

*Supporting Information For:*

## **Synthesis of symmetrical pyridines by iron-catalyzed cyclization of ketoxime acetates and aldehydes**

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## 1. General information

$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on 100 MHz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . The following abbreviations were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. All products were further characterized by HRMS (ESI-TOF-Q); copies of their  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are provided in Supporting Information. All reactions were monitored by TLC with GF254 silica gel coated plates. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel. Aldehydes,  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (CR, anhydrous) and other reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Ketoxime acetates were synthesized by the following procedure.

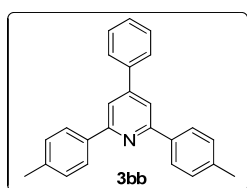
## 2. Typical procedure for preparation of ketoxime acetates

The mixture of ketoxime (3.0 mmol), acetic anhydride (6.0 mmol, 2.0 eq), was stirred at 100 °C for 3h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the oxime acetates with hexane/ethyl acetate as the eluent.

## 3. Procedure for the synthesis of pyridines

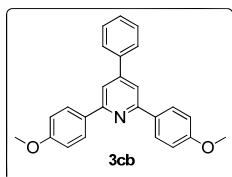
In a 10 mL round bottom flask, the ketoxime acetates **1** (0.6 mmol), aldehydes **2** (0.2 mmol) and  $\text{FeCl}_3$  (20 mol%, 6.5 mg) was stirred in toluene (2.0 mL) under Ar at 140 °C. When the reaction was completed (detected by TLC), the mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with EtOAc ( $2 \times 10$  mL) and washed with brine (10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and then evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the corresponding pyridines **3** with hexane/ethyl acetate as the eluent.

## 4. Spectroscopic data for pyridines:

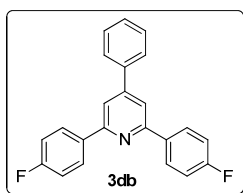


**4-Phenyl-2,6-di-p-tolylpyridine (3bb).** Yield 70% (47.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 148-150 °C;

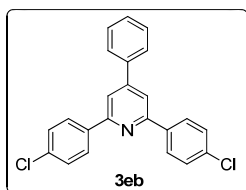
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.09 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.82 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.42 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.3, 149.9, 139.2, 138.9, 136.8, 129.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.1, 126.9, 116.5, 21.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  336.1747. Found: 336.1731.



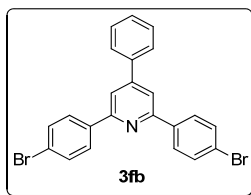
**2,6-Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3cb).** Yield 85% (62.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 125-127 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.76 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.02 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 3.86 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.4, 156.9, 149.9, 139.3, 132.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.1, 115.6, 114.0, 55.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  368.1645. Found: 368.1636.



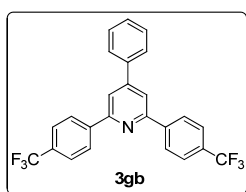
**2,6-Bis(4-fluorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3db).** Yield 80% (55.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 168-170 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.17-8.14 (m, 4H), 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 247.1 Hz), 156.4, 150.4, 138.7, 135.5, 129.1, 129.1, 128.8 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 8.0 Hz), 127.1, 116.6, 115.6 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 21.4 Hz). HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_2\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  344.1245. Found: 344.1233.



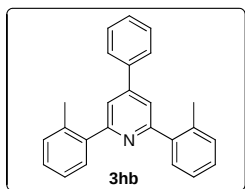
**2,6-Bis(4-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3eb).** Yield 93% (70.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 178-180 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.83 (s, 2H), 7.71 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.547-7.507 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.3, 150.5, 138.6, 137.7, 135.2, 129.2, 128.9, 128.3, 127.1, 117.0. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  376.0654. Found: 376.0647.



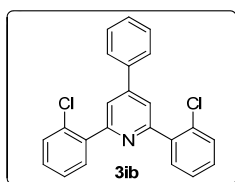
**2,6-Bis(4-bromophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3fb).** Yield 85% (78.3 mg); Yellow solid; mp 194-196 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.86 (s, 2H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.4, 150.6, 138.6, 138.2, 131.9, 129.2, 128.6, 127.1, 123.6, 117.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Br}_2\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 463.9644$ . Found: 463.9642.



**4-Phenyl-2,6-bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyridine (3gb).** Yield 92% (81.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 152-154 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.28 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.94 (s, 2H), 7.77 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.74-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.2, 150.8, 142.4, 138.3, 131.0 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 32.2), 129.4, 129.3, 127.4, 127.1, 125.7 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 3.7), 122.8, 118.2. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{F}_6\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 444.1181$ . Found: 444.1168.

