

Supporting Information

**Regioselective C–H Alkenylation of Imidazoles and its Application to the
Synthesis of Unsymmetrically Substituted Benzimidazoles**

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I. General Information

Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40-63 μm) using the indicated solvent system. NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 at 300 K on a 300 MHz Fourier transform NMR spectrometer. Proton chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (CDCl_3 , δ 7.26). Carbon chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to the carbon resonance of the NMR solvent (CDCl_3 , δ 77.16). Crude yields were determined by ^1H NMR using either of the following internal NMR standards [trichloroethylene (1H, 6.45 ppm) or 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (1H, 6.08 ppm)], which were added to reaction mixtures after cooling to 25 $^\circ\text{C}$. Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were also performed to determine crude yields using *n*-dodecane as an internal standard. Infrared (IR) spectra are reported as absorption wavenumbers (cm^{-1}). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were acquired on high-resolution mass spectrometers: Q-TOF (ionization mode: ESI).

II. Experimental Procedures

II.A. General Procedure for the *N*-protection of Imidazoles.

To a stirred solution of imidazole (1.00 equiv) in DMF (and/or THF) at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ under an argon atmosphere was added sodium hydride (1.10 equiv). After stirring for 20 min at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$, a protecting reagent (1.05 equiv) was added dropwise, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h at 25 $^\circ\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was treated with water (50 mL) and EtOAc (50 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (50 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the desired imidazole.

II.B. General Procedure for C5-Alkenylation of C2-Unsubstituted Imidazoles.

A 40 mL-glass vial was evacuated and potassium pivalate (295 mg, 2.0 mmol) and DMA (3.00 mL, 0.33 M) were added under an oxygen atmosphere. Imidazole substrate (1.0 mmol), alkene (2.0 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were then added to this solution. The vial was evacuated and filled with oxygen three times. After stirring for 24 h at 120 $^\circ\text{C}$ under 1 atm of oxygen (balloon), the reaction mixture was cooled to 25 $^\circ\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was treated with water (20 mL) and EtOAc (20 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected, and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (20 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated, and

the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the desired imidazole.

II.C. General Procedure for the C5-Alkenylation of C2-Substituted Imidazoles.

To a solution of imidazole substrate (0.50 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL, 0.33 M) in an 8 mL-glass vial were added alkene (1.5 mmol), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 15 h, and then cooled to 25 °C. The reaction mixture was treated with ammonium hydroxide solution (15% NH₃ in H₂O, 25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (15 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated, and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the desired imidazole.

II.D. General Procedure for SEM-switch of Imidazoles.¹

To a stirred solution of alkenyl imidazole (1.0 equiv) in CH₃CN (0.10 M) was added (2-(chloromethoxy)ethyl)trimethylsilane (SEM-Cl) (0.050 equiv) at 100 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the desired C4-substituted imidazole.

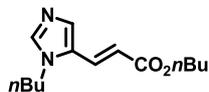
II.E. General Procedure for Electrocyclization/Oxidation of Di-alkenyl Imidazoles.

A 40 mL-glass vial was evacuated and di-alkenylated imidazole substrate (0.30 mmol), DDQ (7.0 mg, 0.030 mmol), NaNO₂ (2.0 mg, 0.030 mmol), and Ph₂O (3.0 mL, 0.10 M) were added under an oxygen atmosphere. The vial was evacuated and filled with oxygen three times. After stirring for 36 h at 180 °C under 1 atm of oxygen (balloon), the reaction mixture was cooled to 25 °C and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the desired benzimidazole.

¹ J. M. Joo, B. B. Touré, D. Sames, *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 4911.

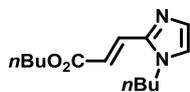
III. Product Characterization Data

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**1b**)



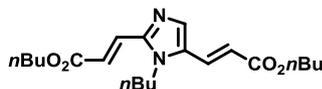
Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KO₂Piv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (287 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:4) provided imidazole **1b** as a yellow oil (161 mg, 64% yield). IR (film) 2957, 2931, 2871, 1701, 1629, 1455, 1125 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (s, 1H) 7.50 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.66 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.27 (m, 2H), 1.05-0.85 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 140.1, 131.8, 129.5, 128.0, 116.4, 64.5, 45.2, 32.9, 30.8, 19.7, 19.2, 13.7, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 251.1754, found 251.1755.

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)acrylate (**1b-c2**)



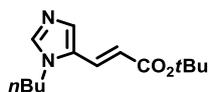
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.27 (m, 2H), 1.01-0.88 (m, 6H).

(*2E, 2E'*)-Dibutyl 3,3'-(1-butyl-1*H*-imidazole-2,5-yl)diacrylate (**1b-di**)



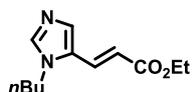
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.19 (m, 4H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.64 (m, 6H), 1.47-1.39 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 9H).

(E)-tert-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (1c)



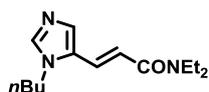
Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *t*-butyl acrylate (300 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 10:1) provided imidazole **1c** as a brown oil (143 mg, 57% yield). IR (film) 2961, 2872, 1699, 1630, 1455, 1148 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.52 (s, 9H), 1.38-1.29 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.3, 139.9, 131.5, 128.6, 128.1, 118.4, 80.6, 45.2, 32.9, 28.2, 19.8, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 251.1754, found 251.1748.

