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Supporting Information

Palladium-Catalyzed Direct β-Arylation of Ketones with Diaryliodonium Salts: A Stoichiometric Heavy Metal-Free and User-Friendly Approach

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I. Materials and methods

Unless stated otherwise, all reactions were run in vials sealed with PTFE lined caps, purchased from Qorpak. 1,4-Dioxane was distilled from Na and freeze-pump-thawed three times prior to use. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 99%) and palladium acetate (98%) were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. Potassium trifluoroacetate (KTFA) was purchased from Oakwood Chemical and used as received. All commercially available substrates were used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis was run on silica gel plates purchased from EMD Chemical (silica gel 60, F254). Gas chromatography (GC) data was obtained from Agilent 7820A GC system, equipped with Agilent 19091J-413 column and a FID detector. GC yield of 3-phenyl cyclohexanone (3a) was determined using standard curves with dodecane as internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on an Autospec or Agilent 6150. Accurate masses from high-resolution mass spectra were reported for the molecular ion [M+Na]⁺, [M]⁺ or [M+H]⁺. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini (400 MHz for ¹H, 100 MHz for ¹³C). Chemical shifts are reported as parts per million (ppm) using residual solvent signals as internal standard (CHCl₃, δ = 7.26 ppm for ¹H NMR, δ = 77.00 ppm for ¹³C NMR, DMSO, δ = 40.45 ppm for ¹³C NMR). Data for ¹H NMR were presented as following: chemical shifts (δ , ppm), multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, tt = triplet of triplets, td = triplet of doublets, m =multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. The chemical shifts of peaks found were reported for ¹³NMR spectra. Infrared spectra were obtained from a Nicolet iS5 FTIR spectrometer. Dynamic light scattering experiments were performed on a Zetasizer Nano ZS instrument.

General procedure for reaction condition screening

The reaction was run at a 0.2 mmol scale based on the limiting reagent. A 4 mL vial was charged with palladium salt, ligand, additives, cyclohexanones, mesitylphenyliodonium salt, 1 mL 1,4-dioxane and cosolvent. The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap and heated in a pie-block at 80 °C for 12 hours under stirring. Then the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with 1 mL ethyl acetate and appropriate amount of dodecane (~10 mg) was added as the internal standard. The mixture was stirred for an additional 5 min to fully mix. ~0.2 mL of the resulting mixture was filtered through a small plug of silica gel, eluted with diethyl ether. The filtrate was directly used for GC analysis.

GC instrument conditions: inlet temperature: 250 °C, detector temperature: 300 °C, hydrogen flow: 40 mL/min, air flow: 400 mL/min, column + makeup flow: 30 mL/min. Method: 50 °C hold for 0 min, followed by a temperature increase of 10°C/min to 280 °C, hold 0 min (total run time: 23 min). Yields of product and byproducts are calculated using standard curves with dodecane as the internal standard. Full details of the control reactions are listed below (Table S1).

Table S1. Full Details of the Control Reactions



General Procedure for the β-Arylation of Ketones with Mesitylaryliodonium Salts



Unless stated otherwise, an 8 mL vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (9.0 mg, 0.1 equiv.), KTFA (122 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylaryliodonium salt (0.4 mmol), L1 (24 mg, 0.1 equiv.), TFA (200 µL), ketone (1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (100 µL) and 1,4-dioxane (2 mL). The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap and heated in a pie-block at 80 °C for 12 hours under stirring. Then, the vial was allowed to cool to room temperature and the mixture was filtered through a small plug of silica gel, eluted with diethyl ether. The solvent was then removed *in vacuo* and flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate or DCM/methanol) of the residue gave the arylation product.

II. Synthesis of mesitylaryliodonium salts

Iodonium salts **S3a-S3d**,^[1] **S3f**,^[2] **S3g**,^[4] **S3h**,^[3] **S3i**,^[2] **S3k**,^[1] **S3I**^[1] and **S3o**^[1] are known compounds and were synthesized according to the methods in literatures.^[10] Procedures of synthesis and full characterization data were provided for previously unknown iodonium salts **S3e**, **S3j**, **S3m**, **S3n**, **S3p** and **S3q**.



Scheme S1. Methods for the Synthesis of Mesitylaryliodonium Salts



Mesityl(1-naphthyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (S3e): A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with naphthalene-1-boronic acid (860 mg, 5.0 mmol) and 50 mL DCM. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (1.2 mL, 2.0 equiv.) was added to the mixture dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. A solution of iodomesitylene diacetate (1.91 g, 1.05 equiv.) in 15 mL DCM was added to the flask dropwise at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hr. The reaction was quenched by 100 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the bi-phase mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give mesityl(1-naphthyl)iodonium tetrafluoroborate (1.78 g, 77 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.1 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give mesityl(1-naphthyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid (1.85 g, 92 % Yield). Mp. 175-177 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.81-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 2.65 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.62, 142.49, 135.11, 133.65, 133.31, 131.70, 130.74, 130.04, 129.46, 128.38, 127.54, 127.29, 120.88, 120.35 (q, $J_{C-F} = 319$ Hz), 113.41, 27.23, 21.06. ¹⁹F NMR $(376 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta$ -78.32. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1499, 1450, 1249, 1161, 1030, 912, 741. **HRMS** calcd C₁₉H₁₈I⁺ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 373.04480. Found: 373.04470.



