Pyramidalization/Twisting of the Amide Functionality via Remote Steric Congestion Triggered by Metal-Coordination

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1. General Methods

1-1. Reactions and purifications

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in an oven-dried flask fitted with a septum under an argon atmosphere with magnetically stirred chips. All work-up and purification procedures were carried out with reagent-grade solvents under ambient atmosphere. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck TLC plates (0.25 mm) with silica gel 60 F254 and visualized by UV quenching and staining with KMnO4. Flash column chromatography was performed using SiO₂ [Kanto Chemical 60N (neutral, spherical, 50–60 µm)] or CombiFlash systems with a Redisep column.

1-2. Characterizations

Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a HORIBA FT210 Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III HD400, Bruker AVANCE III 500, or a JEOL ECZ-600R. Chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm relative to residual solvent peaks.¹ Data for ¹H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (multiplicity, coupling constants where applicable, number of hydrogens). Abbreviations are as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), dd (doublet of doublet), dt (doublet of triplet), ddd (doublet of doublet of doublet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br (broad). For ¹⁹F NMR, chemical shifts were reported in the scale relative to PhCF₃ (δ –62.7680 ppm in CDCl₃) as an external reference. High-resolution mass spectra were measured on a Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL.

1-3. Solvents and reagents

THF, toluene, hexane, and CH₃CN were purified by passing through a solvent purification system (Glass Contour). All other materials were used as supplied by commercial vendors or prepared by the method described in the corresponding references.

2. General Procedures

2-1. Synthesis of 1a.



(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide (1a)



To a solution of *p*-fluorocinnamic acid (166 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in 2 mL of dichloromethane at 0 °C, under argon, was added oxalyl chloride (152 mg, 1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) followed by one drop of DMF. After 10 minutes the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The solvent and excess oxalyl chloride was removed *in vacuo* to yield the corresponding crude acid chloride, which was used without further purification.

To a stirred solution of LHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 1.0 mmol) at -78 °C was slowly added 2-(2-(diphenylmethylene)hydrazinyl)pyridine² (273.3 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (2.0 mL). After 1 h, the crude acid chloride (1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (2.5 mL) was then added dropwise and the mixture was allowed to stir for 30 minitues at -78 °C and then allowed to warm to room temperature over 4 h and stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by silica gel flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 –4:1 –2:1) gave title compound **1a** (307 mg, 73% yield).

Yellow solid, m.p.: 127–129 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.29–8.27 (m, 1H), 7.67–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 4H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.01 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 170.5, 166.2, 164.6 (d, *J* = 248.3 Hz), 155.4, 149.1, 141.8, 138.4, 138.0, 136.7, 132.7 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 132.1, 131.2 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 129.9, 129.7, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 122.8, 122.3, 120.6 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 116.8 (d, *J* = 22.1 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 343 K, CDCl₃): –112.4 (m); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3049, 1662, 1615, 1599, 1508, 1357, 1230, 994, 828, 699 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₂₇H₂₁ON₃F [M+H]⁺: 422.1663, found: 422.1661.

2-2. Synthesis of 1b.



2-(2-(Diphenylmethylene)hydrazinyl)-3-methylpyridine (S1)



Following the procedure of J. B. Arterburn, et al.,² a flask was charged with benzophenone hydrazone (762 mg, 3.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (38.3 mg, 0.17 mmol, 4.4 mol%), racemic 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphanyl)-1,1'-binaphtyl (BINAP) (106.4 mg, 0.17 mmol, 4.4 mol%), and NaOt-Bu (653 mg, 6.8 mmol, 1.75 equiv) in a glove box. The flask was purged with argon, then anhydrous toluene (10 mL) and 2-bromo-3-methylpyridine (828 mg, 4.8 mmol, 1.24 equiv) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C and stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was

cooled, diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 – 6:1 – 4:1) to yield title compound **S1** (706 mg, 63% yield). Brown solid, m.p.: 79–80 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.67–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.28 (m, 6H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 153.5, 147.4, 145.9, 139.4, 138.0, 132.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 128.2, 127.0, 117.9, 116.1, 18.4; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\gamma}$ = 3314, 3042,

2965, 1586, 1556, 1488, 1452, 1292, 1116, 785, 690 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₁₉H₁₈N₃ [M+H]⁺: 288.1495, found: 288.1497.

