

Supplementary Information

Cobalt-Catalyzed C(sp²)-H/C(sp³)-H Coupling via Directed C-H

Activation and 1,5-Hydrogen Atom Transfer

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Materials and Methods

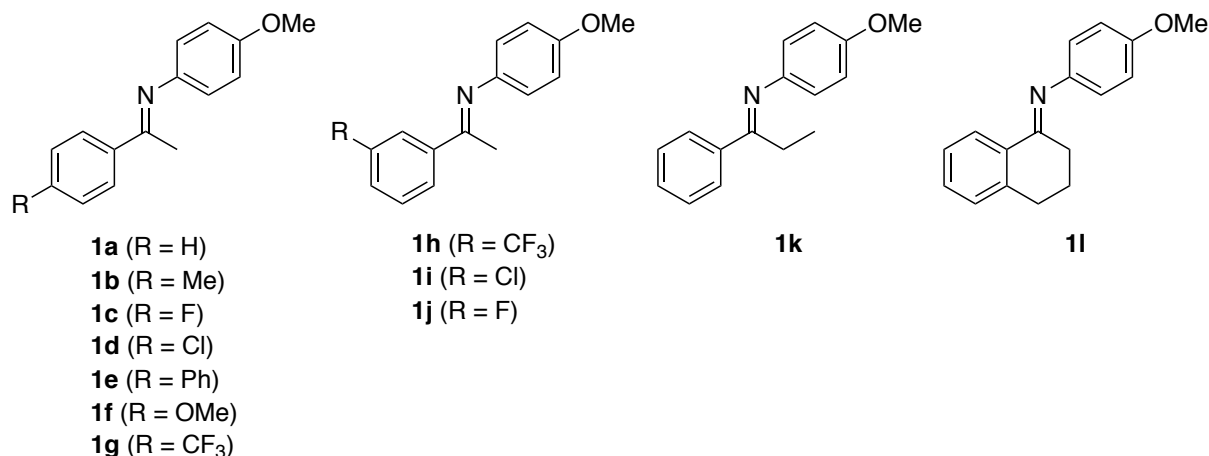
General. All reactions dealing with air- or moisture-sensitive compounds were performed by standard Schlenk techniques in oven-dried reaction vessels under nitrogen atmosphere. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck 60 F254 silica gel plates. Flash column chromatography was performed using 40-63 μ m silica gel (Si 60, Merck). ^1H and ^{13}C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker AV-300 (300 MHz), AV-500 (500 MHz) or BBFO-400 (400 MHz) NMR spectrometers. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield from an internal standard, tetramethylsilane (0 ppm). ^{19}F NMR spectra are referenced to external $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ (−76.55 ppm). Gas chromatography (GC) analysis was performed on a Shimadzu GC-2010 system equipped with an FID detector and a glass capillary column, DB-5 (Agilent J&W, 0.25 mm i.d. x 30 m, 0.25 μ m film thickness). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Q-ToF Premier LC HR mass spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a capillary melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

Materials. Unless otherwise noted, commercial reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, and other commercial suppliers and were used as received. Anhydrous CoBr_2 (> 98%) and 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolinium chloride ($\text{SIPr}\cdot\text{HCl}$) were purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received. THF and 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) were distilled over Na/benzophenone. Grignard reagents were prepared from the corresponding alkyl halides and magnesium turnings in anhydrous THF, and titrated before use.

