

Supporting Information

Solvent-Dependent Copper-Catalyzed Synthesis of Pyrazoles Under Aerobic Conditions

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(A) General

(B) General procedure for the synthesis of β,γ -unsaturated ketones

(C) General procedure for the synthesis of hydrazones 1

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(I) Formation and isolation of 4a, 5, and 6

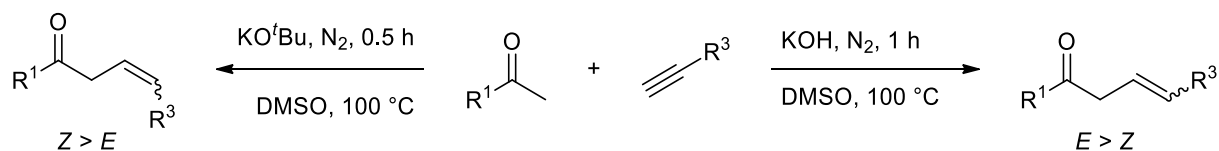
(J) NMR spectra

(A) General

NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz for ¹H-NMR, 100.4 MHz for ¹³C-NMR and 377.6 MHz for ¹⁹F-NMR. Chemical shifts were reported downfield from TMS (= 0) for ¹H-NMR. For ¹³C-NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to CDCl₃ as an internal reference. Infrared spectra (IR) were measured on a Thermo Nicolet iS5. HRMS (ESI) spectra were measured on a Bruker micrOTOF-QII-RSL. The samples were diluted with MeOH for the measurement. Flash column chromatography was performed with silica gel N 60 (40-100 μ m). In some case, purification was carried out using precoated thin layer chromatography (PTLC) plates (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, 0.50 mm). Precoated TLC plates (silica gel 60 F₂₅₄, 0.25 mm) were used for the TLC analysis. Dehydrated solvents were used

directly as purchased. Commercially available reagents were purified by usual methods, if necessary. Copper(II) acetate (98%; Sigma Aldrich), EtOH (>99.5%; Wako Pure Chemical Industries) and HFIP (>99%; TCI) were used as received.

(B) General procedure for the synthesis of β,γ -unsaturated ketones^{1,2}



Although the *E*-isomer is reported to be formed exclusively or at least in high excess in both literature procedures, formation of both isomers was usually observed in our hands. The selectivity could be changed in favor of the *Z*-isomer by utilizing dry DMSO and KO^tBu, while with KOH in undried DMSO the *E*-isomer was the major product.

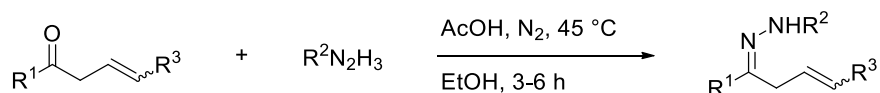
A mixture of 1.0 eq. of ketone, 1.0 eq. of alkyne and 1.1 eq. of base was vigorously stirred under N₂ in DMSO (0.4 M) at 100 °C for 0.5 h (with KO^tBu) or 1 h (with KOH). The mixture was cooled to room temperature, quenched with H₂O, neutralized with NH₄Cl, and extracted with Et₂O. The organic phases were combined, washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The major impurities in the crude product were removed by fast column chromatography to give the desired β,γ -unsaturated ketones as isomeric mixtures (in most cases $\geq 90:10$), which often still contained small amounts of unidentified impurities. Those ketones were used directly for the next step.

Note: it is possible with some effort to completely separate the isomeric mixtures in some cases by careful column chromatography and/or crystallization, which leads to lower yields but higher purity, and is not necessary for the next step. It was difficult to obtain highly reproducible results in terms of both selectivity and yield.

1) B. A. Trofimov, E. Yu. Schmidt, I. A. Ushakov, N. V. Zorina, E. V. Skital'tseva, N. I. Protsuk, A. I. Mikhaleva, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2010**, *16*, 8516.

2) B. A. Trofimov, E. Yu. Schmidt, N. V. Zorina, E. V. Ivanova, I. A. Ushakov, *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 6880.

(C) General procedure for the synthesis of hydrazones **1**³



A mixture of ketone (1.0 eq.), AcOH (~1.0 eq.) and hydrazine (~1.2-1.3 eq.) in EtOH (0.5-1.0 M) was stirred for 3-6 h at 45 °C and then cooled to room temperature. If the product crystallized from the mixture, it was collected by filtration and washed with cold EtOH or MeOH to ensure high purity, even though the yields were often lower than those obtained after purification by column chromatography. If crystallization from the crude mixture did not occur, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography. The isolated hydrazones were stored under N₂ in a freezer to prevent autoxidation.⁴ All hydrazones but **1m** were obtained as a single isomer in respect to the N-N bond.

The yields over the two steps were not optimized.

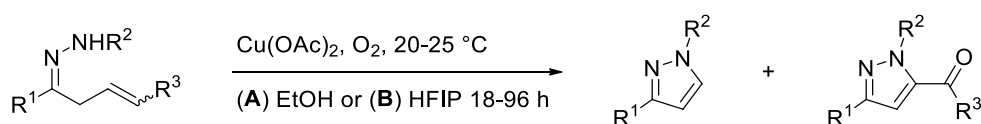
3) X. Zhu, S. Chiba, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2014**, *12*, 4567.

4) a) M. Harej, D. Dolenc, *J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, *72*, 7214; b) T. Tezuka, S. Ando, *Chem. Lett.* **1985**, 1621;

c) A. L. Baumstark, M. Dotrong, P.C. Vasquez, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1987**, *28*, 1963; d) J. Yu, J. W. Lim, S.

Y. Kim, J. Kim, J. N. Kim, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2015**, *56*, 1432.

(D) General procedure for the synthesis of pyrazoles **2** and **3**



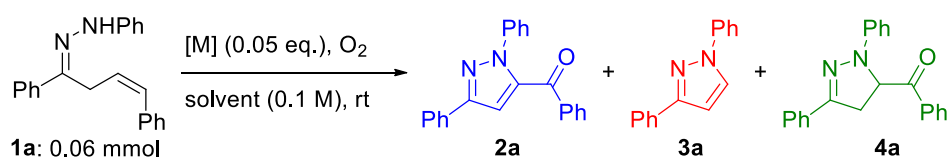
Hydrazone (0.20 mmol; 1.0 eq.) and Cu(OAc)₂ (0.004 mmol; 0.02 eq.) were combined under air and dissolved in (A) EtOH or (B) HFIP (2.0 mL; 0.1 M). An O₂-balloon was applied and the mixture stirred at room temperature overnight. If the room temperature was not in the range of 20-25 °C, the reactions were run with temperature control at 22 °C. Progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC and the mixture was passed through a pad of silica after complete consumption of the starting material. The NMR spectrum of the crude material was taken before purification by column chromatography. Toluene or mesitylene was used as an internal standard.

Note: Most reactions, especially in HFIP (B), were completed within a far shorter reaction time than indicated, but no negative effects on yield or selectivity were observed when the reactions were run for

longer periods.

Comment on the substrate scope: these reaction conditions were not successful for substrates with allylic substitution. For $R^2 = \text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ no conversion of the starting material occurred in EtOH, while unselective decomposition was observed in HFIP. In the case of $R^2 = 4\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_2$ (Tos) conversion occurred, but both reaction conditions led to low yield and selectivity.