Mesityl(3-chlorophenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (S3j): A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with 3-chlorophenylboronic acid (780 mg, 5.0 mmol) and 50 mL DCM. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (1.2 mL, 2.0 equiv.) was added to the mixture dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. A solution of iodomesitylene diacetate (1.91 g, 1.05 equiv.) in 15 mL DCM was added to the flask dropwise at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hr. The reaction was quenched by 100 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the biphase mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give mesityl(3-chlorophenyl)iodonium tetrafluoroborate (1.18 g, 53 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.8 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred

overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give mesityl(3-chlorophenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid (1.28 g, 95 % Yield). Mp. 187-189 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (ddd, $J_1 = 8.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, $J_3 = 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, $J_1 = 8.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.54, 142.47, 137.25, 132.61, 132.29, 132.02, 131.24, 130.36, 120.73, 120.09 (q, $J_{C-F} = 318$ Hz), 111.60, 27.10, 21.14. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.45. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1558, 1250, 1165, 1030, 913, 744. HRMS calcd C₁₅H₁₅Cll⁺ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 356.99015. Found: 356.99000.



Mesityl(3-formylphenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (S3m): A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with 3-formylphenylboronic acid (1.50 g, 10 mmol) and 100 mL DCM. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (2.4 mL, 2.0 equiv.) was added to the mixture dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. A solution of iodomesitylene diacetate (3.82 g, 1.05 equiv.) in 30 mL DCM was added to the flask dropwise at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hr. The reaction was guenched by 150 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the bi-phase mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give mesityl(3-formylphenyl)iodonium tetrafluoroborate (2.50 g, 57 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 30 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.6 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give mesityl(3formylphenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid (2.42 g, 85 % Yield). Mp. 147-149 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.93 (s, 1H), 8.20 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.98 (m, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 2.64 (s, 6H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 192.60, 144.32, 142.66, 140.41, 139.40, 135.35, 133.58, 130.84, 123.52, 121.64 (q, J_{C-F} = 320 Hz), 116.09, 27.31, 21.49. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.45. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1708, 1701, 1588, 1451, 1271, 1241, 1187, 1029, 742. **HRMS** calcd $C_{16}H_{16}IO^+$ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 351.02400. Found: 351.02430.



Mesityl(4-benzyloxyphenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (S3n): A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with 4-benzyloxyphenylboronic acid (1.14 g, 5 mmol) and 50 mL DCM. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (1.2 mL, 2.0 equiv.) was added to the mixture dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. A solution of iodomesitylene diacetate (1.91 g, 1.05 equiv.) in 15 mL DCM was added to the flask dropwise at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hr. The reaction was quenched by 100 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the bi-phase mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give mesityl(4-benzyloxyphenyl)iodonium tetrafluoroborate (2.12 g, 82 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.1 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give mesityl(4benzyloxyphenyl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a white solid (2.25 g, 95 % Yield). Mp. 166-169 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) § 7.66-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 2.64 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 161.72, 143.81, 142.26, 137.53, 137.07, 130.62, 129.45, 129.06, 128.81, 124.05, 121.63 (q, $J_{C-F} = 320$ Hz), 119.21, 104.65, 70.61, 27.19, 21.44. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.34. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1572, 1485, 1246, 1180, 913, 748. **HRMS** calcd C₂₂H₂₂IO⁺ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 429.07100. Found: 429.07090.



Mesityl(2,5-dimethylthiophen-3-yl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate (S3p): To a stirring solution of 2,5-40 trifluoroethanol dimethylthiophene (1.12)g, 10 mmol) in mL (TFE) was added (hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo)mesitylene (4.34 g, 1.0 equiv.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored by TLC. After 2,5-dimethylthiophene was consumed, the reaction was quenched by 150 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The mixture was extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give mesityl(2,5-dimethylthiophen-3-yl)iodonium tetrafluoroborate (1.20 g, 27 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.8 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give mesityl(2,5dimethylthiophen-3-yl)iodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as a off-white solid (700 mg, 51 % Yield). Mp. 219-221 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.07 (s, 2H), 6.64-6.63 (m, 1H), 2.65 (s, 6H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.47, 144.02, 142.29, 141.65, 130.41, 127.75, 121.70, 120.29 (q,

 $J_{C-F} = 319 \text{ Hz}$, 94.68, 27.08, 21.02, 16.99, 15.42. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.36. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1275, 1237, 1164, 1032, 913, 744. HRMS calcd C₁₅H₁₈IS⁺ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 357.01680. Found: 357.01720.