Preparation of Starting Materials

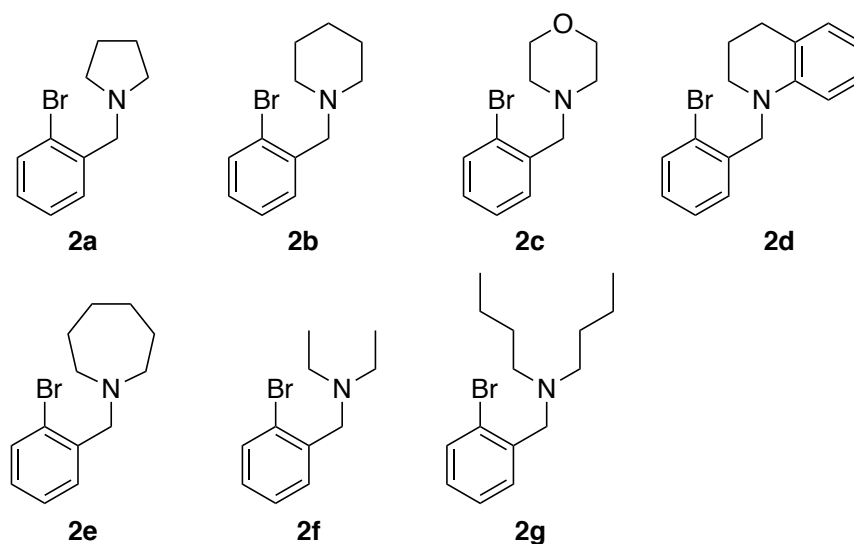
Preparation of Aryl Imines

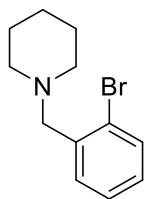
All imines (see below) were synthesized according to the literature procedures,¹ and purified by recrystallization or distillation. Spectral data for these compounds showed good agreement with the literature data.²



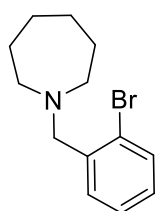
Preparation of *N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)amines

Cyclic amines were alkylated with 2-bromobenzyl bromide using the method reported by Li (2-bromobenzyl bromide/KOH/EtOH).³ Acyclic amines were alkylated with 2-bromobenzyl bromide using the method reported by Mugesh (2-bromobenzyl bromide/TEA/toluene).⁴ Spectral data for **2a**,⁵ **2c**,⁶ **2d**,⁷ and **2f**⁸ showed good agreement with the literature data.

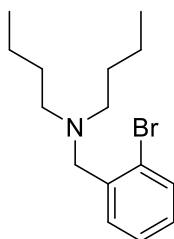




1-(2-Bromobenzyl)piperidine (2b): Obtained in 74% yield as a light yellow oil. R_f 0.44 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.09 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 2.47-2.44 (m, 4H), 1.62-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.42 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 138.2, 132.5, 130.6, 128.0, 127.1, 124.5, 62.5, 54.6, 26.0, 24.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{NBr}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 254.0544, found 254.0536.



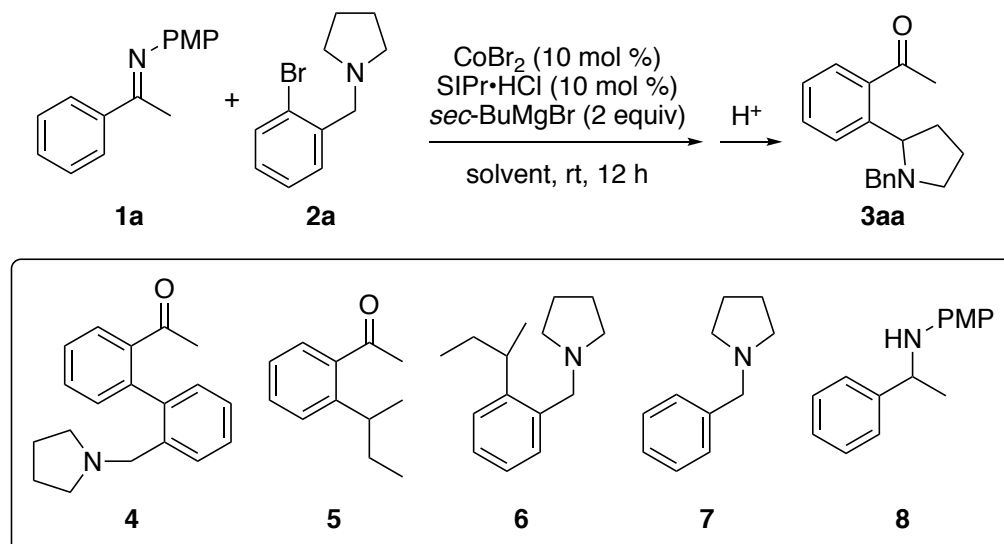
1-(2-Bromobenzyl)azepane (2e): Obtained in 71% yield as a light yellow oil. R_f 0.35 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H), 2.70-2.67 (m, 4H), 1.64-1.62 (m, 8H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.4, 132.5, 130.4, 127.9, 127.1, 124.2, 61.7, 55.8, 28.4, 27.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{19}\text{NBr}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 268.0701, found 268.0703.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-butylbutan-1-amine (2g):** obtained in 70% yield as a light yellow oil. R_f 0.67 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.59-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.08 (td, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 2.46 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.50-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.31 (sextet, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 139.8, 132.4, 130.5, 127.8, 127.1, 124.0, 58.3, 54.0, 29.4, 20.6, 14.1; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{25}\text{NBr}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 298.1170, found 298.1170.

