KOt-Bu/DMF Promoted Intramolecular Cyclization of (1,1')-Biphenyl

Aldehydes and Ketones: An efficient Synthesis of Phenanthrenes

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1. General Information

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE 400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts of protons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane. Chemical shifts of carbon are referenced to the carbon resonances of the solvent (CDCl₃: δ 77.0). Peaks are labeled as singlet (s), broad singlet (br), doublet (d), triplet (t), double doublet (dd), multiplet (m). Melting points were measured on a WRS-2A melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 37 spectrophotometer. Data are represented as frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹). GC spectra were taken on an Agilent-6890A instrument. EPR spectra were recorded on a Bruker A300 spectrometer. KO*t*-Bu was purchased from Alfa Aesar chemical company and used without further purification. THF, DMF, Dichloromethane and CH₃CN and dioxane were dried and redistilled according to standard methods. DMSO was dried over 4Å molecular sieves.

2. Procedures for the synthesis of substrates

2.1 General procedure for the synthesis of substrates 1a- 1f, 1j-2n and 3f^{1,2}



To a solution of 2-bromobenzaldehyde (552 mg, 3.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added phenylmagnesium bromide (3.6 mL, 1M) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. Then saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=10:1) to give the compound **S1** as a light yellow oil in 95% yield.

To a solution of **S1** (665 mg, 2.5 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL) was added Et₃SiH (5.0 mmol) and CF_3COOH (10.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h. Solid Na₂CO₃ (530mg, 5.0 mmol) and water (20 mL) was successively added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 ×15 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether) to give the compound **S2** as a coloress oil in 90%

yield.

To a mixture of S2 (492 mg, 2.0 mmol), $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (116 mg, 0.1 mmol), dioxane (10 mL) and aqueous Na₂CO₃ (4.0 mL, 1 M), was added a solution of 2-formylphenyl-

boronic acid (360 mg, 2.4 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL). The mixture was flushed with argon and stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc =30:1) to give the compound **1a** as a white solid in 75% yield.

2.2 Procedure for the synthesis of substrates 1g and 1h



A mixture of 1-bromo-2-(bromomethyl)benzene (744 mg, 3.0 mmol), *N*-methylaniline (353 mg, 3.3 mmol), K_2CO_3 (621 mg, 4.5 mmol) and CH_3CN (15 mL) was stirred at 90 °C for 8 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and water (20 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=60:1) to give the compound **S3** as a yellow oil in 92% yield.

To a mixture of **S3** (550 mg, 2.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (116 mg, 0.1 mmol), dioxane (10 mL) and aqueous Na₂CO₃ (4 mL, 1 M), was added a solution of 2-formylphenylboronic acid (360 mg, 2.4 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL). The reaction mixture was flushed with argon and stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=30:1) to give the compound **1g** as a yellow solid in 70% yield.

2.3 Procedure for the synthesis of substrate 1i



To a solution of 1-bromo-2-(bromomethyl)benzene (744 mg, 3.0 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added MeOK (252 mg, 3.6 mmol). The mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The reaction was quenched with water and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL× 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product **S4** was obtained.

To a mixture of S4 (600 mg, 3.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (173 mg, 0.15 mol), dioxane (10 mL) and aqueous Na₂CO₃ (6 mL, 1 M), was added a solution of 2-formylphenylboronic acid (540 mg, 3.6 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL). The mixture was flushed with argon and stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (10mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc =30:1) to give the compound **1i** as a coloress oil in 62 % yield.

2.4 Procedure for the synthesis of substrate 10 and 1p.



A solution of 1-benzyl-2-bromobenzene (10.0 mmol 2.46 g) in dry THF was cooled to -78 °C. To this solution was slowly added *n*-butyllithium (4.2 mL, 2.4 M, 10.0 mmol) over 15 min. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h whereupon triisopropyl borate (4.2 g, 15 mmol) dissolved in 10 mL of dry THF was dropped slowly to the reaction system. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature for 3h. After that the reaction was quenched with dilute HCl (20%, 5 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (20 mL × 2). After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product (viscous liquid) was added petroleum ether 10 ml. The white boronic acid solid precipitated in petroleum ether was filtered and dried and used without further purification.

To a mixture of 2-bromonicotinaldehyde (370 mg, 2.0 mmol), $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (116 mg, 0.1 mol), dioxane (10 mL) and aqueous Na_2CO_3 (4 mL, 1 M), was added a solution of boronic acid (590 mg, 2.4 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL). The mixture was flushed with

argon and stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc =30:1) to give the compound **10** as a coloress oil in 62 % yield.

