

Supporting Information

Facile and General Acid-Catalyzed Deuteration at Methyl Groups of *N*-Heteroarylmethanes

Min Liu, Xue Chen, Tieqiao Chen,* Shuang-Feng Yin*

State Key Laboratory of Chemo/Biosensing and Chemometrics, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hunan University, Changsha 410082, China

E-mail: chentieqiao@hnu.edu.cn; sf_yin@hnu.edu.cn

Contents:

1. General information	Page 2
2. Experimental section	Page 2
3. Reaction profile	Page 3
4. Characterization and analytical data of products	Page 3-12
5. ¹ H and ¹³ C-NMR spectrum of products	Page 13-66

1. General information

All reactions were carried out under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere (1 atm) using standard Schlenk technique in the parallel synthesizer. All reagent/reactant were commercial available without further purified except noted. The pure products obtained were neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution, extracted with ethyl acetate/DCM. The combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated. The percentage of H/D exchange was calculated by ¹H NMR spectroscopies. The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data were acquired on a Bruker ADVANCE III spectrometer (400 MHz for ¹H NMR spectroscopy and 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectroscopy) by the Analytical Center of State Key Laboratory of Chemo/Biosensing and Chemometrics at Hunan University, China.

2. Experimental Section

A: Procedure for preparation of 1-benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-indole

To a 100 mL flask charged with 2-methyl-1*H*-indole (1.31g, 10 mmol), NaH (0.36 g, 15 mmol) and a stir bar, 40 mL anhydrous DMF was added. After stirring the mixture for 30 min at 0°C, (bromomethyl)benzene (1.5 mL, 12 mmol) was added slowly. The solution was further stirred overnight at 100°C, then quenched with 15 mL H₂O at room temperature and further kept stirring for 30 min. The solution was extracted with EA (4×20 mL) and the combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was passed through a short silica chromatography (particle size 37–54 μm, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 50/1 as eluent) to afford the analytically pure product (white solid, 1.9 g, 86%) . (S.-G. Xu, X.-M. Huang, X.-H. Hong and B. Xu, *Org. Lett.*, 2012, **14**, 4614.)

B: A typical procedure for deuteration

An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with benzoic acid (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), D₂O (**2a**, 0.2 mL), and 2-methylquinoline (**1a**, 0.2 mmol, 27 uL). The mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C (pre-heated) for 4 h under air atmosphere. Then the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), the organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3a** (yellow oil) in 94% isolated yield with 95% ratio of deuterium incorporation. The ratio of deuterium incorporation was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

C: Procedure for 500 mmol scale experiment

An oven-dried 1000 mL round-bottom flask containing a stir bar was equipped with a condenser and charged with benzoic acid (37.5 mmol, 4.5 g), D₂O (**2a**, 300 mL), and 2-methylquinoline (**1a**, 500 mmol, 67.5 mL, 71.5 g). The mixture was allowed to stir at 80 °C for 5 h under an air atmosphere. The upper water layer was neutralized with saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL), extracted with DCM (80×2 mL). The lower organic layer was diluted with 100 mL DCM, neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (100 mL), extracted with DCM (80×3 mL). Then, the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3a** (yellow oil) in 98% isolated yield (71.2 g) with 95% ratio of deuterium incorporation. The ratio of deuterium incorporation was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

3. Reaction profile

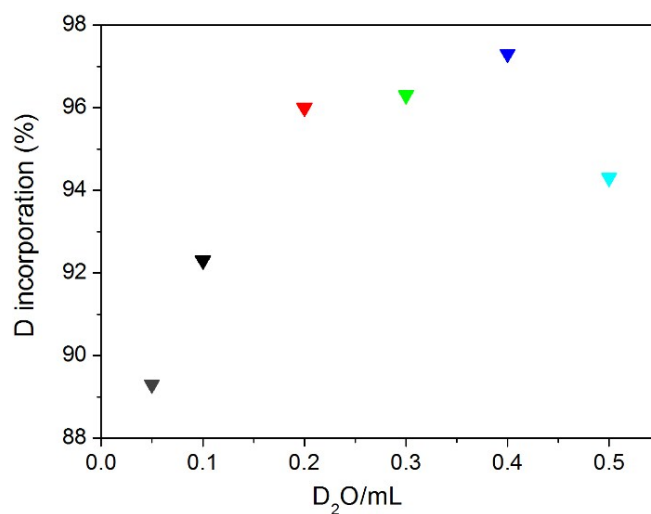


Figure 1 Concentration effect

(Reaction conditions: **1a**/0.2 mmol, PhCOOH/7.5 mmol%; 4 h; 80 °C)

