

Supporting Information

**Rh(III)-catalyzed chemoselective C–H functionalizations of
tertiary aniline *N*-oxides with alkynes**

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I. General remarks

NMR spectra were obtained on an Agilent 400-MR DD2 spectrometer. The ^1H NMR (400 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl_3 as the internal reference (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 7.26$). The ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 77.16$). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF (ESI). GC-MS spectra were recorded by Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 SE. Melting points were determined with XRC-1 and are uncorrected. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on HG/T2354-92 GF_{254} plates (Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd.).

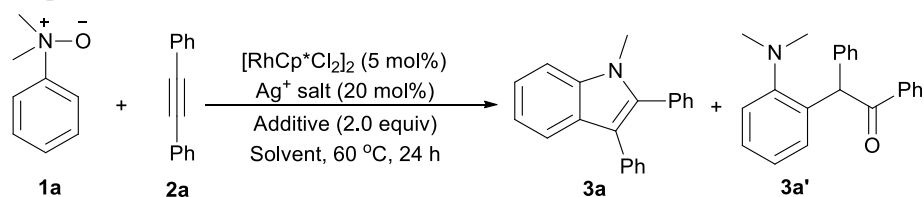
Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. $\text{RhCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ were purchased from Shanxi Kaida Chemical Engineering (China) CO., Ltd. Various arylamines and diphenylacetylene were purchased from Adamas-beta Ltd. $[\text{Cp}^*\text{RhCl}_2]_2$ (Cp^* = pentamethyl cyclopentadienyl),¹ tertiary anilines,² tertiary aniline *N*-oxides,³ and *N,N*-dimethylaniline-2,3,4,5,6-*d*₅ *N*-oxide (**1a**-[D₅])⁴ were prepared according to the literature procedures. Dichloroethane (DCE) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) were dried by refluxing over CaH_2 . MeOH and 1,4-dioxane were dried by refluxing over Mg and Na, respectively, and freshly distilled prior to use.

II. Optimization of the Rh-catalyzed annulation of *N,N*-dimethylaniline *N*-oxide **1a** with diphenylacetylene **2a**

A sealable tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (7.8 mg, 12.5 μmol , 5 mol%), Ag^+ salt (20 mol%), additive (2.0 equiv), *N,N*-dimethylaniline *N*-oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) and solvent (1.0 mL) under an N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1 to 50/1, v/v) to provide the desired product

3a and 2-(2-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone **3a'** as by-product.

Table S1 Optimization of reaction conditions.^a



Entry	Ag ⁺ salt	Additive	Solvent	Yield of 3a (%) ^b	Yield of 3a' (%) ^b
1	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	MeOH	60	25
2	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	dioxane	0	0
3	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	DMF	0	0
4	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	DCE	18	35
5	AgSbF ₆	PivOH	<i>t</i> -AmOH	15	19
6	AgSbF ₆	HOAc	MeOH	40	28
7	AgSbF ₆	CF ₃ COOH	MeOH	0	0
8	AgSbF ₆	AdCOOH	MeOH	45	27
9	AgSbF₆	CyCOOH	MeOH	70	trace
10	AgSbF ₆	Cu(OAc) ₂	MeOH	trace	trace
11	AgSbF ₆	CsOPiv	MeOH	15	22
12	AgPF ₆	CyCOOH	MeOH	45	18
13	AgOPiv	CyCOOH	MeOH	62	14
14	AgOAc	CyCOOH	MeOH	0	trace
15	-	CyCOOH	MeOH	44	27
16 ^c	AgSbF ₆	CyCOOH	MeOH	72	trace
17 ^d	AgSbF ₆	CyCOOH	MeOH	61	11
18 ^e	AgSbF ₆	CyCOOH	MeOH	0	0

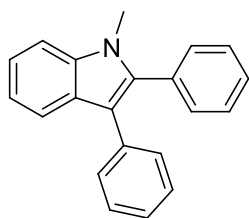
^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), **2a** (0.25 mmol), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol%), Ag⁺ salt (20 mol%) and additive (2.0 equiv) in solvent (1.0 mL) at 60 °C for 24 h under an N₂ atmosphere. ^b Isolated yields. ^c 40 mol% of AgSbF₆ was used. ^d **1a** (0.25 mmol), **2a** (0.25 mmol), and AgSbF₆ (1.2 equiv). ^e *N,N*-Dimethylaniline or *N*-methylaniline instead of **1a** was used as the substrate. DMF = dimethyl formamide, DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane, *t*-AmOH = *tert*-amyl alcohol, AdCOOH = 1-adamantanecarboxylic acid, CyCOOH = cyclohexanecarboxylic acid.

III. General procedure for the Rh-catalyzed functionalization of tertiary aniline *N*-oxides **1** with alkynes **2**

A sealable tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (7.8 mg, 12.5

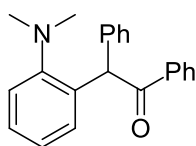
μmol , 5 mol%), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 50 μmol , 20 mol%), cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (CyCOOH) (64 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv), tertiary aniline *N*-oxide **1** (0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), alkyne **2** (0.25 mmol), and MeOH (1.0 mL) under an N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

IV. Experimental data for the described substances



1-Methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1*H*-indole (**3a**)⁵

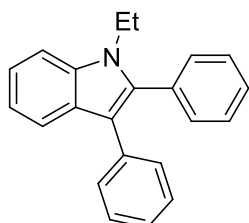
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3a** as a white solid (50 mg, 70% yield). M.p.: 137-138 $^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.16 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 137.9, 137.5, 135.4, 132.1, 131.3, 130.0, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.1, 125.6, 122.3, 120.3, 119.8, 115.3, 109.7, 31.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 284.1439, found 284.1433.