When 2-chloroquinoline-3-carbaldehyde was used as substrate to prepare 1p, the solvent dioxane was changed to DMF.

2.5 General procedure for the synthesis of substrates 3a - 3e, 3g-3h



To a solution of **2a** (408 mg, 1.5 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added phenylmagnesium bromide (1.8 mL, 1.0 M) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. Then saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (10 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL× 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=10:1) to give the compound **S5** as a light yellow oil in 87% yield.

To a solution of **S5** (420 mg, 1.2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added Dess-Martin reagent (1.02 g, 2.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. The mixture was filtered through a sintered glass funnel to remove the solid. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=30:1) to give the compound **3a** as a light yellow solid in 94 % yield.

2.6 Procedure for the synthesis of substrate 3i



To a solution of pyrrolidin-2-one (425 mg, 5.0 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 220 mg, 5.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. The mixture was added 1-bromo-2-(bromomethyl)benzene (1.24

g, 5.0 mmol) and stirred for overnight. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (15 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=1: 2) to give the compound **S6** as a yellow oil in 53% yield.

To a solution of **S6** (506 mg, 2.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (116 mg, 0.01 mol), dioxane (10 mL) and aqueous Na₂CO₃ (4 mL, 1 M) was added a solution of 2formylphenylboronic acid (360 mg, 2.4 mmol) in MeOH (2 mL). The reaction mixture was flushed with argon and stirred at 90 °C for 4 h. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=1:2) to give the compound **S7** as a yellow oil in 65% yield.

To a solution of **S7** (335 mg, 1.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added phenylmagnesium bromide (1.5 mL, 1.0 M) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL × 2). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc =1:3.3) to give the compound **S8** as a yellow oil in 96 % yield.

To a solution of **S8** (357 mg, 1.0 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added Dess-Martin reagent (848 mg, 2.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. The mixture was filtered through a sintered glass funnel to remove the solid. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=1:1.5) to give the compound **3a** as a light white solid in 88 % yield.

2.7 The procedure for the synthesis of substrate 3j³



To a solution of **3f** (572 mg, 2.0 mmol) and benzaldehyde (212mg, 2.0 mmol) in MeOH (15 mL) was added KOH (224 mg, 4.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 6 h. After most of MeOH was evaporated under vacuum, water (20 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=30: 1) to give the compound **3j** as yellow oil in 93 % yield.

2.8 The procedure for the synthesis of substrate 3k



To a solution of (2-formylphenyl)boronic acid (300 mg, 2.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (116 mg, 0.01 mol), Na₂CO₃ (212 mg, 2.0 mmol) and tolune (15 mL) was added (bromomethyl)benzene (408 mg, 2.4 mmol). The reaction mixture was flushed with argon and stirred at 90 °C overnight. The reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After the evaporation of solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=30:1) to give the compound **S9** as a coloress oil in 90% yield.

To a solution of **S9** (294 mg, 1.5 mmol) and acetophenone (180 mg, 1.5 mmol) in MeOH (15 mL) was added KOH (168 mg, 3.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 6 h. After most of MeOH was evaporated under vacuum, water (20 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether/EtOAc=30: 1) to give the compound **3k** as a yellow oil in 86 % yield.

3. Procedures for the synthesis of products

3.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 2a-2n

A solution of **1a** (54 mg, 0.2 mmol) and KOt-Bu (22 mg. 0.2 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) was flushed with argon and stirred at rt for 1 h. Water (20.0 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). Then combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether) to give the product **2a** as a white solid in 93 % yield.

3.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 4a-4j

A solution of **3a** (70 mg, 0.2 mmol) and KO*t*-Bu (22 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DMF (2.0 mL) was flushed with argon and stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. Water (20.0 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 mL × 2). Then combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the crude product was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether) to give the product **4a** as a white solid in 90% yield.

4. EPR experiment

4.1 EPR Studies of Interaction between DMF and KOt-Bu

A dried schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was loaded with KOt-Bu (0.2 mmol) and DMF (2.0 mL), then the mixture was stirred at rt for one minute. The solution sample was taken out into a small tube and analyzed by EPR. EPR spectra was

recorded at room temperature on EPR spectrometer operated at 9.869 GHz. Typical spectrometer parameters are shown as follows, scan range: 500 G; center field set: 3510 G; time constant: 81.92 ms; scan time: 40.96 s modulation amplitude: 5.0 G; modulation frequency: 100 kHz; receiver gain: 1.00×10^3 ; microwave power: 10.11 mW.

