Visible-light-induced Sulfonylation/Cyclization of Vinyl Azides: One-

Pot Construction of 6-(Sulfonylmethyl)phenanthridines

Liu-Liang Mao,^a* Da-Gui Zheng,^a Xian-Hong Zhu,^a An-Xi Zhou,^a* Shang-Dong Yang^b

^a Key Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry, Higher Institutions of Jiangxi Province, Shangrao Normal University, Shangrao 334001, P. R. China.

^b State Key Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, P. R. China.

Contents:

1. General information.	1
2. The General Procedures	1
3. Preliminary mechanistic studies	1
4. Application Studies	2
5. References	3
6. Characterization data of products	3
7. Copies of NMR spectra	10

I. General Methods and Materials

All reactions involving air- and moisture-sensitive reagents were carried out under an argon atmosphere. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker advance III 400 spectrometer (400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C) in CDCl₃ with TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) were measured in ppm relative to TMS $\delta = 0$ for ¹H, or to chloroform $\delta = 77.0$ for ¹³C as internal standard (DMSO-d₆ $\delta = 2.5$ for ¹H NMR, or $\delta = 40.0$ for ¹³C NMR). ³¹P and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on the same instrument. Data are reported as follows: Chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in hertz. Mass data were measured with Thermo Scientific DSQ II mass spectrometer. The starting materials were purchased from Aldrich, Acros Organics, J&K Chemicals or TCI and used without further purification. Solvents were dried and purified according to the procedure from "Purification of Laboratory Chemicals book". Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using 60 mesh silica gel plates visualized with short-wavelength UV light (254 nm). Substrates were prepared according to published literature methods.^[S1]

2. The General Procedure for the Synthesis of 3.



To a Schlenk tube were added vinyl azides 1 (0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv.), sulfonyl chlorides (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3Cl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (2 mol%), K_2HPO_4 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and charged with argon for three times. CH_2Cl_2 (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was then irradiated by blue LED strips at room temperature for 18 h. After substrate was consumed (monitored by TLC), the reaction was concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether / acetone as eluent to give the desired sulfonylated phenanthridine derivatives **3**.

3. Preliminary mechanistic studies.

3.1 Radicals Trapping Experiments using TEMPO



In a Schlenk tube, 2-(1-azidovinyl)-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl **1a** (0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv), *p*-toluene sulfonyl chloride **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3Cl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (2 mol%), K_2HPO_4 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and TEMPO (1.3 equiv) were added and charged with Ar three times. Then, CH_2Cl_2

(2.0 mL) were added and the mixture was then irradiated by blue LED strips at room temperature for 18 h (monitored by TLC). However, no desired product **3aa** is generated.

3.2 Radicals Trapping Experiments using 1,1-Diphenylethylene



In a Schlenk tube, 2-(1-azidovinyl)-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl **1a** (0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv), *p*-toluene sulfonyl chloride **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3Cl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (2 mol%), K_2HPO_4 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and 1,1-Diphenylethylene (1.3 equiv) were added and charged with Ar three times. Then, CH_2Cl_2 (2.0 mL) were added and the mixture was then irradiated by blue LED strips at room temperature for 18 h, After substrate was consumed (monitored by TLC), the reaction was concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to give **3aa** and **5aa** in 61% and 8% yield, respectively.

4. Application Studies

4.1 p-Toluene Sulfonyl Bromide as Sulfonylation Reagent^[S2]



To a Schlenk tube were added 2-(1-azidovinyl)-4'-methyl-1,1'-biphenyl **1a** (0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv.), *p*-toluene sulfonyl bromide (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), $Ru(bpy)_3Cl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (2 mol%), K_2HPO_4 (0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and charged with argon for three times. CH_2Cl_2 (2.0 mL) was added and the mixture was then irradiated by blue LED strips at room temperature for 18 h. After substrate was consumed (monitored by TLC), the reaction was concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether / acetone as eluent to give the 3-methyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine **3aa** with 95% yield.

4.2 Palladium-catalyzed Benzylic Direct Arylation of 3aa^[S3]



To a Schlenk tube were added 'BuOK (68 mg, 2.0 equiv), $[PdCl(\pi-allyl)]_2$ (2.5 mol%), PPy_3 (10 mol%), 3-methyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine **3aa** (109 mg, 0.3 mmol), iodobenzene (40 uL, 1.2 equiv) and charged with argon for three times. Toluene (3 mL) was added and the mixture was then heated at reflux for 10 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, a saturated NH₄Cl aq. (5 mL) was added. The product was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The

combined organic layer was dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel column purification (PE/EA=5:1) gave 3-methyl-6-(phenyl(tosyl)methyl)phenanthridine **4aa** (94 mg, 0.21 mmol) in 72% yield.