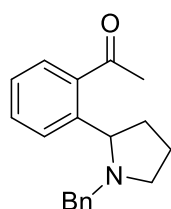
Cobalt-Catalyzed C(sp²)-H/C(sp³)-H Coupling between Aryl Imines and N-(2-Bromobenzyl)amines

Table S1. Formation of Byproducts^a



entry	solvent	yield (%) ^b					
		3aa	4	5	6	7	8
1	THF	30	3	3	13	19	3
2 ^c	THF/Et ₂ O (1:1)	34	4	1	2	14	5
3 ^c	THF/DME (1:1)	47	5	1	16	20	2
4 ^d	THF/DME (1:1)	55	0	5	0	19	6

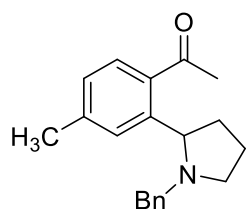
^aThe reaction was performed using 0.3 mmol of **1a** (*c* = 0.3 M) and 0.6 mmol of **2a**. ^bThe yield of **3aa** was determined by ¹H NMR. The yields of **4–8** were estimated by GC using *n*-tridecane as an internal standard. ^cThe amount of *sec*-BuMgBr was 2.2 equiv. ^dThe reaction was performed using 0.4 mmol of **1a** and 0.2 mmol of **2a** (*c* = 0.2 M) at 0 °C.



Typical Procedure: 1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3aa). In a 10 ml Schlenk tube were placed 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethan-1-imine (**1a**, 90.1 mg, 0.40 mmol), 1,3-bis(2,6-

diisopropylphenyl)imidazolinium chloride (SIPr•HCl, 8.5 mg, 0.020 mmol), a freshly prepared THF solution of CoBr₂ (0.10 M, 0.20 mL, 0.020 mmol), and DME (0.50 ml). The resulting solution was cooled in an ice bath, followed by the addition of a THF solution of *sec*-BuMgBr (1.34 M, 0.30 ml, 0.40 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred in the ice bath for 12 h, and then quenched by the addition of 3 N HCl (1.0 ml). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then neutralized with 3 N NaOH (2.0 ml) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 ml). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 10/1) to afford the title compound as a light yellow oil (27.4 mg, 49%).

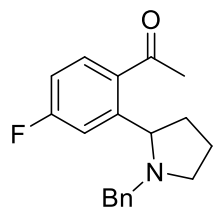
R_f 0.32 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.21 (m, 6H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.14-3.08 (m, 1H), 3.10 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.51-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.24 (q, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.93-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 202.4, 144.2, 139.7, 139.0, 131.7, 128.5, 128.0 (two signals overlapped), 127.9, 126.6, 126.1, 65.3, 58.5, 53.3, 35.0, 30.2, 22.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₉H₂₂NO [M + H]⁺ 280.1701, found 280.1699.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-4-methylphenyl)ethan-1-one (3ba): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethan-1-imine (**1b**, 95.7 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 20/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a brown oil (28.2 mg, 48%).

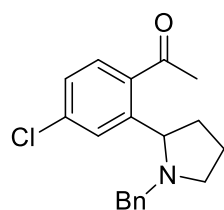
R_f 0.23 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11-3.03 (m, 1H), 3.05 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.49-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.22 (q, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.73 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.54 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.7, 144.7, 142.4, 139.9, 135.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.8, 126.7, 65.3, 58.7, 53.4, 34.9, 30.0, 22.7, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₀H₂₄NO

$[M + H]^+$ 294.1858, found 294.1863.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-4-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (3ca): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1c**, 97.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a white solid (30.4 mg, 51%).