(E)-Ethyl 3-(1-butyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (1d)



Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), ethyl acrylate (300 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 97:3) provided imidazole **1d** as an orange oil (129 mg, 58% yield). IR (film) 2960, 2933, 2873, 1704, 1632, 1177 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.27 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.77-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.28 (m, 5H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 140.0, 131.7, 129.4, 127.8, 116.1, 60.4, 45.0, 32.7, 19.5, 14.1, 13.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 223.1447, found 223.1445.

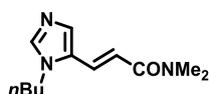
(E)-O-(3-(1-butyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acryloyl)-*N,N*-diethylhydroxylamine (1e)



Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *N,N*-diethyl acrylamide (279 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used.

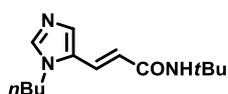
Flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 96:4) provided imidazole **1e** as a yellow oil (188 mg, 75% yield). IR (film) 3102, 2963, 2932, 2872, 1644, 1601 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 3.53-3.42 (m, 4H), 1.79-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.30 (m, 2H), 1.28-1.24 (m, 3H), 1.19 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.2, 139.2, 129.7, 128.9, 127.3, 116.2, 45.0, 42.1, 41.1, 32.9, 19.7, 15.0, 13.4, 13.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 266.1863, found 266.1870.

(E)-O-(3-(1-butyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acryloyl)-N,N-dimethylhydroxylamine (1f)



Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μL , 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *N,N*-dimethyl acrylamide (206 μL , 2.00 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 98:2) provided imidazole **1f** as an orange oil (121 mg, 54% yield). IR (film) 3102, 2963, 2932, 2872, 1644, 1601 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.99 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.26 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.3, 139.4, 130.0, 129.0, 127.6, 115.9, 45.1, 37.4, 36.0, 33.1, 19.8, 13.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_3\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 222.1606, found 222.1600.

(E)-N-(tert-butyl)-3-(1-butyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylamide (1g)



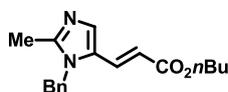
Following the general procedure B, *n*-butyl imidazole (**1a**) (132 μL , 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *t*-butyl acrylate (300 μL , 2.0 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 10:1) provided imidazole **1g** as a brown oil (171 mg, 69% yield). IR (film) 2961, 2872, 1657, 1549, 1330, 1223, 1122 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 6.24 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 3.96 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.77-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.33-1.27 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.1, 139.0, 129.2, 128.7, 124.9, 121.4, 51.6, 45.1, 33.0, 28.9, 27.4, 19.8, 13.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{O}_1$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 250.1919, found 250.1912.

1-Benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazole (**2a**)



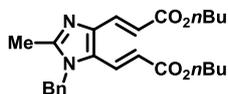
A commercial bottle was distilled prior to use. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H).

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**2b**)



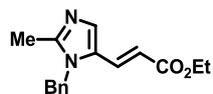
Following the general procedure C, **2a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μL, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only) provided imidazole **2b** as a yellow solid (110 mg, 74% yield). mp 56-60 °C; IR (film) 2960, 2873, 1701, 1630, 1304, 1158 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 6.20 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 4.13 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.67-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.33 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 148.5, 135.4, 130.3, 129.7, 128.9, 128.6, 127.8, 125.6, 115.4, 64.1, 47.0, 30.5, 19.0, 13.6, 13.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1754, found 299.1750.

(*2E, 2'E*)-Dibutyl 3,3'-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-4,5-diyl)diacrylate (**2b-di**)



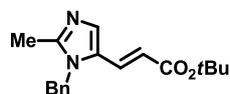
¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 3H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.35 (m, 4H), 0.97-0.90 (m, 6H).

(E)-Ethyl 3-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (2c)



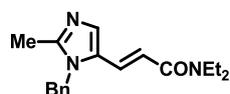
Following the general procedure C, **2a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), ethyl acrylate (163 μL, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only) provided imidazole **2c** as a brown solid (95.0 mg, 70% yield). mp 77-80 °C; IR (film) 2981, 1701, 1629, 1413, 1309, 1157 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.20 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 148.7, 135.4, 130.5, 129.8, 129.0, 128.7, 127.9, 125.7, 115.4, 60.3, 47.0, 14.2, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 271.1441, found 271.1439.

(E)-tert-Butyl 3-(1-benzyl-2-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (2d)



Following the general procedure C, **2a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *t*-butyl acrylate (220 μL, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:2) provided imidazole **2d** as a yellow solid (111 mg, 74% yield). mp 162-167 °C; IR (film) 3062, 2973, 2926, 1691, 1621, 1315 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 148.2, 135.4, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 127.7, 125.6, 117.3, 80.1, 46.8, 28.0, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₂₃N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 299.1754, found 299.1753.

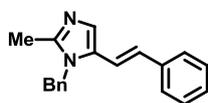
(E)-3-(1-Benzyl-2-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-*N,N*-diethylacrylamide (2e)



Following the general procedure C, **2a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0

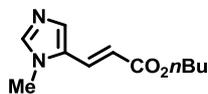
mmol), *N,N*-diethyl acrylamide (207 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 97:3) provided imidazole **2e** as a yellow solid (90.0 mg, 61% yield). mp 120-125 °C; IR (film) 2973, 2930, 1641, 1593, 1426, 1357 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 3.42 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.0, 147.8, 135.4, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 127.6, 127.5, 125.3, 114.9, 46.7, 41.8, 40.7, 14.7, 13.2, 12.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₄N₃O [M+H]⁺ 298.1914, found 298.1916.