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-N-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)but-2-enehydrazide (1b)

A solution of crotonic acid (86.1 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and N-methylmorpholine (202 mg, 2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (7.0 mL) was cooled to -14 °C and treated dropwise with isobutyl chloroformate (137 mg, 1.0 mmol,



1.0 equiv). After 1 h, a solution of 2-(2-(diphenylmethylene)hydrazinyl)-3-methylpyridine **S1** (287 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (7.0 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature over 2 h and stirred for 46 h. The resulting mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 – 4:1 – 2:1) to yield title compound **1b** (89.8 mg, 25%)

yield).

Note that the NMR spectra of title compound 1a was recorded at elevated temperature (50 °C), as peaks were broadened at room temperature.

Brown solid, m.p.: 154–156 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 323 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.14 (br d, *J* = *ca*. 4 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.09 (m, 4H), 7.04–6.80 (m, 5H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 323 K, CD₃CN): δ 168.1, 161.9, 155.2, 147.3, 143.9, 139.7, 139.6, 137.4, 133.3, 131.3, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 124.2, 124.1, 18.5, 18.3; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2962, 2910, 1676, 1638, 1445, 1343, 1204, 967, 784, 698 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₂₃H₂₂ON₃ [M+H]⁺: 356.1757, found: 356.1760.

2-3. Synthesis of 1c.



2-Chloro-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridine (S2)



Following the procedure of P. Langer et al.,³ the flask charged with 3-bromo-2-chloropyridine (1.89 g, 9.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2,6-dimethylphenyl boronic acid (1.77 g, 11.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (568 mg, 0.49 mmol, 5.0 mol%), and NaOH (1.18 g, 29.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv) were evacuated and back filled with argon. To the mixture, THF (132 mL) and water (19 mL) were added, and then the reaction flask was evacuated and back filed several times with argon. The reaction was heated at 70 °C and stirred for 4 h. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was extracted with EtOAc and water. The

organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 – 19:1) to yield title compound **S2** (1.79 g, 84% yield). White solid, m.p.: 94–96 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 8.36 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.03 (m, 2H), 1.93 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 151.0, 148.8, 139.8, 136.9, 136.12, 136.09, 128.4, 127.6, 122.8, 20.4; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\gamma}$ = 3047, 2911, 1554, 1446, 1386, 1085, 998, 778, 725 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₃H₁₃NCl [M+H]⁺: 218.0731, found: 218.0730.

2-(2-(Diphenylmethylene)hydrazinyl)-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridine (S3)

Following the procedure of J. B. Arterburn, et al.,² a flask was charged with benzophenone



hydrazone (295 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (14.9 mg, 0.066 mmol, 4.4 mol%), racemic 2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphanyl)-1,1'-binaphtyl (BINAP) (41.2 mg, 0.066 mmol, 4.4 mol%), and NaOt-Bu (253 mg, 2.6 mmol, 1.75 equiv) in a glove box. The flask was purged with argon, then anhydrous toluene (3.8 mL), and 2-chloro-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridine **S2** (410 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1.25 equiv) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C and stirred for 19 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, diluted with EtOAc, washed with water and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 – 6:1–4:1) to yield title compound **S3** (461 mg, 81% yield).

Brown solid, m.p.: 119–121 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.26 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.33 (m, 5H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05–7.00 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 152.5, 148.5, 148.4, 139.0, 138.8, 137.2, 135.8, 133.1, 130.5, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 121.5, 116.8, 20.3; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3319, 3021, 2913, 1575, 1503, 1488, 1395, 1235, 1217, 1128, 769, 705, 691 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₂₆H₂₄N₃ [M+H]⁺: 378.1965, found: 378.1961.