2-(2-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**3a'**)

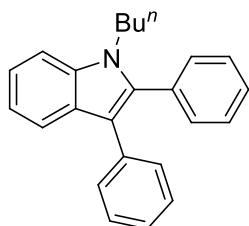
M.p.: 54-56 $^\circ\text{C}$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J =

7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 198.1, 151.8, 138.3, 137.7, 137.3, 132.5, 130.03, 129.95, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.2, 124.8, 121.7, 53.8, 44.8 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 338.1521, found 338.1523.



1-Ethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3b**)⁵

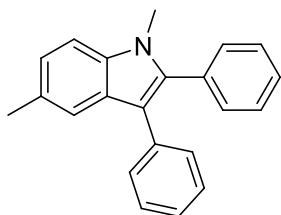
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Diethylaniline oxide **1b** (82.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3b** as a white solid (42 mg, 57% yield). M.p.: 118-120 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.24 (m, 10H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H), 4.15 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 137.4, 136.1, 135.3, 132.3, 131.2, 129.9, 128.6, 128.23, 128.22, 127.3, 125.5, 122.1, 120.2, 119.9, 115.3, 109.9, 38.8, 15.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 320.1415, found 320.1412.



1-Butyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3c**)

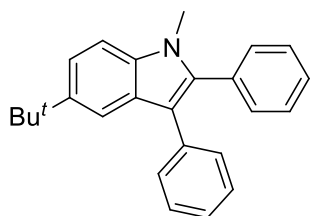
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dibutylaniline oxide **1c** (110.7 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), and AgSbF_6 (34.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used at 110 °C. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3c** as a white solid (49 mg, 60% yield). M.p.: 72-74 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.0

Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.24 (m, 10H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 4.09 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.24-1.15 (m, 2H), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 137.7, 136.5, 135.4, 132.4, 131.3, 130.0, 128.5, 128.21, 128.17, 127.2, 125.5, 122.1, 120.2, 119.8, 115.3, 110.1, 43.8, 32.2, 20.2, 13.8$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 326.1909, found 326.1910.



1,5-Dimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3d**)⁵

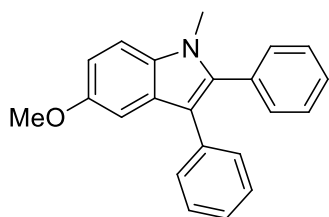
Following the general procedure. *N,N*,4-Trimethylaniline oxide **1d** (75.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3d** as a white solid (54 mg, 72% yield). M.p.: 107-108 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.58$ (s, 1H), 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 7H), 7.19-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 137.9, 135.8, 135.5, 132.1, 131.2, 130.0, 129.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 127.2, 125.5, 123.8, 119.2, 114.6, 109.4, 31.1, 21.7$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{NNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 320.1425, found 320.1425.



5-(*tert*-Butyl)-1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3e**)⁶

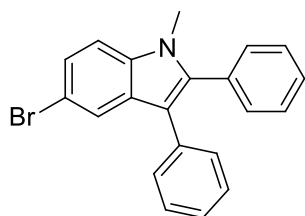
Following the general procedure. 4-(*tert*-Butyl)-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1e** (96.7 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3e** as a white solid (44 mg, 52% yield). M.p.: 168-169 °C. ^1H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.37-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 6H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 143.4, 138.1, 135.7, 135.6, 132.2, 131.3, 130.0, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 126.7, 125.5, 120.6, 115.4, 115.2, 109.3, 34.9, 32.1, 31.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₅H₂₅NNa [M+Na]⁺ 362.1885, found 362.1880.



5-Methoxy-1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3f**)⁵

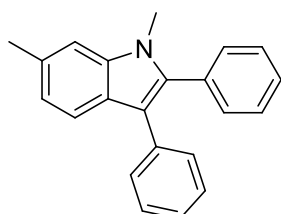
Following the general procedure. 4-Methoxy-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1f** (83.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), and AgSbF₆ (34.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used at 110 °C. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v) afforded **3f** as a white solid (51 mg, 65% yield). M.p.: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 8H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.8, 135.5, 132.8, 132.0, 131.2, 129.9, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.2, 125.5, 114.8, 112.5, 110.5, 110.1, 101.2, 56.2, 31.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 336.1364, found 336.1360.



5-Bromo-1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3g**)⁶

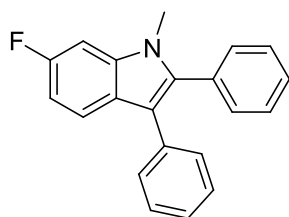
Following the general procedure. 4-Bromo-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1g** (108 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3g** as a white solid (72 mg, 80% yield). M.p.: 124-126 °C. ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 138.9, 136.1, 134.6, 131.5, 131.2, 129.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 126.0, 125.1, 122.2, 114.9, 113.7, 111.2, 31.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₁H₁₆BrKN [M+K]⁺ 400.0103, found 400.0107.



