.1, 133.6, 135.3, 135.8, 136.2,

138.2, 140.2, 140.6, 150.5, 155.5.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -62.78, -63.15.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>6</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 572.1395, Found: 572.1399.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3048, 2997, 2954, 1497, 1177, 1110, 833, 737, 699.

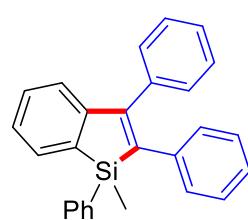
#### (5i) 1-methyl-1,2,3-triphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole,<sup>3</sup> CAS: 1309154-21-9

The general procedure C was followed using methyldiphenylsilane (39.7 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-diphenylethyne (53.5 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhH as solvent. **5i** was obtained as white solid (44.9 mg, 60%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.76 (s, 3H), 6.91 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.97-7.00 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.30 (m, 10H), 7.58 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm -5.6, 124.3, 125.9, 127.1, 127.3, 128.0, 128.3, 128.6, 129.0, 129.8, 130.0, 130.2, 132.4, 134.3, 134.7, 136.9, 138.2,

139.7, 141.5, 151.5, 154.7.

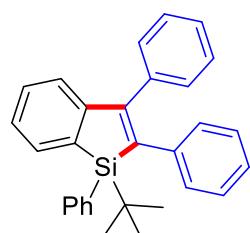


Chemical Formula: C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>

Exact Mass: 374.1491

139.7, 141.5, 151.5, 154.7.

#### (5j) 1-(*tert*-butyl)-1,2,3-triphenyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole



Chemical Formula: C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 416.1960

Molecular Weight: 416.6390

The general procedure C was followed using *tert*-butyldiphenylsilane (48.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-diphenylethyne (53.5 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material, PhH as solvent. **5j** was obtained as white solid (18.3 mg, 22%).

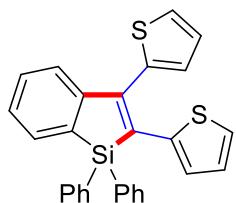
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 1.07 (s, 9H), 6.93-6.95 (m, 2H), 6.99-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.21-7.41 (m, 10H), 7.73 (td, J = 6.4, 1.6 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 18.8, 27.3, 124.5, 125.6, 126.9, 127.1, 127.9, 128.1, 129.1, 129.8, 129.9, 130.0, 132.8, 133.3, 135.7, 135.9, 138.0, 141.2, 141.4, 151.7, 155.9.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 416.1960, Found: 416.1964.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3066, 2925, 2855, 1598, 1437, 1109, 820, 741, 698, 679.

**(5k) 1,1-diphenyl-2,3-di(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>20</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 448.0776

Molecular Weight: 448.6730

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and 1,2-di(thiophen-2-yl)ethyne (57.1 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material. **5k** was obtained as yellow solid (14.4 mg, 16%).

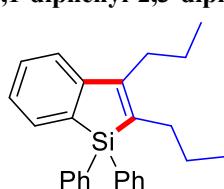
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 6.80 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.07 (m, 2H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.47 (m, 7H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 4H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 124.3, 126.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 128.2, 128.4, 128.5, 129.9, 130.5, 130.8, 131.9, 132.7, 134.2, 136.1, 136.6, 137.7, 142.1, 145.0, 152.3.

HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>20</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 448.0776, Found: 448.0774.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3066, 2920, 2850, 1583, 1427, 1262, 1109, 848, 820, 773, 733, 694.

**(5l) 1,1-diphenyl-2,3-dipropyl-1*H*-benzo[*b*]silole**



Chemical Formula: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si

Exact Mass: 368.1960

Molecular Weight: 368.5950

The general procedure C was followed using triphenylsilane (52.1 mg, 0.20 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and oct-4-yn (33.1 mg, 0.30 mmol, 1.5 eq.) as starting material. **5l** was obtained as white solid (22.9 mg, 31%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 0.79 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (qt, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.62 (qt, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.43 (m, 8H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 4H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm 13.6, 13.7, 21.3, 23.0, 28.5, 31.6, 120.6, 125.3, 127.1, 128.9, 129.2, 131.8, 132.4, 134.7, 135.0, 138.4, 150.4, 153.6.