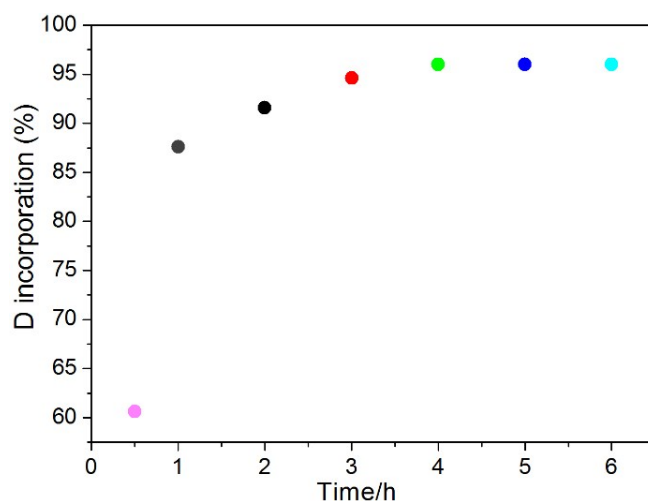
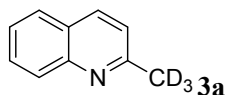


Figure 2 Time effect

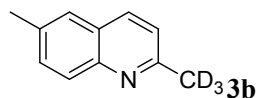
(Reaction conditions: **1a**/0.2 mmol, D₂O/0.2 mL, PhCOOH/7.5 mmol%, 80 °C)

4. Characterization and analytical data of products

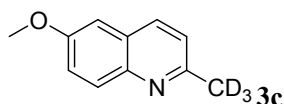


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), D₂O (0.2 mL) and 2-methylquinoline (**1a**, 0.2 mmol, 27 μ L). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3a** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.94, 146.84, 135.16, 128.41, 127.59, 126.47, 125.49, 124.65,

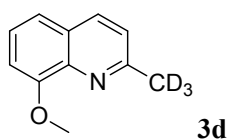
120.98, 23.13-23.75 (m). (Z. Jamal and Y.-C. Teo, *Synlett*, 2014, **25**, 2049)



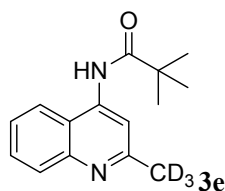
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 2,6-dimethylquinoline (**1b**, 0.2 mmol, 31.4 mg), D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3b** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.93, 146.44, 135.54, 135.38, 131.64, 128.29, 126.51, 126.39, 121.95, 24.25-24.71 (m), 21.46. (P. M., Draper and D. B., MacLean, *Can. J. Chem.* 1970, **48**, 738)



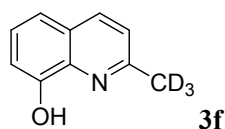
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg) and 6-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**1c**, 0.2 mmol, 34.6 mg), D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3c** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (dd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.15, 156.29, 143.89, 135.04, 130.00, 127.33, 122.23, 121.87, 105.23, 55.49, 23.97-24.40 (m).



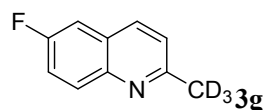
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), 8-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**1d**, 0.2 mmol, 34.6 mg) and D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 4 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3d** (white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.33 (m, 1.77H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.08, 154.81, 139.70, 136.11 (d, *J*_{D-C} = 11.0 Hz), 136.00, 127.58, 125.69, 122.60, 119.42, 107.59, 55.98, 24.25-24.71 (m). (Note: C3-H on aromatic cycle was partially deuterated, the site is determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**).