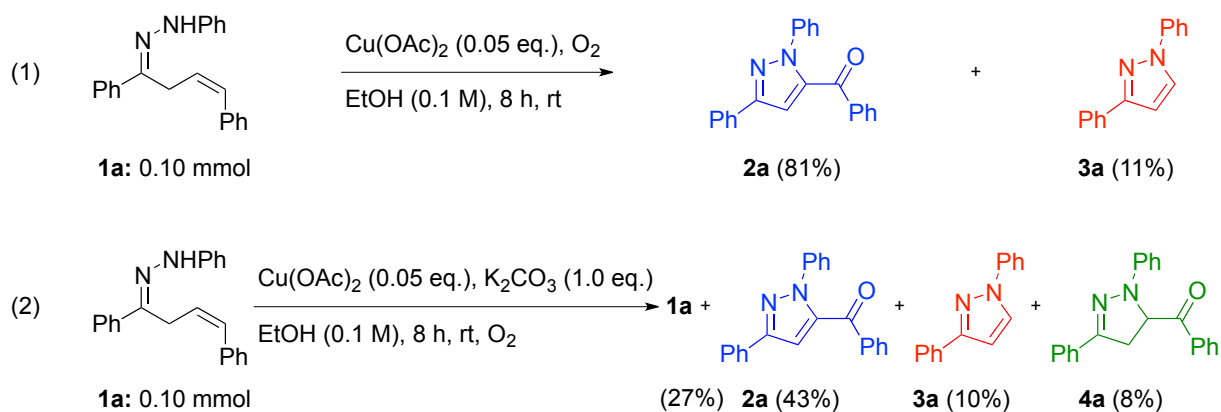
(E) Screening of reaction conditions



Entry	[M]	Solvent	Time [h]	1a [%]	2a [%]	3a [%]	4a [%]
1	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	18	-	83 ^{a)}	<10	-
2	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	48	-	79	<13	-
3	Cu(OAc) ₂	HFIP	18	-	-	quant. ^{a)}	-
4	Cu(OAc) ₂	IPA	18	26	64	9	-
5	Cu(OAc) ₂	DCM	24	-	18	57	trace
6	Cu(OAc) ₂	THF	18	51	<20	<25	trace
7	CuI	EtOH	18	80	-	-	18 ^{a)}
8	CuBr ₂	EtOH	10	-	6	54	12
9	Cu(NO ₃) ₂ ·3H ₂ O	EtOH	20	-	48 ^{a)}	26 ^{a)}	-
10	CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O	EtOH	20	-	47	14	8
11	[Cu(MeCN) ₄]PF ₆	EtOH	20	-	34	60	-
12	Cu(tartrate)·3H ₂ O	EtOH	20	23	20	8	47

13	-	HFIP	19	-	-	70	-
14^{b)}	-	HFIP	18	-	-	46	-
15^{b)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	HFIP	18	-	-	98 ^{a)}	-
16	-	EtOH	20	≥95		trace	
17	Mn(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	≥95		trace	
18	Fe(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	≥95		trace	
19	Co(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	≥95		trace	
20	Ni(OAc) ₂ ·4H ₂ O	EtOH	20	≥95		trace	
21^{b)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	-	74 ^{a)}	12 ^{a)}	-
22^{e)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	-	51	<38	-
23^{d)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	20	-	77	19	-
24^{e)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	21	-	79 ^{a)}	<12	-
25^{e,f)}	Cu(OAc) ₂	EtOH	24	-	84 ^{a)}	<15	-

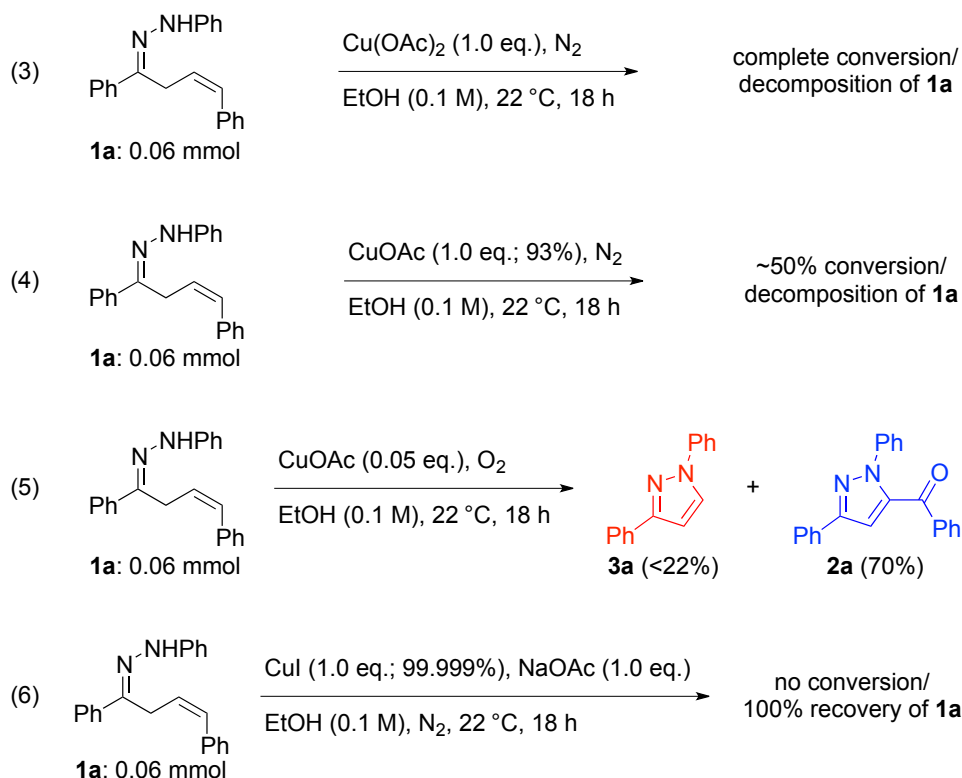
NMR yields based on internal standard; a) isolated yields b); under air; c) + 5 eq. H₂O; d) in dry EtOH with 50 mg MS3Å; e) on 0.20 mmol scale; f) 2 mol% Cu(OAc)₂.



Although Brønsted base often accelerates the photocatalytic oxidative cyclization of hydrazones,⁵ addition of K₂CO₃ was less effective in the Cu-catalyzed oxidative cyclization of **1a** under aerobic conditions (equation 1: in the absence of K₂CO₃ vs. equation 2: in the presence of K₂CO₃). TLC monitoring (every 2 h) suggested that the addition of K₂CO₃ slightly reduced the consumption rate of **1a**. While the reaction was completed in 8 h in the absence of K₂CO₃ (equation 1), unconsumed starting material (27%) was found along with lower product selectivity (**2a**: 42%, **3a**: 10%, **4a**: 8%) in the presence of K₂CO₃ (equation 2). Conversion and yields were determined from crude NMR based on internal standard. Addition of base is therefore not an option to decrease the reaction time.

5) a) X.-Q. Hu, J.-R. Chen, Q. Wei, F.-L. Liu, Q.-H. Deng, A. M. Beauchemin, W.-J. Xiao, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2014, **53**, 12163; b) Q. Wei, J.-R. Chen, X.-Q. Hu, X.-C. Yang, B. Lu, W.-J. Xiao, *Org. Lett.*, 2015, **17**, 4464; c) X.-Q. Hu, X. Qi, Q.-Q. Zhao, Q. Wei, Y. Lan, W.-J. Xiao, *Nature Commun.* 2016, **7**, 11188; d) X.-Q. Hu, J. Chen, J.-R. Chen, D.-M. Yan, W.-J. Xiao, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2016, **22**, 14141.

