Ruthenium-Catalysed C-H Silylation of Unprotected Gramines,

Tryptamines and Their Congeners

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Supporting Information

Table of Contents

1.	Genera	al Inform	ation	2				
2.	Proced	ures for	es for the synthesis of new gramines					
	a.	a. Method A						
	b.	Method	1 B	3				
	с.	Analyti	ical data for new gramines	4				
3.	Silylati	ion of he	teroarenes	6				
	a.	Reactio	on optimization	6				
	b.	Genera	l silylation procedure	6				
	c. Analytical data for new silvlated compounds							
	d. Mechanistic experiments							
		i.	C-H/D exchange experiments using gramines and silanes	16				
		ii.	C-H/D exchange experiments using indoles and silanes	17				
		iii.	Si-H/D crossover experiments	18				
		iv.	Additional comments on the mechanism	19				
4.	Refere	nces		20				
5.	Spectra	a		21				

1. General Information

Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were performed under an atmosphere of Argon with magnetic stirring. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using aluminium-backed plates coated with Kieselgel 60 (0.20 mm, UV 254) and visualized under ultraviolet light ($\lambda = 254$ nm) or with KMnO₄ staining solution. Purification by column chromatography was performed using Kiesel gel 60 H silica gel (particle size 0.063-0.100 mm).

¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity 400 MHz (¹H 399.5MHz, ¹³C 100.6, ¹⁹F 376 MHz) or Varian Mercury Plus 300 MHz (¹H 300.0 MHz, ¹³C 75.5 MHz) spectrometer at ambient temperature. NMR data are reported as follows: Chemical shift in ppm, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm and referenced indirectly to tetramethylsilane *via* the residual solvent signals. ¹H: CDCl₃ at 7.26, DMSO-*d*₆ at 2.50, C₆D₆ at 7.16 ppm; ¹³C: CDCl₃ at 77.0, DMSO-*d*₆ at 39.5, C₆D₆ at 128.1 ppm. ¹⁹F spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity 400 MHz spectrometer (376 MHz) and calibrated to an external standard of CFCl₃ at 0.00 ppm.

High resolution accurate Electron Ionisation (EI) mass spectrometry was performed on a VG Autospec mass spectrometer or, in the case of Electrospray Ionisation (ESI-MS), on a Bruker Daltonics microOTOF II mass spectrometer.

THF was freshly distilled from Na⁰/benzophenone and stored over 4Å molecular sieves under Argon. Toluene and 1,4-dioxane were pre-dried over 4Å molecular sieves and stored under Argon prior to use. Unless otherwise stated, all the other reagents, transition metal salts, silanes and norbornene were obtained commercially and used without further purification. The following known gramine derivatives were synthesized using previously reported literature procedures: 1-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine,¹ *N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)methanamine,² 1-(6-chloro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine.³ 3-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)propan-1-amine was obtained commercially but found to contain water as an impurity. Prior to its use it was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL/g) and dried over MgSO₄. The solution was filtered through a glass frit and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the dry starting material.

2. Procedures for the synthesis of new gramines

2a. Method A:

Based on a modified literature procedure.⁴

In a two necked round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, formaldehyde solution 37% wt. in H₂O (1.1 equiv.) was taken up in a mixture of 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL) and glacial acetic acid (3.5 mL). The mixture was cooled to 0 °C before dimethylamine solution 40% wt. in H₂O (1.1 equiv.) and the indicated indole (1.0 equiv.) were added. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h, allowed to warm up to rt and stirred for 20 h. Water (4.0 mL), charcoal (150 mg) and Celite (150 mg) were added and the mixture was stirred for 10 minutes and filtered through a pad of Celite. The filtrate was adjusted to pH 8-9 by addition of aqueous NaOH solution (2N) and then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL × 3). The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified by column chromatography using $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH/NH_3$ (28% wt. in H₂O) (100:5:1) as the eluent.

2b. Method B:

Based on a modified literature procedure.⁵

A 20 mL round bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar under an argon atmosphere, was charged with trimethylamine (2.0 equiv.), EtOH (4.5 mL), dimethylamine hydrochloride (2.0 equiv.), titanium(IV) isopropoxide (2.0 equiv.) and the indicated heteroarene (1.0 equiv.). The reaction was allowed to stir at rt for 10 h. NaBH₄ (1.5 equiv.) was added and allowed to stir at rt for 10 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of aqueous ammonia solution (28% wt. in H₂O, 15 mL) leading to the formation of a thick precipitate. The suspension was filtered through a glass frit and the precipitate was washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate was dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃ (28% wt. in H₂O) (100:5:1) as the eluent.