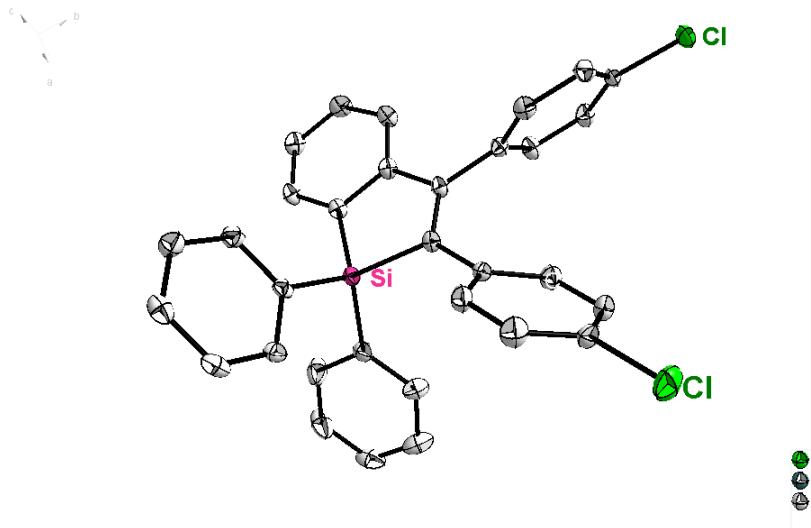
HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): Calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>28</sub>Si (M<sup>+</sup>): 368.1960, Found: 368.1956.

(1) T. Ureshino, T. Yoshida, Y. Kuninobu and K. Takai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 14324.

(2) Y. Yabusaki, N. Ohshima, H. Kondo, T. Kusamoto, Y. Yamanoi and H. Nishihara, *Chem.—Eur. J.*, 2010, **16**, 5581.

(3) M. Onoe, K. Baba, Y. Kim, Y. Kita, M. Tobisu and N. Chatani, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2012, **134**, 19477.

#### 4. X-ray diffraction data of 5c. (CCDC 1037609)



**Table S5.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **5c**.

Identification code	2
Empirical formula	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>22</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> Si
Formula weight	505.49
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P2(1)/c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.9590(11) Å   alpha = 90 deg. b = 24.396(3) Å   beta = 108.6020(10) deg. c = 11.0384(12) Å   gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	2541.8(5) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.321 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.322 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	1048
Crystal size	? x ? x ? mm
Theta range for data collection	1.67 to 27.64 deg.
Limiting indices	-12 <= h <= 12, -31 <= k <= 31, -14 <= l <= 14
Reflections collected / unique	41982 / 5888 [R(int) = 0.0356]
Completeness to theta = 27.64	99.6 %
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	5888 / 0 / 316
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.037
Final R indices [I > 2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0374, wR2 = 0.0883
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0494, wR2 = 0.0941
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.409 and -0.334 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>

**Table S6.** Atomic coordinates ( $x \times 10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for b. U(eq) is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U^{ij}$  tensor.

	x	y	z	U(eq)
Cl(1)	3857(1)	4568(1)	1183(1)	26(1)
Cl(2)	11981(1)	3363(1)	3459(1)	36(1)
Si(1)	6652(1)	1237(1)	2765(1)	16(1)
C(1)	4271(2)	3882(1)	1579(2)	19(1)
C(2)	5083(2)	3742(1)	2810(2)	22(1)
C(3)	5438(2)	3193(1)	3082(2)	21(1)
C(4)	4990(2)	2793(1)	2141(2)	18(1)
C(5)	4160(2)	2948(1)	914(2)	22(1)
C(6)	3797(2)	3493(1)	625(2)	23(1)
C(7)	5392(2)	2205(1)	2393(1)	18(1)
C(8)	4255(2)	1797(1)	2328(1)	18(1)
C(9)	2850(2)	1934(1)	2179(2)	21(1)
C(10)	1881(2)	1521(1)	2156(2)	25(1)
C(11)	2299(2)	978(1)	2294(2)	24(1)
C(12)	3707(2)	837(1)	2468(2)	21(1)
C(13)	4701(2)	1244(1)	2484(1)	17(1)
C(14)	7671(2)	925(1)	4336(1)	17(1)
C(15)	7030(2)	821(1)	5271(2)	21(1)
C(16)	7778(2)	589(1)	6439(2)	25(1)
C(17)	9205(2)	465(1)	6713(2)	25(1)
C(18)	9874(2)	567(1)	5806(2)	24(1)
C(19)	9114(2)	789(1)	4628(2)	21(1)
C(20)	7240(2)	897(1)	1499(2)	21(1)
C(21)	8064(2)	1160(1)	860(2)	25(1)
C(22)	8588(2)	875(1)	8(2)	32(1)
C(23)	8276(2)	326(1)	-224(2)	33(1)
C(24)	7440(3)	59(1)	373(2)	41(1)
C(25)	6925(3)	341(1)	1226(2)	37(1)
C(26)	6727(2)	2005(1)	2669(1)	17(1)
C(27)	8008(2)	2343(1)	2817(2)	17(1)
C(28)	8064(2)	2761(1)	1962(2)	22(1)
C(29)	9283(2)	3073(1)	2154(2)	23(1)
C(30)	10454(2)	2971(1)	3209(2)	23(1)
C(31)	10440(2)	2558(1)	4064(2)	27(1)
C(32)	9223(2)	2246(1)	3855(2)	23(1)