4.2 EPR Studies of Interaction between 1a or triphenylmethane, DMF and KOt-Bu

A dried schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was loaded with **1a** or triphenylmethane (0.2 mmol), KOt-Bu (0.2 mmol) and DMF (2.0 mL), then the mixture was stirred at rt for one minute. The solution sample was taken out into a small tube and analyzed by EPR. EPR spectra was recorded at room temperature on EPR spectrometer operated at 9.869 GHz. Typical spectrometer parameters are shown as follows, scan range: 500 G; center field set: 3510 G; time constant: 81.92 ms; scan time: 40.96 s modulation amplitude: 5.0 G; modulation frequency: 100 kHz; receiver gain: 1.00×10^3 ; microwave power: 10.11 mW.

5. Characterization data

2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1a)



White solid. mp (70-72°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.51 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H),

7.92 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 6.79 – 6.78 (m, 2H), 3.84 – 3.75 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.6, 144.0, 139.1, 138.3, 136.7, 133.0, 132.4, 129.8, 129.7, 129.3, 127.7, 127.4, 127.2, 126.9, 125.9, 125.6, 125.0, 38.8. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₁₆ONa (M+Na) +: 295.1083, found: 295.1093.

2'-(2-methylbenzyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1b)



White solid. mp (73-75 °C). ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.59 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H),

7.90 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.09 – 6.86 (m, 4H), 6.81 – 6.72 (m, 1H), 3.70 – 3.60 (m, 2H), 1.85 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.7, 144.2,

137.7, 137.1, 136.6, 135.3, 133.0, 132.5, 129.7, 129.5, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 127.4, 126.9, 126.1, 125.4, 125.0, 124.9, 36.2, 18.4. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for $C_{21}H_{18}ONa$ (M+Na) ⁺: 309.1250, found: 309.1248.

2'-(3-methylbenzyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1c)



Yellow oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.49 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 3.89 – 3.67 (m, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃); δ 191.7, 145.1, 139.9, 139.5, 137.8, 137.7, 134.1, 133.4, 130.8, 130.7, 130.3, 129.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 126.8, 126.1, 125.8, 39.8, 21.3. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O (M+H) +: 287.1430, found: 287.1426.

2'-(4-methoxybenzyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1d)



Coloress oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.54 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.56 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.74 – 6.59 (m, 4H), 3.77 – 3.67 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.7, 157.9, 145.1, 139.7, 137.6, 134.0, 133.4, 132.2, 130.8, 130.7, 130.1, 129.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.0, 126.1, 113.7, 55.3, 38.9. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O₂ (M+H) +: 303.1380, found: 303.1380.

2'-(4-fluorobenzyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1e)



Coloress oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.55 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.82 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 6.75 – 6.66 (m,

2H), 3.81-3.70 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.6, 161.3 (d, J_{CF} = 243.0 Hz), 144.9, 139.1, 137.7, 135.7 (d, J_{CF} = 3.2 Hz), 133.9, 133.4, 130.8, 130.7, 130.2, 130.1(d, J_{CF} = 7.8 Hz), 128.5, 128.0, 127.1, 126.4, 115.0 (d, J_{CF} = 21.2 Hz), 39.0. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₀H₁₅OF (M+H) +: 291.1180, found: 291.1166.

2'-allyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1f)



Coloress oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.73 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81 – 5.67 (m, 1H), 4.95 – 4.91 (m, 1H), 4.79 – 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.24 – 3.11 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 192.2, 145.2 138.1, 137.4, 136.4, 134.0, 133.5, 130.9, 130.6, 129.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 126.0, 116.3, 37.7. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₁₆H₁₄O (M+H) +: 223.1117, found: 223.1108.

2'-((methyl (phenyl) amino) methyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1g)



Yellow solid. mp (93-95°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.98 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 4H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.17 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.68 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (1010 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.5, 149.4, 144.4, 137.1, 136.9, 134.1, 133.7, 130.6, 130.4, 129.0, 128.5, 128.1, 127.5, 126.8, 117.0, 112.6, 55.6, 38.4. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₉NO (M+H) ⁺: 302.1539, found: 302.1537.