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-N-[3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl]but-2-enehydrazide (1c)

Following the above described reaction for the preparation of amide **1b**, amide **1c** was obtained in 28% yield (72.3 mg) from 2-(2-(diphenylmethylene)hydrazinyl)-3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridine **S3** (218 mg, 0.58 mmol) after purification by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 - 4:1 - 2:1).



White solid, m.p.: 139–141 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.49 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.52–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.24 (m, 5H), 7.22–717 (m, 3H), 7.09 (br s, 2H), 6.60 (br s, 2H), 6.44 (dq, *J* = 14.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dq, *J* = 15.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (s, 6H), 1.62 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 169.8, 163.8, 155.4, 148.9, 142.0, 141.0, 139.0, 137.93, 137.92, 137.0, 135.4, 131.5, 129.6, 129.1,

129.0 (3C), 128.43, 128.38, 125.8, 124.5, 21.2, 17.9; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, *d*₆-acetone): δ 8.52 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.28 (m, 4H), 7.27–7.14 (m, 4H), 7.08 (br s, 2H), 6.62 (br s, 2H), 6.40 (dq, *J* = 14.1, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dq, *J* = 15.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.96 (s, 6H), 1.61 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, *d*₆-acetone): δ 169.0, 163.4, 155.8, 148.7, 141.6, 139.8, 139.2, 138.1, 137.7, 137.2, 135.3, 131.1, 129.5, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 126.2, 124.2, 21.2, 17.8; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3051, 2912, 1683, 1645, 1561, 1415, 1319, 1176, 965, 771, 695 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₀H₂₈ON₃ [M+H]⁺: 446.2227, found: 446.2222.

2-4. Synthesis of 1d.



(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-phenylacrylohydrazide (1d)



Following the above described reaction for the preparation of amide **1a**, amide **1d** was obtained in 29% yield (122 mg) from 1-(diphenylmethylene)-2-phenylhydrazine⁴ (272 mg, 1.0 mmol) after purification by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 100:0 - 4:1).

Note that the NMR spectra of title compound **1d** was recorded at elevated temperature (70 °C), as peaks were broadened at room temperature.

Yellow solid, m.p.: 134–136 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 343 K, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 7.79–7.50 (m, 6H), 7.47–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.22–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07–6.77 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 343 K, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 170.2, 163.5, 162.7 (d, *J* = 248.2 Hz), 141.7, 140.2, 136.7, 134.9, 131.1 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 130.8, 129.8 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 128.7, 128.3, 128.14, 128.09, 127.7, 127.4, 126.0, 125.7, 118.8 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 343 K, DMSO-*d*₆): –110.9 (m); IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3056, 3036, 1652, 1615, 1600, 1591, 1507, 1489, 1372, 1225, 1157, 1003, 991, 824, 698 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI)

2-5. Preparation and characterization of metal complexes with amides 1a-c

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide·Pd (1:1) Complex (1a/Pd)

Complex **1a**/Pd was formed immediately after the addition of CD₃CN (550 μ L) into an NMR tube containing (*E*)-*N*'-(diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide (**1a**) (4.9 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and [Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ (5.2 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1 equiv).



¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.40 (td, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (dd, J = 6.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.91–7.86 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.65 (m, 5H), 7.63–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.14 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 191.6, 165.60 (d, J = 251.2 Hz), 163.6, 152.7, 152.1, 149.0, 146.4, 136.7, 134.7, 134.54, 134.50, 132.4 (d, J = 8.9 Hz), 131.2 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 130.8, 130.00, 129.97, 129.9,

126.3, 119.6, 117.2 (d, J = 22.3 Hz), 114.2 (d, J = 2.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): -109.1 (m), -151.5 (s, ¹⁰BF₄), -151.6 (s, ¹¹BF₄); HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₇H₂₀ON₃F₂Pd [M–(CH₃CN)₂– BF₄– BF₃]*: 546.0604 found: 546.0620.