2c. Analytical data for new gramines:

1-(1*H*-benzo[*g*]indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (Method B)



Yield = 0.482 g, 72% (based on 3.0 mmol of 1*H*-benzo-indole-3-carbaldehyde). Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.1$ (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH:NH₄OH = 10.0:0.5:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.87 (br s, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.1, Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 8.1Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 2.18 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 130.7, 129.7, 128.3, 125.1, 123.4, 123.3, 122.5, 122.1, 120.6, 119.8, 119.0, 113.6, 54.4, 44.9. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}N_2$ [M]⁺: 224.1313, found 224.1310.

Methyl 3-((dimethylamino)methyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylate (Method A)



Yield = 0.375 g, 46% (based on 3.5 mmol of methyl 1*H*-indole-6carboxylate). Colorless solid. $R_f = 0.2$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.22 (br s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.65 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

168.2, 135.6, 131.4, 127.3, 123.5, 120.5, 118.7, 113.6, 113.3, 54.2, 51.9, 45.2. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{13}H_{16}N_2O_2$ [M]⁺: 232.1212, found 232.1216.

N,*N*-dimethyl-1-(5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3yl)methanamine (Method A)



Yield = 0.245 g, 28% (based on 4.0 mmol of 5-nitro-1*H*-indole). Yellow solid. $R_f = 0.1$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 11.66 (br s, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 2.16 (s, 6H). ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆): δ 140.2, 139.7, 128.1, 126.7, 116.5, 116.4, 114.9, 111.9, 54.2, 44.9. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₁H₁₄N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: 220.1081, found 220.1085.

<u>1-(6-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (Method A)</u>



Yield = 0.684 g, 59% (based on 6.0 mmol of 6-fluoro-1*H*-indole). Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.70 (br s, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (td, J = 9.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 2H),

2.30 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.9 (d, J_{CF} = 237.3 Hz), 136.1 (d, J_{CF} = 12.4 Hz), 124.4, 124.0 (d, J_{CF} = 3.5 Hz), 119.9 (d, J_{CF} = 10.2 Hz), 113.0, 108.2 (d, J_{CF} = 24.5 Hz), 97.3 (d, J_{CF} =

26.0 Hz), 54.4, 45.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –(121.53 – 121.60) (m). HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₁H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺: 193.1136, found 193.1135.

1-(benzofuran-2-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (Method B)

Yield = 0.046 g, 53% (based on 0.5 mmol benzofuran-2-carbaldehyde). Yellow oil. $R_f = 0.8$ (CH₂Cl₂:/MeOH = 3:2). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 7.27 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7

2H), 2.32 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 155.1, 128.3, 123.8, 122.6, 120.6, 111.2, 105.2, 56.4, 45.2. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NO [M]⁺: 175.0997, found 175.0999.

<u>1-(1*H*-indol-3-yl-2-deutero)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (Method A)</u>

Yield = 0.639 g, 73% (based on 5.0 mmol of 2-deutero-1*H*-indole). Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.2$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:0.5:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.21 (br s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz,

1H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H). δ . ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ 136.1, 127.8, 123.9 (t), 121.6, 119.3, 118.9, 112.2, 111.2, 54.2, 45.1. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₁H₁₃DN₂ [M]⁺: 175.1220, found 175.1223.

3. Silylation of heteroarenes

3a. Reaction Optimisation

Table S1. Optimisation using gramine.

	NMe ₂			NMe ₂
1 0.5 m	H H=SiMe ₂ Pl H a nmol	h Cataly nbe, tol., 1 20 I	st 135 °C, n	N SiMe ₂ Ph
Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	equiv. silane	equiv. nbe	yield (%)
1 ^a	[lr(μ-OMe)COD] ₂ (5)	3	3	0
2	RhCl(PPh ₃) ₃ (5)	5	5	0 (34) ^b
3	Ru ₃ (CO) ₁₂ (5)	5	5	0
4	RuH ₂ (PPh ₃) ₄ (5)	5	5	56
5	RuH ₂ (CO)(PPh ₃) ₃ (5)	3	3	62
6	RuH ₂ (CO)(PPh ₃) ₃ (5)	5	5	85 (83) ^c
7	RuH ₂ (CO)(PPh ₃) ₃ (2.5)	5	5	71
8 ^d	RuH ₂ (CO)(PPh ₃) ₃ (2.5)	5	5	78
9 ^e	RuH ₂ (CO)(PPh ₃) ₃ (5)	5	0	traces

^a 4,4'-di-*tert*-butylbipyridine ligand (10 mol%), THF, 80 °C, 24 h. ^b 3-Methylindole formed in 34% yield. ^c 3 g (17.2 mmol) scale of **1a**. ^d Reaction time = 16 h. ^e Reaction performed under air in refluent xylene as solvent.