S3q: A 250 mL round bottom flask was charged with boronic acid **S3q'** (1.67 g, 5.6 mmol)⁵ and 50 mL DCM. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C using an ice bath. Boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (1.2 mL, 2.0 equiv.) was added to the mixture dropwise at 0 °C and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. A solution of iodomesitylene diacetate (2.14 g, 1.05 equiv.) in 15 mL DCM was added to the flask dropwise at 0 °C. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hr. The reaction was quenched by 100 mL saturated NaBF₄ solution and the bi-phase mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous extracted with DCM. The combined organic phase was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was triturated with diethyl ether to give a white solid. The solid was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried to give tetrafluoroborate salt (1.53 g, 47 % Yield). The tetrafluoroborate salt was dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile and cooled to 0 °C. Trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.75 mL, 1.5 equiv.) was added to the solution dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The suspension was stored at -20 °C for 2 hr and the solid was filtered and washed with diethyl ether to give **S3q** as a white solid (1.43 g, 84 % Yield). Mp. 185-188 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 2.92-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 6H), 2.50 (dd, $J_1 = 19$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.33-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.19-1.94 (m, 4H), 1.67-1.37 (m, 6H), 0.88 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 220.16, 144.56, 144.33, 142.44, 141.96, 133.59, 130.32, 129.82, 129.45, 120.30 (q, J_{C-F} = 320 Hz), 119.99, 108.45, 50.28, 47.73, 44.18, 37.33, 35.72, 31.34, 29.24, 27.17, 25.83, 25.34, 21.48, 21.10, 13.71. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -78.32. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2931, 1736, 1250, 1162, 1028, 913, 743. **HRMS** calcd C₂₇H₃₂IO⁺ [M-CF₃SO₃]⁺: 499.14920. Found: 499.14900.

III. Synthesis and pyrolysis of ligand L1



To a stirred solution of 1,2-bis(phenylthio)ethane (5.0 g, 20.3 mmol) in 80 mL of acetonitrile was added Chloramine T trihydrate (14.3 g, 2.5 equiv.). The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and a large amount of white precipitate was observed. After the completion of the reaction, 120 mL of dichloromethane was added to the mixture. The white precipitate was filtered off and the solvent was removed in vacuo to give a white solid. The residue was dissolved in about 400 mL of acetone. Brief heat can be used to facilitate the dissolution, but the ligand may decompose under elevated temperature (the ligand pyrolysis proceeds in above 95% conversion within 30 min at 80 °C). After the majority of the solid was dissolved, the mixture was filtered to remove the insoluble impurities when hot (The filtration step is important since the insoluble impurities were observed to hamper the β -arylation reactions). The filtrate was allowed to cool to room temperature and stand for 1 day to crystalize. The small white crystals were filtered and washed with cold acetone to give a mixture of meso and racemic ligands (5.87 g, 49% Yield). Among the two diastereomers, the meso ligand has worse solubility than the racemic ligand. Thus both ligands can be isolated as pure diastereomers by collecting the early or late portion of the crystalized solids.

L1-meso: Mp. 165-168 °C. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64-7.53 (m, 14H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 3.37-3.22 (m, 4H), 2.30 (s, 6H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.09, 140.47, 132.97, 132.61, 130.29, 129.28, 126.12, 126.03, 46.17, 21.40. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1305, 1293, 1145, 953, 913, 748. **HRMS** calcd C₂₈H₂₈N₂NaO₄S₄⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 607.08240. Found: 607.08230.

L1-racemic: Mp. 141-143 °C. ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86-7.84 (m, 4H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 6H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 3.92-3.83 (m, 2H), 3.32-3.22 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.19, 140.30, 132.55, 132.23, 130.11, 129.39, 126.28, 126.12, 49.78, 21.39. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3061, 2924, 1597, 1446, 1283, 1143, 1088, 968, 913, 747. **HRMS** calcd C₂₈H₂₈N₂NaO₄S₄⁺ [M+Na]⁺: 607.08240. Found: 607.08230.



N-Tosyl phenyl vinyl sulfilimine (L11): White solid. Mp. 109-112 °C. $R_f = 0.5$ (DCM/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.43-6.37 (m, 1H), 6.32-6.28 (m, 1H), 6.05-6.02 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.73, 141.31, 134.64, 133.14, 132.56, 130.01, 129.17, 126.97, 126.22, 125.99, 21.40. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3055, 2924, 1723, 1446, 1282, 1142, 1089, 966, 750. HRMS calcd C₁₅H₁₆NO₂S₂ [M+H]⁺: 306.0622. Found: 306.0625.



N-Phenylsulfanyl tosylamine (L12): White solid. Mp. 101-104 °C. $R_f = 0.6$ (hexane/ethyl acetate = 2:1). ¹H **NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H). 6.07-6.03 (m, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.26, 137.23, 136.02, 129.62, 128.93, 127.72, 127.49, 126.11, 21.58. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 1597, 1366, 1293, 1161, 1090, 913, 874, 743. **HRMS** calcd C₁₃H₁₃NO₂S₂ [M]⁺: 279.0388. Found: 279.0387.