(*E*)-1-Benzyl-2-methyl-5-styryl-1*H*-imidazole (**2f**)



Following the general procedure C, **2a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), styrene (172 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:4) provided imidazole **2f** as a yellow solid (63.0 mg, 46% yield). mp 109-113 °C; IR (film) 3059, 2924, 1715, 1670, 1492, 1156 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.29 (m, 7H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.0, 136.9, 136.1, 131.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.5, 126.0, 125.8, 125.3, 114.4, 46.9, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₉H₁₉N₂ [M+H]⁺ 275.1543, found 275.1548.

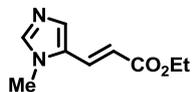
(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**3b**)



Following the general procedure B, 1-methyl imidazole (**3a**) (80.0 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (287 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 98:2) provided imidazole **3b** as a yellow oil (134 mg, 64% yield). IR (film) 3107, 2979, 1699, 1630, 1280, 1123 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.36 (m, 2H),

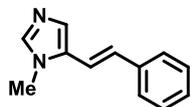
0.95 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.1, 141.0, 132.4, 129.6, 128.8, 116.4, 64.6, 32.4, 30.8, 19.3, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 209.1285, found 209.1285.

(E)-Ethyl 3-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (3c)²



Following the general procedure B, 1-methyl imidazole (**3a**) (80.0 μL , 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), ethyl acrylate (218 μL , 2.0 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 97:3) provided imidazole **3c** as a white solid (122 mg, 68% yield). mp 45-47 $^\circ\text{C}$; IR (film) 3107, 2979, 2113, 1799, 1650, 1491 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.28 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.9, 141.0, 132.4, 129.5, 128.8, 116.4, 60.6, 32.4, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 181.0972, found 181.0969.

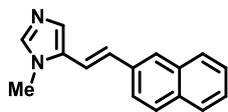
(E)-1-Methyl -5-styryl-1H-imidazole (3d)



Following the general procedure B, 1-methyl imidazole (**3a**) (80.0 μL , 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), styrene (230 μL , 2.0 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 97:3) provided imidazole **3d** as a yellow solid (67.0 mg, 37% yield). mp 102-105 $^\circ\text{C}$; IR (film) 3110, 2955, 2927, 1723, 1494, 1278 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.28 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, $J = 16.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 138.7, 136.9, 131.3, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 127.4, 126.3, 114.0, 32.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 185.1079, found 185.1073.

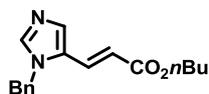
² M. A. Jinks, H. Sun, C. A. Hunter, *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2014**, *12*, 1440.

(E)-1-Methyl-5-(2-naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-imidazole (3e)



Following the general procedure B, 1-methyl imidazole (**3a**) (80.0 μ L, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPIV (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), 2-vinylnaphthalene (318 mg, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 97:3) provided imidazole **3e** as a yellow solid (108 mg, 46% yield). mp 100-102 °C; IR (film) 3091, 3051, 2953, 1625, 1496, 1114 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 134.4, 133.7, 133.1, 131.4, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 126.6, 126.5, 126.1, 123.1, 114.3, 32.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₅N₂ [M+H]⁺ 235.1235, found 235.1232.

(E)-Butyl 3-(1-benzyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (4b)



Following the general procedure B, 1-benzyl imidazole (**4a**) (163 mg, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPIV (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (287 μ L, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:4) provided imidazole **4b** as a yellow solid (160 mg, 55% yield). mp 46-49 °C; IR (film) 3107, 2956, 2870, 1700, 1630, 1290 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.32 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 140.6, 135.4, 132.1, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 128.4, 126.7, 117.0, 64.4, 49.0, 30.7, 19.2, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₇H₂₁N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 285.1598, found 285.1602.

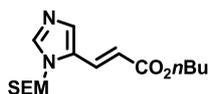
1-((2-(Trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazole (5a)¹



Following the general procedure A, 1H-imidazole (2.00 g, 29.38 mmol), NaH (775 mg, 32.31 mmol), SEM-Cl (5.70 mL, 30.85 mmol), THF (15.0 mL), DMF (15.0 mL) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only)

provided imidazole **5a** as a yellow liquid (2.50 g, 42% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.46 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 0.03 (s, 9H).

(E)-Butyl 3-(1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (5b)



Following the general procedure B, **5a** (198 mg, 1.0 mmol), DMA (3.00 mL), KOPiv (295 mg, 2.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (287 μL, 2.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (22.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:3) provided imidazole **5b** as a yellow oil (186 mg, 63% yield). IR (film) 3107, 2954, 2873, 1703, 1632, 1169 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 6.37 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.73-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.36 (m, 2H), 0.99-0.88 (m, 5H), -0.02 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 140.6, 132.8, 129.3, 128.4, 117.2, 74.2, 66.1, 64.2, 30.6, 19.0, 17.4, 13.5, -1.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₉N₂O₃Si [M+H]⁺ 325.1942, found 325.1948.

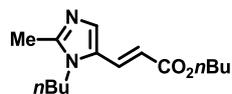
1-Butyl-2-methyl-1H-imidazole (6a)³



Following the general procedure A, 2-methyl-1H-imidazole (1.00 g, 12.18 mmol), DMF (5.00 mL), potassium tert-butoxide (1.64 g, 14.62 mmol), and 1-bromobutane (1.88 mL, 17.54 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only) provided imidazole **6a** as a pale yellow oil (1.40 g, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 3.81 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.75-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.26 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

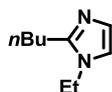
³ M. Smiglak, C. C. Hines, W. M. Reichert, A. S. Vincek, A. R. Katritzky, J. S. Thrasher, L. Sun, P. D. MacCrary, P. A. Beasley, S. P. Kelley, R. D. Rogers, *New J. Chem.* **2012**, *36*, 702.