**Table S7.** Bond lengths [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and angles [deg] for b.

Cl(1)-C(1)	1.7446(16)
Cl(2)-C(30)	1.7435(16)
Si(1)-C(13)	1.8671(16)
Si(1)-C(14)	1.8692(16)
Si(1)-C(20)	1.8721(16)
Si(1)-C(26)	1.8799(16)
C(1)-C(2)	1.385(2)
C(1)-C(6)	1.385(2)
C(2)-C(3)	1.393(2)
C(3)-C(4)	1.391(2)
C(4)-C(5)	1.396(2)
C(4)-C(7)	1.491(2)
C(5)-C(6)	1.387(2)
C(7)-C(26)	1.357(2)
C(7)-C(8)	1.492(2)
C(8)-C(9)	1.397(2)
C(8)-C(13)	1.414(2)
C(9)-C(10)	1.389(2)
C(10)-C(11)	1.383(2)
C(11)-C(12)	1.397(2)
C(12)-C(13)	1.397(2)
C(14)-C(15)	1.399(2)
C(14)-C(19)	1.408(2)
C(15)-C(16)	1.387(2)
C(16)-C(17)	1.389(2)
C(17)-C(18)	1.389(2)
C(18)-C(19)	1.390(2)
C(20)-C(21)	1.397(2)
C(20)-C(25)	1.402(2)
C(21)-C(22)	1.398(2)
C(22)-C(23)	1.380(3)
C(23)-C(24)	1.379(3)
C(24)-C(25)	1.390(3)
C(26)-C(27)	1.484(2)
C(27)-C(32)	1.396(2)
C(27)-C(28)	1.401(2)
C(28)-C(29)	1.391(2)
C(29)-C(30)	1.382(2)
C(30)-C(31)	1.384(2)
C(31)-C(32)	1.387(2)
C(13)-Si(1)-C(14)	112.70(7)
C(13)-Si(1)-C(20)	115.91(7)
C(14)-Si(1)-C(20)	107.82(7)

C(13)-Si(1)-C(26)	92.26(7)
C(14)-Si(1)-C(26)	115.97(7)
C(20)-Si(1)-C(26)	111.84(7)
C(2)-C(1)-C(6)	121.77(15)
C(2)-C(1)-Cl(1)	120.09(13)
C(6)-C(1)-Cl(1)	118.12(13)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	118.60(15)
C(4)-C(3)-C(2)	120.99(15)
C(3)-C(4)-C(5)	118.91(15)
C(3)-C(4)-C(7)	122.18(14)
C(5)-C(4)-C(7)	118.89(14)
C(6)-C(5)-C(4)	120.91(15)
C(1)-C(6)-C(5)	118.80(15)
C(26)-C(7)-C(4)	125.01(14)
C(26)-C(7)-C(8)	116.42(14)
C(4)-C(7)-C(8)	118.57(13)
C(9)-C(8)-C(13)	120.46(14)
C(9)-C(8)-C(7)	124.23(14)
C(13)-C(8)-C(7)	115.26(13)
C(10)-C(9)-C(8)	119.54(15)
C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	120.65(15)
C(10)-C(11)-C(12)	120.25(15)
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	120.29(15)
C(12)-C(13)-C(8)	118.78(14)
C(12)-C(13)-Si(1)	133.74(12)
C(8)-C(13)-Si(1)	107.39(11)
C(15)-C(14)-C(19)	117.43(14)
C(15)-C(14)-Si(1)	121.21(12)
C(19)-C(14)-Si(1)	121.36(12)
C(16)-C(15)-C(14)	121.57(15)
C(15)-C(16)-C(17)	120.00(16)
C(16)-C(17)-C(18)	119.81(16)
C(17)-C(18)-C(19)	120.00(15)
C(18)-C(19)-C(14)	121.17(15)
C(21)-C(20)-C(25)	117.57(16)
C(21)-C(20)-Si(1)	123.17(13)
C(25)-C(20)-Si(1)	119.13(13)
C(20)-C(21)-C(22)	121.06(17)
C(23)-C(22)-C(21)	119.88(18)
C(24)-C(23)-C(22)	120.24(17)
C(23)-C(24)-C(25)	119.90(19)
C(24)-C(25)-C(20)	121.31(19)
C(7)-C(26)-C(27)	124.78(14)
C(7)-C(26)-Si(1)	108.53(11)
C(27)-C(26)-Si(1)	126.65(11)
C(32)-C(27)-C(28)	117.75(14)