IV. Details of mechanistic studies

General procedure for kinetic measurement



An 8 mL vial or 10 mL round-bottom flask was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (9.0 mg, 0.1 equiv.), KTFA (122 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylphenyliodonium salt (189 mg, 0.4 mmol), L1 (24 mg, 0.1 equiv.), TFA (200 µL), cyclohexanone (98 mg, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (100 µL) and 1,4-dioxane (2 mL). Dodecane (~25 mg) was added to the reaction vial as the internal standard. The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap and heated in a pie-block at 80 °C (the round-bottom flask sealed with a rubber septum and heated in an oil-bath). Aliquots (~50 µL) were taken from the reaction mixture and directly passed through a small plug of silica gel (~400 mg), eluted with diethyl ether, to give ~10 mL solution. 1-2 mL of the solution was subsequently submitted to the gas chromatography.



Figure S1. Kinetic Profile

General procedure for the hot filtration test



Figure S2. Hot Filtration Test

As the precipitation of palladium black was noted during and after the reaction, hot filtration tests were employed to distinguish between a soluble nanoparticle and a heterogeneous catalyst. Four parallel reactions were set up for the hot filtration test. To the 4 mL vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.1 equiv.), KTFA (61 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylphenyliodonium salt (95 mg, 0.2 mmol), L1 (12 mg, 0.1 equiv.), TFA (100 µL), cyclohexanone (49 mg, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (50 µL) and 1,4-dioxane (1 mL). Dodecane (~10 mg) was added to the reaction vial as the internal standard. The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap, heated in a pie-block at 80 °C, and monitored by gas chromatography when necessary.

Vial 1: This reaction was set up as the control reaction. The mixture was monitored at 90 min and 12 h using gas chromatography and the yields calculated.

Vial 2: This reaction was set up as the control reaction to investigate the effect of Celite on the reaction. The reaction was set up as described above. The mixture was monitored, and 100 mg Celite was added to the reaction at 90 min. The resulting mixture was kept stirring at 80 °C and monitored by gas chromatography at 12 h.

Vial 3: This reaction was set up as described above. The mixture was monitored at 90 min and 100 mg Celite was added to the reaction. After stirring for 1 min, the mixture was passed through a small plug of Celite (~100 mg) to a new vial (**Vial 3a**) when hot and the Celite plug was rinsed with ~200 μ L of dioxane. The heat was restored to the new vial and reaction monitored at 110 min and 12 h. The remaining Celite layer was added to a new vial (**Vial 3b**) containing KTFA (61 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylphenyliodonium salt (95 mg, 0.2 mmol), TFA (100 μ L), cyclohexanone (49 mg, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (50 μ L) and 1,4-dioxane (1 mL). The new vial was heated at 80 °C and monitored by gas chromatography at 110 min and 12 h.

Vial 4: This reaction was set up as described above. The mixture was monitored at 90 min and quickly passed through a PTFE 200 nm filter to a new vial when hot and the filter was rinsed with \sim 200 µL of dioxane. The heat was restored to the new vial and reaction monitored at 110 min and 12 h.

The yields obtained for different vials at different time point were summarized below. *These results suggested that the active palladium catalyst generated during the induction period sustained the solubility, and those heterogeneous species were not responsible for the transformation.*

Yield	Before filtration	After fi	ltration
(%)	90 min	100 min	12 h
Vial 1	18		76
Vial 2	19		74
Vial 3a		22	74
Vial 3b	16	0	0
Vial 4	17	22	68

 Table S2. Results of Hot Filtration Test

General procedure for the mercury poisoning test



A supplementary mercury poisoning test was also executed to support the presence of palladium nanoparticles. Molecular mercury is known to inhibit noble metal-nanoparticle-catalyzed reactions through amalgamation. An 8 mL vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (9.0 mg, 0.1 equiv.), KTFA (122 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylphenyliodonium salt (189 mg, 0.4 mmol), L1 (24 mg, 0.1 equiv.), TFA (200 µL), cyclohexanone (98 mg, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (100 µL) and 1,4-dioxane (2 mL). Dodecane (~25 mg) was added to the reaction vial as the internal standard. The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap and heated in a pie-block at 80 °C. Aliquots (~50 µL) were taken from the reaction mixture and directly passed through a small plug of silica gel (~400 mg), eluted with diethyl ether, to give ~10 mL solution. 1-2 mL of the solution was subsequently submitted to the gas chromatography. When the product formation initiated and the yield reached ~40%, 200 µL of mercury was added to the mixture via syringe. The resulting mixture was heated at 80 °C and monitored by gas chromatography. *The kinetic data showed the product formation was inhibited with the addition of mercury*.



Figure S3. Mercury Poisoning Test

General procedure for dynamic light scattering (DLS) experiment



An 4 mL vial was charged with $Pd(OAc)_2$ (4.5 mg, 0.1 equiv.), KTFA (61 mg, 2.0 equiv.), Mesitylphenyliodonium salt (95 mg, 0.2 mmol), L1 (12 mg, 0.1 equiv.), TFA (100 µL), cyclohexanone (49 mg, 2.5 equiv.), H₂O (50 µL) and 1,4-dioxane (1 mL). Dodecane (~10 mg) was added to the reaction vial as the internal standard. The vial was sealed with a PTFE lined cap and heated in a pie-block at 80 °C. After the reaction has proceeded for 90 min, the

mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and gas chromatography was used to confirm that the product formation had initiated. Subsequently, the reaction solution was directly used for the dynamic light scattering analysis using a Zetasizer Nano ZS instrument. The data was collected at 25 °C and the medium parameters were set according to the properties of 1,4-dioxane (dispersant refractive index: 1.420, viscosity: 1.1944 mPa•s).