(E)-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-2-methyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (6b)



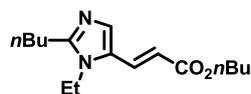
Following the general procedure C, **6a** (69.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:4) provided imidazole **6b** as a brown oil (93.0 mg, 70% yield). IR (film) 2957, 2931, 2872, 1702, 1626, 1542, 1155 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.72-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.32 (m, 4H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 147.8, 129.9, 127.9, 114.7, 64.2, 43.6, 32.6, 30.6, 19.7, 19.0, 13.6, 13.5, 13.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₅H₂₅N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 265.1911, found 265.1906.

2-Butyl-1-ethyl-1H-imidazole (7a)



Following the general procedure A, 2-(*n*-butyl)-1H-imidazole (500 mg, 3.90 mmol), THF (4.00 mL), sodium hydride 60% in oil (172 mg, 4.30 mmol), and 1-bromoethane (327 μ L, 4.30 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only) provided imidazole **7a** as a pale yellow oil (553 mg, 93% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.81-1.68 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 124.3, 115.4, 37.6, 27.6, 23.7, 19.9, 13.6, 11.3.

(E)-Butyl 3-(2-butyl-1-ethyl-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (7b)



Following the general procedure C, **7a** (76.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0

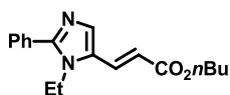
mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1) provided imidazole **7b** as a brown oil (111 mg, 80% yield). IR (film) 2932, 2956, 2870, 1701, 1626, 1539, 1153 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 6.23 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 151.3, 130.6, 129.9, 127.4, 114.6, 64.2, 38.3, 30.6, 29.8, 26.7, 22.4, 19.1, 16.2, 13.74, 13.65; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₇N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 279.2067, found 279.2061.

1-Ethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (**8a**)⁴



Following the general procedure A, 2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazole (1.00 g, 6.8 mmol), THF (7.00 mL), sodium hydride 60% in oil (300 mg, 7.5 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:2) to give **8a** as a yellow oil (1.24 g, quantitative yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 4.06 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-ethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**8b**)



Following the general procedure C, **8a** (86.1 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 3:1) provided imidazole **8b** as a yellow oil (104 mg, 70% yield). IR (film) 3062, 2957, 2871, 1701, 1625, 1430 cm^{-1} ; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.1, 150.4,

⁴ O. S. Kim, J. H. Jang, H. T. Kim, S. J. Han, G. C. Tsui, J. M. Joo, *Org. Lett.* **2017**, *19*, 1450.

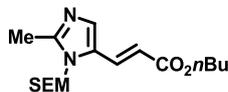
131.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 115.8, 64.3, 39.5, 30.6, 19.1, 16.6, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{18}H_{23}N_2O_2$ $[M+H]^+$ 299.1754, found 299.1752.

2-Methyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazole (9a)⁵



Following the general procedure A, 2-methyl-1H-imidazole (1.00 g, 12.18 mmol), DMF (7.00 mL), sodium hydride 60% in oil (512 mg, 12.79 mmol), and SEM-Cl (2.52 mL, 12.79 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (EtOAc only) provided imidazole **9a**. Also, it was purified as a colorless oil (1.72 g, 66% yield) by distillation. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.91 (s, 2H), 5.19 (s, 2H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), -0.02 (s, 9H).

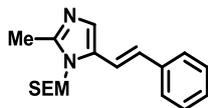
(*E*)-Butyl 3-(2-methyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (9b)



Following the general procedure C, **9a** (106 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μL, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:2) provided imidazole **9b** as a yellow solid (124 mg, 75% yield). mp 36-38 °C; IR (film) 2953, 1699, 1627, 1543, 1476, 1411, 1149 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.35 (m, 2H), 0.98-0.88 (m, 5H), -0.02 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.0, 140.8, 133.1, 129.6, 128.7, 117.6, 74.5, 66.4, 64.6, 30.8, 19.3, 17.6, 13.8, 13.8, -1.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{17}H_{31}N_2O_3Si$ $[M+H]^+$ 339.2098, found 339.2096.

⁵ M. D. Markey, T. R. Kelly, *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 7441.

(E)-2-Methyl-5-styryl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazole (9c)



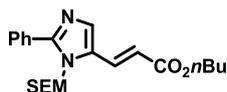
Following the general procedure C, **9a** (106 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), styrene (172 μ L, 1.5 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:3) provided imidazole **9c** as a brown oil (90.0 mg, 57% yield). IR (film) 3376, 2956, 2870, 1491, 1456, 1276 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), -0.02 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.8, 136.6, 131.0, 128.3, 127.2, 125.8, 124.9, 114.1, 71.9, 65.4, 17.3, 13.1, -1.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₈H₂₇N₂OSi [M+H]⁺ 315.1887, found 315.1886.

2-Phenyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazole (10a)¹



Following the general procedure A, 2-phenylimidazole (2.00 g, 13.87 mmol), THF (40.0 mL), DMF (4.00 mL), NaH (610 mg, 15.26 mmol), SEM-Cl (2.90 mL, 14.57 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:1) provided imidazole **10a** as a yellow oil (2.60 g, 68% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 3.57 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 0.01 (s, 9H).