3b. General procedure for silylation reaction

A reaction tube equipped with a Young's tap and a magnetic stirring bar was charged with the appropriate heteroarene substrate (0.5 mmol), $RuH_2(CO)(PPh_3)_3$ (0.023 g, 0.025 mmol) and then evacuated and backfilled with Argon three times. Under a positive flow of Argon, norbornene (0.235 g, 2.5 mmol), toluene (0.25 mL) and hydrosilane (2.5 mmol) were added. Unless indicated otherwise, the reaction mixture was heated for 20 h at 135 °C, cooled to rt and purified directly by silica gel chromatography using the listed solvent system.

3c. Analytical data for new silylated compounds

1-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (2a)

Yield = 0.131 g, 85%. Brown oil, solidifies on standing. $R_f = 0.5$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (br s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J = 8.0, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.65

(s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 0.73 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.0, 137.3, 134.2, 133.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.1, 123.8, 122.3, 119.7, 119.2, 110.7, 55.2, 45.3, -1.9. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₉H₂₄N₂Si [M]⁺: 308.1712, found 308.1709.

N,*N*-dimethyl-1-(2-(triphenylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)methanamine (2b)

Yield = 0.192 g, 89%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (br s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 7.42 (dd, J = 7.2, 6.9 Hz, 6H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H) 3.56

(s, 2H), 1.91 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.7, 136.2, 136.0, 133.0, 130.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 123.2, 120.7, 120.0, 111.0, 54.7, 44.2. HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₉H₂₈N₂Si [M]⁺: 432.2022, found 432:2025.

N,*N*-dimethyl-1-(2-(methyldiphenylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)methanamine (2c)



Yield = 0.152 g, 82%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20.0:1.0). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.90 (br s, 1H), 7.88 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 4H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 6H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 2.08 (s, 6H), 1.01 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.3,

135.3, 135.0, 131.7, 129.7, 129.0, 128.1, 128.1, 122.6, 119.9, 119.5, 110.9, 54.9, 44.8, -3.0. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{24}H_{26}N_2Si~[M]^+$: 370.1865, found: 370.1867.

<u>1-(2-(ethyldimethylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (2d)</u>



/ Yield = 0.095 g, 73%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.27 (br s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, SiMe₂Et J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 1.04 – 1.00 (m, 3H), 0.93 – 0.87 (m, 2H), 0.42 (s,

6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.2, 135.1, 129.0, 122.2, 121.2, 119.5, 119.3, 110.8, 54.9, 44.9, 7.6, 7.3, -2.9. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₅H₂₄N₂Si [M]⁺: 260.1709, found 260.1714.

N,N-dimethyl-1-(2-(triethylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanamine (2e)



Yield = 0.072 g, 50%. Pale brown solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.20 (br s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 1.4 - 1.0 (m, 9H), 0.98 - 0.94 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ 138.4, 133.7, 129.0, 122.2, 121.4, 119.7, 119.3, 110.7, 55.1, 44.8, 7.4, 3.6. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₇H₂₉N₂Si [M+H]⁺: 289.2095, found 289.2084.

1-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-5-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (2j)



Yield = 0.083 g, 49% Colourless solid. The yield could be improved to 0.101 g (60%) using 6 mol% of RuH₂(CO)(PPh₃)₃. R_f = 0.2 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.02 (br s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.21

(d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 0.67 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3, 136.8, 134.2, 133.4, 129.8, 129.1, 128.2, 113.6, 111.6, 100.9, 76.5, 56.1, 54.4, 44.1, -1.9. HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₀H₂₆N₂OSi [M]⁺: 338.1814, found 338.1808.

1-(5-methoxy-2-(methyldiphenylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (2k)



Yield = 0.140 g, 70%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20.0:1.0). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (br s, 1H), 7.60 – 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 6H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (ddd, J = 8.8, 2.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 2.04 (s,

6H), 0.98 – 0.97 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.9, 135.5, 135.0, 134.3, 133.7, 132.1, 129.6, 129.5, 128.1, 113.3, 111.5, 101.2, 55.9, 55.2, 45.0, -3.1. HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₅H₂₈N₂OSi [M]⁺: 400.1971, found 400.1982.