C(32)-C(27)-C(26)	119.01(14)
C(28)-C(27)-C(26)	123.24(14)
C(29)-C(28)-C(27)	121.08(15)
C(30)-C(29)-C(28)	119.36(15)
C(29)-C(30)-C(31)	121.10(15)
C(29)-C(30)-Cl(2)	119.57(13)
C(31)-C(30)-Cl(2)	119.33(13)
C(30)-C(31)-C(32)	118.97(15)
C(31)-C(32)-C(27)	121.72(15)

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

**Table S8.** Anisotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for b. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2[h^2a^*c^2U^{11} + \dots + 2hka^*b^*U^{12}]$

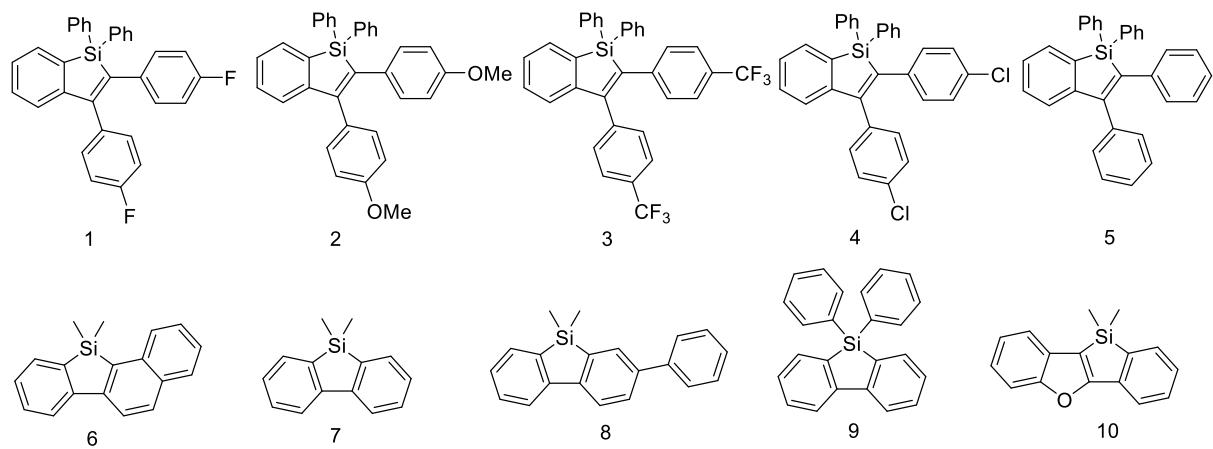
	U11	U22	U33	U23	U13	U12
Cl(1)	26(1)	14(1)	42(1)	4(1)	15(1)	3(1)
Cl(2)	22(1)	32(1)	52(1)	3(1)	12(1)	-11(1)
Si(1)	17(1)	14(1)	18(1)	0(1)	6(1)	0(1)
C(1)	17(1)	12(1)	33(1)	3(1)	12(1)	2(1)
C(2)	20(1)	19(1)	28(1)	-5(1)	9(1)	-3(1)
C(3)	18(1)	21(1)	22(1)	1(1)	4(1)	-1(1)
C(4)	13(1)	15(1)	25(1)	1(1)	6(1)	-2(1)
C(5)	20(1)	19(1)	23(1)	-1(1)	2(1)	-2(1)
C(6)	21(1)	19(1)	25(1)	4(1)	4(1)	0(1)
C(7)	18(1)	16(1)	18(1)	0(1)	4(1)	-1(1)
C(8)	18(1)	17(1)	17(1)	-1(1)	3(1)	-2(1)
C(9)	18(1)	19(1)	23(1)	-1(1)	2(1)	0(1)
C(10)	16(1)	28(1)	28(1)	-1(1)	3(1)	-2(1)
C(11)	21(1)	22(1)	28(1)	-3(1)	5(1)	-8(1)
C(12)	23(1)	15(1)	24(1)	-2(1)	5(1)	-3(1)
C(13)	18(1)	17(1)	17(1)	-1(1)	3(1)	-1(1)
C(14)	18(1)	11(1)	20(1)	-2(1)	6(1)	0(1)
C(15)	18(1)	21(1)	23(1)	0(1)	7(1)	0(1)
C(16)	25(1)	30(1)	22(1)	3(1)	8(1)	-1(1)
C(17)	27(1)	21(1)	23(1)	3(1)	3(1)	4(1)
C(18)	20(1)	19(1)	31(1)	-2(1)	6(1)	6(1)
C(19)	22(1)	19(1)	25(1)	-2(1)	12(1)	3(1)
C(20)	24(1)	22(1)	17(1)	1(1)	6(1)	5(1)
C(21)	19(1)	33(1)	22(1)	-5(1)	5(1)	-3(1)
C(22)	21(1)	54(1)	23(1)	-7(1)	9(1)	-3(1)
C(23)	35(1)	44(1)	18(1)	-3(1)	7(1)	17(1)
C(24)	75(2)	23(1)	28(1)	0(1)	22(1)	12(1)
C(25)	68(1)	22(1)	32(1)	0(1)	30(1)	0(1)