2'-(phenoxymethyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1h)



Coloress oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.79 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.34 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.25(m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.90– 6.87 (m,

1H), 6.75–6.72 (m, 2H), 4.79–4.72 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.8, 158.3, 143.9, 137.7, 135.1, 134.3, 133.4, 130.7, 130.6, 129.4, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.3, 121.1, 114.7, 68.0. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₀H₁₆O₂ (M+Na) ⁺: 311.1043, found: 311.1038.

2'-(methoxymethyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1i)



Coloress oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.71 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.44 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td, J = 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.18– 4.09 (m, 2H), 3.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.8, 144.2, 137.6, 136.4, 134.3, 133.3, 130.7, 130.4, 129.0, 128.4, 128.1, 127.6, 126.95, 72.5, 58.1. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₅H₁₄O₂ (M+Na) +: 227.1067, found: 227.1060.

2'-methyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1j)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.75 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (s, 3H). data are consistent with the literature. (Iwasawa, T.; Kamei, T.; Watanabe, S.; Nishiuchi, M.; Kawamura, Y. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 7430)

2'-benzyl-5'-methyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1k)



Yellow oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.45 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.15 – 7.06 (m, 3H), 7.05 – 6.95 (m, 3H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.74 – 6.65 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.8, 144.3, 139.4, 136.5, 135.2, 134.7, 133.0, 132.3, 130.4, 129.8, 129.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.2, 126.7, 125.8, 124.9, 38.3, 19.9. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O (M+H) ⁺: 287.1430, found: 287.1439.

2'-benzyl-4'-methoxy-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (11)



Coloress oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.54 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, J = 10.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.04 (m, 4H), 6.90 – 6.72 (m, 4H), 3.84 – 3.72 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.9, 159.6, 144.9, 140.7, 139.9, 134.4, 133.4, 131.9, 131.3, 130.0, 128.7, 128.3, 127.8, 127.0, 126.1, 116.1, 111.2, 55.3, 40.0. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O₂ (M+Na) +: 325.1199, found: 325.1185.

2'-benzyl-4'-chloro-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-carbaldehyde (1m)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 16.2, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.13 – 6.96 (m, 5H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.71– 3.62 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.2, 143.6, 141.3, 139.1, 136.3, 134.3, 134.0, 133.6, 131.9, 130.8, 130.2, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.5, 126.4, 126.3, 36.7. **HRMS** (ESI) calculated for C₂₀H₁₅OCl (M+H) ⁺: 307.0884, found: 307.0877.

2-(2-benzylnaphthalen-1-yl)benzaldehyde (1n)



White solid. mp (134-135°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.31 (d, J = 0.7 Hz,

1H), 8.05 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.28 (dd, J = 7.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.08 (m, 4H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 2H). ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.5, 143.0, 140.3, 137.1, 135.0, 134.0, 133.9, 133.5, 132.0, 131.7, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 127.1, 126.7, 126.1, 126.0, 125.6, 40.1. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₄H₁₈O (M+Na) +: 345.1250, found: 345.1253.

2-(2-benzylphenyl)nicotinaldehyde (10)



Light brown oil. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 9.43 (s, 1H), 8.84 (dd, J = 4.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.00 (m, 3H), 6.74 (dd, J = 7.1, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 4.21 – 3.72 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.8, 162.9, 153.2, 140.2, 140.0, 136.8, 134.9, 130.9, 130.8, 130.0, 129.4, 128.7, 128.2, 126.4, 126.0, 122.9, 39.5. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₁₉H₁₅NO (M+H) ⁺: 274.1233, found: 274.1226.

2-(2-benzylphenyl)quinoline-3-carbaldehyde (1p)



White solid, mp (102-104°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.53 (s, 1H), 8.64 (s,

1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.70 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 (td, J = 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 6.90 (m, 3H), 6.75 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 4.29 – 3.83 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.5, 160.9, 149.4, 140.2, 140.2, 137.4, 137.0, 132.7, 130.9, 130.4, 129.5, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 126.6, 126.5, 126.0, 39.6. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₃H₁₇NO (M+H) +: 324.1391, found: 324.1383.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3a)



White solid. mp (79-81 °C).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.63 (dd, J = 5.2, 3.3 Hz,