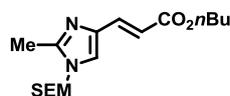
(E)-Butyl 3-(2-phenyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (10b)



Following the general procedure C, **10a** (686 mg, 2.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (6.00 mL), Cu(OAc)₂ (907 mg, 5.00 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (1.08 mL, 7.50 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (56.1 mg, 0.250 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 3:1) provided imidazole **10b** as a yellow oil (733 mg, 73% yield). IR (film)

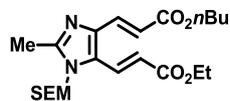
2954, 2895, 2872, 1705, 1628, 1539, 1160 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 3H), 6.38 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.21 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 2H), 3.53 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.75-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.51-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.02-0.89 (m, 5H), -0.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.0, 151.9, 131.7, 130.1, 130.0, 129.64, 129.57, 129.1, 128.7, 116.9, 73.0, 66.0, 64.4, 30.7, 19.2, 17.7, 13.8, -1.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 401.2255, found 401.2252.

(E)-Butyl 3-(2-methyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (11a)



Following the general procedure D, **9b** (342 mg, 1.0 mmol), SEM-Cl (9.90 μL , 0.051 mmol), and CH_3CN (1.70 mL) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 3:1) provided imidazole **11a** as a brown solid (311 mg, 91% yield). mp 57-58 $^\circ\text{C}$; IR (film) 2953, 2897, 1700, 1628, 1530, 1472, 1160 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.52 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 4.17 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.49 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.69-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.36 (m, 2H), 0.96-0.87 (m, 5H), -0.02 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.7, 147.1, 136.1, 135.7, 122.4, 115.8, 75.2, 66.3, 64.0, 30.7, 19.1, 17.6, 13.7, 13.0, -1.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 339.2104, found 339.2098.

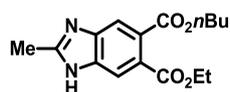
(E)-Butyl 3-(5-((E)-3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-2-methyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (11b)



Following the general procedure C, **11a** (169 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), ethyl acrylate (164 μL , 1.5 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 2:1) provided imidazole **11b** as a yellow oil (203 mg, 85% yield). IR (film) 2955, 2873, 1704, 1626, 1524, 1155 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75-7.62 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, $J = 15.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.33 (d, $J = 15.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 4.31-4.23 (m, 2H), 4.22-4.16 (m, 2H), 3.55 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.65 (m, 2H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.31 (m, 3H), 0.98-0.91 (m, 5H), -0.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75

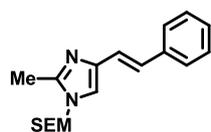
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 166.6, 149.7, 138.9, 133.4, 129.3, 128.7, 120.5, 119.4, 73.1, 66.5, 64.4, 60.9, 30.9, 19.3, 17.9, 14.4, 13.84, 13.81, -1.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₂H₃₇N₂O₅Si [M+H]⁺ 437.2466, found 437.2460.

5-Butyl 6-ethyl 2-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-5,6-dicarboxylate (**11c**)



Following the general procedure E, the electrocyclization/oxidation reaction was carried out with **11b** (131 mg, 0.30 mmol), DDQ (7.10 mg, 0.030 mmol), NaNO₂ (2.00 mg, 0.030 mmol), and Ph₂O (3.00 mL, 0.10 M) under an oxygen atmosphere (1.00 atm, balloon). Then, the crude mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with a solution of 3 N HCl (1.00 mL) and H₂O (4.00 mL). After stirring for 3 h at 80 °C, the reaction mixture was treated with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ solution (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL-separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and then purified by flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 96:4) to provide (NH)-free benzimidazole **11c** as a yellow oil (63.0 mg, 69% yield). IR (film) 3053, 2960, 1712, 1629, 1541, 1311 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 4.43-4.26 (m, 4H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.77-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 166.9, 148.8, 138.4, 134.0, 129.2, 128.6, 119.6, 118.7, 64.9, 60.5, 44.6, 32.5, 30.8, 20.0, 19.3, 14.5, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₁N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 305.1496, found 305.1494.

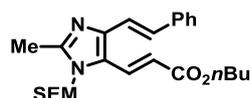
(*E*)-2-Methyl-4-styryl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazole (**12a**)



Following the general procedure D, **9c** (360 mg, 1.14 mmol), SEM-Cl (11.0 μ L, 0.0570 mmol), and CH₃CN (1.10 mL) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 2:1) provided **12a** as a yellow solid (335 mg, 93% yield). mp 58-60 °C; IR (film) 2952, 2892, 1637, 1358, 1249, 1084 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.90 (m, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H),

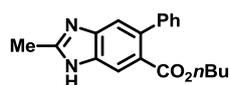
2.48 (s, 3H), 0.51 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), -0.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.8, 137.9, 137.4, 128.3, 126.7, 126.1, 125.8, 119.7, 118.2, 74.7, 65.8, 17.4, 12.8, -1.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{OSi}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 315.1887, found 315.1884.

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(2-methyl-4-((*E*)-styryl)-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1*H*-imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (12b**)**



Following the general procedure C, **12a** (157 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (215 μL , 1.5 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:1) provided imidazole **12b** as a yellow oil (210 mg, 88% yield). IR (film) 3025, 2956, 1707, 1619, 1176, 1085 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, $J = 16.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.23 (t, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.59 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.00-0.92 (m, 5H), -0.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5, 149.5, 142.3, 137.3, 130.7, 129.5, 128.8, 127.9, 126.9, 125.8, 118.0, 117.0, 73.1, 66.3, 64.6, 30.9, 19.4, 17.9, 13.9, -1.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{37}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 440.2495, found 441.2564.