C(26)	18(1)	15(1)	18(1)	1(1)	5(1)	-1(1)
C(27)	17(1)	15(1)	21(1)	-1(1)	8(1)	1(1)
C(28)	21(1)	22(1)	24(1)	4(1)	6(1)	-1(1)
C(29)	26(1)	19(1)	28(1)	3(1)	13(1)	-3(1)
C(30)	17(1)	21(1)	32(1)	-3(1)	11(1)	-5(1)
C(31)	18(1)	28(1)	30(1)	4(1)	1(1)	-3(1)
C(32)	21(1)	21(1)	25(1)	7(1)	5(1)	-1(1)

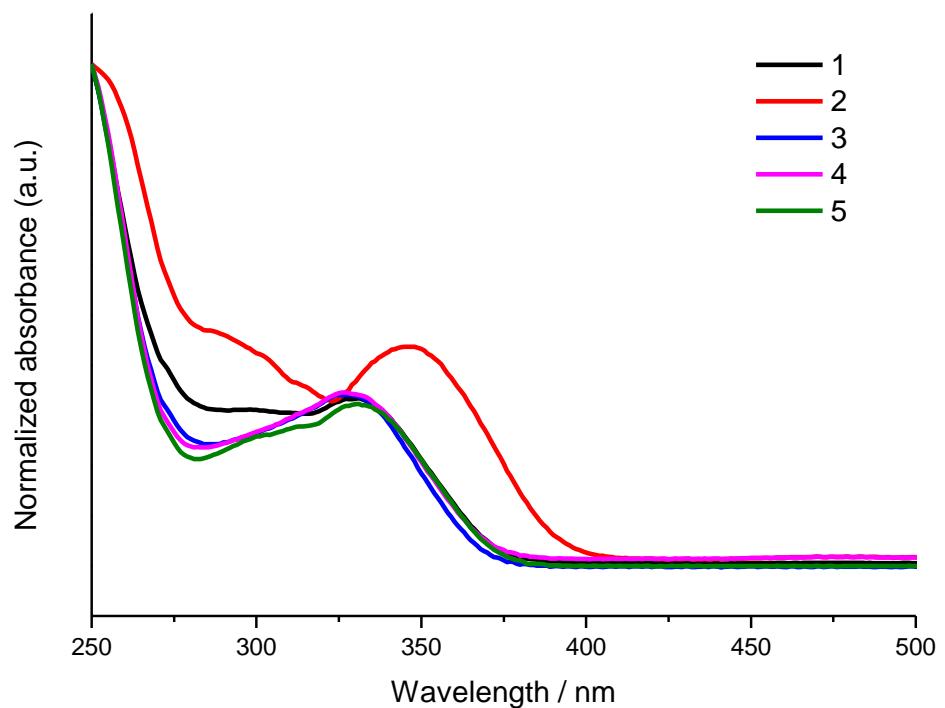
**Table S9.** Hydrogen coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for b.