Figure S4. Dynamic Light Scattering Data

V. Characterization of products

Products **3a-3l**, **4i-k** are known from previous literatures. ¹H-NMR and data and spectra, as well as MS data are provided for them. Full characterization data are provided for all the other products.



Scheme S2. β -Arylation Products (Ar¹=*p*-PhC₆H₄, Ar²=*p*-AcC₆H₄)



3-Phenylcyclohexan-1-one (3a):^[5] 66 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 3H), 3.06-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.60 (ddt, *J*₁ = 14.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 4.6 Hz, *J*₃ = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.3 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.43-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.73 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 174 (M⁺, 90), 131 (80), 117 (100), 104 (78), 91 (50), 78 (40).



3-(*p***-Tolyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3b)**: ^[5] 69 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16-7.09 (m, 4H), 3.02-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.57 (ddt, $J_1 = 10.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.6$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.55-2.28 (m, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.17-2.25 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.72 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 188 (M⁺, 65), 145 (40), 131 (100), 118 (46), 105 (20), 91 (30).



3-(4-Nitrophenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3d): ^[5] 49 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.12 (tt, $J_1 = 11.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.64-2.37 (m, 4H), 2.21-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.70 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 219 (M⁺, 90), 176 (100), 163 (30), 115 (25), 91 (20), 77 (23).



3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (3e): ^[5] 64 % Yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.87 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (ddd, $J_1 = 11.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.6$ Hz 1H), 2.81-2.77 (m, 1H), 2.71-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.61-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.44 (m, 1H),



2.29-2.18 (m, 2H), 2.06-1.85 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m/z*, relative intensity): 224 (M⁺, 85), 181 (25), 167 (100), 153 (70), 141 (30), 128 (20).



3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (3f): ^[6] 70 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.65 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dd, $J_1 = 8.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.19 (tdd, $J_1 = 11.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 3.3$ Hz 1H), 2.72-2.61 (m, 2H), 2.51 (dqd, $J_1 = 14.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.47-2.33 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.06-1.92 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.77 (m, 1H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 224 (M⁺, 90), 181 (33), 167 (100), 154 (60), 141 (45), 128 (30), 115 (21).



Methyl 4-(3-oxocyclohexyl)benzoate (3g): ^[5] 60 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H). 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.10-3.03 (m, 1H), 2.59 (ddt, $J_1 = 14.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.9$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.57-2.53 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.19-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.73 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 232 (M⁺, 95), 201 (52), 189 (75), 145 (71), 131 (100), 91 (33), 77 (40).



3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3h): ^[5] 60 % Yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.85 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.95 (tt, $J_1 = 11.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.59 (dt, $J_1 = 14.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.33 (m, 3H), 2.18-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.71 (m, 2H). EI-MS (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 204 (M⁺, 55), 161 (30), 147 (100), 134 (35), 91 (30), 77 (20).



3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (3i): ^[5] 74 % Yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.34 (ddt, $J_1 = 6.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.12-3.04 (m, 1H), 2.69-2.64 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.55 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.35 (m, 2H), 2.22-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.76 (m, 2H). EI-MS (*m/z*, relative intensity): 250 (M⁺, 98), 207 (25), 193 (100), 178 (72), 165 (48), 152 (35), 115 (20).



3-(3-Chlorophenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3j): ^[5] 62 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dt, $J_1 = 7.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.99 (tt, $J_1 = 11.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.62-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.27 (m, 3H), 2.19-2.13 (m, 1H), 2.10-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.71 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 208 (M⁺, 85), 165 (100), 151 (46), 138 (60), 115 (50), 103 (52), 77 (33).

3-(4-Fluorophenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3k): ^[5] 66 % Yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.03-6.99 (m, 2H), 3.00 (tt, $J_1 = 11.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (ddt, $J_1 = 13.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.33 (m, 3H), 2.17-2.04 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.71 (m, 2H). EI-MS (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 192 (M⁺, 60), 149 (40), 135 (100), 122 (70), 109 (35), 96 (30), 70 (20).



3-(4-Acetylphenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3l): ^[5] 53 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.12-3.04 (m, 1H), 2.64-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.47 (dqd, *J*₁ = 11.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.3 Hz, *J*₃ = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.42-

2.32 (m, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.20-2.13 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.07 (m, 1H), 1.93-1.74 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 216 (M⁺, 40), 201 (100), 173 (20), 145 (20), 131 (40), 115 (20), 77 (20).