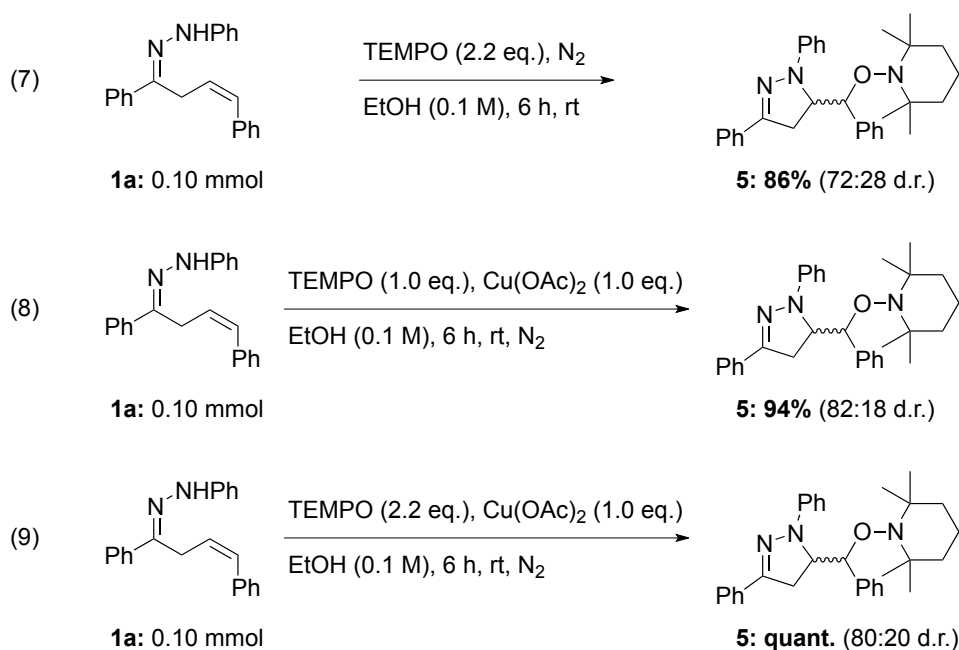
(F) Control experiments



When 1 eq. of Cu(OAc)₂ was applied under N₂ the blue suspension turned yellow within ≤2 h, and

subsequently changed only slightly (equation 3). **1a** was completely consumed and several unidentified compounds were formed. This indicates oxidation of **1a** by Cu(II). When 1 eq. Cu(I)OAc was used, only partial conversion occurred, and several decomposition products were formed (equation 4). If Cu(II) is required for single-electron oxidation of the starting material to a radical, no reaction should occur with Cu(I)OAc. The reason is most likely the insufficient purity of the commercially available copper(I) acetate and its propensity to disproportionate to Cu(0) and Cu(II) in polar solvents.⁶ When sub-stoichiometric amounts of Cu(OAc)₂ were used (5-20 mol%) under N₂, partial conversion always occurred to a somewhat greater extent than the corresponding 5-20% value. However, when CuI of high purity (99.999%) was used under N₂ no conversion at all was observed (equation 6). With 5 mol% CuI under O₂, approximately 20% of the starting material was converted in the same time. Furthermore, catalytic amounts of Cu(I)OAc under O₂ led to conversion comparable to that obtained with Cu(OAc)₂ under the same conditions, with only a slightly less good ratio of **2a:3a** (equation 5).

6) a) B. M. Rosen, X. Jiang, C. J. Wilson, N. H. Nguyen, M. J. Monteiro, V. Percec, *J. Polym. Sci. A Polym. Chem.*, 2009, **47**, 5606; b) G. Christou, S. P. Perlepes, E. Libby, K. Folting, J. C. Huffman, R. J. Webb, D. N. Hendrickson, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1990, **29**, 3657; c) A. E. King, T. C. Brunold, S. S. Stahl, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 5044; d) Z. Mao, Z. Wang, Z. Xu, F. Huang, Z. Yu, R. Wang, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 3854; e) B. Cheng, H. Yi, C. He, C. Liu, A. Lei, *Organometallics*, 2015, **34**, 206.



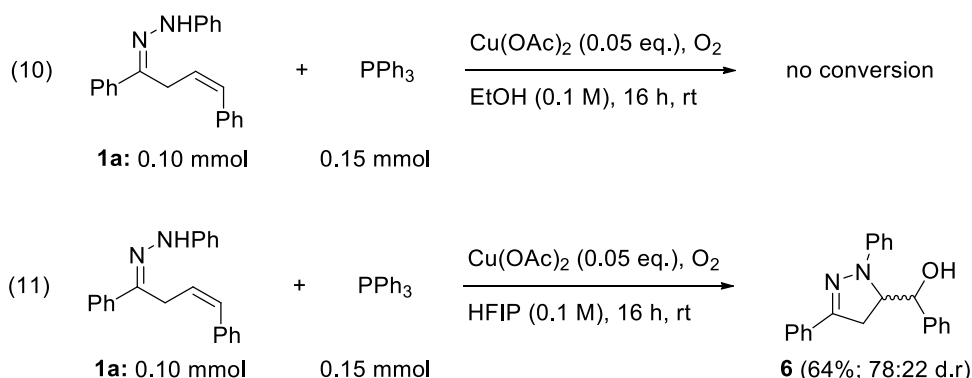
In equations 7-9, control experiments using TEMPO as a radical trapping reagent under nitrogen are shown. The reaction conditions using TEMPO (2.2 eq.) in the absence of Cu(II) (equation 7) gave the

corresponding oxyamination product **5** in 86% with 72:28 diastereomeric ratio (d.r.). In this reaction, TEMPO should oxidize hydrazone **1a** to the corresponding hydrazone radical by hydrogen abstraction (HAT).⁷ The oxyamination reaction using TEMPO proceeded smoothly even in the presence of Cu(OAc)₂ to give **5** (equations 8 and 9). This circumstantial evidence supports the idea that the proposed radical intermediate (**II** in the main text) participates in the oxidative cyclization of **1** both in the Cu(II)-catalyzed- (Scheme 3 in the main text) and Cu-free conditions (Scheme 4 in the main text). The yields are isolated yields and the diastereomeric ratios are determined from the isolated products.

Further efforts to trap the proposed benzylic radical (**II** in the main text) with other trapping reagents were unsuccessful in our conditions. When we added 1,4-cyclohexadiene, complex mixtures of the products were generated in low yields, and it made the analysis difficult. Ph₂Se₂ completely suppressed any reaction, likely due to formation of Cu(I).⁸

7) a) X.-Y. Duan, N.-N. Zhou, R. Fang, X.-L. Yang, W. Yu, B. Han, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2014, **53**, 3158; b) M.-K. Zhu, Y.-C. Chen, T.-P. Loh, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2013, **19**, 5250; c) X.-Y. Duan, X.-L. Yang, R. Fang, X.-X. Peng, W. Yu, B. Han, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2013, **78**, 10692; d) X. Zhu, S. Chiba, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2014, **12**, 4567; e) X.-Q. Hu, G. Feng, J.-R. Chen, D.-M. Yan, Q.-Q. Zhao, Q. Wei, W.-J. Xiao, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2015, **13**, 3457; f) X. Zhu, Y.-F. Wang, W. Ren, F.-L. Zhang, S. Chiba, *Org. Lett.*, 2013, **15**, 3214.