	x	y	z	U(eq)
H(2)	5391	4013	3456	26
H(3)	5995	3090	3922	25
H(5)	3840	2677	267	26
H(6)	3233	3597	-213	27
H(9)	2559	2307	2095	25
H(10)	922	1613	2043	30
H(11)	1625	699	2271	29
H(12)	3990	464	2575	26
H(15)	6060	911	5102	25
H(16)	7314	515	7051	31
H(17)	9723	312	7517	30
H(18)	10851	484	5992	29
H(19)	9575	850	4008	25
H(21)	8271	1539	1006	30
H(22)	9157	1058	-410	39
H(23)	8639	131	-797	39
H(24)	7216	-318	202	49
H(25)	6349	154	1632	45
H(28)	7257	2831	1240	27
H(29)	9311	3354	1566	28
H(31)	11251	2490	4784	33
H(32)	9216	1958	4432	27

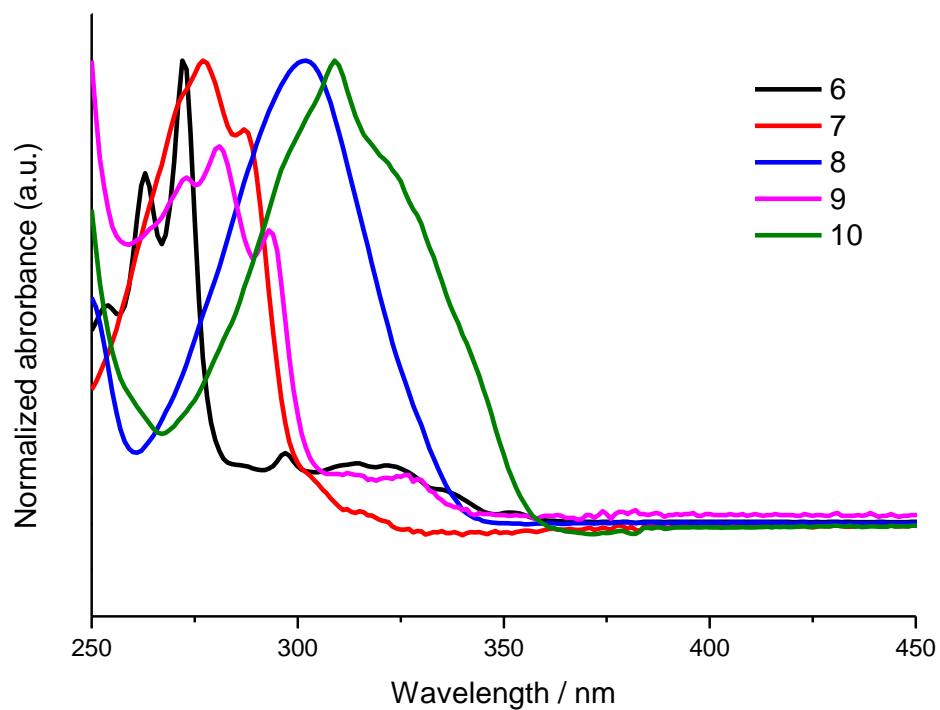
## 5. Optical Property Characterization



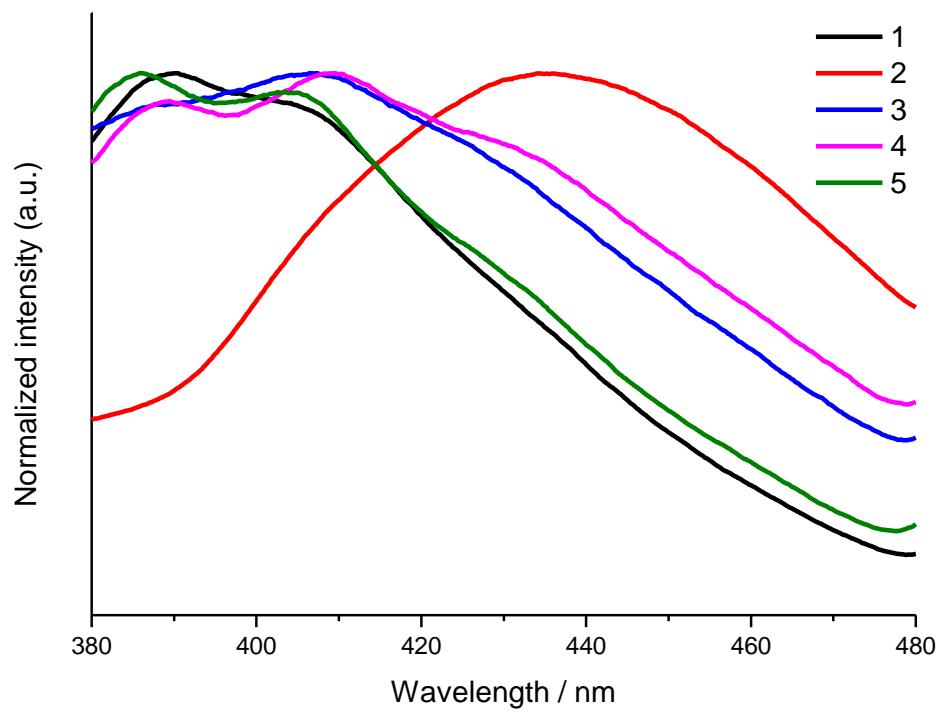
**Figure 1.** UV absorption of compounds 1-5 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



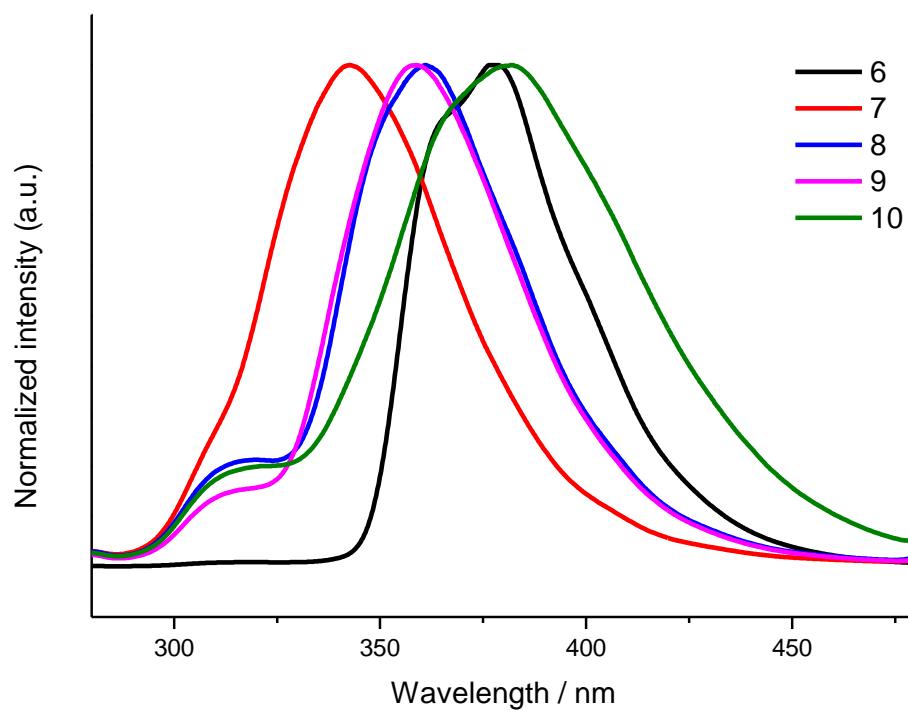
**Figure 2.** UV absorption of compounds 6-10 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