3-(3-Oxocyclohexyl)benzaldehyde (3m): 50 % Yield. Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (Hex/EA = 2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.49 (m, 2H), 3.13-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.64-2.45 (m, 3H), 2.43-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.14 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.08 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.74 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.22, 192.20, 145.34, 136.76, 132.94, 129.39, 128.70, 127.08, 48.59, 44.37, 41.04, 32.56, 25.39. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2939, 2868, 1700, 1602, 1448, 1255, 1144, 913, 743. HRMS calcd $C_{13}H_{14}O_2$ [M]⁺: 202.0994. Found: 202.0995.



3-(4-(Benzyloxy)phenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3n): 46 % Yield. White solid. Mp. 96-98 °C. $R_f = 0.4$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45-7.31 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.93 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 2.97 (tt, $J_1 = 11.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.56 (ddt, $J_1 = 13.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.2$ Hz, $J_3 = 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.41-2.33 (m, 1H), 2.17-2.11 (m, 1H), 2.09-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.71 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.39, 157.47, 136.98, 136.79, 128.56, 127.94, 127.49, 127.44, 114.91, 70.03, 49.19, 43.96, 41.15, 32.95, 25.47. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3033, 2932, 2868, 1710, 1512, 1244, 913, 743. HRMS calcd C₁₉H₂₀O₂ [M]⁺: 280.1463. Found: 280.1459.



3-(4-Bromophenyl)cyclohexan-1-one (3o):^[9] 60 % Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 2H), 2.98 (tt, $J_1 = 11.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.42-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.04 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.70 (m, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 252 (M⁺, 75), 254 (75), 209 (50), 211 (50), 195 (60), 197 (50), 182 (60), 184 (60), 116 (100), 103 (50), 77 (60).



3-(2,5-Dimethylthiophen-3-yl)cyclohexan-1-one (3p): 50 % Yield. Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.54 (s, 1H), 3.04-2.96 (m, 1H), 2.46-2.31 (m, 4H), 2.40-2.39 (m, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.16-2.10 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.79-1.68 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.01, 139.62, 135.88, 130.12, 123.61, 48.61, 41.25, 38.23, 32.19, 25.60, 15.22, 12.60. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2937, 2863, 1713, 1447, 1221, 1145, 913, 742. HRMS calcd C₁₂H₁₆OS [M]⁺: 208.0922. Found: 208.0923.



(8R,9S,13S,14S)-13-methyl-3-(3-oxocyclohexyl)-6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16-decahydro-17Hcyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-one (3q): 51 % Yield as a mixture of two diastereomers. White solid. Mp. 115-117 °C. $R_f = 0.3$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 2.98-2.90 (m, 3H), 2.61-2.26 (m, 7H), 2.20-1.94 (m, 6H), 1.89-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.40 (m, 6H), 0.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 221.02, 211.35, 141.85, 138.14, 136.73, 127.23, 127.20, 125.66, 123.96, 123.92, 50.44, 48.97, 48.95, 47.98, 44.32, 44.28, 41.17, 38.11, 35.83, 32.80, 31.54, 29.45, 26.49, 25.65, 25.59, 21.55, 13.82. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2931, 2863, 1738, 1712, 1454, 1256, 1222, 1007, 913, 734. HRMS calcd C₂₄H₃₁O₂ [M+H]⁺: 351.2324. Found: 351.2321.



(3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)cyclopentan-1-one (4a): 53 % Yield. White solid. Mp. 120-122 °C. $R_f = 0.5$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.57 (m, 4H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 3H), 3.46 (ddd, $J_1 = 18.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 11.1$ Hz, $J_3 = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (dd, $J_1 = 18.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.3$ Hz, 1H,) 2.54-2.43 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.29 (m, 2H), 2.10-1.98 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 218.37, 142.07, 140.69, 139.72, 128.76, 127.37, 127.24,

127.14, 126.99, 45.81, 41.91, 38.88, 31.22. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3031, 2975, 2895, 1737, 1488, 1403, 1135, 912, 843, 774. **HRMS** calcd $C_{17}H_{16}O[M]^+$: 236.1201. Found: 236.1204.



3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)cycloheptan-1-one (4b): 66 % Yield. White solid. Mp. 130-132 °C. $R_f = 0.4$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H). 2.98-2.92 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.60 (m, 3H), 2.15-1.98 (m, 3H), 1.83-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 213.43, 145.95, 140.80, 139.30, 128.72, 127.35, 127.14, 126.98, 126.83, 51.21, 43.96, 42.40, 39.19, 29.23, 24.17. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2932, 2869, 1692, 1395, 1142, 913, 744. **HRMS** calcd C₁₉H₂₀O [M]⁺: 264.1514. Found: 264.1513.



5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-3,3-dimethylcyclohexan-1-one (4c): 50% Yield. Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.56 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 3H), 3.21 (tt, $J_1 = 12.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.5$ Hz, 1H) 2.62-2.57 (m, 1H), 2.52-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.33 (m, 1H), 2.21 (dt, $J_1 = 13.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.92-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.01, 143.22, 140.72, 139.70, 128.74, 127.40, 127.21, 127.07, 127.00, 54.31, 48.15, 46.37, 40.04, 35.46, 32.17, 25.72. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3028, 2957, 2869, 1710, 1487, 1142, 913, 762, 743. HRMS calcd C₂₀H₂₂O [M]⁺: 278.1671. Found: 278.1663.