5. References

[S1] (a) Y.-F. Wang, G. H. Lonca, M. L. Runigo and S. Chiba, *Org. Lett.* 2014, 16, 4272. (b) E. G. Mackay and A. Studer, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2016, 22, 13455. (c) J.-C. Yang, J.-J. Zhang and L.-N. Guo, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2016, 14, 9806 (d) H,-T. Qin, S.-W. Wu, J.-L. Liu and F. Liu, *Chem. Commun.*, 2017, 53, 1696. (e) A. Hassner and F. W. Fowler, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1967, 8, 1545.
[S2] A. Lennartson. M. Quant and K. Moth-Poulsen, *Synlett*, 2015, 26, 1501.
[S3] T. Niwa, H. Yorimitsu and K. Oshima, *Tetrahedron*, 2009, 65, 1971.

6. Characterization data of products



3-methyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3aa) (92%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.76 (m, 1H), 7.70 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.65, 144.59, 143.45, 138.83, 135.67, 133.18, 130.76, 129.43, 129.38, 128.63, 127.10, 126.92, 125.29, 122.05, 121.70, 121.66, 62.69, 21.52, 21.41. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 362.0.



6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ab) (87%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.59 – 8.50 (m, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 6.2, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.76, 144.61, 143.25, 135.54, 133.10, 130.85, 129.86, 129.39, 128.64, 127.59, 127.58, 126.98, 125.56, 123.95, 122.23, 121.93, 62.63, 21.50. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 348.0.



3-methoxy-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ac) (82%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 160.22, 151.12, 144.98, 144.84, 136.76, 133.19, 131.60, 130.02, 128.67, 128.08, 126.89, 126.01, 124.82, 124.45, 122.43, 118.77, 117.97, 109.94, 61.78, 55.91, 21.49. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 378.1.



3-chloro-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ad) (84%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 19.0, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 7.64 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.22, 144.86, 143.89, 135.49, 134.33, 132.75, 131.33, 129.51, 129.04, 128.63, 128.15, 127.96, 127.23, 125.54, 123.37, 122.47, 122.20, 62.66, 21.58. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 382.0.



6-(tosylmethyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (3ae) (74%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (dd, J = 8.0, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.92 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, J = 12.4, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.54, 144.96, 142.49, 135.33, 132.32, 131.51, 130.48 (q, J = 33.4 Hz), 129.55, 128.85, 128.62, 127.41 (q, J = 4.2 Hz), 127.29, 126.20, 126.16, 123.94 (d, J = 272.3 Hz), 123.40 (q, J = 3.3 Hz), 123.09, 122.64, 62.64, 21.47. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.91. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 416.1.



1-methyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3af) (82%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.75 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 7.50 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.44, 144.74, 144.57, 135.61, 134.89, 134.40, 131.83, 130.01, 129.39, 128.80, 128.67, 127.73, 126.99, 126.84, 126.70, 126.46, 123.73, 62.62, 26.67, 21.53. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 362.1.



1-phenyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ag) (79%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dt, *J* = 11.1, 4.6 Hz, 4H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.96, 144.61, 144.42, 143.86, 139.85, 135.72, 133.23, 131.27, 129.66, 129.42, 129.20, 129.07, 128.86, 128.64, 127.50, 127.27, 127.01, 126.57, 126.53, 122.27, 62.60, 21.53. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 424.2.



1-methoxy-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ah) (72%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.59 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.93, 150.38, 145.31, 144.61, 135.61, 133.23, 130.74, 129.43, 128.74, 128.13, 126.94, 126.46, 125.90, 122.74, 114.81, 108.70, 62.72, 55.93, 21.58. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 378.1.



2,4-dimethyl-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ai) (80%) yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.05, 144.32, 140.18, 137.53, 137.03, 135.40, 133.17, 131.02, 130.37, 129.16, 128.83, 127.32, 126.80, 125.41, 123.68, 122.46, 119.28, 62.52, 21.99, 21.47, 17.30. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 376.1.