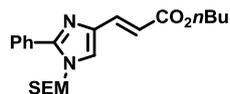
***n*-Butyl 2-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-6-carboxylate (**12c**)**



Following the general procedure E, the electrocyclization/oxidation reaction was carried out with **12b** (132 mg, 0.30 mmol), DDQ (7.10 mg, 0.030 mmol), NaNO_2 (2.00 mg, 0.030 mmol), and Ph_2O (3.00 mL, 0.10 M) under an oxygen atmosphere (1.00 atm, balloon). Then, the crude mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with a solution of 3 N HCl (1.00 mL) and H_2O (4.00 mL). After stirring for 3 h at 80 $^\circ\text{C}$, the reaction mixture was treated with aqueous saturated NaHCO_3 solution (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL-separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL \times 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and then purified by flash column chromatography (DCM/MeOH = 96:4) to provide (NH)-free benzimidazole **12c** as a yellow oil (59.0 mg,

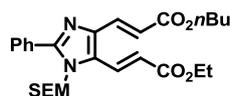
64% yield). IR (film) 3055, 2957, 2870, 1701, 1461, 1249 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 5H), 4.04 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.39-1.29 (m, 2H), 1.17-1.06 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 169.6, 153.9, 142.5, 140.6, 137.7, 128.8, 128.1, 126.9, 125.9, 117.1, 116.4, 65.1, 30.4, 19.1, 15.2, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 309.1598, found 309.1594.

(E)-Butyl 3-(2-phenyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (13a)



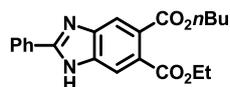
Following the general procedure D, **10b** (400 mg, 1.0 mmol), SEM-Cl (9.80 μL , 0.050 mmol), and CH_3CN (2.00 mL) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 4:1) provided imidazole **13a** as a yellow solid (324 mg, 81% yield). mp 52-53 $^\circ\text{C}$; IR (film) 2954, 2892, 1695, 1640, 1477, 1366, 1169 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.59 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 7.30 (s, 1H), 6.68 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 4.18 (t, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.56 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.64 (m, 2H) 1.47-1.36 (m, 2H), 0.97-0.89 (m, 5H), -0.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.2, 149.5, 136.9, 135.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 128.3, 123.7, 116.3, 75.2, 66.2, 63.7, 30.5, 18.9, 17.4, 13.5, -1.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{33}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 401.2255, found 401.2258.

(E)-Butyl 3-(5-((E)-3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-2-phenyl-1-((2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxy)methyl)-1H-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (13b)



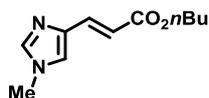
Following the general procedure C, **13a** (200 mg, 0.50 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.50 mL), $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (182 mg, 1.0 mmol), ethyl acrylate (164 μL , 1.5 mmol), and $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 4:1) provided imidazole **13b** as a white solid (214 mg, 86% yield). mp 71-73 $^\circ\text{C}$; IR (film) 2952, 2873, 2928, 2900, 1698, 1623, 1163 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82-7.71 (m, 4H), 7.54-7.48 (m, 3H), 6.88 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 4.29 (q, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 3.53 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.38-1.32 (m, 3H), 0.99-0.92 (m, 5H), 0.00 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 167.5, 166.6, 152.7, 139.7, 133.3, 130.2, 129.4, 129.2, 128.9, 128.8, 120.7, 120.1, 73.7, 66.1, 64.4, 60.9, 30.8, 19.3, 17.9, 14.4, 13.9, -1.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5\text{Si}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 499.2623, found 499.2620.

5-Butyl 6-ethyl 2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole-5,6-dicarboxylate (**13c**)



Following the general procedure E, the electrocyclization/oxidation reaction was carried out with **13b** (150 mg, 0.30 mmol), DDQ (7.10 mg, 0.030 mmol), NaNO₂ (2.00 mg, 0.030 mmol), and Ph₂O (3.00 mL, 0.10 M) under an atmosphere of oxygen (1 atm, balloon). Then, the crude mixture was filtered through a pad of silica gel and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with a solution of 3 N HCl (1.00 mL) and H₂O (4.00 mL). After stirring for 3 h at 80 °C, the reaction mixture was treated with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ solution (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL-separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and then purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:3) to provide (NH)-free benzimidazole **13c** as a brown oil (75.0 mg, 68% yield). IR (film) 3285, 2960, 1717, 1628, 1463, 1320 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.27 (m, 3H), 4.40-4.27 (m, 2H), 4.27-4.17 (m, 2H), 1.73-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.44-1.22 (m, 5H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 156.0, 130.9, 129.1, 128.9, 127.1, 127.03, 126.98, 65.7, 61.8, 30.5, 19.1, 14.1, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₁H₂₃N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 367.1652, found 367.1654.

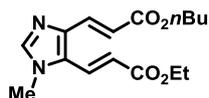
(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-methyl-1H-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (**14a**)



To a stirred solution of **5b** (300 mg, 0.92 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (10.0 mL, 0.10 M) was added Me₃OBF₄ (164 mg, 1.1 mmol) at room temperature for 1 h under an argon atmosphere. The residue was treated with a solution of TFA (8.00 mL) and DCM (8.00 mL). After stirring for 16 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was treated with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ solution (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and transferred to a 125 mL-separatory funnel. The organic layer was collected and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (15 mL × 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. The filtrate was concentrated and then purified by flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 10:1) to provide imidazole **14a** as a brown oil (57.0 mg, 89% yield). IR (film) 2959, 2873, 1701, 1639, 1272, 1160 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz,

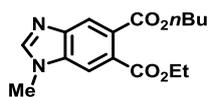
CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.35 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 139.1, 138.3, 135.9, 122.5, 115.9, 64.1, 33.6, 30.7, 19.2, 13.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₁H₁₇N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 209.2649, found 209.1279.