2H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 6.95 (m, 10H), 3.88 – 3.77 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 198.0, 141.1, 140.6, 139.7, 139.3, 138.8, 137.8, 132.8, 131.0, 130.2, 130.1, 129.8, 129.7, 129.1, 128.5, 128.2, 128.12, 127.7, 126.8, 125.9, 125.6, 39.3. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₆H₂₀O (M+H) +: 349.1587, found: 349.1597.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(o-tolyl)methanone (3b)



White solid. mp (93-95 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.46

- 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.24 - 6.91 (m, 14H), 3.82 -3.67 (m, 2H), 2.27 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.5, 141.0, 140.7, 140.6, 139.9, 138.6, 138.5, 138.3, 131.2, 130.9, 130.8, 130.2, 130.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.2, 127.5, 127.1, 125.8, 125.5, 124.8, 39.3, 20.4. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₇H₂₂O (M+H) +: 363.1743, found: 363.1748.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (3c)



White solid. mp (98-100°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 - 7.57 (m, 2H),

7.52 – 7.38 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 6.92 (m, 12H), 3.89 – 3.73 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.5, 166.5 (d, J_{CF} = 253.0 Hz), 141.0, 140.4, 139.6, 139.0, 138.7, 134.2 (d, J_{CF} = 2.9 Hz), 132.3 (d, J_{CF} = 9.3Hz), 131.0, 130.1, 129.9, 129.9, 129.0, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 126.9, 125.9, 125.6, 115.2 (d, J_{CF} = 21.8Hz), 39.2. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₆H₁₉FO (M+H) +: 367.1487, found:367.1493.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3d)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.22 – 6.94 (m, 10H), 6.85 – 6.77 (m, 2H), 3.91 – 3.76 (m, 5H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.5, 163.4, 141.2, 140.2, 139.8, 139.6, 138.8, 132.3, 131.0, 130.7, 130.1, 129.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 126.7, 125.8, 125.5, 113.4, 55.5, 39.2. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₇H₂₂O₂ (M+H) ⁺: 379.1693, found: 379.1700.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (3e)



Yellow solid. mp (81-83 °C).¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 – 7.41 (m, 5H), 7.28 – 6.85 (m, 10H), 3.85– 3.74 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.1, 140.9, 140.8, 140.7, 139.4, 138.7, 138.5, 133.7(q, J_{CF} = 32.4Hz), 131.1, 130.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.1, 125.9, 125.7, 125.1(q, J_{CF} = 3.7Hz), 123.6 (q, J_{CF} = 271.7 Hz), 39.2. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₇H₁₉OF₃ (M+H) ⁺: 417.1461, found: 417.1461.

1-(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)ethanone (3f)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 6.89 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.90–3.75 (m, 2H), 1.86 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 203.0, 140.7, 140.4, 140.1, 140.0, 138.7, 131.0, 130.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.0, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 126.3, 126.0, 39.4, 29.7. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O (M+H) ⁺: 287.1430, found: 287.1444.

(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(cyclopropyl)methanone (3g)



Coloress oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.69 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.10 (m, 8H), 6.89–6.86 (m, 2H), 3.91–3.78 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.56 (m, 1H), 0.98 – 0.86 (m, 2H), 0.53 –0.50(m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 205.9, 141.3, 140.7, 140.6, 139.9, 138.8, 130.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.0, 128.2, 128.0, 127.9, 127.4, 126.1, 125.9, 39.4, 21.5, 12.7, 12.4. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₃H₂₀O (M+H) ⁺: 313.1587, found: 313.1588.

(2'-(methoxymethyl)-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3h)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.65 – 7.36 (m, 7H), 7.35 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.19 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 4.33 – 4.16 (m, 2H), 3.24 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.9, 139.9, 139.3, 137.8, 135.9, 132.8, 130.9, 130.1, 129.9, 129.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 127.7, 127.1, 127.0, 72.5, 58.1. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₁H₁₈O₂ (M+H) ⁺: 303.1380, found: 303.1372.

1-((2'-benzoyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)methyl)pyrrolidin-2-one (3i)



White solid. mp (132-133°C).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 - 7.69 (m, 2H),

7.58 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.02 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.57– 4.13 (m, 2H), 3.31 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 2.38 – 2.32 (m, 2H), 1.97 – 1.88 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.5, 175.1, 139.7, 139.6, 138.8, 137.7, 134.4, 133.0, 131.0, 130.0, 129.9, 129.9, 128.8, 128.3, 127.9, 127.5, 127.0, 126.7, 46.67, 44.2, 30.8, 17.8. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₄H₂₁NO₂ (M+H) +: 356.1645, found: 356.1656.