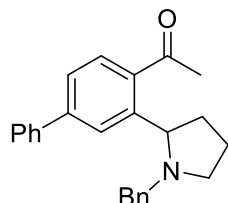
R_f 0.35 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); m.p. 92.9-95.9 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.86 (dd, J = 11.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.6, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.96 (td, J = 8.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (td, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.14-3.07 (m, 1H), 3.13 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.52-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.25 (q, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.51 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.3, 165.1 ($^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 250.5 Hz), 149.6 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 7.6 Hz), 139.6, 134.3 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.6 Hz), 131.2 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 8.8 Hz), 128.6, 128.1, 126.8, 114.8 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.8 Hz), 113.1 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 22.1 Hz), 65.0, 58.8, 53.5, 35.0, 29.9, 22.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -106.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOF}$ $[M + H]^+$ 298.1607, found 298.1616.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-4-chlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (3da): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1d**, 103.9 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 40/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (24.8 mg, 39%).

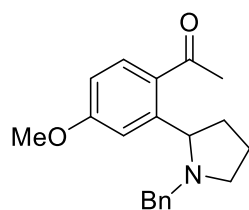
R_f 0.33 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.11 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.19 (m, 6H), 3.93 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.14-3.07 (m, 1H), 3.13 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.49-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.25 (q, J = 8.9

Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.53 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.9, 147.4, 139.4, 138.2, 136.6, 129.8, 128.6, 128.3, 128.1, 126.8, 126.3, 64.9, 58.8, 53.5, 35.0, 30.0, 22.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOCl}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 314.1312, found 314.1316.



1-(3-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one (3ea): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-1-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1e**, 120.6 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 20/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a white solid (23.5 mg, 33%).

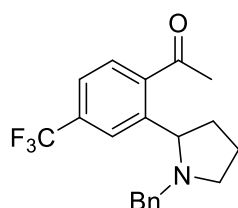
R_f 0.27 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); m.p. 98.5-101.5 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.38 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.20 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.17-3.11 (m, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.27 (q, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.92-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.8, 145.4, 144.4, 140.3, 139.8, 137.3, 129.1, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 126.7 (two signals overlapped), 124.7, 65.4, 58.7, 53.6, 35.1, 30.1, 22.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 356.2014, found 356.2014.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-one (3fa): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*,1-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1f**, 102.1 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 8/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (18.4 mg, 30%).

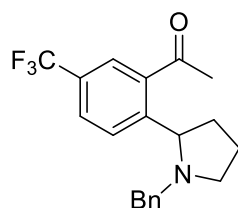
R_f 0.17 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.77 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.16

(t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.80 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.12-3.07 (m, 1H), 3.09 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.24 (q, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.58-1.50 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 199.8, 162.8, 148.9, 140.1, 131.9, 130.5, 128.4, 128.1, 126.6, 112.3, 111.8, 65.4, 58.7, 55.4, 53.5, 34.7, 29.5, 22.9; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 310.1807, found 310.1805.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3ga): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1g**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (14.5 mg, 21%).

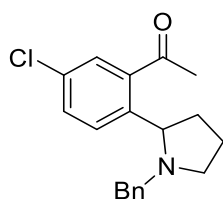
R_f 0.33 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H), 3.85 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.17-3.09 (m, 1H), 3.16 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.39 (m, 1H), 2.29 (q, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.58 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.8, 145.5, 141.9, 139.1, 133.1 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 31.7$ Hz), 128.7, 128.2, 127.8, 126.9, 125.4, 123.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 272.0$ Hz), 123.1, 65.1, 58.8, 53.6, 35.3, 30.4, 22.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -63.0; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 348.1575, found 348.1578.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3ha): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (42.1 mg, 61%).