1-(5-methoxy-2-(triphenylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (2l)



Yield = 0.208 g. 90%. Yellow solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1).¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86 (br s, 1H), 7.75 – 7.69 (m, 6H), 7.54 – 7.40 (m, 10H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 2H), 1.90 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ 153.8, 136.2, 134.0, 133.4, 129.9, 129.6, 128.1, 113.6, 111.5, 101.9, 55.9, 55.5, 44.9. HRMS-EI calcd for C₃₀H₃₁N₂OSi [M⁺]: 463.2200, found 463.2200.

<u>1-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1*H*-benzo[g]indol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (2m)</u>



Yield = 0.066 g, 37%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.54 (br s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.38 (m, 6H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 0.74 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.4, 134.2, 132.9, 131.4, 130.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 125.2, 125.2, 124.0, 121.5, 120.3, 119.7, 119.4, 55.2,

45.2, -1.8. HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₃H₂₆N₂Si [M]⁺: 358.1865, found: 358.1861.

N,*N*-dimethyl-1-(2-(triphenylsilyl)-1*H*-benzo[g]indol-3-yl)methanamine (2n)



Yield = 0.126 g, 88% (based on 0.3 mmol 1*H*-benzo[*g*]indol-3-yl-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine). Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.64 (br s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.70 (m, 6H), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 12H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 1.92 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ 136.2, 135.9, 133.9, 133.1, 131.0, 130.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 125.4, 125.1, 124.5, 121.3, 120.9, 120.3, 119.4, 54.8, 44.2. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₃₃H₃₁N₂Si [M+H]⁺: 483.2251, found 483.2245.

1-(6-chloro-2-(triphenylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (20)



Yield = 0.117 g, 50%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 95:5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (br s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 6H), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 9H), 7.29 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 1.90 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.9, 136.2, 135.0, 132.8, 130.2, 129.1, 128.3, 127.8, 127.5, 121.7, 120.5, 110.8, 54.9, 44.4. HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₉H₂₇N₂SiCl [M]⁺: 466.1632, found: 466.1639.

1-(6-fluoro-2-(triphenylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (2p)



Yield = 0.106 g, 47%. Yellow solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 95:5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.68 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 6H), 7.52 – 7.41 (m, 9H), 6.97 (dd, J = 9.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dt, J = 9.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (s, 2H), 1.90 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.6 (d,

 $J_{CF} = 239.6$ Hz), 138.6 (d, $J_{CF} = 12.3$ Hz), 136.2, 133.0, 130.1, 128.2, 125.7, 121.8 (d, $J_{CF} = 10.2$ Hz), 108.7 (d, $J_{CF} = 24.5$ Hz), 97.0 (d, $J_{CF} = 25.8$ Hz), 55.1, 44.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -119.9 (broad). HRMS-EI calcd for C₂₉H₂₇N₂SiF [M]⁺: 450.1928, found: 450.1934.

(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)methanamine (3)



Yield = 0.112 g, 80%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH = 20.0:1.0). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (br s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 - 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.49 (s, 2H),

0.68 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.3, 136.8, 134.0, 132.0, 129.8, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 122.6, 119.5, 118.6, 111.0, 37.6, -1.7. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₇H₂₀N₂Si [M]⁺: 280.1396, found 280.1392.

2-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-amine (4a)



Yield = 0.118 g, 79%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (br s, 1H), 7.66 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.48 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (s, 4H), 1.79 (s, 2H), 0.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.4, 137.0, 134.2, 132.1, 129.8, 128.9, 128.2, 123.2, 122.5, 119.3, 119.1, 111.0, 43.4, 30.3, -1.6. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{18}H_{22}N_2Si$ [M]⁺: 294.1552, found 294.1554.

2-(2-(triethylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-amine (4b)



Yield = 0.129 g, 93%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 (br s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 4H), 2.23 (s, 2H), 1.05 – 0.96 (m, 9H), 0.94 – 0.88

(m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.5, 131.6, 128.9, 123.0, 122.2, 119.0, 118.9, 110.8, 43.7, 30.6, 7.4, 3.8. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₆H₂₆N₂Si [M]⁺: 274.1865, found: 274:1866.