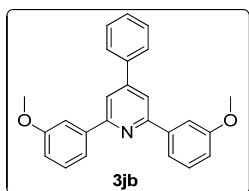


**4-Phenyl-2,6-di-o-tolylpyridine (3hb).** Yield 78% (52.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 133-135 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.3 (s, 5H), 2.48 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.0, 148.7, 140.7, 138.4, 135.9, 130.7, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.2, 127.1, 125.8, 120.1, 20.6. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 336.1747$ . Found: 336.1736.

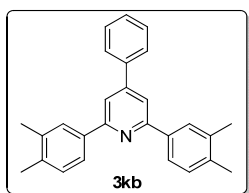


**2,6-Bis(2-chlorophenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3ib).** Yield 70% (53.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp

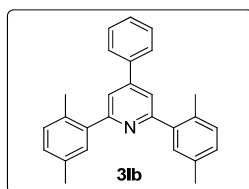
147-149 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.88 (s, 2H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 4H), 7.53-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.1, 148.4, 139.2, 138.2, 132.3, 131.8, 130.1, 129.6, 129.1, 127.2, 127.1, 121.6. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 376.0654$ . Found: 376.0647.



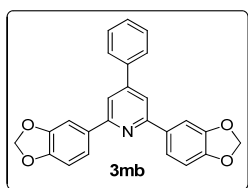
**2,6-Bis(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3jb).** Yield 83% (61.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 76-78 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87 (s, 2H), 7.80-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.98 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.0, 157.1, 150.1, 141.0, 138.9, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 127.1, 119.5, 117.4, 114.7, 112.6, 55.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 368.1645$ . Found: 368.1636.



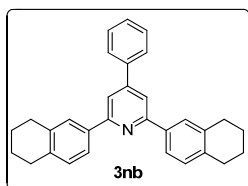
**2,6-Bis(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3kb).** Yield 80% (58.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 207-209 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.97 (s, 2H), 7.91 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.81 (s, 2H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.26 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.6, 149.8, 139.3, 137.6, 137.4, 136.8, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.2, 124.5, 116.5, 20.0, 19.6. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 364.2060$ . Found: 364.2048.



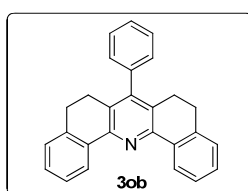
**2,6-Bis(2,5-dimethylphenyl)-4-phenylpyridine (3lb).** Yield 65% (47.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.72 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.37 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.2, 148.6, 140.6, 138.6, 135.2, 132.7, 130.6, 130.5, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 127.1, 120.0, 20.9, 20.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 364.2060$ . Found: 364.2048.



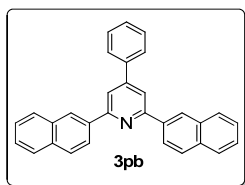
**2,6-Bis(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3mb).** Yield 75% (60.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 137-139 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.73 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.69-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d,  $J$  = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.02 (s, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.6, 150.0, 148.4, 148.2, 139.0, 134.0, 129.0, 128.9, 127.1, 121.0, 116.0, 108.3, 107.5, 101.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_4$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  396.1230. Found: 396.1221.



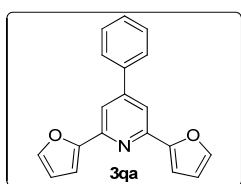
**4-Phenyl-2,6-bis(5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-2-yl)pyridine (3nb).** Yield 66% (55.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (s, 4H), 2.82 (s, 4H), 1.84-1.83 (m, 8H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.6, 149.7, 139.2, 138.2, 137.3, 137.0, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 127.7, 127.1, 124.2, 116.5, 29.6, 29.3, 23.2, 23.2. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  416.2373. Found: 416.2359.



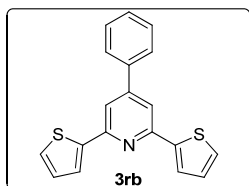
**7-Phenyl-5,6,8,9-tetrahydrodibenzo[c,h]acridine (3ob).** Yield 75% (54.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 160-162°C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.58 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 2.84-2.81 (m, 4H), 2.67-2.63 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  150.0, 147.4, 137.9, 137.8, 135.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 127.0, 125.2, 28.1, 25.7. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  360.1747. Found: 360.1735.