1,6-Dimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3h**)⁷

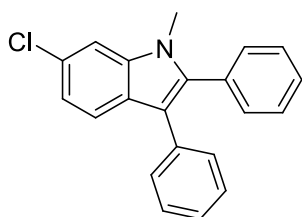
Following the general procedure. *N,N*,3-Trimethylaniline oxide **1h** (75.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3h** as a white solid (45 mg, 60% yield). M.p.: 105-106 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 6H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 137.9, 137.2, 135.5, 132.2, 131.3, 129.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0, 125.5, 124.9, 122.0, 119.4, 115.0, 109.7, 31.0, 22.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₂H₁₉NNa [M+Na]⁺ 340.1415, found 340.1416



6-Fluoro-1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3i**)

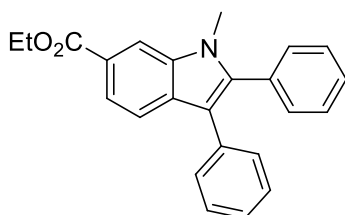
Following the general procedure. 3-Fluoro-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1i** (77.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3i** as a white solid (40 mg, 53% yield). M.p.: 138-140 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.16 (m, 9H), 6.86-6.82 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H)

ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 158.3, 155.8, 140.0, 139.9, 138.33, 138.32, 134.91, 134.90, 131.4, 131.3, 131.2, 130.99, 130.96, 129.9, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 125.9, 122.4, 122.3, 115.7, 115.5, 113.7, 113.6, 105.8, 105.7, 105.5, 31.61$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{FNNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 324.1164, found 324.1158.



6-Chloro-1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (**3j**)⁶

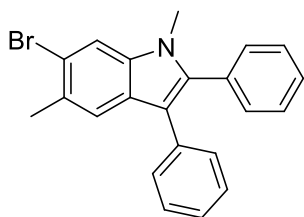
Following the general procedure. 3-Chloro-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1j** (85.8 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3j** as a white solid (52 mg, 66% yield). M.p.: 140 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.68$ (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 6H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 138.4, 137.9, 134.8, 131.6, 131.2, 129.9, 128.6, 128.41, 128.39, 128.1, 125.9, 125.7, 120.9, 120.7, 115.4, 109.7, 31.2$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClNNa}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 340.0869, found 340.0873.



Ethyl 1-methyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylate (**3k**)

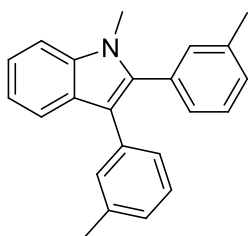
Following the general procedure. 3-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1k** (104.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), and AgSbF_6 (34.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used at 110 °C. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v) afforded **3k** as a white solid (55 mg, 62% yield). M.p.: 138-140 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 8.19$ (s, 1H), 7.88 (d,

$J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.40 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 4.45 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 167.9, 141.0, 136.8, 134.7, 131.4, 131.1, 130.5, 129.9, 128.64, 128.60, 128.4, 126.0, 124.0, 121.3, 119.2, 115.7, 112.1, 110.1, 60.9, 31.3, 14.6$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{NNaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 378.1470, found 378.1464.



6-Bromo-1,5-dimethyl-2,3-diphenyl-1H-indole (3l)

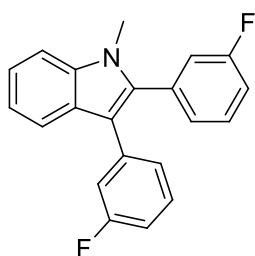
Following the general procedure. 3-Bromo-*N,N*,4-trimethylaniline oxide **1l** (115 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **3l** as a white solid (58 mg, 62% yield). M.p.: 176-178 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 7.61$ (s, 2H), 7.38-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 6H), 7.20-7.17 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 138.4, 136.9, 135.0, 131.6, 131.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 126.7, 125.8, 120.6, 118.8, 114.8, 113.3, 31.2, 23.3$ ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{BrN}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 376.0701, found 376.0695.



1-Methyl-2,3-di-*m*-tolyl-1H-indole (4a)

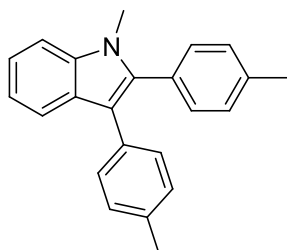
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-di-*m*-tolylethyne **2b** (51.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4a** as a

white solid (53 mg, 68% yield). M.p.: 94 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.11 (m, 6H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 138.02, 138.00, 137.61, 137.4, 135.3, 132.0, 131.8, 130.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.2, 127.1, 126.4, 122.1, 120.2, 119.8, 115.1, 109.6, 31.1, 21.7, 21.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NNa [M+Na]⁺ 334.1572, found 334.1570.



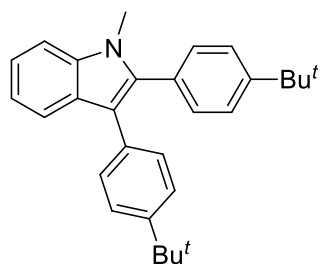
2,3-Bis(3-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (4b)

Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(3-fluorophenyl)ethyne **2c** (53.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4b** as a white solid (57 mg, 72% yield). M.p.: 106-108 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.13-6.99 (m, 5H), 6.90 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 164.2, 164.0, 161.8, 161.5, 137.5, 137.33, 137.25, 136.64, 136.62, 133.9, 133.8, 130.3, 130.2, 129.83, 129.75, 127.08, 127.05, 126.7, 125.63, 125.60, 122.9, 120.8, 119.7, 118.2, 118.0, 116.6, 116.4, 115.6, 115.4, 114.7, 114.6, 112.9, 112.7, 109.9, 31.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₁H₁₆F₂N [M+H]⁺ 320.1251, found 320.1247.