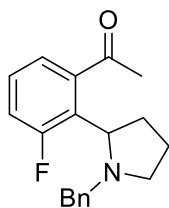
R_f 0.40 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.22 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.77

(s, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.20 (m, 5H), 3.92 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.16-3.10 (m, 1H), 3.15 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.49-2.41 (m, 1H), 2.27 (q, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.56 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.1, 148.8, 139.2 (two signals overlapped), 128.9, 128.6 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.5$ Hz), 128.5, 128.1 (two signals overlapped), 126.8, 124.6 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.3$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 270.7$ Hz), 65.1, 58.6, 53.5, 35.2, 30.2, 22.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 348.1575, found 348.1582.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-5-chlorophenyl)ethan-1-one (3ia): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1i**, 103.9 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/ Et_2O = 20/1) of the crude product afforded the compound **3ia** in a pure form (14.2 mg, 23%) as a light yellow oil and a mixture of **3ia** and *N*-(1-(3-chlorophenyl)ethyl)-4-methoxyaniline (reduced product of **1i**; 16.3 mg, 26%, ratio = 5:1 as determined by ^1H NMR) as a yellow oil. Characterization data of **3ia** are given below.

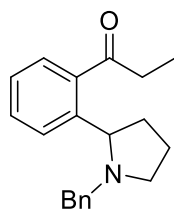
R_f 0.46 (hexane/ EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 5H), 3.82 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.10-3.06 (m, 1H), 3.09 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.22 (q, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.53 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.1, 142.9, 140.3, 139.5, 131.9, 131.6, 129.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 126.8, 64.9, 58.5, 53.4, 35.1, 30.2, 22.8; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOCl}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 314.1312, found 314.1310.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-3-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (3ja): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1j**, 97.3 mg, 0.40

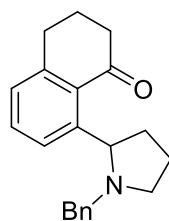
mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: Hex/EtOAc = 10/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (31.6 mg, 53%).

R_f 0.17 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.29-7.18 (m, 6H), 7.07 (t, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.98 (m, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.34 (q, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.68 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 202.8 (d, $^4J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 2.0 Hz), 161.1 (d, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 247.0 Hz), 143.6 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.0 Hz), 137.8, 129.3, 128.6 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 13.0 Hz), 128.1, 128.0, 126.8, 121.8 (d, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.0 Hz), 116.4 (d, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 23.0 Hz), 60.5, 58.0, 52.8, 32.6, 31.7, 23.1; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -114.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{NOF}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 298.1607, found 298.1612.



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)phenyl)propan-1-one (3ka): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-imine (**1k**, 95.7 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) for 24 h. Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (12.4 mg, 21%).

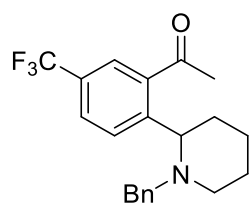
R_f 0.35 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.04 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 1H), 3.78 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.10-2.80 (m, 4H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.20 (q, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.91-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.21 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 206.1, 143.6, 139.7, 139.6, 131.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 126.7, 126.2, 65.6, 58.4, 53.3, 35.7, 35.3, 22.7, 8.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 294.1858, found 294.1860.



8-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (3la): The typical

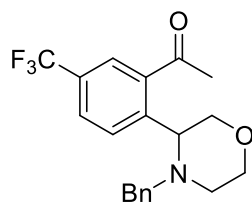
procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2*H*)-imine (**1l**, 100.5 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)pyrrolidine (**2a**, 48.0 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 10/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (27.1 mg, 44%).

R_f 0.20 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11-3.05 (m, 1H), 3.07 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 2.98-2.94 (m, 2H), 2.76-2.55 (m, 3H), 2.24 (q, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.16-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.84-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.44 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.2, 148.2, 145.3, 140.2, 132.9, 131.5, 128.5, 128.1, 127.0, 126.6, 125.9, 65.5, 59.0, 53.5, 41.2, 34.2, 31.1, 22.94, 22.90; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₁H₂₄NO [M + H]⁺ 306.1858, found 306.1859.



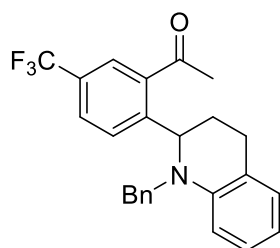
1-(2-(1-Benzylpiperidin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3hb): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)piperidine (**2b**, 50.8 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 60/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (15.9 mg, 22%).