8) N. Miyoshi, Y. Ohno, K. Kondo, S. Murai, N. Sonoda, *Chem. Lett.* 1979, 1309.

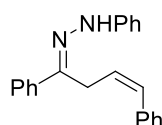


Our investigations using triphenylphosphine (1.5 eq.) also highlight the mechanistic differences between Cu(OAc)₂-catalyzed oxidative cyclization (Scheme 3 in the main text) and HFIP-mediated oxidative cyclization (Scheme 4 in the main text). When triphenylphosphine was added under Cu(OAc)₂-catalyzed conditions in EtOH, the reaction was suppressed (equation 10). The active Cu catalyst might be poisoned by triphenylphosphine. On the other hand, alcohol **6** was formed in 64% (crude NMR yield) in HFIP

(equation 11). This result indicates that the proposed hydrogen peroxide species (**V** in Scheme 4, main text) can be reduced to the alcohol **6**. We believe that the preliminary result described in equation 11 may serve to broaden the concept of product switching in the aerobic oxidation by simply changing reaction conditions. In this case the usual product **3a** was only formed in small amounts ($\leq 7\%$; crude NMR).

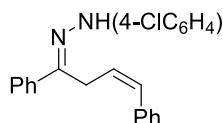
(G) Characterization of hydrazones 1

(*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**)



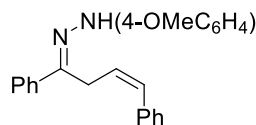
White solid, purified by crystallization; 57% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1600, 1584, 1510, 1492, 1444, 1254, 1157, 1144, 939, 790, 771, 760, 745, 719, 701, 689, 644 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.36 (m, 7H), 7.32 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (bs, 1H), 6.85-6.78 (m, 3H), 6.74 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dt, $J = 11.3, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.8, 141.6, 138.1, 136.0, 132.0, 129.0, 128.8 (2 C), 128.4, 127.9, 127.8, 125.5, 124.9, 120.0, 113.0, 26.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2 + \text{Na}^+$: 335.1519, found: 335.1520.

(*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1b**)



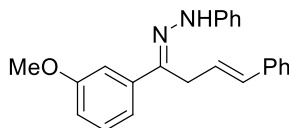
The condensation was performed at 60 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Off-white solid, purified by crystallization; 27% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1599, 1505, 1491, 1445, 1250, 1086, 822, 760, 701, 693, 668 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (bs, 1H), 6.77-6.68 (m, 3H), 5.66 (dt, $J = 11.5, 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.4, 142.3, 137.8, 135.9, 132.0, 128.91, 128.89, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 125.5, 124.7, 124.5, 114.1, 26.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClN}_2 + \text{Na}^+$: 369.1129 found: 369.1115.

(E)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((Z)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (1c)



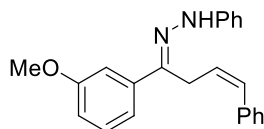
Pale yellow solid, purified by crystallization; 30% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1512, 1445, 1232, 1142, 1036, 823, 763, 693, 668, 614 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.34 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (bs, 1H), 6.87-6.79 (m, 4H), 6.75 (d, J = 11.2, 2H), 5.69 (dt, J = 11.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.75 (m, 5H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.6, 140.9, 139.0, 138.2, 136.1, 131.8, 128.79, 128.75, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 125.3, 125.0, 114.5, 114.0, 55.6, 26.2; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 365.1624, found: 365.1612.

(E)-1-((E)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1d)



In this case both isomers were obtained in sufficient amount and purity for further conversion from the ketone synthesis with KOH. Yellow oil, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 7:1); 48% yield (two steps). The product contained ~0.1 eq. of Et_2O that could not be removed by drying under vacuum overnight. IR (neat) ν 1601, 1507, 1494, 1286, 1256, 1221, 1166, 1136, 1033, 971, 782, 748, 733, 693 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (bs, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.21 (m, 8H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (dt, J = 16.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.66 (dd, J = 5.2, 2.0 Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.7, 145.0, 141.8, 140.1, 136.5, 132.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.6, 127.7, 126.2, 122.2, 120.4, 118.2, 113.6, 113.3, 111.1, 55.3, 30.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 365.1624, found: 365.1625.

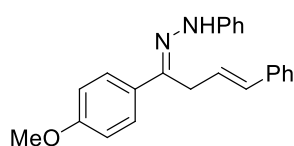
(E)-1-((Z)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1e)



In this case both isomers were obtained in sufficient amount and purity for further conversion from the ketone synthesis with KOH. Yellow oil, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 7:1); 52%

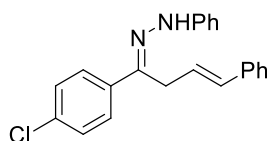
yield (two steps). The product contained ~0.2 eq. of Et₂O that could not be removed by drying under vacuum overnight. IR (neat) ν 1601, 1506, 1494, 1254, 1225, 1165, 1138, 1038, 774, 750, 691 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (bs, 1H), 6.91-6.78 (m, 4H), 6.74 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dt, J = 11.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.77 (dd, J = 7.2, 2.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7, 144.7, 141.3, 139.6, 136.0, 131.9, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8 (2C), 127.8, 124.9, 120.0, 118.1, 113.6, 113.0, 110.9, 55.2, 26.4; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O+Na⁺: 365.1624, found: 365.1625.

(*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1f)



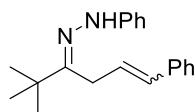
The condensation was performed at 60 °C. White solid, purified by crystallization; 26% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1600, 1500, 1248, 1178, 1136, 1027, 969, 833, 750, 736, 692 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (bs, 1H), 7.36-7.20 (m, 7H), 7.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dt, J = 16.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.65 (dd, J = 5.6, 2.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7, 145.3, 142.3, 136.5, 132.2, 131.3, 129.2, 128.6, 127.7, 126.9, 126.2, 122.4, 120.1, 113.8, 113.2, 55.3, 30.2; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O+Na⁺: 365.1624, found: 365.1626.

(*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1g)



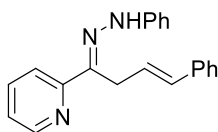
White solid, purified by crystallization; 23% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1601, 1507, 1490, 1248, 1145, 1093, 1009, 963, 832, 749, 692, 668 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (bs, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.20 (m, 7H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.89 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dt, J = 16.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (dt, J = 16.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dd, J = 5.5, 1.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.8, 140.8, 137.0, 136.3, 133.8, 132.3, 129.3, 128.62, 128.57, 127.8, 126.7, 126.2, 121.8, 120.5, 113.3, 29.9; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₂₂H₁₉ClN₂+Na⁺: 369.1129, found: 369.1121.