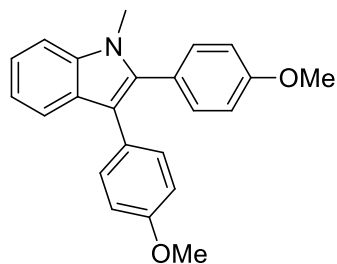
1-Methyl-2,3-di-*p*-tolyl-1*H*-indole (**4c**)⁵

Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-di-*p*-tolylethyne **2d** (51.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4a** as a white solid (40 mg, 52% yield). M.p.: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.16 (m, 8H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 137.9, 137.8, 137.4, 135.0, 132.5, 131.1, 129.8, 129.2, 129.13, 129.05, 127.2, 122.1, 120.1, 119.7, 114.9, 109.6, 31.0, 21.5, 21.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₂₁NNa [M+Na]⁺ 334.1572, found 334.1570.



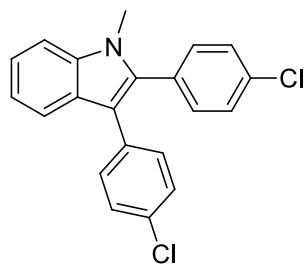
2,3-Bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indole (**4d**)⁵

Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-(*tert*-butyl)phenyl)ethyne **2e** (72.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4d** as a white solid (47 mg, 48% yield). M.p.: 180-182 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 7H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 9H), 1.32 (s, 9H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 151.0, 148.1, 137.8, 137.4, 132.4, 130.9, 129.5, 129.1, 127.3, 125.3, 125.1, 122.0, 120.0, 119.9, 114.8, 109.6, 34.8, 34.6, 31.6, 31.5, 31.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₉H₃₄N [M+H]⁺ 396.2691, found 396.2696.



2,3-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (**4e**)⁵

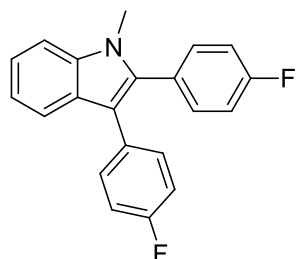
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyne **2f** (59.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v) afforded **4e** as a white solid (34 mg, 40% yield). M.p.: 116-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 159.4, 157.6, 137.4, 137.3, 132.5, 131.0, 127.9, 127.3, 124.4, 122.0, 120.1, 119.6, 114.5, 114.0, 113.8, 109.6, 55.4, 55.3, 31.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₂₂NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 344.1651, found 344.1652.



2,3-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (**4f**)⁷

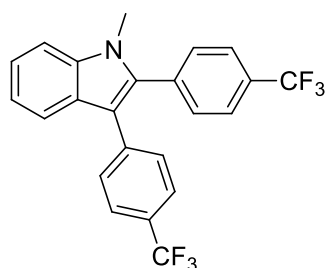
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)ethyne **2g** (61.8 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4f** as a white solid (58 mg, 66% yield). M.p.: 142-144 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.19 (m, 7H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 137.6, 136.6, 134.6, 133.6, 132.5, 131.6, 131.2, 130.2, 129.0,

128.7, 126.8, 122.8, 120.7, 119.5, 114.5, 109.9, 31.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{21}H_{15}Cl_2KN$ $[M+K]^+$ 390.0219, found 390.0252.



2,3-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indole (**4g**)

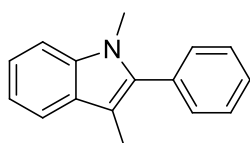
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-fluorophenyl)ethyne **2h** (53.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4g** as a white solid (46 mg, 58% yield). M.p.: 133-134 °C. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.10 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 164.0, 162.5, 161.5, 160.34, 160.33, 160.1, 151.5, 137.4, 136.7, 133.0, 132.9, 131.4, 131.3, 131.09, 131.06, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 122.6, 120.5, 119.5, 115.9, 115.7, 115.5, 115.2, 114.5, 109.8, 31.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $C_{21}H_{16}F_2N$ $[M+H]^+$ 320.1251, found 320.1254.



1-Methyl-2,3-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1H-indole (**4h**)⁷

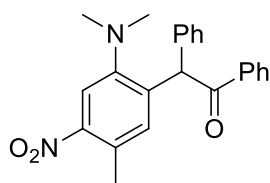
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne **2i** (78.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), and $AgSbF_6$ (34.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used at 110 °C. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4h** as a

white solid (64 mg, 61% yield). M.p.: 136-138 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 138.8, 137.8, 136.7, 135.8, 135.3, 131.5, 130.7, 130.4, 130.0, 128.1, 127.8, 126.7, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 125.52, 125.48, 125.4, 123.2, 122.8, 121.1, 119.6, 114.9, 110.1, 31.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₁₆F₆N [M+H]⁺ 420.1187, found 420.1192.



1,3-Dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole (**4i**)⁷

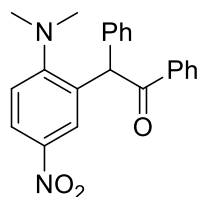
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethylaniline oxide **1a** (68.6 mg, 0.50 mmol), prop-1-yn-1-ylbenzene **2j** (31.3 μL, 0.25 mmol), and AgSbF₆ (34.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used at 110 °C. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) afforded **4i** as a white solid (29 mg, 52% yield). M.p.: 62-64 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 137.8, 137.3, 132.2, 130.8, 128.51, 128.45, 127.9, 121.8, 119.2, 118.9, 109.4, 108.6, 31.1, 9.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆N [M+H]⁺ 222.1283, found 222.1276.



2-(2-(Dimethylamino)-5-methyl-4-nitrophenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5a**)

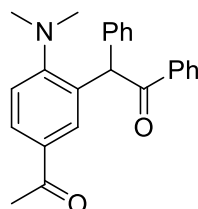
Following the general procedure. *N,N,N*,4-Trimethyl-3-nitroaniline oxide **1o** (98.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30/1, v/v) afforded **5a** as a yellow solid (60 mg, 64% yield). M.p.: 128-130 °C. ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 2.54 (s, 6H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.5, 150.8, 148.3, 143.0, 137.2, 137.1, 134.5, 133.0, 130.0, 129.7, 129.2, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 118.2, 53.7, 44.8, 20.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂NaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 397.1528, found 397.1527.