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide·Pd (2:1) Complex [(1a)₂/Pd]

Complex $(1a)_2/Pd$ was formed immediately after the addition of CD₃CN (550 µL) into an NMR tube containing (*E*)-*N*'-(diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide (1a) (4.9 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and [Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ (2.6 mg, 0.00585 mmol, 0.5 equiv).



¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 8.16–8.06 (m, 4H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.74– 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.15–7.09 (m, 6H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 189.6, 169.4, 166.0 (d, *J* = 252.4 Hz), 153.3, 152.1, 150.7, 145.6, 136.0,

134.8, 134.5, 133.3, 132.9 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 131.5, 131.1 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 129.8 (3Cx2), 127.0, 121.0, 117.4 (d, J = 22.3 Hz), 113.6; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 343 K, CD₃CN): -108.2 (m), -151.7 (s, ¹⁰BF₄), -151.8 (s, ¹¹BF₄); HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₅₄H₄₀O₂N₆F₂Pd [M–(BF₄⁻)₂]²⁺: 474.1102 found: 474.1113.

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-N-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)but-2-enehydrazide·Pd (2:1) Complex [(1b)₂/Pd]

Complex $(1b)_2/Pd$ was formed immediately after the addition of CD₃CN (550 µL) into an NMR tube containing (*E*)-*N*'-(diphenylmethylene)-*N*-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)but-2-enehydrazide (1b) (4.2 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and $[Pd(CH_3CN)_4](BF_4)_2$ (2.6 mg, 0.00585 mmol, 0.5 equiv).



¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.04–7.94 (m, 4H), 7.89–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.84–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.51 (m, 4H), 7.44–7.37 (m, 6H), 7.25–7.20 (m, 6H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 2H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.7 Hz, 6H), 1.82 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ ; 189.8, 169.0, 155.2, 152.1, 149.8, 147.1, 135.2, 135.0, 134.4, 133.7, 132.4, 131.4, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 127.3, 119.3, 19.0, 18.4; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₄₆H₄₂O₂N₆Pd [M–(BF₄–)₂]²⁺: 408.1197 found: 408.1206.

(*E*)-*N*'-(Diphenylmethylene)-*N*-[3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl]but-2-enehydrazide·*Pd* (2:1) Complex [(1c)₂/Pd] Complex (1c)₂/Pd was formed immediately after the addition of CD₃CN (550 μL) into an NMR tube containing (*E*)-*N*'-(diphenylmethylene)-*N*-[3-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pyridin-2-yl]but-2-enehydrazide (1c) (5.2 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1.0



equiv) and [Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ (2.6 mg, 0.00585 mmol, 0.5 equiv). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.88 (br s, 2H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.88–7.74 (m, 6H), 7.51–7.41 (m, 6H), 7.39–7.27 (m, 8H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 4H), 7.22–7.15 (m, 4H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.36 (d, *J*

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= 15.0 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.6 Hz, 6H), 2.14 (s, 6H), 0.79 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 187.9, 171.0, 156.6, 153.2, 151.5, 147.8, 137.8, 137.1, 136.6, 136.4, 134.9, 134.5, 134.1 (br), 133.8, 133.5, 132.7, 130.3 (br), 130.2, 130.05, 130.02, 129.0, 128.5, 127.0, 119.8, 21.3, 20.3, 19.3; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₆₀H₅₄O₂N₆Pd [M–(BF₄-)₂]²⁺: 498.1666 found: 498.1670.