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(5-((*E*)-3-ethoxy-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl)-1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)acrylate (14b**)**



Following the general procedure B, **14a** (53 mg, 0.26 mmol), DMA (0.75 mL), KOPiv (72 mg, 0.51 mmol), ethyl acrylate (55 μL, 0.51 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (5.8 mg, 0.030 mmol) were used. Flash column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc = 1:6) provided imidazole **14b** as a brown oil (30 mg, 39% yield). IR (film) 2959, 1707, 1632, 1299, 1259, 1178 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.39 (m, 2H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.4, 166.4, 141.7, 140.5, 133.4, 128.54, 128.49, 119.5, 119.3, 64.3, 60.9, 33.5, 30.7, 19.2, 14.3, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₃N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 307.1658, found 307.1647.

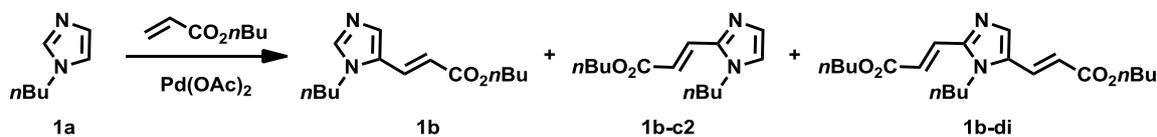
5-Butyl 6-ethyl 1-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-5,6-dicarboxylate (14c**)**



Following the general procedure E, the electrocyclization/oxidation reaction was carried out with **14b** (95 mg, 0.31 mmol), DDQ (7.0 mg, 0.031 mmol), NaNO₂ (2.0 mg, 0.031 mmol), and Ph₂O (6.0 mL, 0.050 M) under an atmosphere of oxygen (1.0 atm, balloon). Flash column chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH = 10:1) provided benzimidazole **14c** as a dark brown oil (74 mg, 78% yield). IR (film) 2959, 2873, 1335, 1279, 1188, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 1.79-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.37 (m, 5H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.1, 168.0, 146.8, 144.5, 135.4, 127.4, 126.5, 121.6, 111.0, 65.4, 61.7, 31.4, 30.5, 19.2, 14.1, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₁N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺ 305.1501, found 305.1492.

IV. Optimization Studies

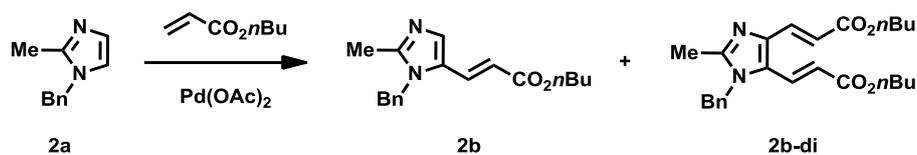
Table S1. Alkenylation of 1-(*n*-Butyl)imidazole^a



entry	additive	oxidant	solvent	temp. (°C)	yield (%) ^b			
					1a	1b	1b-c2	1b-di
1 ^c	1,10-phenanthroline (10 mol%)	AgTFA	toluene	130	37	1	33	< 1
2	–	AgTFA	1,4-dioxane	100	71	3	25	< 1
3	–	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O	1,4-dioxane	100	9	20	36	7
4	–	Cu(OAc) ₂	1,4-dioxane	100	8	12	38	< 1
5	pyridine (20 mol%)	Cu(OAc) ₂	1,4-dioxane	100	7	14	35	< 1
6	–	Cu(OAc) ₂	1,4-dioxane	120	6	6	42	16
7	–	O ₂ (1 atm)	1,4-dioxane	120	88	11	< 1	< 1
8	–	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	61	32	< 1	2
9	KOAc	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	36	57	< 1	3
10	KOPiv	O₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	20	67	< 1	2
11	CsOPiv	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	25	64	< 1	2
12 ^d	K ₂ CO ₃ /PivOH	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	37	54	< 1	< 1
13	KOPiv	air	DMA	120	42	52	< 1	< 2

^a Reaction conditions: imidazole (1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (2.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.10 mmol), additive (2.0 mmol), oxidant (2.0 mmol or O₂ balloon), solvent (0.33 M), 24 h. ^b GC yield. ^c Imidazole (1.0 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (5.0 mmol), Pd(TFA)₂ (0.10 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.15 mmol), AgTFA (2.0 mmol), toluene (0.50 M). ^d PivOH (0.5 mmol) was used.

Table S2. Alkenylation of 1-Benzyl-2-methylimidazole^a



entry	additive	oxidant	solvent	temp. (°C)	yield (%) ^b		
					2a	2b	2b-di
1 ^c	1,10-phenanthroline	AgTFA	toluene	130	97	< 1	< 1
2	–	AgTFA	1,4-dioxane	100	98	< 1	< 1
3	–	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O	1,4-dioxane	100	0	68	8
4	–	Cu(OAc)₂	1,4-dioxane	100	0	76	12
5	pyridine (20 mol%)	Cu(OAc) ₂	1,4-dioxane	100	0	72	15
6	–	Cu(OAc) ₂	1,4-dioxane	120	0	62	15
7	–	O ₂ (1 atm)	1,4-dioxane	120	89	7	< 1
8	–	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	41	50	< 1
9	KOAc	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	33	61	< 1
10	KOPiv	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	30	67	< 1
11	CsOPiv	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	35	64	< 1
12 ^d	K ₂ CO ₃ /PivOH	O ₂ (1 atm)	DMA	120	55	40	< 1
13	KOPiv	air	DMA	120	48	50	< 1

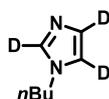
^aReaction conditions: imidazole (0.50 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (1.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (0.050 mmol), additive (1.0 mmol), oxidant (1.0 mmol or O₂ balloon), solvent (0.33 M), 15 h. ^b¹H NMR yield. ^c Imidazole (0.5 mmol), *n*-butyl acrylate (2.5 mmol), Pd(TFA)₂ (0.050 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.075 mmol), AgTFA (1.0 mmol), toluene (0.50 M). ^d PivOH (0.25 mmol) was used.