2-(2-(Dimethylamino)-5-nitrophenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5b**)

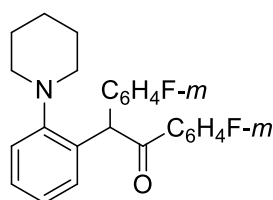
Following the general procedure. *N,N*-Dimethyl-4-nitroaniline oxide **1p** (91.1 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30/1, v/v) afforded **5b** as a yellow solid (56 mg, 62% yield). M.p.: 162-164 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 2.57 (s, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.4, 153.1, 147.9, 144.9, 137.10, 137.08, 133.1, 131.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 119.6, 116.9, 54.1, 44.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₂NaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 383.1372, found 383.1366.



2-(5-Acetyl-2-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5c**)

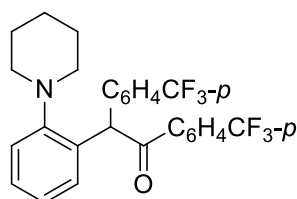
Following the general procedure. 4-Acetyl-*N,N*-dimethylaniline oxide **1q** (89.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 5/1, v/v) afforded

5c as greenish yellow oil (64 mg, 72% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.03 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 2.61 (s, 6H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 198.2, 197.4, 156.7, 138.0, 137.2, 135.7, 133.0, 132.9, 131.2, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.5, 120.9, 53.9, 44.6, 26.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNaO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 380.1626, found 380.1622.



1,2-Bis(3-fluorophenyl)-2-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)ethanone (**5d**)

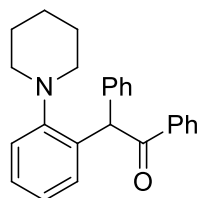
Following the general procedure. 1-Phenylpiperidine 1-oxide **1r** (88.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(3-fluorophenyl)ethyne **2c** (53.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v) afforded **5d** as a white solid (73 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 100-102 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 7.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.11-6.95 (m, 5H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 2.84-2.65 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.44 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 196.72, 196.70, 164.3, 164.1, 161.9, 161.7, 152.1, 140.93, 140.86, 138.94, 138.88, 134.6, 130.19, 130.18, 130.12, 130.09, 129.8, 128.7, 125.34, 125.31, 124.7, 124.57, 124.54, 122.2, 120.1, 119.9, 116.8, 116.5, 115.9, 115.7, 114.4, 114.2, 53.28, 53.26, 26.6, 24.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{F}_2\text{NNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 414.1645, found 414.1640.



2-(2-(Piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanone (**5e**)

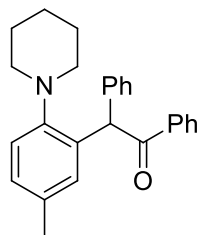
Following the general procedure. 1-Phenylpiperidine 1-oxide **1r** (88.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne **2i** (78.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used.

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 40/1, v/v) afforded **5e** as a white solid (91 mg, 74% yield). M.p.: 128-130 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.08-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.83-2.49 (m, 4H), 1.65-1.42 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 196.9, 152.3, 142.4, 139.4, 135.0, 134.6, 134.3, 134.0, 130.10, 130.09, 129.90, 129.89, 129.87, 129.86, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 125.83, 125.80, 125.77, 125.2, 125.0, 123.0, 122.6, 122.4, 53.7, 26.8, 24.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₇H₂₃F₆NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 514.1582, found 514.1577.



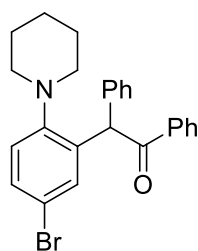
1,2-Diphenyl-2-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)ethanone (**5f**)

Following the general procedure. 1-Phenylpiperidine 1-oxide **1r** (88.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v) afforded **5f** as a white solid (74 mg, 83% yield). M.p.: 102-104 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 2.86-2.68 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.51 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.5, 152.2, 138.6, 137.2, 136.3, 132.8, 130.1, 129.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 124.6, 122.0, 53.6, 26.5, 24.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₅H₂₅NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 378.1834, found 378.1829.



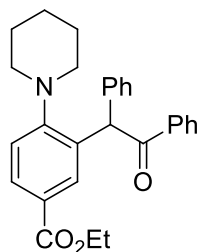
2-(5-Methyl-2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5g**)

Following the general procedure. 1-(*p*-Tolyl)piperidine 1-oxide **1s** (95.7 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v) afforded **5g** as a white solid (75 mg, 81% yield). M.p.: 132-134 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 2.80-2.61 (m, 4H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.56-1.49 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.6, 149.7, 138.7, 137.2, 136.0, 134.1, 132.8, 130.5, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 121.9, 53.5, 26.6, 24.3, 21.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₆H₂₇NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 392.1990, found 392.1986.