(E)-N'-(Diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide·Zn (2:1) Complex [(1a)₂/Zn]



Complex (**1a**)₂/Zn was formed immediately after the addition of CD₃CN (550 μ L) into an NMR tube containing (*E*)-*N*'-(diphenylmethylene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(pyridin-2-y l)acrylohydrazide (**1a**) (4.9 mg, 0.0117 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Zn(OTf)₂ (2.1 mg, 0.00585 mmol, 0.5 equiv).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 8.24 (br s, 2H), 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.62–7.35 (m, 22H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.09–6.94 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN): δ 181.1, 166.4, 165.2 (d, *J* = 248.8 Hz), 154.1, 148.2, 146.5, 142.6, 136.6, 135.4, 134.0, 132.0 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 131.8, 131.6 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 131.0, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 123.8, 121.9 (d, *J* = 318.8 Hz), 121.1, 117.3, 117.0 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 343 K, CD₃CN):–78.3 (s), –110.2 (br s); HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calculated for C₅₅H₄₀O₅N₆F₅SZn [M–(OTf-)]⁺: 1055.1987 found: 1055.1993.

<u>2-6. Synthesis of ester 2</u>

Methyl (E)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)acrylate (2)



Note that ester 2 is known compound.⁵

To a mixture of

(*E*)-*N*'-((*E*)-benzylidene)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)acrylohydrazide (**1a**) (42.1 mg, 0.10 mmol 1.0 equiv) and $Zn(OTf)_2$ (1.8 mg, 0.005 mmol, 5 mol%) was added MeOH (9.4 mL) at room temperature. After stirred for 24 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated

under reduced pressure. Purification of the residue by flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc, 19:1) gave title compound **2** (16.5 mg, 92% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.16–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.36 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ .167.5, 164.05 (d, *J* = 251.5 Hz), 143.7, 130.8 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 130.08 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 117.69 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz), 116.20 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz), 51.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): –109.6 (m).

3. NMR Analyses of Amide-Metal Complexes

3-1. 1a–Pd Complexes

3-1-1. Detailed NMR of **1a** for peak assignments











Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination <u>3-1-3</u>. Detailed NMR of (**1a**)₂/Pd for peak assignments





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Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination 3-1-4. Stacked ¹H and ¹³C NMR of **1a**, **1a**/Pd, and **(1a)** $_2/Pd$



Figure S1. (a) ¹H NMR of **1a** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹H NMR of **1a**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 1/1 in CD₃CN. (c) ¹H NMR of **1a**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. *i*•*j*•*k* and *i*'•*j*'•*k*' are not distinguished in (a) and (b).





Figure S2. (a) ¹³C NMR of **1a** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹³C NMR of **1a**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 1/1 in CD₃CN. (c) ¹³C NMR of **1a**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. *i*•*j*•*k*•4 and *i*'•*j*'•*k*'•4' are not distinguished in (a) and (b).

<u>3-2. 1b–Pd Complex</u>

3-2-1. Detailed NMR of **1b** for peak assignments





Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination







f1 (ppm)



Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination







Electronic Supplementary Information









Figure S3. (a) ¹H NMR of **1b** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹H NMR of **1b**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. $f \cdot g \cdot h$ and $f \cdot g' \cdot h'$ are not distinguished in (a).



Figure S4. (a) ¹³C NMR of **1b** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹³C NMR of **1b**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. $f \cdot g \cdot h \cdot 3$ and $f \cdot g' \cdot h' \cdot 3'$ are not distinguished in (a).

3-1. 1c–Pd Complex

3-3-1. Detailed NMR of 1c for peak assignments









3-3-2. Detailed NMR of (1c)2/Pd for peak assignments



f1 (ppm)






Electronic Supplementary Information









Electronic Supplementary Information





Electronic Supplementary Information



Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination



Pyramidalization/twisting of the amide functionality via remote steric congestion triggered by metal coordination 3-3-3. Stacked ¹H and ¹³C NMR of **1c** and (**1c**)₂/Pd



(2 9.1 90 89 88 8.7 8.6 8.5 8.4 8.3 8.2 8.1 8.0 7.9 7.8 7.7 7.6 7.5 7.4 7.3 7.2 7.1 7.0 6.9 6.8 6.7 6.6 6.5 6.4 6.3 6.2 6.1 6.0 5.9 5.8 5.7 5.6 5.5 5.4 5.3 f[loom)

Figure S5. (a) ¹H NMR of **1c** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹H NMR of **1c**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. $f \bullet g \bullet h$ and $f \bullet g' \bullet h'$ are not distinguished in (a).