3-(1-(triethylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)propan-1-amine (5)



NH₂ Yield = 0.043 g, 30%. Yellow oil, darkens quickly upon standing. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 2.96 (s, 2H), 2.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.00 – 0.91 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

140.9, 130.7, 127.8, 121.4, 119.4, 118.8, 116.1, 112.9, 39.9, 29.1, 22.2, 6.7, 4.3. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₇H₂₉N₂Si [M]⁺: 289.2095, found 289.2093.

Methyl 2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (6)

Yield = 0.033 g, 21%. Colourless solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6): δ 8.52 (app. d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H, ⁴J is not resolved), 7.84 (br s, 1H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.09 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (app. d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, ⁴J is not resolved), 3.56 (s, 3H), 0.73 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6): δ 166.6, 145.2, 138.4, 137.2, 134.9, 130.1, 128.7, 128.2, 123.5, 122.5, 122.3, 117.2, 111.7, 50.6, -2.9. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{18}H_{19}NO_2Si$ [M]⁺: 309.1185, found 309.1196.

Methyl 2-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)acetate (7)



Yield = 0.062 g, 38%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (br s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 7.9, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 3.61 (s,

3H), 0.67 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.2, 138.1, 136.4, 134.2, 133.1, 129.8, 128.8, 128.2, 122.7, 119.7, 119.1, 117.9, 111.0, 51.8, 31.9, -1.9. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NO₂Si [M]⁺: 323.1342, found 323.1335.

Methyl 2-(1-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)acetate (7')



Yield = 0.039 g, 24%. Pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 10:1). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 – 7.03 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 0.79 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.4, 140.6,

135.2, 133.8, 130.9, 130.3, 129.2, 128.2, 121.7, 119.9, 119.0, 113.5, 110.6, 51.9, 31.3, -1.4. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}NO_2Si [M]^+$: 323.1342, found 323.1346.

N-methyl-2-(2-(triethylsilyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-amine (10)

NHMe SiEt₃

Yield = 0.744 g, 58%. (based on 4.5 mmol of 2-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*methylethan-1-amine, 10 equiv. of HSiEt₃ used). Brown solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH:NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (br s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 - 7.15 (m, 1H),

7.13 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 3.06 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 1H), 1.03 – 0.99 (m, 9H), 0.95 – 0.86 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.4, 131.4, 128.7, 122.8, 122.1, 119.0, 118.8, 110.7, 53.2, 36.0, 26.3, 7.4, 3.7. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₇H₂₈N₂Si [MH]⁺: 289.2100, found 289.2093.

<u>2-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-</u> amine (11a)



Yield = 0.123 g, 76%. Pale solid. $R_f = 0.2$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (br s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J

= 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.21 (br s, 2H), 3.08 – 2.80 (m, 4H), 0.66 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.0, 136.7, 134.1, 133.6, 133.2, 129.8, 129.1, 128.2, 121.8, 113.3, 111.7, 100.3, 56.0, 42.6, 28.8, -1.7. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₉H₂₅N₂OSi [M+H⁺]: 325.1731, found 325.1718.

2-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-5-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)ethan-1-amine (11b)



Yield = 0.096 g, 62%. Pale solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH = 10.0:1.0:0.1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (br s, 1H), 7.66 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.21 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (s, 4H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.45 (br s, 2H), 0.68 (s, 6H). ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.1, 136.7, 134.1, 132.0, 129.6, 129.1, 128.4, 128.1, 124.2, 122.8, 118.5, 110.6, 43.5, 30.5, 21.4, -1.6. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₉H₂₅N₂Si [M+H⁺]: 309.1782, found 309.1771.

1-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (12)



Yield = 0.124 g, 76%. Brown oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.69 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 2.05 (s, 6H), 0.78 – 0.68 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.3, 141.9, 141.5, 138.0, 136.4, 134.0, 129.2, 127.7, 124.2, 123.6, 123.1, 122.0, 57.4, 45.0, -0.8. HRMS-ESI calcd for $C_{19}H_{24}NSSi [M+H]^+$: 326.1393, found 326.1394.

1-(3-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)benzofuran-2-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (13)

SiMe₂Ph NMe₂ Vield = 0.039 g, 25%. Brown oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 95:5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, J = 8.2, 7.3 Hz, 4H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 0.66 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.2, 138.2, 134.2, 134.1, 132.7, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 124.0, 122.5, 122.3, 111.2, 56.1, 45.2, -0.5. HRMS-ESI calcd for C₁₉H₂₄NOSi [M+H]⁺: 310.1622, found 310.1616.