(*E*)-1-((*E*)-2,2-dimethyl-6-phenylhex-5-en-3-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1h)



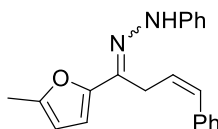
Yellow oil, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 12:1); 71% yield (two steps). The product contained ~0.15 eq. of Et₂O that could not be removed by drying under vacuum overnight; inseparable *E/Z*-mixture (~13:1); NMR given for the major isomer only. IR (neat) ν 1601, 1502, 1249, 1135, 1086, 1064, 970, 749, 736, 692 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 7.4, Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dt *J* = 15.9, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 5.8, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3, 146.1, 136.6, 132.5, 129.1, 128.6, 127.6, 126.1, 123.8, 119.5, 113.0, 38.7, 29.7, 28.0; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₂₀H₂₄N₂+Na⁺: 315.1832, found: 315.1832.

2-((1*E*,3*E*)-4-phenyl-1-(2-phenylhydrazono)but-3-en-1-yl)pyridine (1i)



The condensation was performed at 50 °C without AcOH. White solid, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 8:1 to 6:1); 21% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1601, 1567, 1507, 1494, 1465, 1429, 1248, 1156, 968, 792, 772, 749, 691 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.71 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.25 (m, 6H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dt, *J* = 16.1, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.7, 148.4, 144.5, 142.6, 136.8, 136.0, 132.0, 129.3, 128.5, 127.5, 126.2, 123.4, 122.4, 120.7, 120.0, 113.3, 28.0; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for C₂₁H₁₉N₃+Na⁺: 336.1471, found 336.1472.

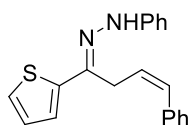
1-((*Z*)-1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1j)



Yellow solid, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 10:1); 7% yield (two steps). This is the only substrate obtained as a ~1:1.5 mixture of isomers at the *N-N* bond. The exact geometry was not

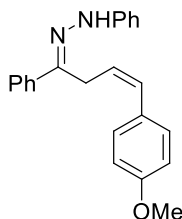
determined, but the major isomer is assumed to be the *Z*-isomer based on the *N-H*-proton signal at 9.53 ppm (the *N-H*-proton signals of all other compounds are found at 7~8 ppm). The product contained ~0.15 eq. of Et₂O that could not be removed by drying under vacuum overnight. IR (neat) ν 1600, 1521, 1500, 1302, 1255, 1137, 1100, 1070, 1027, 776, 748, 692 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) major: δ 9.53 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.13 (m, 8H), 6.83-6.75 (m, 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.10-6.04 (m, 1H), 5.95 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); minor: δ 7.52-7.13 (m, 8H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.83 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.10-6.04 (m, 1H), 5.65 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (mixture of isomers; 100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.0, 152.7, 150.7, 148.7, 145.3, 144.6, 137.2, 136.0, 135.3, 131.9, 131.0, 129.9, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.85, 128.81, 128.77, 128.2, 127.8, 126.8, 125.1, 119.8, 119.7, 112.9, 112.7, 112.6, 108.8, 107.7, 107.5, 34.0, 26.2, 15.3, 13.9; HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₂₁H₂₀N₂O+Na⁺: 339.1468, found: 339.1471.

(*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*Z*)-4-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (1k)



White solid, purified by crystallization; 35% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1598, 1502, 1493, 1251, 1234, 1133, 807, 780, 754, 746, 721, 707, 692, 668 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.25 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 3.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dt, *J* = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (bs, 1H), 6.81 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79-6.71 (m, 3H), 5.68 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.4, 138.4, 135.9, 132.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 127.1, 126.1, 124.6, 123.6, 120.0, 112.9, 27.1, (2C are overlapping); HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₂₀H₁₈N₂S+Na⁺: 341.1083, found: 341.1077.

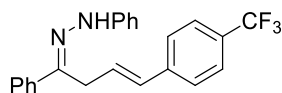
(*E*)-1-((*Z*)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1l)



White solid, purified by crystallization; 40% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1601, 1509, 1493, 1442, 1252, 1177, 1141, 1033, 844, 765, 749, 691, 612 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H),

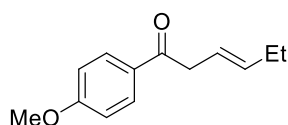
7.42-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.88-6.79 (m, 3H), 6.67 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.57 (dt, $J = 11.2, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.77 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.8$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.2, 144.9, 142.0, 138.2, 131.5, 130.2, 129.1, 128.5, 128.4, 127.9, 125.5, 123.5, 119.9, 114.2, 113.0, 55.4, 26.4; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 365.1624, found: 365.1603.

(*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*E*)-1-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (1m)



Although the KO^tBu method was utilized for the ketone formation, the *E*-isomer was formed as the major product. Pale yellow solid, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 12:1); 33% yield (two steps). IR (neat) ν 1602, 1507, 1493, 1326, 1248, 1163, 1121, 1067, 1016, 750, 691 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.47 (dt, $J = 16.1, 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, $J = 5.1, 1.4$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.9, 141.3, 139.9, 138.4, 130.9, 129.5 (q, $J = 32.4$ Hz), 129.3, 128.5, 128.1, 126.4, 125.53 (q, $J = 3.4$ Hz), 125.47, 125.1, 124.1 (q, $J = 272.6$ Hz), 120.5, 113.3, 29.9; ^{19}F -NMR (378 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 403.1393, found: 403.1364.

(*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hex-3-en-1-one (7)

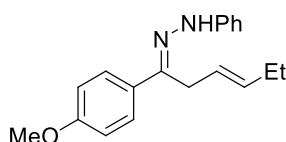


To (*E*)-*N*-methoxy-*N*-methylhex-3-enamide⁹ (529 mg; 3.36 mmol; 1.0 eq.) in abs. Et_2O under N_2 was slowly added (4-methoxyphenyl)magnesium bromide (0.5 M in THF; 10.0 mL; 5.0 mmol; 1.5 eq.) at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ and the mixture was slowly warmed to rt over 1 h. Stirring was continued for another 5 h at rt, and then the reaction was quenched with sat. $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{\text{aq}}$. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O . The combined organic phase was dried over Na_2SO_4 , the solvent was evaporated, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/EtOAc 5:1) to give the product as a colorless oil (575 mg, 2.81 mmol, 84%). IR (neat) ν 1676, 1601, 1576, 1510, 1317, 1259, 1213, 1168, 1030, 967, 837, 668, 652, 632 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.71-5.59 (m, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.11-2.02 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, $J = 7.6$

Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.3, 163.4, 136.2, 130.6, 129.7, 121.6, 113.7, 55.4, 42.2, 25.7, 13.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 227.1043, found: 227.1020.

9) S. M. Smith, M. Uteuliyeva, J. M. Takacs, *Chem. Commun.*, **2011**, 47, 7812.

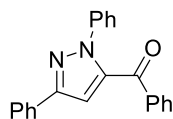
(E)-1-((E)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hex-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (1n)



Yellow oil, purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 5:1); 91% yield (one step). IR (neat) ν 1601, 1501, 1303, 1248, 1175, 1138, 1029, 835, 750, 693, 668 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (bs, 1H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.74-5.65 (m, 1H), 5.58-5.50 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.45-3.41 (m, 2H), 2.11-2.01 (m, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.6, 145.5, 143.2, 135.4, 131.5, 129.2, 126.9, 121.4, 119.9, 113.7, 113.1, 55.3, 30.2, 25.5, 13.6; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 317.1624, found: 317.1605.