Figure S6. (a) ¹³C NMR of **1c** in CD₃CN. (b) ¹³C NMR of **1c**/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. *f*•*g*•*h* 3 and *f*•*g*'•*h*'•3' are not distinguished in (a)

Although ¹H NMR of the mixture of $1a:[Pd(CH_3CN)_4](BF_4)_2 = 1:1$ in CD₃CN showed clean formation of 1a/Pd ($1a:Pd^{2+} = 1:1$) (Figure S1b), 1b and 1c in NMR analysis under otherwise identical conditions gave two species, one of which is (1)₂/Pd (amide 1b or $1c: Pd^{2+} = 2:1$) and another is assumed to be 1/Pd (amide 1b or $1c: Pd^{2+} = 1:1$) (Figure S7 and S8).



8.5 0.0 9.5 8.0 7.0 6.0 4.5 9.0 7.5 6.5 5.5 5.0 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 o Figure S7. (a) ¹H NMR of 1c/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 2/1 in CD₃CN. (b) ¹H NMR of 1c/[Pd(CH₃CN)₄](BF₄)₂ = 1/1 in CD₃CN.



Figure S8. (a) ¹H NMR of $1c/[Pd(CH_3CN)_4](BF_4)_2 = 2/1$ in CD₃CN. (b) ¹H NMR of $1c/[Pd(CH_3CN)_4](BF_4)_2 = 1/1$ in CD₃CN.

The ¹H NMR of a mixture of (**1a**)₂/Pd with **1a** or **1a**/Pd showed the sum of the two individual spectra rather than an averaged spectrum (Figure S9). In contrast, ¹H NMR signals of a mixture of **1a** and Zn(OTf)₂ were averaged (Figure S10).



8.6 8.5 8.4 8.3 8.2 8.1 8.0 7.9 7.8 7.7 7.6 7.5 f1 (ppm) 7.4 7.3 7.2 7.1 7.0 6.9 6.8 6.7 Figure S9. ¹H NMR of a mixture of (1a)₂Pd with 1a or 1a/Pd.



 6.6
 8.5
 8.4
 8.3
 8.2
 8.1
 8.0
 7.9
 7.8
 7.7
 7.6
 7.5
 7.4
 7.3
 7.2
 7.1
 7.0
 6.9
 6.8

 Figure S10. (a) Averaged ¹H NMR of a mixture of **1a** and Zn(OTf)²

4. Crystal Structures of Amides 1a-c and Their Pd Complexes

<u>4-1. Crystal structures of amides 1a–c</u>

A crystal of **1a** was obtained by vapor diffusion of hexane into an acetone solution of **1a**. All measurements were made on a Rigaku XtaLAB P200 diffractometer using multi-layer mirror monochromated Cu-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S11 and Table S1. CCDC 1495002 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **1a**.



Figure S11. Structure of 1a. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, skyblue: F

(Two structures were found per unit cell.)

Table S1. Selected crystal data of 1a		
Empirical Formula	$C_{54}H_{40}F_{2}N_{6}O_{2}$	
Formula Weight	842.95	
Temperature/°C	-180.0	
Crystal Color, Habit	colourless, prism	
Crystal Dimensions	0.259 x 0.117 x 0.067 mm	
Crystal System	triclinic	
Cell constants		
а	12.2208(5) Å	
b	12.9781(4) Å	
С	15.6515(3) Å	
V	2184.84(13) Å ³	
Space Group	P-1 (#2)	
Z value	2	
Dcalc	1.281 g/cm^3	
F_{000}	880.00	
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 26191	
	Unique: 7535 (R _{int} = 0.0825)	
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0358	
<i>R</i> (All reflections)	0.0398	
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.1020	

A crystal of **1b** was obtained by vapor diffusion of *i*-Pr₂O into an CH₃CN solution of **1b**. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-Kα radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S12 and Table S2. CCDC 1495001 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **1b**.