R_f 0.38 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.19 (m, 5H), 3.66 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (d, *J* = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 1.64-1.36 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 201.8, 148.9, 139.6, 139.2, 129.2, 128.7 (q, ²*J*_{C-F} = 32.8 Hz), 128.4, 128.1, 127.8 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 3.3 Hz), 126.8, 124.1 (q, ³*J*_{C-F} = 4.0 Hz), 123.7 (q, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 270.5 Hz), 63.8, 60.1, 53.2, 36.5, 30.7, 25.8, 24.9; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C₂₁H₂₃NOF₃ [M + H]⁺ 362.1732, found 362.1730.



1-(2-(4-Benzylmorpholin-3-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3hc): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 4-(2-bromobenzyl)morpholine (**2c**, 51.2 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 10/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (12.4 mg, 17%).

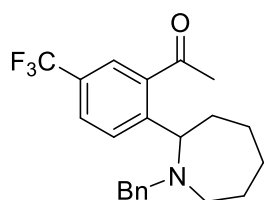
R_f 0.22 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.21 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.21 (m, 5H), 4.01-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.86 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.71-3.62 (m, 2H), 3.35 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.32 (td, J = 11.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.9, 143.1, 140.6, 137.9, 129.9, 129.6 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.7 Hz), 128.6, 128.3, 127.9 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.3 Hz), 127.1, 124.6 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7 Hz), 123.6 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 270.7 Hz), 72.9, 67.4, 62.7, 59.6, 51.8, 30.3; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.7; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_2\text{F}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 364.1524, found 364.1520.



1-(2-(1-Benzyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3hd): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline (**2d**, 60.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 60/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow solid (16.4 mg, 20%).

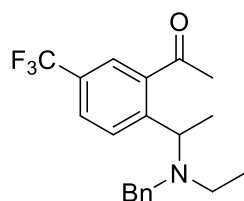
R_f 0.42 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); m.p. 126.7-129.5 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.43-5.41 (m, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.69-2.49 (m, 5H),

2.45-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 200.2, 148.9, 145.1, 137.9, 137.2, 129.4, 129.3 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.8$ Hz), 128.9, 128.7, 128.0 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.5$ Hz), 127.6, 126.9, 126.4 (two signals overlapped), 123.6 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 270.8$ Hz), 122.1, 116.2, 110.8, 58.1, 53.3, 29.8, 28.4, 23.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.6; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{23}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 410.1732, found 410.1732.



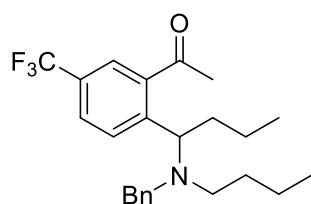
1-(2-(1-Benzylazepan-2-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3he): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and 1-(2-bromobenzyl)azepane (**2e**, 53.6 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 50/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (48.4 mg, 64%).

R_f 0.52 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.13 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.15 (m, 5H), 4.23-4.21 (m, 1H), 3.51 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 1.97-1.82 (m, 3H), 1.73-1.47 (m, 5H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 201.6, 151.5, 139.7, 138.7, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}} = 32.3$ Hz), 128.1, 127.2 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.3$ Hz), 126.7, 124.3 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}} = 3.7$ Hz), 123.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 270.7$ Hz), 64.7, 59.3, 50.3, 35.4, 30.3, 29.1, 27.2, 26.4; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{25}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 376.1888, found 376.1885.



1-(2-(1-(Benzyl(ethyl)amino)ethyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3hf): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and *N*-(2-bromobenzyl)-*N*-ethylethanamine (**2f**, 48.4 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (40.5 mg, 58%).

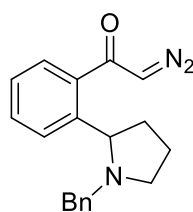
R_f 0.42 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H), 4.50 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (d, J = 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.62-2.45 (m, 5H), 1.37 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 202.4, 148.7, 141.1, 139.9, 128.7 (two signals overlapped), 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 126.7 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7 Hz), 123.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 270.7 Hz), 123.4 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7 Hz), 55.2, 54.3, 43.6, 30.5, 16.2, 11.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.5; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{23}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 350.1732, found 350.1729.