5-(tosylmethyl)benzo[b]phenanthridine (3aj) (93%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.53 – 8.27 (m, 3H), 8.01 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 17.7, 7.7 Hz, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.12, 144.50, 139.87, 135.19, 133.35, 132.99, 131.35, 130.67, 129.31, 128.81, 128.34, 127.45, 127.33, 126.69, 126.40, 126.03, 124.63, 122.63, 120.93, 119.55, 62.35, 21.37. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 398.1.



2-methoxy-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3ak-1):4-methoxy-6-(tosylmethyl)phenanthridine (3a k-2) = 5:1 (81%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (dd, *J* = 22.7, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (dd, *J* = 18.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 52.0 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (d, *J* = 28.9 Hz, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.91, 148.31, 144.28, 135.66, 134.45, 133.10, 130.80, 130.41, 129.39, 129.29, 128.79, 128.67, 127.89, 127.79, 126.92, 125.78, 125.33, 122.79, 122.27, 113.86, 108.64, 102.60, 62.53, 56.16, 55.62, 21.54. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 378.1.



6-(1-tosylethyl)phenanthridine (3al) (89%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.58 – 8.46 (m, 1H), 8.38 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.77 – 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.52 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.90 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.43, 144.53, 143.02, 133.20, 133.08, 130.57, 130.17, 130.09, 128.99, 128.59, 127.53, 126.14, 125.82, 123.89, 122.42, 121.96, 62.60, 21.60, 15.24. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 362.1..



3-methyl-6-((phenylsulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3an) (90%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.54, 143.48, 138.95, 138.56, 133.66, 133.26, 130.87, 129.49, 129.44, 128.86, 128.69, 127.20, 126.90, 125.30, 122.14, 121.76, 121.71, 62.64, 21.48. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 348.0.



6-(((4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3ao) (91%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.74 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 165.59 (d, J = 252.6 Hz), 150.57, 143.42, 139.24, 135.81 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 133.02, 132.03, 131.93, 131.60, 129.92, 129.13, 128.01, 127.60, 125.36, 122.85 (d, J = 15.4 Hz), 121.64, 116.71 (d, J = 22.8 Hz), 61.44, 21.48. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO) δ -105.47. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 366.1.



6-(((4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3ap) (91%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.74 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.57 (m, 4H), 7.51 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 163.82, 150.85, 143.50, 139.16, 132.98, 131.51, 131.09, 130.91, 129.84, 129.25, 128.09, 127.54, 125.41, 122.91, 122.72, 121.65, 114.77, 62.02, 56.24, 21.48. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 378.1..

4-(((3-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)sulfonyl)benzonitrile (3aq) (75%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.01

(d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.97 – 7.83 (m, 3H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 5.57 (s, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 150.23, 143.52, 143.28, 139.31, 133.55, 133.05, 131.72, 130.01, 129.62, 129.02, 127.92, 127.71, 125.33, 122.96, 122.85, 121.62, 118.06, 116.56, 60.77, 21.47. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 373.1.



N-(4-(((3-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)acetamide (3ar) (80%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 10.32 (s, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.76 – 7.56 (m, 6H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 5.33 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 169.20, 150.35, 144.11, 143.10, 138.77, 132.62, 131.14, 129.51, 128.87, 127.73, 127.15, 125.03, 122.52, 122.32, 121.25, 118.45, 61.48, 24.26, 21.09. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]⁺ 405.1.



6-(([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylsulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3as) (78%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.60 – 7.34 (m, 9H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.57, 146.57, 143.40, 139.29, 138.88, 136.79, 133.18, 130.81, 129.43, 129.33, 129.18, 128.94, 128.47, 127.40, 127.30, 127.15, 126.84, 125.22, 122.08, 121.70, 121.61, 62.72, 21.36. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 424.2.



3-methyl-6-(((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3at) (80%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 5.60 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 150.53, 149.81, 144.51, 142.87, 138.94, 132.68, 131.37, 130.24, 129.64, 128.62, 127.53, 127.36, 124.94, 124.25, 122.59, 122.49, 121.24, 60.38, 21.05. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]⁺ 393.1.



3-methyl-6-(((3-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3au) (52%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (**300 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.42 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 15.7, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.40 (m, 3H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.86, 147.97, 143.12, 140.28, 139.33, 134.37, 133.36, 131.20, 129.96, 129.84, 128.96, 128.00, 127.44, 126.48, 125.04, 124.40, 122.37, 121.86, 121.69, 62.09, 21.45. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 393.1.