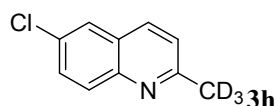
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), N-(2-methylquinolin-4-yl)pivalamide (**1e**, 0.2 mmol, 48.4 mg) and D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂/air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3e** (white solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.09 (bs, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.42 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.10, 160.13, 148.42, 140.11, 129.90, 129.32, 125.64, 118.63, 118.32, 111.49, 40.53, 27.64, 24.77-25.23 (m).



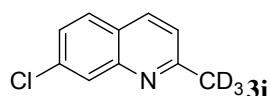
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), 2-methylquinolin-8-ol (**1f**, 0.2 mmol, 31.8 mg) and D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂/air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3f** (purple solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.84, 151.69, 137.69, 136.13, 126.65, 122.72, 117.58, 109.80, 23.93-24.32 (m). (P. Addy, D. F Evans and Q. De Souza, *Polyhedron*, 1987, **6**, 2003)



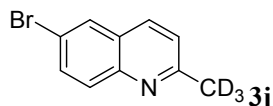
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (**1g**, 0.2 mmol, 32 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3g** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.2 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.96 (*J*_{F-C} = 245.1 Hz), 158.24, 144.94, 135.50 (*J*_{F-C} = 5.2 Hz), 131.02 (*J*_{F-C} = 9 Hz), 126.98 (*J*_{F-C} = 9.8 Hz), 122.75, 119.45 (*J*_{F-C} = 25.4 Hz), 110.51 (*J*_{F-C} = 21.4 Hz), 24.02-24.77 (m).



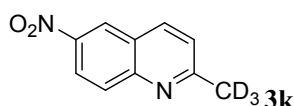
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), 6-chloro-2-methylquinoline (**1h**, 0.2 mmol, 35.5 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h under a dry N₂/air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3h** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.31, 146.24, 135.21, 135.10, 131.30, 130.27, 127.09, 126.17, 122.87, 24.34-24.80 (m).



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 7-chloro-2-methylquinoline (**1i**, 0.2 mmol, 35.5 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3i** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.15, 148.24, 135.90, 135.18, 128.69, 127.76, 126.70, 124.85, 122.20, 24.38-25.03 (m). (A. W Czarnik, U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. (2008), US 20080319007 A1 20081225)

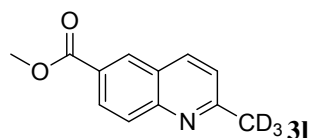


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 6-bromo-2-methylquinoline (**1j**, 0.2 mmol, 44.4 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3j** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86-7.94 (m, 3H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.44, 145.41, 134.09, 131.77, 129.38, 128.48, 126.60, 121.81, 118.33, 23.15-24.00(m).

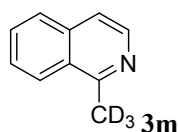


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 2-methyl-6-nitroquinoline (**1k**, 0.2 mmol, 37.6 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h under a dry N₂/air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined

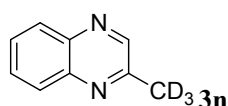
organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3k** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 4.4 Hz, *J* = 4.0 Hz 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 0.65H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.24, 150.00, 144.98, 137.61-137.72 (m), 130.39, 125.25, 124.34, 123.96, 122.97, 24.71-25.70 (m). (Note: C3-H on aromatic cycle was partially deuterated, the site is determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**).



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), methyl 2-methylquinoline-6-carboxylate (**1l**, 0.2 mmol, 40.2 mg) and D₂O (0.2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3l** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.73, 161.54, 149.78, 137.29, 130.69, 129.00, 128.91, 127.24, 125.61, 122.81, 52.34, 24.61-25.00 (m).

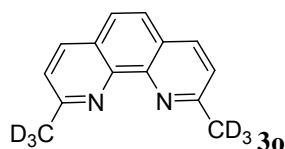


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 1-methylisoquinoline (**1m**, 0.2 mmol, 27 uL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 4 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3m** (purple oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.57, 141.79, 135.90, 129.95, 127.54, 127.20, 127.04, 125.63, 119.29, 21.19-21.86 (m). HRMS data for C₁₀H₆D₃N, cal. 146.0923, found 147.1012 (M+H).