(E)-1-(2'-benzyl-(1,1'-biphenyl)-2-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (3j)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.34 – 7.05 (m, 13H), 6.97 – 6.87 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 3.93 – 3.81 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.7, 143.2, 140.7, 140.3, 140.2, 140.0, 139.0, 134.8, 131.0, 130.6, 130.4, 130.2, 130.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 126.1, 125.9, 125.9, 39.3. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₈H₂₂O (M+Na) ⁺: 397.1563, found: 397.1560.

(E)-3-(2-benzylphenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (3k)



Yellow oil. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.77 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.60 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.41 – 7.09 (m, 9H), 4.17 (s, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.8, 142.5, 140.7, 140.2, 138.1, 134.1, 132.7, 131.1, 130.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.2, 124.0, 39.2. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₂H₁₈O (M+H) ⁺: 299.1430, found: 299.1436.

9-phenylphenanthrene (2a)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.71 (dd, J = 21.9, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.92– 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.73 – 7.40 (m, 10H). ¹³**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.9, 138.9, 131.6, 131.2, 130.7, 130.1, 130.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.6, 127.4, 127.0, 126.9, 126.6, 126.5, 126.5, 123.0, 122.6. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Matsumoto, A.; Ilies, L.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6557).

9-(o-tolyl)phenanthrene (2b)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 2.05 (s, 3H). ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.3, 138.5, 137.1, 131.7, 131.5, 130.4, 130.1, 130.0, 130.0, 128.7, 127.8, 127.2, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 125.8, 122.9, 122.6, 20.1. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Kawai, H.; Kobayashi, Y.; Oi, S.; Inoue, Y. *Chem. Commun.* **2008**, 1464).

9-(m-tolyl)phenanthrene (2c)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.74 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.8, 139.0, 138.0, 131.7, 131.3, 130.8, 130.7, 130.0, 128.7, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 123.0, 122.6, 21.6. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Xiao, T. B.; Dong, X. C.; Tang, Y. C.; Zhou, L. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2012**, *354*, 3195).

9-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenanthrene (2d)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.1, 138.5, 133.2, 131.7, 131.4, 131.2, 130.7, 129.9, 128.6, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.5, 126.5, 126.4, 122.9, 122.6, 113.8, 55.4. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Xiao, T. B.; Dong, X. C.; Tang, Y. C.; Zhou, L. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2012**, *354*, 3195).

9-(4-fluorophenyl)phenanthrene (2e)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.88 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.66 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.53 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.22 – 7.11 (m, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.4 (d, $J_{CF} = 244.7$ Hz), 137.7, 136.8 (d, $J_{CF} = 3.3$ Hz), 131.7(d, $J_{CF} = 7.9$ Hz), 131.5, 131.2, 130.7, 130.1, 128.7, 127.7, 127.0, 126.8, 126.7, 126.7, 126.6, 123.0, 122.6, 115.3 (d, $J_{CF} = 21.2$ Hz). The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Xiao, T. B.; Dong, X. C.; Tang, Y. C.; Zhou, L. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2012**, *354*, 3195).

9-vinylphenanthrene (2f)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.74 – 8.67 (m, 1H), 8.63 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.14–8.12 (m, 1H), 7.88–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.69 – 7.52 (m, 4H), 7.45 (dd, J =

17.2, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dd, J = 17.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (dd, J = 10.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.1, 134.7, 131.8, 130.6, 130.4, 130.3, 128.7, 126.8, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 124.7, 123.1, 122.6, 117.6. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Katritzky, A. R.; Hitchings, J. G.; King, R. W.; Zhu, D. W. *Magn. Reson. Chem.* **1991**, *29*, 2).

N-methyl-N-phenylphenanthren-9-amine (2g)



White solid. mp (97-99 °C).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H),

8.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.37 (m, 5H), 7.07 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.57 (m, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 150.1, 143.9, 132.6, 132.1, 130.4, 129.6, 129.1, 128.4, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 125.6, 124.7, 123.3, 122.7, 117.5, 113.9, 40.2. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₈N (M+H) +:284.1429, found: 284.1934.