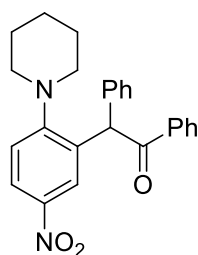
2-(5-Bromo-2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5h**)

Following the general procedure. 1-(4-Bromophenyl)piperidine 1-oxide **1t** (128 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v) afforded **5h** as a white solid (100 mg, 92% yield). M.p.: 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.08 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.28 (m, 8H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 2.79-2.63 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.43 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 197.8, 151.3, 139.1, 137.6, 137.0, 133.00, 132.95, 131.2, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 127.5, 123.9, 118.1, 53.5, 26.4, 24.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₅H₂₄BrNNaO [M+Na]⁺ 456.0939, found 456.0942



Ethyl 3-(2-oxo-1,2-diphenylethyl)-4-(piperidin-1-yl)benzoate (**5i**)

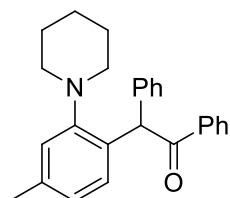
Following the general procedure. 1-(4-(Ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl)piperidine 1-oxide **1u** (125 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 20/1, v/v) afforded **5i** as a white solid (90 mg, 84% yield). M.p.: 132 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.07 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 6H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.28 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.91-2.88 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.51 (m, 6H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 198.0, 166.5, 156.5, 138.2, 137.0, 135.5, 133.0, 131.7, 129.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 127.4, 126.2, 121.3, 60.9, 54.1, 53.6, 26.5, 24.2, 14.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₈H₂₉NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 450.2045, found 450.2045.



2-(5-Nitro-2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5j**)

Following the general procedure. 1-(4-Nitrophenyl)piperidine 1-oxide **1v** (111 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 30/1, v/v) afforded **5j** as a yellow solid (65 mg, 65% yield). M.p.: 192-194 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H),

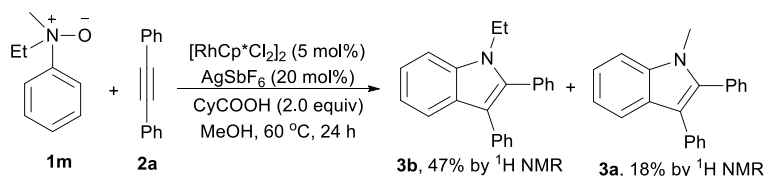
6.50 (s, 1H), 2.94-2.91 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.73 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.50 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 197.5, 158.3, 144.1, 137.4, 137.2, 136.7, 133.3, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 127.9, 126.3, 123.8, 121.6, 54.0, 53.8, 26.3, 24.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 423.1685, found 423.1683.



2-(4-Methyl-2-(piperidin-1-yl)phenyl)-1,2-diphenylethanone (**5k**)

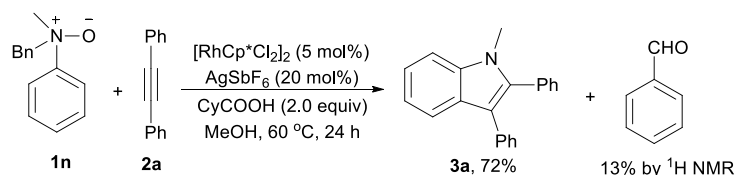
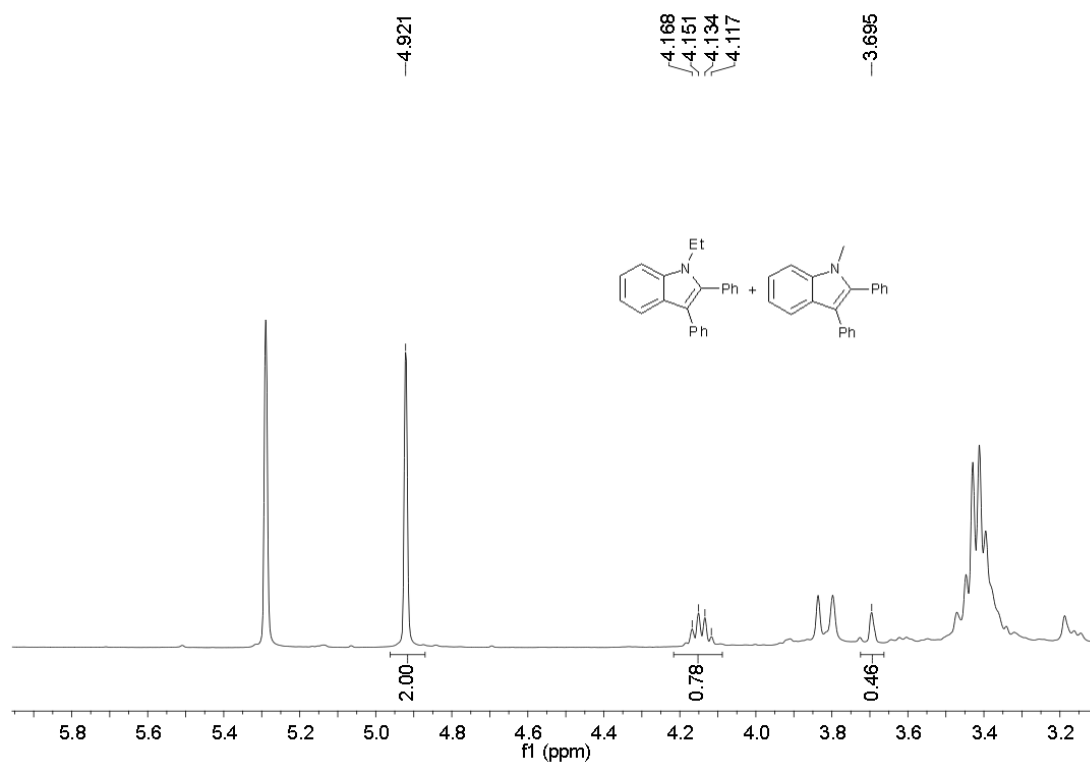
Following the general procedure. 1-(*m*-Tolyl)piperidine 1-oxide **1w** (95.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 1,2-diphenylethyne **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 50/1, v/v) afforded **5k** as a white solid (79 mg, 85% yield). M.p.: 112-114 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 8.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.26-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.02-6.98 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 2.83-2.66 (m, 4H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.56-1.51 (m, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 198.7, 152.0, 138.9, 137.9, 137.2, 133.0, 132.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 128.5, 127.0, 125.3, 122.8, 53.3, 26.6, 24.3, 21.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{NNaO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 392.1990, found 392.1986.