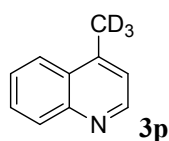


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 2-methylquinoxaline (**1n**, 0.2 mmol, 24 uL). The mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic

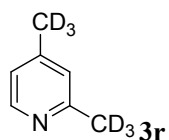
layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3n** (red oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (s, 0.45H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.69 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.72, 145.99, 142.06, 140.98, 130.01, 129.14, 128.94, 128.64, 21.39-22.04 (m). (Note: C3-H on aromatic cycles were deuterated, the site was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**.) HRMS data for C₉H₅D₃N₂, cal. 147.0876, found 148.1024 (M+H).



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.03 mmol, 3.6 mg), 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline (**1o**, 0.2 mmol, 41.6 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3o** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.11, 145.25, 136.07-136.18 (m), 126.72, 125.38, 122.85-123.41 (m), 24.58-25.49 (m). (Note: C3-H on aromatic cycles were deuterated, the site was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**)

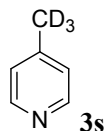


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 4-methylquinoline (**1p**, 0.2 mmol, 27 uL). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL) then the organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3p** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.16, 147.95, 144.26, 129.98, 129.13, 128.32, 126.30, 123.83, 121.88, 17.68-18.33 (m). (Z. Jamal, Y.-C. Teo and L.-K., Wong, *Eur. J. of Org. Chem.* 2014, **2014**, 7343)

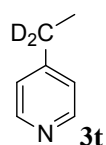


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 2,4-dimethylpyridine (**1r**, 0.2 mmol, 23 uL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with DCM (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer

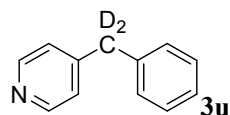
was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3r** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.00, 148.78, 147.22, 124.20, 121.77, 23.66-24.19 (m), 19.91-20.30 (m).



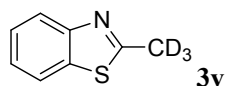
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 4-methylpyridine (**1s**, 0.2 mmol, 20 uL) was charged into the tube. Then the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3s** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.38 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.47, 147.02, 124.68, 20.02-20.41 (m). (H. C. Brown and G. J. McDonald, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1966, **88**, 2514)



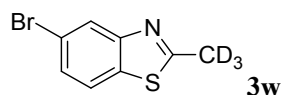
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 4-ethylpyridine (**1t**, 0.2 mmol, 23 uL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3t** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.24-1.28 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.95, 149.60, 123.38, 27.30-27.83 (m), 14.15. HRMS data for C₇H₇D₂N, cal. 109.0861, found 110.0933 (M+H).



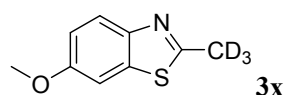
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 4-benzylpyridine (**1u**, 0.2 mmol, 32 uL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 24 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3u** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.99, 149.82, 138.81, 129.02, 128.75, 128.70, 124.21, 40.21-40.78 (m).



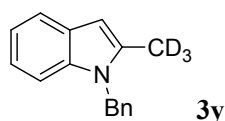
An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.03 mmol, 3.6 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 2-methylbenzo[d]thiazole (**1v**, 0.2 mmol, 24 uL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3v** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.91, 153.39, 135.63, 125.92, 124.70, 122.40, 121.40, 19.01-19.79 (m). (G. Davidovics, J. C. Panizzi, R. Guglielmetti, G. Mille, M. Conte and J. Chouteau, Journal de Chimie Physique et de Physico-Chimie Biologique, 1974, **71**, 659)



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.03 mmol, 3.6 mg), 5-bromo-2-methylbenzo[d]thiazole (**1w**, 0.2 mmol, 45.3 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3w** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.70, 153.54, 133.40, 126.79, 124.31, 121.40, 118.49, 18.06-18.69 (m). HRMS data for C₈H₃D₃BrNS, cal. 229.9593, found 230.9686 (M+H).

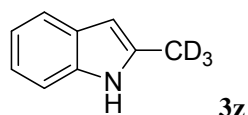


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.03 mmol, 3.6 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 6-methoxy-2-methylbenzo[d]thiazole (**1x**, 0.2 mmol, 30 uL). The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3x** (red oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.30, 157.35, 147.85, 136.84, 122.78, 114.96, 104.20, 55.78, 18.82-19.41 (m).