9-phenoxyphenanthrene (2h)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.03 (m, 4H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.4, 151.8, 132.4, 131.8, 130.0, 127.9, 127.8, 127.4, 127.1, 127.0, 126.8, 125.5, 123.6, 122.8, 122.7, 119.2, 111.5. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Toshihiko, O.; Koichi, S.; Naoki, M.; Yoshiyasu. K.; Shunji, N. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **1978**, 26, 2014).

9-methoxyphenanthrene (2i)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.67–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.6, 133.0, 131.3, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 124.2, 122.6, 122.6, 122.5, 102.0,

55.5. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Dreher, S. D.; Paruch, K.; Katz, T. J.; *J. Org. Chem.*, **2000**, *65*, 806).

3-methyl-10-phenylphenanthrene (2k)



White solid. mp (82-84 °C).¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.67 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.91 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.35 (m, 8H), 7.32 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H),

2.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.1, 138.8, 136.2, 131.9, 130.8, 130.1, 129.8, 129.2, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 126.4, 122.8, 122.6, 22.0. HRMS (EI) calculated for C₂₁H₁₆ (M) ⁺: 268.1247, found: 268.1240.

2-methoxy-10-phenylphenanthrene (2l)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.64 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.40 (m, 6H), 7.34 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.3, 141.0, 138.3, 132.6, 130.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.7, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 126.7, 125.9, 125.0, 124.6, 122.1, 116.4, 107.9, 55.3. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Garcia-Cuadrado, D.; de Mendoza, P.; Braga, AAC; Maseras, F.; Echavarren, A. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2007**, 129, 6880).

2-chloro-10-phenylphenanthrene (2m)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.63– 8.58 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 2H), 7.72– 7.40 (m, 9H). ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.1, 137.9, 132.7, 132.4, 131.5, 130.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 126.1, 124.6, 122.5. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Garcia-Cuadrado, D.; Braga, AAC; Maseras, F.; Echavarren, A. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 1066).

6-phenylbenzo[c]phenanthrene (2n)



White solid. mp (113-115°C).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.11– 9.06 (m, 2H),

8.01 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.84 – 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.69 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.39 (m, 5H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.0, 138.7, 133.2, 132.9, 130.4, 130.2, 129.8, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 127.5, 127.0, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 124.7. **HRMS (EI)** calculated for C₂₄H₁₆ (M) ⁺: 304.1247, found: 304.1241.

6-phenylbenzo(h)quinoline (2o)



White solid, mp (140-141 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.41 (dd, J = 8.2, 0.6

Hz, 1H), 9.00 (dd, J = 4.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.67 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.41 (m, 6H). ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 148.8, 146.2, 140.2, 139.8, 135.9, 132.7, 131.8, 130.0, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 127.0, 126.4, 126.0, 125.8, 124.7, 122.1. HRMS (ESI) calculated for C₁₉H₁₃N (M + H) ⁺: 256.1120, found: 256.1121.

5-phenylbenzo(c)acridine (2p)



Yellow oil, mp (111-112°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.70 – 9.57 (m, 1H),

8.57 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.44 (m, 6H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.7, 147.47, 140.2, 139.5, 135.0, 133.3, 131.8, 129.9, 129.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.3, 127.2, 126.6, 126.0, 125.9, 125.6, 124.8. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₃H₁₅N (M + H) +: 306.1283, found: 306.1277.

9,10-diphenylphenanthrene (4a)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.11 (m, 10H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.6, 137.2, 131.9, 131.1, 130.0, 127.9 127.6, 126.7, 126.5, 126.4, 122.5. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Matsumoto, A.; Ilies, L.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6557).

9-phenyl-10-(o-tolyl)phenanthrene (4b)



White solid. mp (211-213 °C).¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.78 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.2 Hz,

2H), 7.69 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.57 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.36 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.01 (m, 9H), 1.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.6, 139.0, 137.0, 136.7, 136.6, 132.2, 131.5, 131.4, 131.3, 130.2, 130.0, 129.5, 129.3, 127.8, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 127.2, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 125.2, 122.7, 122.6, 20.2. **HRMS (EI)** calculated for C₂₇H₂₀ (M)⁺: 344.1560, found: 344.1565.

9-(4-fluorophenyl)-10-phenylphenanthrene (4c)



White solid. mp (245-248 °C).¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H),

7.72 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.03 (m, 4H), 6.94–7.90 (m, 2H). ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.5 (d, J_{CF} = 244.0 Hz), 139.5, 137.7, 136.1, 135.4 (d, J_{CF} = 3.5 Hz), 132.6 (d, J_{CF} = 7.9 Hz), 131.9, 131.8, 131.0, 130.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 126.7, 126.7, 126.6, 126.6, 126.5, 122.6, 122.5, 114.6 (d, J_{CF} = 21.2 Hz). HRMS (EI) calculated for C₂₆H₁₇F (M) +: 348.1309, found: 348.1306.