Figure S12. Structure of 1b	. [ORTEP plot (50% elli	psoids)], Color code; gray	: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O
0	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F} + $,

Table S2. Selected crystal data of 1b	
Empirical Formula	C ₂₃ H ₂₁ N ₃ O
Formula Weight	355.44
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	colorless, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.200 x 0.200 x 0.200 mm
Crystal System	monoclinic
Cell constants	
а	11.3565(2) Å
b	11.5389(2) Å
С	15.0221(3) Å
V	1878.76(10) Å ³
Space Group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ /n (#14)
Z value	4
Dcalc	1.257 g/cm^3
Fooo	752.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 21297
	Unique: 3434 (R _{int} = 0.0330)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0575
R (All reflections)	0.0636
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.1613

A crystal of **1c** was obtained by vapor diffusion of *i*-Pr₂O into an CH₃CN solution of **1c**. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S13 and Table S3. CCDC 1495003 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **1c**.



Figure S13. Structure of 1c. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O

Table S3. Selected crystal data of 1c	
Empirical Formula	C ₃₀ H ₂₇ N ₃ O
Formula Weight	445.56
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	colorless, block
Crystal Dimensions	0.200 x 0.200 x 0.200 mm
Crystal System	monoclinic
Cell constants	
а	18.8592(4) Å
Ь	7.68843(16) Å
С	18.4442(3) Å
V	2438.13(17) Å ³
Space Group	P2 ₁ /c (#14)
Z value	4
Deale	1.214 g/cm^3
F_{000}	944.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 25572
	Unique: 4459 (R _{int} = 0.0902)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0550
R (All reflections)	0.1009
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.1747

<u>4-2. Crystal structures of metal complexes with amides 1a-c</u>

A crystal of $(1a)_2$ /Pd was obtained by vapor diffusion of hexane into an acetone solution of $(1a)_2$ /Pd. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S14 and Table S4. CCDC 1495004 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for $(1a)_2$ /Pd.



Figure S14. Structure of (1a)₂/Pd. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, skyblue: F, yellow: S, pink: Pd

(Two structures were found per unit cell.)

Table S4. Selected crystal data of (1a)2/Pd.	
Empirical Formula	$C_{54}H_{40}F_2N_6O_2Pd$
Formula Weight	949.35
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.200 x 0.200 x 0.050 mm
Crystal System	triclinic
Cell constants	
а	10.7056(3) Å
b	16.7664(4) Å
С	18.6108(5) Å
V	3174.3(2) Å ³
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1 (#2)
Z value	2
D_{calc}	0.993 g/cm^3
F_{000}	972.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 37622
	Unique: 11413 (R _{int} = 0.0884)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0659
R (All reflections)	0.0797
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.2041

A crystal of $(1b)_2/Pd$ was obtained by vapor diffusion of *i*-Pr₂O into an CH₃CN solution of $(1b)_2/Pd$. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S15 and Table S5. CCDC 1494999 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for $(1b)_2/Pd$.



Figure S15. Structure of (1b)₂/Pd. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, pink: Pd

Table S5. Selected crystal data of (1b)2/Pd	
Empirical Formula	$\mathrm{C}_{46}\mathrm{H}_{42}\mathrm{N}_{6}\mathrm{O}_{2}\mathrm{Pd}$
Formula Weight	817.28
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	colorless, block
Crystal Dimensions	0.200 x 0.200 x 0.200 mm
Crystal System	triclinic
Cell constants	
а	8.88787(16) Å
Ь	10.65997(19)
С	12.1038(2) Å
V	1069.19(7) Å ³
Space Group	P-1 (#2)
Z value	1
D_{calc}	1.269 g/cm^3
Fooo	422.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 12558
	Unique: 3851 (R _{int} = 0.0638)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0541
R (All reflections)	0.0617
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.1453

A crystal of $(1c)_2/Pd$ was obtained by vapor diffusion of *i*-Pr₂O into an CH₃CN solution of $(1c)_2/Pd$. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S16 and Table S6. CCDC 1495000 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for $(1c)_2/Pd$.