V. Rh(III)-catalyzed annulation of *N*-ethyl-*N*-methylaniline *N*-oxide and *N*-benzyl-*N*-methylaniline *N*-oxide with diphenylacetylene



Following the general procedure in **III**. *N*-Ethyl-*N*-methylaniline *N*-oxide **1m** (75.6 mg, 0.50 mmol) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. The resulting solution was subsequently diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined

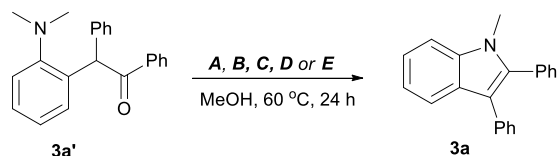
organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was analyzed by ^1H NMR using CH_2Br_2 (21 μL , 0.30 mmol) as an internal standard. As a result, *N*-ethyl and *N*-methyl substituted indoles **3b** and **3a** were observed in 47% and 18% yields, respectively.



Following the general procedure in **III**, *N*-Benzyl-*N*-methylaniline *N*-oxide **1n** (106.7 mg, 0.50 mmol) and diphenylacetylene **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) were used. The resulting solution was subsequently diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was analyzed by ^1H NMR using CH_2Br_2 (14 μL , 0.20 mmol) as an internal standard. As a result, benzaldehyde was observed in 13% yield. Then, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) to afford the product **3a** in 72% yield.

VI. Mechanism study

1. The investigation of transformation of **3a'** to **3a**.



A: [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (5 mol%), 0% yield

B: CyCOOH (2.0 equiv), 0% yield

C: AgSbF₆ (20 mol%), 14% yield

D: [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (5 mol%) and CyCOOH (2.0 equiv), 0% yield

E: [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (5 mol%), AgSbF₆ (20 mol%) and CyCOOH (2.0 equiv), 10% yield

A) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a'** (25 mg, 0.08 mmol), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mg, 0.004 mmol), and MeOH (0.5 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. TLC showed that no **3a** was produced.

B) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a'** (25 mg, 0.08 mmol), CyCOOH (20.5 mg, 0.16 mmol), and MeOH (0.5 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. TLC showed that no **3a** was produced.

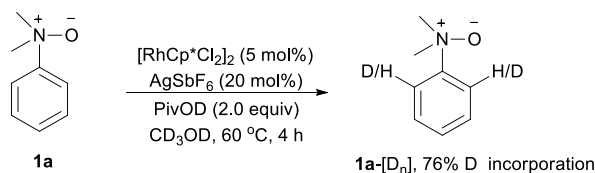
C) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a'** (50 mg, 0.16 mmol), AgSbF₆ (11 mg, 0.032 mmol), and MeOH (1.0 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) to provide **3a** (6.3 mg, 14% yield).

D) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a'** (25 mg, 0.08 mmol), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (2.5 mg, 0.004 mmol), CyCOOH (20.5 mg, 0.16 mmol), and MeOH (0.5 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. TLC showed that no **3a** was produced.

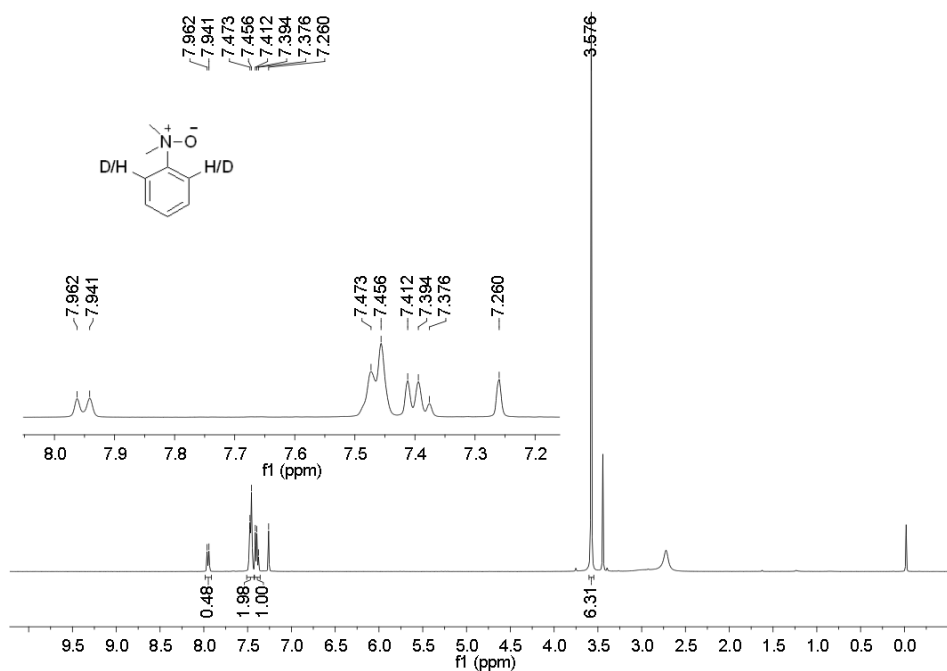
E) A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with **3a'** (50 mg, 0.16 mmol), [RhCp*Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mg, 0.008 mmol), CyCOOH (41 mg, 0.32 mmol), AgSbF₆ (11 mg, 0.032 mmol), and MeOH (1.0 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting

solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 100/1, v/v) to provide **3a** (4.5 mg, 10% yield).