9-(4-methoxyphenyl)-10-phenylphenanthrene (4d)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.79 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 7.30 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.1, 139.8, 137.5, 136.9, 132.3, 132.1, 132.0, 131.8, 131.1, 130.1, 130.0, 127.9, 127.9, 127.8, 126.6, 126.4, 126.4, 126.3, 122.5, 113.1, 55.1. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Matsumoto, A.; Ilies, L.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6557).

9-phenyl-10-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)phenanthrene (4e)



¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.81 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.6, 139.0, 137.5, 135.7, 131.7, 131.5, 131.3, 130.9, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7 (q, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 128.0, 127.9, 127.4, 126.9, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 124.6 (q, J_{CF} = 3.7), 124.2 (q, J_{CF} = 270.4), 122.7, 122.6. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Shimizu, M.; Nagao, I.; Tomioka, Y.; Kadowaki, T.; Hiyama, Y. *Tetrahedron.* **2011**, *67*, 8014).

9-methyl-10-phenylphenanthrene (4f)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.77– 7.70 (m, 2H), 8.20 – 8.09 (m, 1H), 7.72 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.58 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.8, 137.1, 132.4, 132.0, 130.4, 130.0, 129.9, 129.4, 128.5, 127.5, 127.1, 126.9, 126.4, 126.3, 125.7, 125.1, 122.9, 122.4, 17.4. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Matsumoto, A.; Ilies, L.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 6557).

9-cyclopropyl-10-phenylphenanthrene (4g)



White solid. mp (135-137°C).¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 – 8.61 (m, 3H), 7.69 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.33 (m, 6H), 2.08 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 0.80 – 0.75 (m, 2H), 0.34 – 0.30 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.3, 139.0, 134.0, 133.0, 132.0, 131.2, 130.1, 129.9, 128.0, 127.3, 126.8, 126.5, 126.5, 126.4, 126.2, 126.0, 122.8, 122.4, 13.4, 9.7. **HRMS (EI)** calculated for C₂₃H₁₈ (M) ⁺: 294.1403, found: 294.1398.

9-methoxy-10-phenylphenanthrene (4h)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.78 – 8.58 (m, 2H), 8.21 – 8.18 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.33 (m, 8H), 3.50 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 136.5, 132.7, 131.5, 130.9, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 127.0 126.7, 126.7, 125.5, 123.2, 122.9, 122.6, 61.3. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Kitamura, T.; Kobayashi, S.; Taniguchi, H. *J. Org. Chem.* **1984**, *49*, 3167).

1-(10-phenylphenanthren-9-yl)pyrrolidin-2-one (4i)



White solid. mp (258-260°C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.78- 8.74 (m, 2H),

7.82 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.61 (m, 3H), 7.60 – 7.41 (m, 6H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 3.64 – 3.59 (m, 1H), 3.21 –3.25 (m, 1H), 2.59–2.51 (m, 1H), 2.28 – 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.66 (m, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.1, 137.8, 137.0, 131.8, 131.5, 131.2, 130.4, 129.9, 129.5, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 127.7, 127.7, 127.6, 127.2, 127.2, 126.8, 123.46, 123.3, 122.6, 50.1, 31.0, 19.5. **HRMS (ESI)** calculated for C₂₄H₁₉NO (M+H) +: 338.1539, found: 338.1536.

(E)-9-phenyl-10-styrylphenanthrene (4j)



¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J =8.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.11 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 137.7, 136.8, 135.9, 132.5, 131.9, 131.0, 130.8, 130.5, 129.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.4, 122.9, 122.5. The data are consistent with that reported in the literature (Matsumoto, A.; Ilies, L.; Nakamura, E. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **2011**, 133, 6557).

6. References

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7. Copies of NMR spectra of products

¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1a



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1b



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1c



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1d



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1e



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1f



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1g



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1h



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1i



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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1k



200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 11



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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1m



¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 1n



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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 10





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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 3k

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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 2f









¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 2h

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¹H NMR and ¹³CNMR of 2i























10.5









¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR of 4f




¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR of 4g













¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR of 4j

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