3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-methylcyclohexan-1-one (4d): 70% Yield. The relative stereochemistry was determined by X-ray crystallography. White solid. Mp. 107-109 °C. $R_f = 0.5$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 2H), 2.62-2.46 (m, 5H), 2.21-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.52 (m, 1H), 0.83 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.92, 142.65, 140.72,

139.60, 128.73, 127.61, 127.38, 127.18, 126.96, 51.73, 49.09, 41.38, 36.74, 34.59, 19.32. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3028, 2955, 2870, 1714, 1467, 1143, 913, 765, 743. **HRMS** calcd $C_{19}H_{20}O$ [M]⁺: 264.1514. Found: 264.1510.



3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (4e): 56% Yield. The relative stereochemistry was determined by X-ray crystallography. White solid. Mp. 132-134 °C. $R_f = 0.3$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.03 (m, 5H), 3.31-3.19 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.56 (m, 4H), 2.34-2.27 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.04 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.12, 142.77, 141.66, 140.57, 139.16, 128.64, 128.30, 127.63, 127.45, 127.09, 126.99, 126.84, 126.38, 50.23, 49.39, 49.18, 41.57, 34.49. **IR** (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3028, 2928, 2870, 1716, 1487, 1142, 913, 742. **HRMS** calcd C₂₄H₂₂O [M]⁺: 326.1671. Found: 326.1668.



3-(4-Acetylphenyl)-4-(phenoxymethyl)cyclohexan-1-one (4f): 70% Yield. The relative stereochemistry was determined by coupling constants. Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.3$ (Hex/EA = 2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.72-6.68 (m, 2H), 3.72 (dd, $J_1 = 9.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.54 (dd, $J_1 = 9.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.14 (ddd, $J_1 = 12.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 11.5$ Hz, $J_3 = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.68-2.53 (m, 4H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.48-2.33 (m, 2H), 1.97-1.86 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.51, 197.61, 158.54, 147.76, 136.11, 129.40, 129.08, 127.41, 120.89, 114.26, 68.77, 48.19, 46.31, 41.73, 40.66, 29.19, 26.59. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 2923, 1716, 1682, 1606, 1496, 1269, 1245, 756. HRMS calcd C₂₁H₂₂O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 345.14610. Found: 345.14620.



5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,2-dimethylcyclohexan-1-one (4g): 40% Yield. White solid. Mp. 118-121 °C. $R_f = 0.7$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.08-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, $J_1 = 14.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.54 (ddd, $J_1 = 14.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.3$ Hz, $J_3 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.14-2.03 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.88 (dt, $J_1 = 13.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.76-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 3H), 1.14 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 215.00, 143.45, 140.77, 139.61, 128.74, 127.35, 127.19, 127.01, 126.96, 45.18, 44.97, 44.55, 39.85, 29.23, 25.16, 25.15. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3028, 2965, 2929, 1707, 1487, 1143, 913, 764, 742. HRMS calcd C₂₀H₂₂O [M]⁺: 278.1671. Found: 278.1673.



3-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-5-phenylcyclohexan-1-one (4h): 32% Yield as a single diastereomer. Attempts to determine the relative stereochemistry (*cis* or *trans*) were unsuccessful. Colorless oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (Hex/EA = 5:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 5H), 3.42-3.34 (m, 2H), 2.83-2.71 (m, 4H), 2.38 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.20, 143.77, 142.84, 140.66, 139.47, 128.75, 128.62, 127.42, 127.28, 127.22, 127.00, 126.98, 126.57, 46.62, 46.55, 39.40, 38.86, 38.56. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) 3028, 2923, 1710, 1487, 1275, 913, 764, 748. HRMS calcd C₂₄H₂₂O [M]⁺: 326.1671. Found: 326.1672.



Ethyl 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-oxopiperidine-1-carboxylate (4i).^[6] 61% Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 3H), 5.86 (br, 1H), 4.30-4.21 (m, 3H), 3.22-3.15 (m, 1H), 3.04-2.99 (m, 1H), 2.88 (dd, $J_1 = 15.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.59-2.51 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.35 (m, 1H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **HRMS** calcd C₂₀H₂₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 324.15940. Found: 324.15950.



1,1,1-Trifluoro-4,4-diphenylbutan-2-one (4j):^[7] 50% Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 6H), 4.65 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J*₁ = 7.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 0.5 Hz, 2H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 278 (M⁺, 50), 209 (30), 167 (100), 152 (40), 103 (20), 77 (20).



4-(4-Acetylphenyl)-4-phenylbutan-2-one (4k):^[8] 38% Yield. ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87-7.84 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 3H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H). **EI-MS** (*m*/*z*, relative intensity): 266 (M⁺, 100), 251 (30), 223 (80), 209 (90), 165 (80).