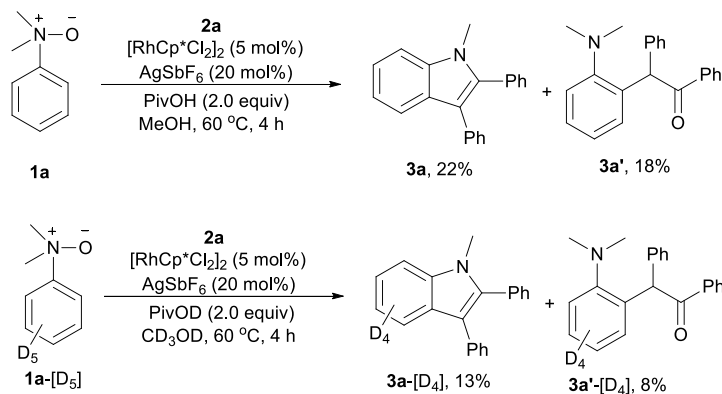
2. Hydrogen-deuterium exchange experiment



A sealable tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (7.8 mg, 12.5 μmol , 5 mol%), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 50 μmol , 20 mol%), PivOD (51.5 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv), **1a** (34.3 mg, 0.25 mmol), and CD_3OD (1.0 mL) under an N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 4 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product **1a-[D_n]**. ^1H NMR analysis showed that 76% hydrogen at the *ortho* position of phenyl ring of *N,N*-dimethylaniline *N*-oxide was deuterated



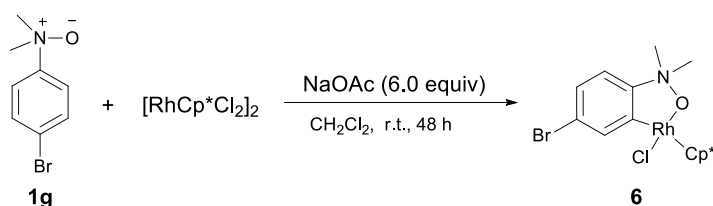
3. Kinetic isotope effect



A sealable tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (7.8 mg, 12.5 μmol , 5 mol%), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 50 μmol , 20 mol%), PivOH or PivOD (0.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv), **1a** or **1a-[D₅]** (0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) and MeOH or CD₃OD (1.0 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 4 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide **3a/3a'** or **3a-[D₄]/3a'-[D₄]**. A KIE value of 1.9 [(22% + 18%)/(13% + 8%)] was observed.

4. The synthesis and reaction of cyclometalated Rh(III) complex **6**

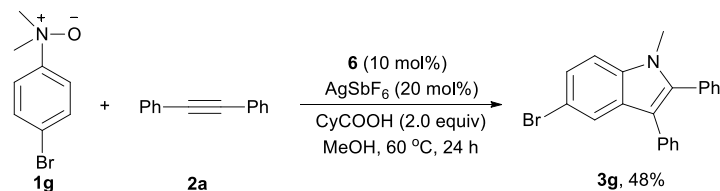
1). Synthesis of cyclometalated Rh(III) complex **6**⁴



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (100 mg, 0.162 mmol), NaOAc (80 mg, 0.972 mmol), 4-bromo-N,N-dimethylaniline N-oxide **1g** (87.5 mg, 0.405 mmol), and CH₂Cl₂ (1.0 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 48 h and then diluted with 3 mL of dichloromethane. The solution was filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by column chromatography on alumina (CH₂Cl₂/acetone = 3/1, v/v) to

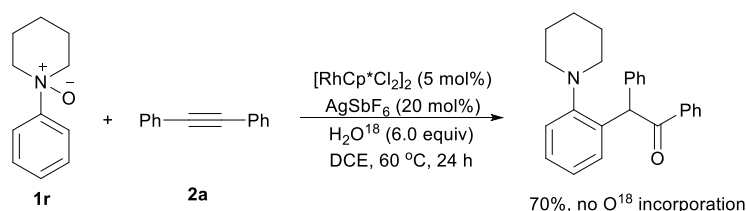
provide the complex **6** as a red orange solid (128 mg, 81% yield). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 1.62 (s, 15H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H) ppm.

2). Complex **6**-catalyzed annulation of aniline *N*-oxide **1g**



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with complex **6** (12.2 mg, 25 μmol), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 50 μmol), CyCOOH (64 mg, 0.50 mmol), **1g** (108 mg, 0.50 mmol), **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol), and MeOH (1.0 mL) under an N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at $60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide 43 mg of **3g** in 48% yield.

5. O^{18} labeling experiment



A Schlenk tube with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (7.8 mg, 12.5 μmol , 5 mol%), AgSbF_6 (17.2 mg, 50 μmol , 20 mol%), H_2O^{18} (27 μL , 1.5 mmol, 6.0 equiv), **1r** (88.6 mg, 0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), **2a** (44.6 mg, 0.25 mmol) and DCE (1.0 mL) under an N_2 atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at $60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 24 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the resulting solution was diluted with 5 mL of dichloromethane, filtered through a celite pad and washed with 10-20 mL of dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were evaporated, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica. GC-MS and HRMS

analysis showed no O¹⁸ incorporation in the isolated product.

VII. References

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- 7 M. Takanori and T. YuKi, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2014, **55**, 3302.

VIII. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