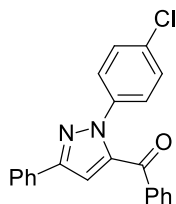
(H) Characterization of pyrazoles 2 and 3

(1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2a): Table 2, entry 1



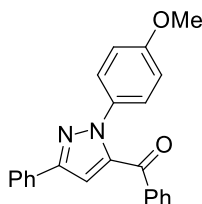
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (E)-1-((Z)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 11:1) to give **2a** in 84% yield as a white foam. IR (neat) ν 1658, 1598, 1498, 1448, 1425, 1282, 1237, 956, 899, 766, 736, 720, 690, 680 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.34 (m, 10H), 7.09 (s, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.6, 151.4, 140.4, 140.1, 137.2, 133.6, 132.1, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 125.8, 124.9, 110.7; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 347.1155, found: 347.1157.

(1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2b): Table 2, entry 3



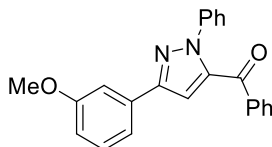
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1b**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **2b** in 49% yield as a white solid. IR (neat) ν 1658, 1494, 1448, 1428, 1289, 1234, 1091, 1012, 956, 899, 831, 768, 727, 701, 693, 676 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (tt, J = 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 7H), 7.09 (s, 1H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.3, 151.6, 140.4, 138.6, 137.1, 133.9, 133.8, 131.8, 129.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.1, 125.8, 111.1; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 381.0765, found: 381.0769.

(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2c): Table 2, entry 5



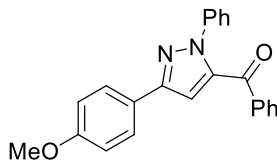
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1c**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give **2c** in 60% yield as a yellow solid. IR (neat) ν 1659, 1514, 1448, 1300, 1281, 1250, 1029, 957, 900, 833, 768, 733, 710, 693, 678, 613 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.93-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.5, 159.3, 151.0, 140.3, 137.4, 133.4, 133.5, 132.2, 129.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 126.3, 125.8, 114.1, 110.3, 55.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 377.1260, found: 377.1260.

(3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2d): Table 2, entries 7 and 9



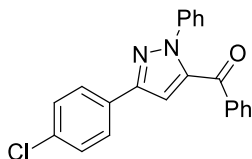
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1d**) and purified after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 7:1) to give **2d** in 73% yield as a yellow foam. Preparation from (*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1e**) and purification after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 7:1) gave **2d** in 76% yield. IR (neat) ν 1659, 1597, 1498, 1474, 1421, 1286, 1233, 1171, 1043, 901, 787, 763, 732, 718, 691, 680 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4, Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.32 (m, 10H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.93 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.5, 160.0, 151.2, 140.4, 140.0, 137.2, 133.6, 133.4, 129.8 (2C), 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 124.9, 118.4, 114.4, 110.9, 110.8, 55.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 377.1260, found: 377.1258.

(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2e): Table 2, entry 11



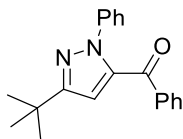
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1f**) and purified after 96 h (1.0 mL of Et_2O was added after 48 h, because the starting material had a very low solubility) by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give **2e** in 63% yield as an off-white solid. IR (neat) ν 1658, 1613, 1597, 1507, 1499, 1459, 1449, 1425, 1292, 1250, 1175, 1030, 956, 898, 837, 762, 717, 692, 678 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.3, Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.4, Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6, Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.1, Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.3, Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.6, 159.9, 151.1, 140.3, 140.1, 137.3, 133.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.1, 124.81, 124.77, 114.1, 110.2, 55.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 377.1260, found: 377.1258.

(3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2f): Table 2, entry 13



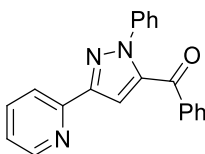
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1g**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 12:1) to give **2f** in 81% yield as a white solid. IR (neat) ν 1658, 1597, 1496, 1448, 1424, 1285, 1236, 1092, 1014, 956, 899, 837, 820, 762, 724, 709, 692, 678 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.06 (s, 1H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.4, 150.3, 140.6, 140.0, 137.1, 134.2, 133.7, 130.6, 129.8, 128.9 (2C), 128.6, 128.3, 127.1, 124.8, 110.4; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 381.0765, found: 381.0756.

(3-(tert-butyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2g): Table 2, entry 15



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-2,2-dimethyl-6-phenylhex-5-en-3-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1h**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 15:1 to 12:1) to give **2g** in 63% yield as a white solid. IR (neat) ν 1657, 1597, 1500, 1448, 1364, 1286, 1236, 989, 899, 761, 734, 717, 691, 679 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.8, 162.0, 140.3, 139.4, 137.4, 133.3, 129.7, 128.8, 128.5, 127.7, 124.8, 110.6, 32.2, 30.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 327.1468, found: 327.1461.

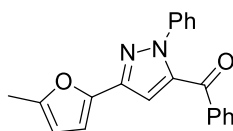
Phenyl(1-phenyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methanone (2h): Table 2, entry 17



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from

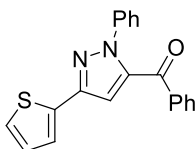
2-((1*E*,3*E*)-4-phenyl-1-(2-phenylhydrazono)but-3-en-1-yl)pyridine (**1i**) and purified after 18 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give **2h** in 20% yield together with **3h** in 66% yield as inseparable mixture (yellow oil). IR (neat) ν 1659, 1593, 1568, 1529, 1501, 1484, 1458, 1422, 1387, 1370, 1279, 1267, 1148, 1049, 993, 960, 945, 900, 756, 716, 687, 621 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (only **2k**; 400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.66-8.62 (m, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.37 (m, 8H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (only **2k**; 100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.3, 151.6, 151.1, 149.4, 140.5, 140.1, 137.1, 136.7, 133.6, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 125.0, 123.1, 120.3, 112.2; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for (**2k**) $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 348.1107, found: 348.1101 and calcd for (**3l**) $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3+\text{Na}^+$: 244.0845, found: 244.0847.

(3-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2i): Table 2, entry 19



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) on a 0.10 mmol scale from 1-((*Z*)-1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1j**) and purified after 23 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **2i** in 38% yield as an off-white solid. IR (neat) ν 1661, 1597, 1578, 1499, 1448, 1285, 1238, 1020, 910, 893, 789, 762, 730, 715, 691, 679 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.6, Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.33 (m, 7H), , 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 3.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.3, 152.6, 145.8, 144.2, 140.0, 139.9, 137.1, 133.6, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 125.1, 110.0, 108.0, 107.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 351.1104, found: 351.1093.

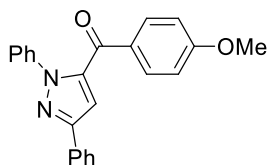
Phenyl(1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)methanone (2j): Table 2, entry 21



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*Z*)-4-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1k**) and purified after 23 h by column chromatography (once with *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 11:1 and a second time with *n*-hexane/DCM = 1:1) to give **2j** in 17% as a pale yellow solid. IR (neat) ν 1659, 1597, 1498, 1464, 1284, 1239, 921, 897, 848, 762, 715, 691, 678 cm^{-1} ; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.4 Hz,

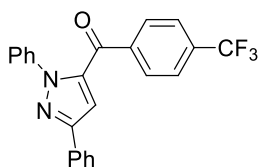
2H), 7.64 (t, $J = 7.4$, Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.33 (m, 8H), 7.32 (dd, $J = 5.1$, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, $J = 5.1$, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.4, 146.8, 140.4, 139.8, 137.1, 135.1, 133.7, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 125.5, 124.9, 124.7, 110.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{OS}+\text{Na}^+$: 353.0719, found: 353.0710.