VI. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra









S29













7.367.357.357.327.327.327.257.247.257.237.23 $\begin{array}{c} 3.05\\ 3.01\\ 2.97\\ 2.03\\ 2.03\\ 2.256\\ 2.256\\ 2.256\\ 2.256\\ 2.234\\ 1.72\\ 1.72\\ 1.72\\ 1.72\\ 1.72\\ \end{array}$ -0.00 $\|$ 3a **1.80** 2.80 ₫ 8.6 1.06-2.12 7.5 -0.! 10.0 8.0 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 f1 (ppm) 3.0 1.0 0.5 0.0 8.5 4.5 4.0 3.5 2.0 9.5 9.0 2.5 1.5 -0.00 7.16 7.16 7.14 7.12 7.12 $\begin{array}{c} 2.98\\ 2.57\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 2.55\\ 1.25\\ 1.85\\$ *k11* Мe 3b

2.00

1.0 1.5

2.0

0.5 0.0 -0.5

7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 f1 (ppm)

4.08

0.5 10.0 9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0



821 821 8.18 7.41 7.37 7.37 7.37 7.37 7.37

3.183.103.102.562.26







3f









 $<^{7.94}_{7.92}$ $<^{7.33}_{7.31}$

3.113.2592.592.592.2082.082.082.172.171.921.1921.74















-6.54

 $\begin{array}{c} 3.00\\ 2.299\\ 2.45\\ 2.39\\ 2.39\\ 2.39\\ 2.39\\ 2.23\\ 2.39\\ 2.23\\ 2.23\\ 2.23\\ 2.23\\ 2.23\\ 2.23\\ 1.94\\ 1.94\\ 1.94\\ 1.94\\ 1.94\\ 1.76\\ 1.76\\ 1.76\end{array}$











7.587.567.7467.7467.7427.7377.377.377.377.37



3.21

















S55

VII. X-ray data



Figure S5. X-ray structure of racemic L1

Empirical formula	C28 H28 N2 O4 S4	
Formula weight	584.76	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	I 2/a	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 15.181(6) Å	<i>α</i> = 90°.
	b = 15.559(5) Å	β= 105.016(18)°.
	c = 23.696(7) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$.
Volume	5406(3) Å ³	
Z	8	
Density (calculated)	1.241 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.390 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	2448.0	
Crystal size	0.73 x 0.27 x 0.20 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	1.583 to 32.082°.	
Index ranges	-22<=h<=19, -22<=k<=23, -	-27<=1<=33
Reflections collected	26405	
Independent reflections	7408 [R(int) = 0.0433]	
Completeness to theta = 32.082°	93.3 %	
Absorption correction	Multi-scan	
Max. and min. transmission	1.000 and 0.705	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	

Data / restraints / parameters Goodness-of-fit on F² Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R indices (all data) Largest diff. peak and hole 8824 / 0 / 345 1.065 R1 = 0.0431, wR2 = 0.1080 R1 = 0.0521, wR2 = 0.1127 0.43 and -0.60 e.Å⁻³



Figure S6. X-ray structure of meso L1

Empirical formula	C28 H28 N2 O4 S4		
Formula weight	584.76		
Temperature	133(2) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	monoclinic		
Space group	P 21/c		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.5498(4) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$.	
	b = 20.4037(13) Å	β=100.469(3)°.	
	c = 11.0725(9) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$.	
Volume	1455.10(18) Å ³		
Z	2		
Density (calculated)	1.335 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.362 mm ⁻¹		
F(000)	612		
Crystal size	0.340 x 0.230 x 0.180 mm	n	
Theta range for data collection	3.317 to 27.498°.	3.317 to 27.498°.	
Index ranges	-8<=h<=8, -26<=k<=26,	-14<=1<=14	
Reflections collected	20450		
Independent reflections	3345 [R(int) = 0.0550]		

Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	1.00 and 0.848
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	3345 / 210 / 265
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.023
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0359, wR2 = 0.0833
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0503, wR2 = 0.0935
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.417 and -0.330 e.Å ⁻³



Figure S7. X-ray structure of 4d/DNP adduct

Empirical formula	C25 H24 N4O4		
Formula weight	444.48		
Temperature	100(2) K		
Wavelength	1.5418 Å		
Crystal system	monoclinic		
Space group	P 21/c		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 20.3743(10) Å	<i>α</i> = 90°.	
	b = 5.7348(4) Å	β= 102.342(6)°.	
	c = 19.2424(15) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$.	
Volume	2196.4(3) Å ³		
Z	4		
Density (calculated)	1.344 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.760 mm ⁻¹		

F(000)	936
Crystal size	0.190 x 0.130 x 0.024 mm
Theta range for data collection	4.443 to 76.290°.
Index ranges	-25<=h<=25, -7<=k<=7, -23<=l<=23
Reflections collected	22364
Independent reflections	4531 [R(int) = 0.0248]
Completeness to theta = 67.680°	99.9 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	1.00 and 0.848
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	4531 / 57 / 327
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.058
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0460, wR2 = 0.1146
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0500, wR2 = 0.1179
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.391 and -0.494 e.Å ⁻³

VIII. References

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