<u>1-(2,4-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)furan-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (14a)</u>



Yield = 0.084 g, 46%. Brown oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 95:5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57 – 7.54 (m, 4H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.35 (m, 6H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 1.62 (s, 2H), 0.59 (s, 6H), 0.54 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.5, 138.3, 133.9, 133.9, 133.8, 129.5, 129.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 127.9, 117.3, 37.3, -1.7, -2.3. HRMS-EI: calcd for

C₂₀H₂₅NOSi₂ (17a-CH₃) [M+H]⁺: 351.1475, found 351.1437

1-(2,4-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)pyrrol-3-yl)-*N*,*N*-dimethylmethanamine (14b)



Yield = 0.080 g, 43%. Brown solid. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 95:5). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 6.85 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 1.22 (s, 2H), 0.58 (s, 6H), 0.53 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.3, 139.9, 137.5, 134.0, 133.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 128.1, 127.8, 127.0, 116.0,

39.6, -1.2, -1.5. HRMS-EI calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}N_2Si_2$ [M+H]⁺: 365.1791, found 365.1797.

The reaction of *N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)methanamine with dimethylphenylsilane gave a separable mixture of mono- and disilylated products, **15a** and **15b**:

1-(2-(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)thiophen-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (15a)

Yield = 0.054 g, 39%. Brown oil. $R_f = 0.4$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.57 - 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.41 - 7.28 (m, 4H), 3.35 (s, 2H), 2.03 (s, Ph

6H), 0.64 - 0.59 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.1, 134.0, 130.8, 130.3, 129.2, 128.8, 127.7, 127.6, 58.7, 44.7, -1.0. HRMS-CI calcd for C₁₅H₂₂NSSi [M+H]⁺: 276.1242, found 276.1241.

1-(2,4-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)thiophen-3-yl)-N,N-dimethylmethanamine (15b)

Yield = 0.111 g, 54%. Brown oil. $R_f = 0.6$ (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20:1). ¹H PhMe₂Si NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.30 (m, 7H), 3.29 (s, 2H), 1.99 (s, 6H), 0.61 (s, 6H), 0.59 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 143.1, 139.9, 138.8, 138.2, 138.0, 134.0, 133.9, 130.9, 129.2, 129.1, 127.8, 127.7, 58.9, 45.1, -0.9, -1.2. HRMS-CI calcd for C₂₃H₃₂NSSi₂ [M+H]⁺: 410.1794, found 410.1791.

2-(triethylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-5-amine (16c)



Yield = 0.081 g, 33% (based on 1.0 mmol of 1*H*-indol-5-amine). Pale brown solid. $R_f = 0.3$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (br s, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.59 -6.58 (br m, 1H), 3.65 (br s, 2H), 1.08 - 0.98 (m, 9H), 0.92 -0.77 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.9, 136.1, 133.8, 129.5, 113.3, 111.2, 111.1, 105.2, 7.4, 3.5. HRMS-EI calcd for C₃₀H₃₁N₂OSi [M⁺]: 246.1552, found 246.1555.

1-(triethylsilyl)-1*H*-indol-5-amine (16c')



Yield = 0.054 g, 22% (based on 1.0 mmol of 1*H*-indol-5-amine). Pale yellow oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ SiEt₃ 7.31 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, J = 2.3, 0.9 Hz,

1H), 6.68 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd, J = 3.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (br s, 2H), 1.07 - 0.95 (m, 15H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): *δ* 138.5, 135.3, 132.3, 131.0, 113.2, 112.2, 106.2, 103.7, 6.7, 4.2. HRMS-EI calcd for C₃₀H₃₁N₂OSi [M⁺]: 246.1552, found 246.1559.

4-chloro-2-(triethylsilyl)-1H-indole (16e)



Yield = 0.081 g, 40% (based on 1.0 mmol of 4-chloro-1*H*-indole). Pale brown oil. $R_f = 0.5$ (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.26 (br s, 1H), 7.32 -7.30 (m,1H), 7.15 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.86- 6.85 (m, 1H), 1.08 - 1.04 (m, 9H), 0.91-0.85 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.4,

136.7, 127.5, 125.7, 122.6, 119.2, 110.6, 109.4, 7.4, 3.5. HRMS-EI calcd for C₃₀H₃₁N₂OSi [M⁺]: 260.1054, found 260.1060.