(1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (2k): Table 2, entry 23



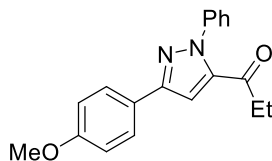
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*Z*)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1l**) and purified after 27 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1 to 3:1) to give **2m** in 80% yield as a highly viscous yellow oil. IR (neat) ν 1653, 1597, 1498, 1428, 1288, 1263, 1170, 1028, 957, 902, 846, 764, 736, 694, 668, 621 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, $J = 7.2$, Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.33 (m, 8H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 9.0$, Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.4, 164.1, 151.3, 140.7, 140.0, 132.3, 132.2, 129.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.0, 125.8, 124.6, 113.9, 109.8, 55.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 377.1260, found: 377.1257.

(1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (2l): Table 2, entry 25



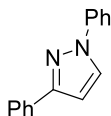
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*E*)-1-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1m**) and purified after 21 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 9:1), followed by PTLC (*n*-hexane/DCM = 1:1) to give **2l** in 56% yield as a highly viscous yellow oil, which slowly solidified to an off-white solid after several days. IR (neat) ν 1664, 1499, 1426, 1323, 1286, 1169, 1130, 1109, 1066, 1016, 956, 902, 857, 765, 736, 714, 691 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, $J = 7.8$, Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, $J = 8.3$, Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.35 (m, 8H), 7.10 (s, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 184.2, 151.6, 140.2, 140.0, 139.8, 134.7 (q, $J = 32.8$ Hz), 131.8, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 125.8, 125.6 (q, $J = 3.9$ Hz), 125.0, 123.5 (q, $J = 272.9$ Hz), 111.1; ^{19}F -NMR (378 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -63.0; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 415.1029, found: 415.1024.

1-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)propan-1-one (2m): Table 2, entry 27



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (A) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hex-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1n**) and purified after 28 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1 to 5:1) to give **2m** in 33% yield as a yellow solid. IR (neat) ν 1689, 1614, 1597, 1508, 1499, 1458, 1424, 1304, 1290, 1250, 1174, 1030, 956, 927, 836, 797, 767, 695 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.40 (m, 5H) 7.20 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.7, Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.92 (d, J = 7.2, Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.4, Hz, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 191.2, 159.8, 151.2, 140.8, 140.6, 128.7, 128.5, 127.1, 126.0, 124.8, 114.1, 108.3, 55.3, 34.1, 7.9; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2+\text{Na}^+$: 329.1260, found: 329.1266.

1,3-diphenyl-1H-pyrazole (3a)¹⁰: Table 2, entries 2, 24 and 26

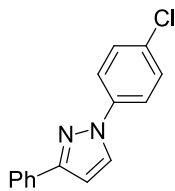


The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (B) from (*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**) and purified after 19 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 11:1) to give **3a** in 99% yield as a white solid.

Preparation from (*E*)-1-((*Z*)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1m**) or (*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*E*)-1-phenyl-4-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1n**) led to lower yields (see paper; Table 2). ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98-7.93 (m, 3H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.9, 140.2, 133.1, 129.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.3, 125.8, 119.0, 105.0.

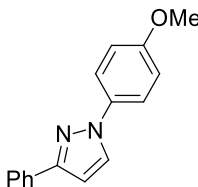
10) X. Tang, L. Huang, J. Yang, Y. Xu, W. Wu, H. Jiang, *Chem. Commun.*, **2014**, 50, 14793.

1-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3b)¹⁰: Table 2, entry 4



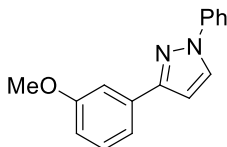
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure **(B)** from (*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1b**) and purified after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **3b** in 99% yield as a white solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.1, 138.7, 132.8, 131.6, 129.4, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 125.8, 120.0, 105.3.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3c)¹⁰: Table 2, entry 6



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure **(B)** from (*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1c**) and purified after 22 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to give **3c** in 100% yield as a white solid. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 152.4, 134.0, 133.2, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 125.7, 120.7, 114.4, 104.5, 55.5.

3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3d): Table 2, entries 8 and 10

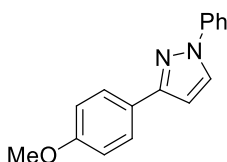


The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure **(B)** from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1d**) and purified after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to give **3d** in 91% yield as a highly

viscous yellow oil.

Preparation from (*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1e**) and purification after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) gave **3d** in 93% yield. IR (neat) ν 1600, 1529, 1505, 1471, 1437, 1355, 1284, 1217, 1045, 948, 839, 753, 689 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.9, 152.7, 140.1, 134.4, 129.6, 129.4, 127.9, 126.3, 119.0, 118.4, 113.9, 110.9, 105.1, 55.3; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 273.0998, found: 273.0997.

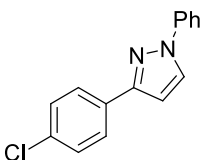
3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3e**)**¹⁰: Table 2, entries 12 and 28



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (**B**) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1f**) and purified after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give **3e** in 95% yield as an off-white solid.

Preparation from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)hex-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1l**) and purification after 22 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) gave **3e** in 72% yield. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.93 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 152.7, 140.2, 129.3, 127.8, 127.0, 126.1, 125.9, 118.9, 114.0, 104.5, 55.3.

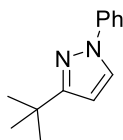
3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3f**)**¹⁰: Table 2, entry 14



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (**B**) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1g**) and purified after 20 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 12:1) to give **3f** in 100% yield as a white solid. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.9 Hz,

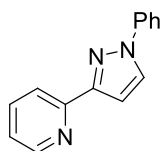
2H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.7, 140.0, 133.7, 131.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.1, 127.0, 126.5, 119.0, 104.9.

3-(*tert*-butyl)-1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazole (3g): Table 2, entry 16



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (B) from (*E*)-1-((*E*)-2,2-dimethyl-6-phenylhex-5-en-3-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1h**) and purified after 24 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 15:1) to give **3g** in 93% yield as a colorless oil. IR (neat) ν 1602, 1529, 1502, 1367, 1269, 1169, 1045, 981, 949, 901, 753, 723, 689 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 163.6, 140.4, 129.3, 126.8, 125.7, 118.9, 104.1, 32.3, 30.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2 + \text{Na}^+$: 223.1206, found: 223.1206.

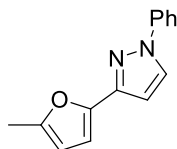
2-(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)pyridine (3h)¹¹: Table 2, entry 18



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure (B) from 2-((1*E*,3*E*)-4-phenyl-1-(2-phenylhydrazono)but-3-en-1-yl)pyridine (**1i**) and purified after 22 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1; deactivated silica) to give **3h** in 95% yield as a yellow oil. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.66 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, $J = 7.7, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, $J = 6.7, 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.2, 151.9, 149.3, 140.1, 136.5, 129.4, 128.2, 126.5, 122.6, 120.3, 119.2, 106.4.