3-methyl-6-(((2-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3av) (72%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.74 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.80 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.49 (s, 2H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 149.68, 148.58, 142.92, 138.93, 135.94, 132.80, 132.75, 132.12, 131.37, 129.69, 128.74, 127.43, 127.31, 125.06, 122.58, 122.53, 121.37, 61.33, 21.07. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]⁺ 393.0.



6-((mesitylsulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3aw) (84%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl₃)** δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 6H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.87, 143.52, 143.17, 140.45, 138.72, 133.02, 132.71, 131.93, 130.67, 129.73, 129.48, 129.29, 129.02, 128.15, 127.07, 126.90, 125.47, 122.01, 121.66, 121.53, 62.61, 22.81, 21.39, 20.90. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 390.1.



3-methyl-6-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)phenanthridine (3ax) (46%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.08 (q, J = 3.2 Hz), 143.57, 139.12, 133.27, 130.68, 129.67, 129.26, 127.10, 126.17, 125.64 (q, J = 276.1 Hz), 125.21, 122.33, 121.74, 121.70, 40.49 (q, *J* = 29.1 Hz), 21.47. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.12, -63.16, -63.19. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 275.9.



3-methyl-6-((methylsulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3ay) (26%) white solid; ¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H). ¹³**C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)** δ 150.26, 143.48, 139.26, 133.49, 131.17, 129.73, 129.42, 127.47, 126.91, 125.22, 122.27, 122.03, 121.97, 60.69, 40.42, 21.51. **MS (ESI)**: found [M+H]⁺ 286.0.



6-((cyclopropylsulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3az) (37%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.94 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H), 2.73 – 2.48 (m, 4H), 1.13 (tt, *J* = 5.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 1.06 – 0.86 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.23, 143.58, 139.16, 133.36, 131.04, 129.57, 129.51, 127.34, 127.07, 125.30, 122.19, 121.94, 60.45, 29.73, 21.52, 5.21. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 312.0.



6-((benzylsulfonyl)methyl)-3-methylphenanthridine (3ba) (28%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.67 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.53 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.37 (m, 3H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.49, 143.47, 139.24, 133.47, 131.49, 131.11, 129.69, 129.42, 128.96, 128.90, 128.22, 127.44, 126.80, 125.55, 122.28, 122.02, 58.05, 56.30, 21.55. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 362.1.



3-methyl-6-((naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3bb) (60%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.84 (m, 4H), 7.75 – 7.62 (m, 3H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.53, 143.38, 138.82, 135.44, 135.32, 133.25, 132.03, 130.81, 130.69, 129.39, 129.36, 129.07, 128.98, 127.78, 127.29, 127.14, 126.84, 125.33, 123.33, 122.10, 121.64, 62.65, 21.33. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 398.1.



3-methyl-6-((thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)methyl)phenanthridine (3bc) (90%) light yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 8.75 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 150.14, 143.08, 139.48, 138.80, 135.74, 135.09, 132.58, 131.16, 129.54, 128.88, 128.21, 127.44, 127.18, 124.95, 122.50, 122.35, 121.27, 62.61, 21.08. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 354.0.



(1S,4R)-7,7-dimethyl-1-((((3-methylphenanthridin-6-

yl)methyl)sulfonyl)methyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-one (3bd) (69%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.62 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (d, J = 14.1 Hz,

1H), 5.18 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.51 – 2.29 (m, 2H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 2.02 (m, 1H), 2.01 – 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.39 (m, 1H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 0.96 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 214.63, 150.47, 143.48, 139.00, 133.35, 130.88, 129.44, 127.27, 126.94, 125.49, 122.13, 121.88, 121.83, 61.36, 59.22, 50.23, 48.40, 42.64, 27.07, 25.41, 21.49, 19.82. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 422.3.



(2-tosylethene-1,1-diyl)dibenzene (5aa) (8%) white solid; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.11 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.65, 143.70, 139.19, 138.57, 135.53, 130.17, 129.73, 129.28, 128.92, 128.79, 128.52, 128.15, 127.75, 127.65, 21.52. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 335.1.



3-methyl-6-(phenyl(tosyl)methyl)phenanthridine (4aa) (72%) white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, **CDCl₃)** δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.17, 144.17, 142.90, 138.84, 135.33, 133.30, 132.12, 130.93, 130.83, 130.35, 129.52, 129.21, 128.97, 128.41, 128.25, 127.09, 124.81, 124.54, 122.44, 121.71, 121.31, 73.40, 21.57, 21.49. MS (ESI): found [M+H]⁺ 438.1.

7. Copies of NMR spectra

































