6-Fluoro-2-(triethylsilyl)-1H-indole (16f)



6.87 (ddd, J = 9.6, 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, J = 2.1), 1.03 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 9H), 0.84 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.5 (d, J_{CF} = 239.4 Hz), 138.6 (d, J_{CF} = 12.4 Hz), 136.2 (d, J_{CF} = 3.51 Hz), 125.3, 121.0 (d, J_{CF} = 10.3 Hz), 112.3, 108.3 (d, J_{CF} = 24.7 Hz), 96.0 (d, J_{CF} = 25.0 Hz), 7.4, 3.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -121.3. HRMS-EI calcd for C₁₄H₂₀NFSi [M⁺]: 249.1349, found 249.1348.

3d. Mechanistic experiments

3d.i. C-H/D exchange using gramines and silanes

The following experiments were performed under the general silvlation conditions described on page S6. The extent of deuterium incorporation at the N1-H, C4-H and C7-H positions was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy (CDCl₃) for the silvlation product **2e** and skatole. Skatole formation occurs as a result of gramine decomposition in a pathway competing with the silvlation reaction. C2-Silvlated skatole was not detected under these reaction conditions.



	H/D- Gram ine	H/D- SiEt₃	Silylation product						Skatole					Other	
			yieldª	C7-D	C4-D	N-D	CH₂ ^b	NMe2 ^b	yieldª	C7-D	C4-D	C2-D	N-D	CH3 ^b	
1	н	D	66%	3%	19%	13%	1.84	6.01	32%	11%	17%	29%	16%	1.95	 Et₃Si-SiEt₃ intractable mixture of indole related compounds
2	D	н	22%	5%	15%	20%	1.78	5.73	54%	6%	17%	72%	13%	2.50	 Et₃Si-SiEt₃ intractable mixture of indole related compounds
3	D	н	18%	5%	9%	10%	1.60	4.96	55%	9%	16%	69%	15%	2.66	
4	D	D	17%	8%	40%	13%	1.62	5.44	30%	11%	15%	79%	17%	2.02	 Et₃Si-SiEt₃ intractable mixture of indole related compounds
5°	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52%	3%	6%	80%	10%	2.97	 intractable mixture of indole related compounds C2-D- arundine⁶ detected.^d

Table S2: Overview H/D-exchange experiments with Deuterium labelled substrates. The deuterium incorporation at the indicated positions of the reaction products are given in percent. ^aIsolated yield. ^bIntegral of resonance corresponding to the indicated group relative to C5-H and C6-H signals. ^cReaction time 3 h. ^dDetected by ¹H NMR⁶ and EI-MS.

3d.ii. C-H/D exchange experiments using indoles and silanes

A reaction between the respective indole substrate (0.5 mmol) and D-SiEt₃ (0.293 g, 2.5 mmol) was performed in accordance with the general procedure for silylation reactions (p. S6), except that the reaction temperature was 150 °C and the reaction time was 16 h. The crude reaction mixture was purified directly by column chromatography (solvent gradient EtOAc/PE 1:40 to 1:20). The extent of deuterium incorporation in the products was determined by ¹H NMR (CDCl₃). The reaction mass balance was composed of intractable indole-containing by-products and Et₃Si-SiEt₃ (0.150 g). In the case of (b), a C2-alkylation product (**22**) was also isolated in 18% yield.



Scheme S1: C-H/D-exchange experiments using indole substrates and D-SiEt₃. The deuterium incorporation at the indicated positions of the reaction products are given in percent relative to the C5-H and C6-H signals. All yields correspond to the isolated products.

3d.iii Si-H/D crossover experiments

The following experiments were performed in pre-dried microwave vials under argon atmosphere. The vial was charged with $RuH_2(CO)(PPh_3)_3$ (0.008 mmol, 7.3 mg) and then evacuated and backfilled with argon three times. Norbornene (if appropriate), deutero-triethylsilane (19 mg, 0.16 mmol) and dimethylphenyl hydrosilane (22 mg, 0.16 mmol) were added. The vial was sealed and the reaction mixture was kept at the indicated temperature (pre-warmed heating bath) for 3 h. The vial was quickly cooled on ice, opened and the crude mixture was diluted with CDCl₃ and directly analyzed by NMR. The extent of deuterium incorporation into both silanes was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.



Table S3: Deuterium exchange among silanes. ^a The deuterium incorporation into both silanes was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture. ^b (Me₂PhSi)₂ was detected by ¹H NMR (9% spectroscopic yield) and by EI-MS. ^c (Me₂PhSi)₂ was detected by ¹H NMR (12% spectroscopic yield) and by EI-MS. The corresponding (Et₃Si)₂ homocoupling product was not detected in any of these experiments.