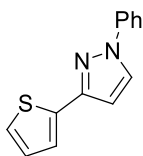
11) L. He, L. Duan, J. Qiao, D. Zhang, L. Wang, Y. Qiu, *Chem. Commun.*, **2011**, 47, 6467.

3-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole (3i): Table 2, entry 20



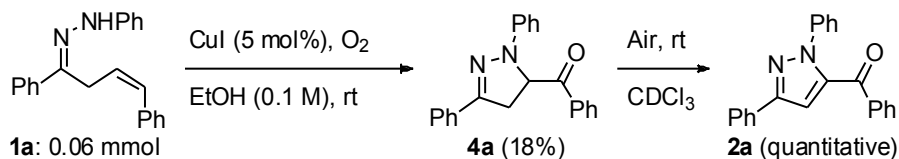
The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure **(B)** on a 0.10 mmol scale from 1-((*Z*)-1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-4-phenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1j**) and purified after 23 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **3i** in 68% yield as a yellow oil. IR (neat) ν 1600, 1577, 1518, 1508, 1374, 1330, 1261, 1045, 1020, 947, 898, 786, 752, 690, 647 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.08 (dd, J = 3.2, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.2, 146.7, 145.6, 139.9, 129.3, 127.8, 126.4, 119.2, 107.5, 107.4, 104.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 247.0842, found: 247.0840.

1-phenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazole (3j)¹⁰: Table 2, entry 22



The title compound was prepared according to experimental procedure **(B)** from ((*E*)-1-phenyl-2-((*Z*)-4-phenyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)but-3-en-1-ylidene)hydrazine (**1k**) and purified after 23 h by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to give **3j** in 100% yield as a white solid. ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.92 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (dd, J = 3.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.09 (dd, J = 5.1, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.2, 139.9, 136.3, 129.4, 128.0, 127.4, 126.3, 124.9, 124.2, 119.0, 105.0.

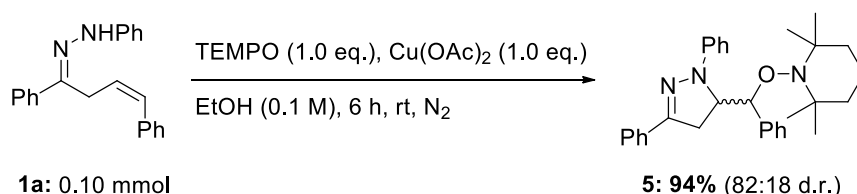
(I) Formation and isolation of 4a, 5, and 6



(*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**) (18.7 mg; 0.06 mmol; 1.0 eq.) was converted under the standard conditions **(A)** in EtOH, but with CuI (0.6 mg; 0.003 mmol; 0.05 eq.)

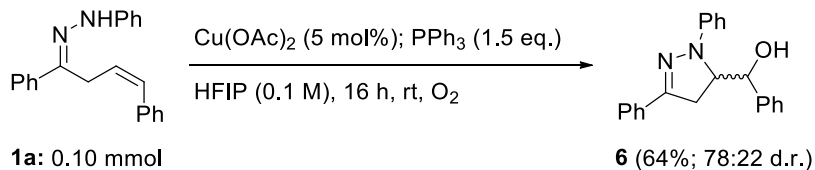
instead of Cu(OAc)₂ for 18 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 11:1) to give (1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanone (**4a**) in 18% (3.6 mg; 0.011 mmol) as a white solid. The ¹H NMR spectrum was measured directly after ~15 h and after ~2.5 days, by which time **4a** had been quantitatively converted to **2a** in the absence of any catalyst.

1-((1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methoxy)-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (**5**)



(*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**) (31.2 mg; 0.10 mmol; 1.0 eq.) was stirred in the presence of Cu(OAc)₂ (18.2 mg; 0.10 mmol; 1.0 eq.) and TEMPO (15.6 mg; 0.10 mmol; 1.0 eq.) in freshly degassed EtOH (1.0 mL) for 6 h under N₂. The mixture was then passed through a short pad of silica with EtOAc and the crude product purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 15:1) to give the diastereomeric mixture (82:18) of 1-((1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methoxy)-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (**5**) as a slightly yellow oil, containing traces of other impurities. A second column chromatography (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 20:1) provided the minor compound in 14% (6.7 mg; 0.014 mmol; single diastereomer) as a pale yellow solid and the major compound in 80% (96:4 d.r.), which was further purified by crystallization from Et₂O/*n*-hexane to give a white solid in 47% (21.9 mg; 0.047 mmol; single diastereomer). The isolated products seem to be stable, but color change was observed after prolonged time on silica under air. Major: IR (neat) ν 1597, 1504, 1494, 1395, 1339, 1130, 954, 754, 691 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.22 (m, 12H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (m, 1H), 4.72 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.55-0.80 (m, 15H), 0.25 (bs, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 144.9, 140.0, 133.0, 129.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.9, 125.7, 118.7, 113.4, 86.0, 64.7, 61.0, 59.1, 40.6, 35.1, 33.8, 33.4, 20.6, 17.1; HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₃₁H₃₇N₃O+Na⁺: 490.2829, found: 490.2842. Minor: IR (neat) ν 1597, 1504, 1494, 1398, 1131, 1033, 745, 704, 690 cm⁻¹; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.21 (m, 7H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 5H), 6.85 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.29-5.20 (m, 2H), 3.26 (s, 1H), 3.24 (s, 1H), 1.70-0.75 (m, 18H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 144.8, 138.0, 132.7, 129.3, 128.1 (2C), 127.6, 127.3, 127.2, 125.5, 118.4, 112.7, 82.2, 61.5, 60.7, 59.8, 40.5, 35.3, 34.1, 33.8, 29.7, 20.8, 20.4, 17.1; HRMS (ESI⁺) calcd for C₃₁H₃₇N₃O+Na⁺: 490.2829, found: 490.2853.

(1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanol (6)



(*E*)-1-((*Z*)-1,4-diphenylbut-3-en-1-ylidene)-2-phenylhydrazine (**1a**) (31.2 mg; 0.10 mmol; 1.0 eq.) was stirred in the presence of $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (0.9 mg; 0.005 mmol; 0.05 eq.) and PPh_3 (15.6 mg; 0.10 mmol; 1.0 eq.) in HFIP (1.0 mL) for 16 h under O_2 . The mixture was then passed through a short pad of silica with EtOAc and the crude product purified by PTLC (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 3:1) to give the minor diastereomer in <16% (slightly impure) as yellow oil and the major diastereomer of (1,3-diphenyl-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)(phenyl)methanol (**6**) as an impure pale yellow solid that was further purified by crystallization from $\text{Et}_2\text{O}/n$ -hexane, providing the pure product as white solid in 23%. The isolated solid product seems to be stable, but slowly decomposes in solution under air. Major only: IR (neat) ν 1596, 1503, 1493, 1447, 1392, 1126, 1069, 1033, 745, 691 cm^{-1} ; ^1H -NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.31 (m, 8H), 6.94 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (bs, 1H), 4.65 (ddd, J = 12.0, 6.9, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.35 (dd, J = 17.0, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 17.2, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C -NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.8, 145.2, 139.6, 132.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 126.0, 125.6, 120.0, 113.9, 70.5, 66.8, 32.5; HRMS (ESI+) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}^+$: 351.1468, found: 351.1497.

(J) NMR Spectra