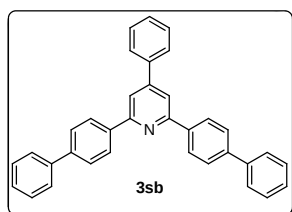
**2,6-Di(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3pb).** Yield 65% (53.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 145-147 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.66 (s, 2H), 8.40-8.38 (m, 2H), 8.01-7.97 (m, 6H), 7.89-7.87 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 7H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.4, 150.2, 139.0, 136.9, 133.7, 133.5, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.2, 126.5, 126.4, 126.2, 124.9, 117.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  408.1747. Found: 408.1730.



**2,6-Di(furan-2-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3qb).** Yield 64% (37.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 102-104 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.79 (s, 2H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.55 (d,  $J$  = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 6.56-6.55 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  153.7, 149.6, 143.3, 129.1, 129.0, 127.0, 114.8, 112.0, 109.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  288.1019. Found: 288.1010.

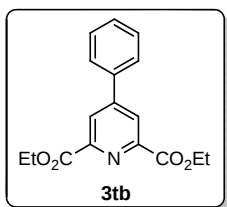


**4-Phenyl-2,6-di(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine (3rb).** Yield 71% (46.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 108-110 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.69-7.66 (m, 6H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.40 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.10 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  152.5, 150.1, 144.8, 138.5, 129.1, 129.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.0, 124.8, 115.0. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{NS}_2$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  320.0562. Found: 320.0556.

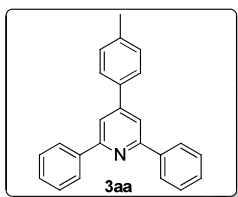


**2,6-di([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-4-phenylpyridine (3sb).** Yield 72% (66.0 mg); Yellow solid;  $^1\text{H}$

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.93 (s, 2H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 6H), 7.70-7.67(m, 4H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  157.1, 150.2, 141.8, 140.6, 139.0, 138.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 127.5, 127.4, 127.2, 127.1, 117.0. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 460.2060. Found: 460.2059.

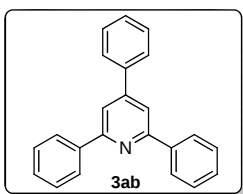


**diethyl 4-phenylpyridine-2,6-dicarboxylate (3tb).** Yield 65% (39.0 mg); Yellow solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 2H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 3H), 4.55-4.50 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.47 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.8, 149.2, 130.1, 129.4, 127.2, 125.5, 62.5, 14.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 322.1050. Found:

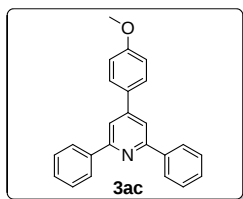


322.1052.

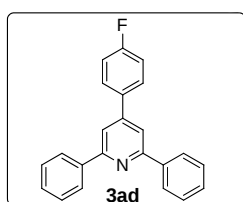
**2,6-Diphenyl-4-(p-tolyl)pyridine (3aa).** Yield 87% (56.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 109-111 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.86 (s, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  157.4, 150.0, 139.6, 139.0, 136.0, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 127.1, 126.9, 116.8, 21.2. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 322.1590. Found: 322.1585.



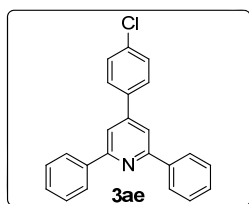
**2,4,6-Triphenylpyridine (3ab).** Yield 92% (56.6 mg); Yellow solid; mp 130-132 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.21-8.19 (m, 4H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.74-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 7H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  157.4, 150.1, 139.5, 139.0, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 127.1, 127.1, 117.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 308.1434. Found: 308.1427.



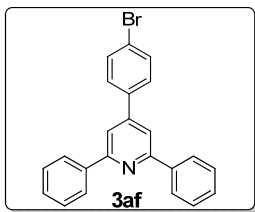
**4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3ac).** Yield 60% (40.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 103-105 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.84 (s, 2H), 7.68 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.44 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  160.4, 157.4, 149.6, 139.7, 131.2, 128.9, 128.6, 128.3, 127.1, 116.5, 114.5, 55.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  338.1539. Found: 338.1533.



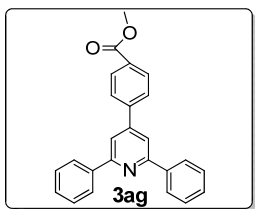
**4-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3ad).** Yield 73% (47.5 mg); Yellow solid; mp 138-140 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.20-8.17 (m, 4H), 7.81 (s, 2H), 7.71-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.3 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 247.4 Hz), 157.5, 149.1, 139.4, 135.0, 129.1, 128.9 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 8.2 Hz), 128.7, 127.1, 116.8, 116.1 (d,  $J_{\text{CF}}$  = 21.5 Hz). HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  326.1340. Found: 326.1331.