3d.iv. Additional comments on the mechanism

We summarise selected mechanistic insights on the basis of the experiments in sections 3d.i and 3d.ii:

- 1. Activation of C4-H was observed only in gramine (Table S2) and not indoles (Scheme S1a-c) and therefore requires the directing group at C3.
- 2. C7-H activation was observed for the reactions with gramines (Table S2). It was also observed for indole (20_H) only if an amine (in this case specifically diethylamine) was added to the reaction mixture (Scheme S1, reactions (a) vs (b)). This suggests that a strongly donating amine ligand on Ru facilitates C7-H cleavage, and that in the case of gramines, this is obtained from the decomposition of gramine to skatole.
- 3. The experiments reported in Table S2 show slightly greater levels of C7-H/D exchange in the skatole than in the gramine products. This suggests that the bulk of the C2-silyl substituent in **2e/2e-d** hinders C7-H activation, presumably by blocking Ru coordination to N1.
- 4. 20_{Me} also underwent no C7-H/D exchange (Scheme S1c). It seems likely, therefore, that C7-H activation requires insertion of Ru into the N1-H bond, which the methyl group (or steric hindrance as described above), inhibits.
- 5. The reaction between N-methylindole (20_{Me}) and D-SiEt₃ gave none of the corresponding C2silylated product 23 (Scheme S1c). However, 15% C2-D incorporation was observed in the indole $(20_{Me}-d)$, indicating that C2-H activation occurs. Presumably, therefore, the N-methyl substituent is sufficiently sterically demanding to prohibit reductive elimination to produce the C2-Si bond.
- 6. That C2-H activation in 20_{Me} occurs without any coordination available lends credence to the hypothesis that truly intermolecular C-H activation is possible for substrates without directing groups.
- 7. The presence of amines that do not facilitate the formation of 5- or 6-membered ruthenacycles also gave rise to increased levels of silylation at the pyrrolic nitrogen. For example, product 5 forms presumably because its directing group is too long to favour cycloruthenation at C2. Similarly, the amine groups of 16c' and 20_{siEt3}-d or the corresponding starting materials (Scheme S1b) cannot effect cycloruthenation, and presumably activate Ru towards intermolecular reactions instead.
- 8. In all of the presented reactions, C2-H activation/silylation was favoured over other positions (e.g., for silylation: **12** vs **13** or **15a** vs **15b**; for deuterium incorporation: higher levels of C2-H/D over C3-H/D exchange were observed in every reaction in Scheme S1). The origins of this selectivity have not yet been elucidated for Ru-catalysed C-H silylation. However, it is plausible that activation of C2-H benefits from the proximate heteroatom, whose electronegativity lowers the C-H σ^* LUMO energy, making oxidative addition to the Ru centre easier. For Rh-catalysed C-H silylation, Hartwig and Chang reported that electron-poor aryls are activated in preference over electron-rich aryls, consistent with transfer of electron-density from the metal to the substrate.⁷ Alternatively, as the C-H/D exchange appears to be reversible, C2-ruthenated intermediates/transition states are more stable.

4. References

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5. Spectra









Page **25** of **99**





Page **27** of **99**



Page **28** of **99**



9'IZI-9'IZI-9'IZI-9'IZI-5'IZI-5'IZI-



-160

-155



Page **30** of **99**













Page **36** of **99**


Page **37** of **99**





Page **39** of **99**



Page **40** of **99**



Page **41** of **99**



Page **42** of **99**







Page **45** of **99**









Page **49** of **99**



Page **50** of **99**















Page **57** of **99**





		-10
2°T		- 0
		10
		- 20
		- 06
9.75 —		- 40
		- 20
		09
		- 02
2.27 0.77 2.77		- 80
		 90 f1 (ppm
		100
0.111 —		110
9'811 ~ 5'611 ~	=	120
9 221 - 9 221 - 9 627 -		130
1250 1260 1261 1280		140
		150
le ₂ Ph		160
S T SIM		1 170
		180
		-

















Page **68** of **99**









Page **72** of **99**




Page **74** of **99**



Page **75** of **99**





Page **77** of **99**





Page **79** of **99**



Page **80** of **99**



Page **81** of **99**



Page **82** of **99**











Page **87** of **99**





Page **89** of **99**

















Page **97** of **99**





Page **99** of **99**