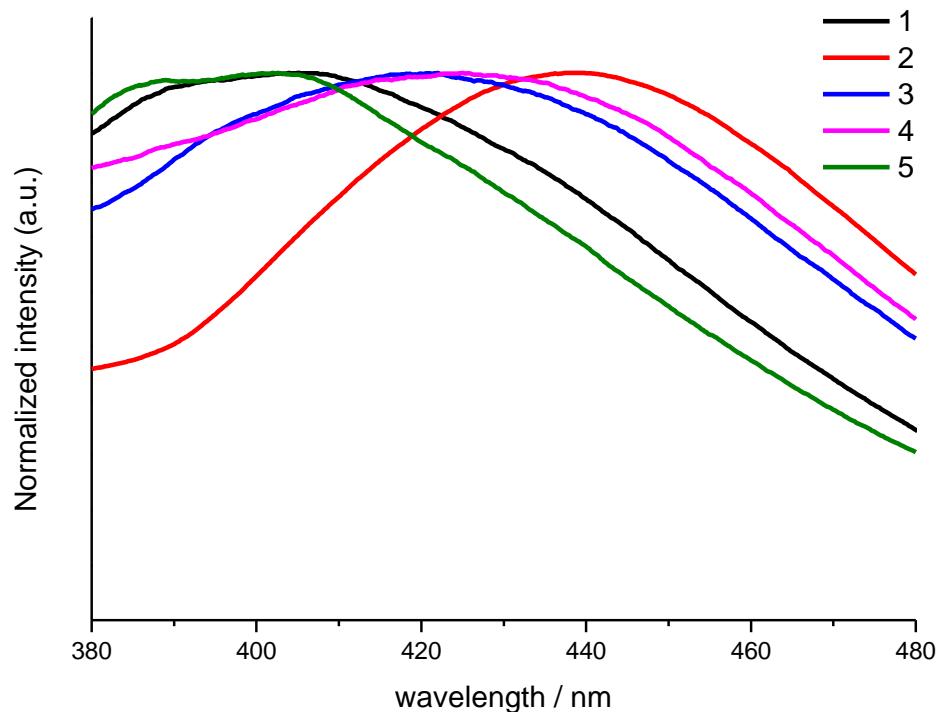
**Figure 3.** Fluorescence emission of compounds 1-5 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with excitation wavelength 250 nm.



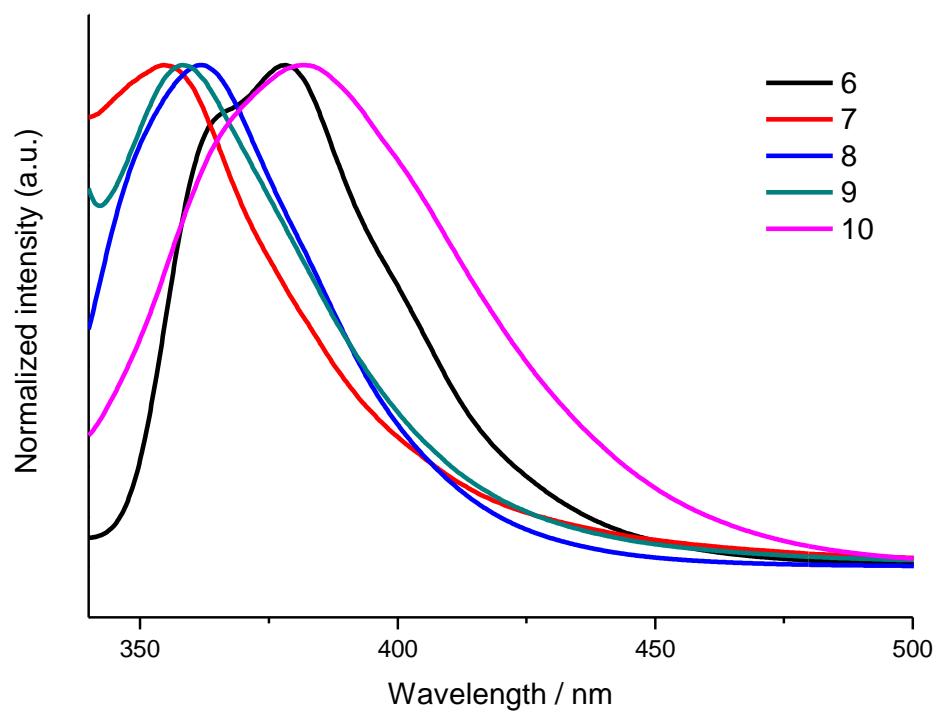
**Figure 4.** Fluorescence emission of compounds 6-10 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with excitation wavelength 250 nm.



**Figure 5.** Fluorescence emission of compounds 1-5 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with excitation wavelength 320 nm.



**Figure 6.** Fluorescence emission of compounds 6-10 in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with excitation wavelength 320 nm.



## 6. Copy of NMR spectra