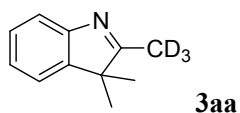


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), 1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-indole (**1y**, 0.2 mmol, 44.2 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was

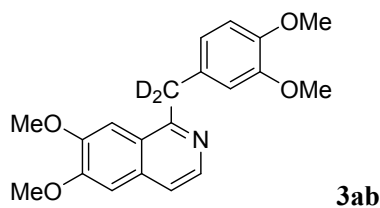
stirred at 120 °C for 18 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3y** (yellow oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.78H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.05-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 137.97, 137.24, 136.61, 128.80, 128.17-128.34 (m), 127.29, 126.04, 120.78, 119.75, 119.55, 109.24, 100.01-100.51 (m), 46.48, 11.84-12.22 (m). (Note: C3-H on the aromatic cycle was partially deuterated, the site was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**)



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.015 mmol, 1.8 mg), 1-benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-indole (**1z**, 0.2 mmol, 26.2 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 18 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3z** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.14 (s, 0.15H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 139.06, 134.93, 129.00, 120.92, 119.62, 110.23, 100.40, 12.77-13.16 (m). (Note: C3-H on the aromatic cycle was partially deuterated, the site was determined by ¹H NMR analysis of **3n** and **3o**) (J. C. Carry, V. Certal, F. Halley, K. A. Karlsson and L. Schio, Fr. Demande (2012), FR 2969611 A1 20120629)

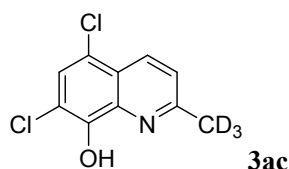


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.02 mmol, 2.4 mg), 0.2 mL D₂O and 2,3,3-trimethyl-3*H*-indole (**1aa**, 0.2 mmol, 32 uL). The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 8 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3aa** (brown oil). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.14 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.23 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.00, 153.70, 145.65, 127.57, 125.08, 121.28, 119.89, 53.60, 23.07, 14.52-14.90 (m).

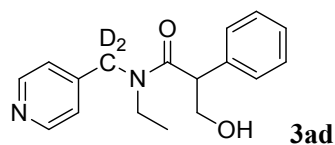


An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.1 mmol, 12.2 mg), Papaverine (**1ab**, 1 mmol, 339 mg) and 0.6 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 18 h under a dry N₂ atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃

solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3ab** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.78, 152.45, 149.80, 149.04, 147.54, 141.00, 133.45, 132.16, 122.94, 120.51, 118.70, 111.89, 111.22, 105.29, 104.21, 55.99, 55.86, 55.85, 55.80, 41.14-41.93 (m).



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), 5,7-dichloro-2-methylquinolin-8-ol (**1ac**, 0.2 mmol, 45.2 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. The mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 16 h under a dry N₂ or air atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3ac** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.79, 147.06, 138.00, 133.47, 127.15, 123.46, 123.14, 120.62, 114.99, 23.86-24.40 (m).



An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with PhCOOH (0.04 mmol, 4.8 mg), **1ad** Tropicamide (0.2 mmol, 57.2 mg) and 0.2 mL D₂O. Then the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 16 h under a dry N₂ atmosphere. After reaction, the mixture was neutralized by saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3 mL) and extracted with DCM (3×3 mL), then the combined organic layer was dried by Na₂SO₄ and further evaporated to afford analytically pure product **3ad** (yellow solid). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 8.37-8.53 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.20 (m, 2H), 4.85-4.94 (m, 1H), 3.91-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.36-3.41 (m, 2H), 0.98-1.04 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 172.34 (171.93), 150.06 (149.89), 147.95 (147.42), 138.02 (137.78), 129.00, 128.65 (128.46), 127.53 (127.45), 122.65 (122.33), 65.22 (65.15), 51.16 (50.77), 48.57-48.81 (46.81-48.81) (m), 42.60 (41.10), 14.66 (12.91). (Note: Due to the intramolecular hydrogen bonds, the molecule exists in equilibrium of two isomers.)

5. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectrum of products