1-(2-(1-(Benzyl(butyl)amino)butyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (3hg): The typical procedure was applied to (*E*)-*N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethan-1-imine (**1h**, 117.3 mg, 0.40 mmol) and *N*-(2-bromobenzyl)-*N*-butylbutan-1-amine (**2g**, 59.7 mg, 0.20 mmol). Silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 60/1) of the crude product afforded the title compound as a light yellow oil (35.7 mg, 44%).

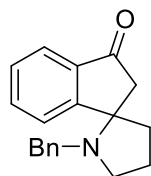
R_f 0.65 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -acetone): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H), 4.53 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.50 (m, 1H), 2.36-2.29 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.94 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.80 (m, 1H), 1.39-1.04 (m, 6H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 202.3, 145.8, 142.1, 140.3, 128.8, 128.6 (q, $^2J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 32.7 Hz), 128.5, 128.1, 126.7, 126.4 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7 Hz), 123.8 (q, $^1J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 270.3 Hz), 123.6 (q, $^3J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 3.7 Hz), 59.1, 54.7, 50.0, 32.8, 30.6, 28.7, 20.5, 19.8, 14.3, 13.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -62.6; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{31}\text{NOF}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 406.2358, found 406.2361.

Transformation of Product 3aa



1-(2-(1-Benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-diazoethan-1-one (9): To a solution of LiHMDS (1.0 M, 2.49 mL) in 5.0 mL THF was added 1-(2-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (**3aa**, 642 mg, 2.30 mmol) in THF (4.6 mL) over 1 min at -78°C . The resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 30 min, followed by the addition of trifluoroethyl trifluoroacetate (541.1 mg, 2.76 mmol) over 2-3 min. After additional stirring for 3 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, stirred overnight and then poured into a separatory funnel together with Et_2O (20 mL) and sat. NH_4Cl (20 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil. The oil was placed in a dry 50 mL 3-necked round-bottomed flask under a nitrogen atmosphere and dissolved in acetonitrile (9.3 mL). To this solution was added water (0.02 mL) and NEt_3 (0.23 mL), followed by the dropwise addition of *p*-acetamidobenzenesulfonyl azide (402.5 mg, 1.68 mmol) in acetonitrile (9.3 mL). The resulting solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 h, and then poured into a separatory funnel with Et_2O (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with 5% NaOH aqueous solution (3 x 10 mL), water (3 x 10 mL), and brine. The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/ EtOAc = 8/1-1/1) to afford the desired product as a yellow oil (127.4 mg, 32 % based on recovered **3aa**) along with recovery of **3aa** (275.3 mg).

R_f 0.67 (hexane/ EtOAc = 1/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.01 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.19 (m, 7H), 5.59 (brs, 1H), 3.85 (brs, 1H), 3.79 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11-3.06 (m, 2H), 2.44-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.21 (q, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.89-1.61 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN): δ 191.2, 143.9, 140.7, 139.8, 132.1, 129.5 (2C), 129.1 (2C), 128.6, 127.7, 127.5, 66.0, 58.9, 54.0, 36.3, 23.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 306.1606, found 306.1602.



1'-Benzylspiro[indene-1,2'-pyrrolidin]-3(2H)-one (10): A solution of 1-(2-(1-benzylpyrrolidin-2-yl)phenyl)-2-diazoethan-1-one (**9**, 127.4 mg, 0.42 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$ in dichloromethane (9.3 mg, 0.02 mmol, 42 mL) at room temperature over a period of 6 h using a syringe pump. The resulting mixture was stirred for additional 20 h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 12/1) to afford the desired product as a light yellow oil (78.7 mg, 68 %).

R_f 0.24 (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.75 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.21 (m, 5H), 3.35 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17-3.09 (m, 2H), 2.93 (d, J = 18.7 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.47 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.21 (m, 1H), 2.08-1.90 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN): δ 204.7, 159.1, 140.9, 138.5, 136.1, 129.7, 129.2, 129.1, 127.7, 126.0, 123.2, 70.5, 53.7, 51.9, 43.1, 42.1, 22.4; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 278.1545, found 278.1545.

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