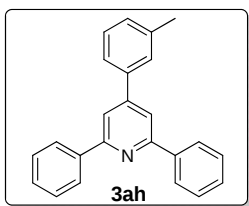
**4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3ae).** Yield 75% (51.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 112-114 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19-8.16 (m, 4H), 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 6H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.6, 148.8, 139.3, 137.4, 135.1, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.1, 116.7. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  342.1044. Found: 342.1037.



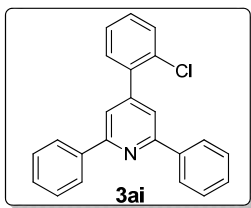
**4-(4-Bromophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3af).** Yield 65% (50.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 115-117 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19-8.17 (m, 4H), 7.80 (s, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.45 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.6, 148.9, 139.3, 137.9, 132.2, 129.1, 128.7, 127.1, 123.4, 116.7. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrN}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  386.0539. Found: 386.0523.



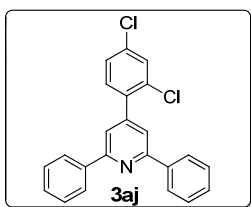
**Methyl 4-(2,6-diphenylpyridin-4-yl)benzoate (3ag).** Yield 60% (44.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 156-158 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.21-8.17 (m, 6H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.46 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.6, 157.6, 149.0, 143.3, 139.3, 130.3, 129.2, 128.7, 127.2, 127.1, 117.0, 52.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  366.1489. Found: 366.1479.



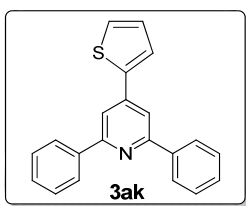
**2,6-Diphenyl-4-(m-tolyl)pyridine (3ah).** Yield 70% (43.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 90-92 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.21-8.19 (m, 4H), 7.87 (s, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 6H), 7.45-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.27 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.4, 150.3, 139.6, 139.0, 138.8, 129.7, 129.0, 128.7, 127.8, 127.1, 124.3, 117.1, 21.5. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  322.1590. Found: 322.1580.



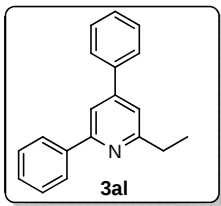
**4-(2-Chlorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3ai).** Yield 73% (50.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.52-7.48 (m, 5H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  156.8, 148.5, 139.3, 138.5, 132.2, 130.9, 130.2, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 127.1, 127.1, 119.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{17}\text{ClN}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  342.1044. Found: 342.1033.



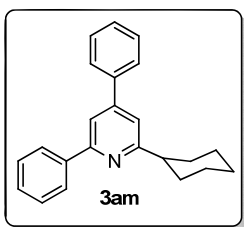
**4-(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2,6-diphenylpyridine (3aj).** Yield 76% (57.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19-8.16 (m, 4H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d,  $J = 0.8$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.0, 147.5, 139.2, 137.0, 135.0, 133.1, 131.6, 130.1, 128.7, 127.5, 127.1, 119.2. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  376.0654. Found: 376.0645.



**2,6-Diphenyl-4-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine (3ak).** Yield 80% (50.0 mg); Yellow solid; mp 162-164  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.19-8.17 (m, 4H), 7.86 (s, 2H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.16 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  157.7, 142.9, 141.9, 139.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.1, 126.9, 125.2, 115.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{NS}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  314.0998. Found: 314.0990.



**2-ethyl-4,6-diphenylpyridine (3al).** Yield 48% (25.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.06 (d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.00-2.98 (m, 2H), 1.44-1.40 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  163.9, 157.4, 149.6, 139.8, 139.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 127.1, 127.1, 118.6, 116.3, 31.6, 14.0. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{NNa}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 282.1253$ . Found: 282.1267.



**2-cyclohexyl-4,6-diphenylpyridine (3am).** Yield 56% (35.0 mg); Yellow oil;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.08 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 2.08 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.88 (m, 3H), 1.71-1.61 (m, 3H), 1.52-1.42 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.9, 158.0, 149.4, 139.2, 137.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.1, 127.1, 127.0, 118.6, 116.2, 46.7, 33.7, 33.0, 26.6. HRMS Calcd (ESI)  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{NNa}$ :  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+ 336.1723$ . Found: 336.1730.

## 5. Appendix (copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra)