Figure S16. Structure of (1c)₂/Pd. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, pink: Pd (Two structures were found per unit cell.)

Table S6. Selected crystal data of (1c)2/Pd.	
Empirical Formula	$C_{60}H_{55}B_2F_8N_6O_2Pd$
Formula Weight	1172.14
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.300 x 0.200 x 0.020 mm
Crystal System	triclinic
Cell constants	
а	13.2547(2) Å
b	14.2678(3) Å
С	15.5271(3) Å
V	2805.98(15) Å ³
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1 (#2)
Z value	2
Dcalc	1.387 g/cm^3
Fooo	1202.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 33116
	Unique: 10068 (R _{int} = 0.0714)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0858
R (All reflections)	0.1110
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.2542

A crystal of **1c**/Pd was obtained by vapor diffusion of *i*-Pr₂O into an CH₃CN solution of **1c**/Pd. All measurements were made on a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID diffractometer using filtered Cu-Kα radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S17 and Table S7. CCDC 1494998 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for **1c**/Pd.



Figure S17. Structure of 1c/Pd. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, pink: Pd

Table S7. Selected crystal data of 1c/Pd	
Empirical Formula	$C_{34}H_{33}B_2F_8N_5OPd$
Formula Weight	807.67
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.200 x 0.200 x 0.050 mm
Crystal System	triclinic
Cell constants	
а	9.1646(3) Å
b	10.8129(4) Å
С	17.3580(8) Å
V	1703.87(11) \AA^3
Space Group	P-1 (#2)
Z value	2
D_{calc}	1.574 g/cm^3
F_{000}	816.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 20068
	Unique: 6102 (R _{int} = 0.1098)
<i>R</i> ¹ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0954
R (All reflections)	0.1223
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.2774

A crystal of $(1a)_2/Zn$ was obtained by vapor diffusion of diisoporpyl ether into an CH₃CN solution of $(1a)_2/Zn$. All measurements were made on a Rigaku XtaLAB P200 diffractometer using multi-layer mirror monochromated Mo-K α radiation. All hydrogen atoms were placed in standard calculated positions, and were refined with an isotropically. Refined structure and crystallographic parameters are summarized in Figure S18 and Table S8. CCDC 1495005 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for $(1a)_2/Zn$.



Figure S18. Structure of (1a)₂/Zn. [ORTEP plot (50% ellipsoids)], Color code; gray: C, white: H, blue: N, red: O, skyblue: F, yellow: S, purple: Zn (Two structures were found per unit cell.)

Table S8. Selected crystal data of (1a)2/Zn.	
Empirical Formula	$C_{57}H_{41.5}F_8N_{6.5}O_8S_2Zn$
Formula Weight	1226.98
Temperature/°C	-180.0
Crystal Color, Habit	yellow, block
Crystal Dimensions	0.175 x 0.159 x 0.120 mm
Crystal System	triclinic
Cell constants	
а	15.7265(3) Å
Ь	20.4033(4) Å
С	21.0479(3) Å
V	6230.5(2) Å ³
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1 (#2)
Z value	4
D_{calc}	1.308 g/cm^3
Fooo	2508.00
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 122871
	Unique: 28530 (R _{int} = 0.0255)
<i>R</i> ₁ (I>2.00σ(I))	0.0721
R (All reflections)	0.0818
wR_2 (All reflections)	0.2052

5. References

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6. NMR Spectra of New Compounds (¹H, ¹³C, and ¹⁹F NMR spectra)







 $Electronic\ Supplementary\ Information$

o

-10



f1 (ppm)

. 60

. 40

. 180

. 160

. 130



1a, ¹⁹F NMR, 376 MHz, 298 K, CD₃CN



Electronic Supplementary Information



Electronic Supplementary Information



 $Electronic\ Supplementary\ Information$







PB7989.10.fid SA04542F



 $Electronic\ Supplementary\ Information$

-79.284

PB7784.12.fid SA04525