V. Mechanistic Studies

V.A. Preparation of Deuterated Imidazoles

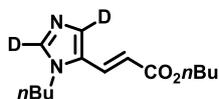
Imidazole- d_4 was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories. A mixture of imidazole- d_4 (1.00 g, 13.87 mmol), n -butyl iodide (1.58 mL, 13.87 mmol), and K_2CO_3 (3.83 g, 27.74 mmol) in acetone (26.0 mL) was refluxed at 50 °C for 16 h. Upon filtration and removal of the solvent, the residue was subjected to flash chromatography using ethyl acetate as an eluent, affording **1a-d₃** (606 mg, 34% yield).

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-1*H*-2,4,5- D -imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**1a-d₃**)



1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.46 (s, 0.03H), 7.04 (s, 0.01H), 6.91 (s, 0.01H), 3.92 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.75 (quintet, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.32 (sextet, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H).

(*E*)-Butyl 3-(1-butyl-1*H*-2,4- D -imidazol-5-yl)acrylate (**1b-d₂**)



1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.55 (s, 0.65H, C2- D was lost during the alkenylation reaction), 7.49 (d, $J = 16.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.28 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.19 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.00 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.79-1.64 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.00-0.91 (m, 6H).

V.B. Kinetic Isotope Effects of the Pd-catalyzed C5-alkenylation Reaction

A 40 mL-glass vial was evacuated and potassium pivalate (140 mg, 1.0 mmol) and DMA (1.50 mL, 0.33 M) were added under oxygen atmosphere. **1a** (66 μ L, 0.5 mmol) [or **1a-d₃** (64 mg, 0.5 mmol)], *n*-butyl acrylate (117 μ L, 1.0 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.050 mmol) were then added to this solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at 120 °C under 1 atm of oxygen (balloon). For each desired time point, 10 μ L of the reaction mixture was taken out from the 40 mL-glass vial and GC yield was determined by GC analysis versus *n*-dodecane as the internal standard. The initial reaction rate was obtained by plotting the six points to obtain *KIE* value to be **2.76**.

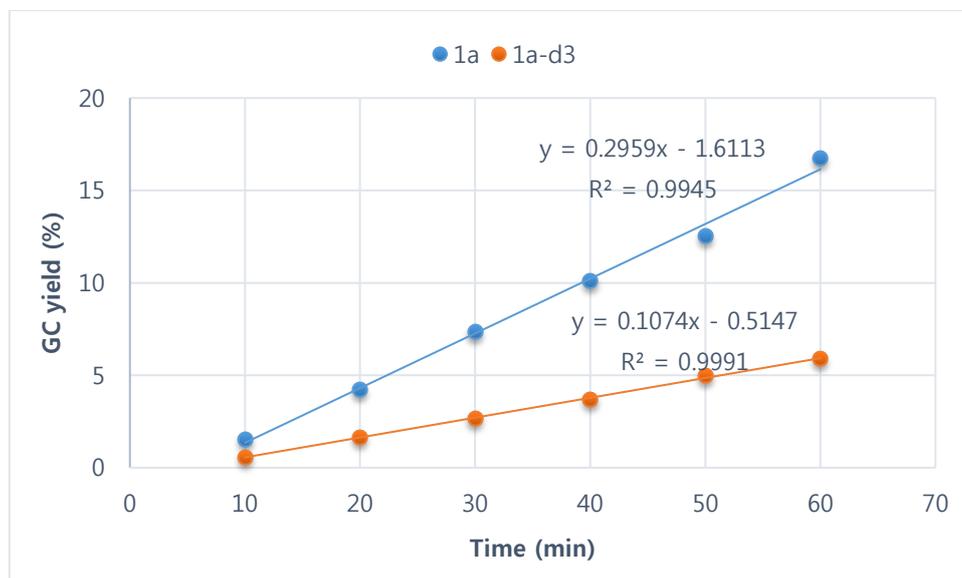
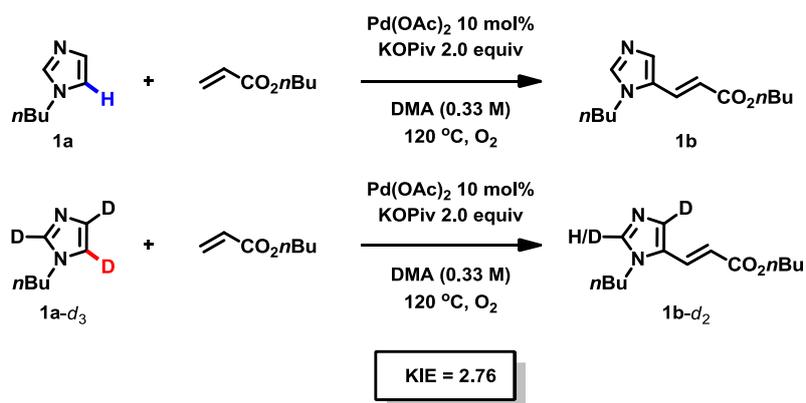
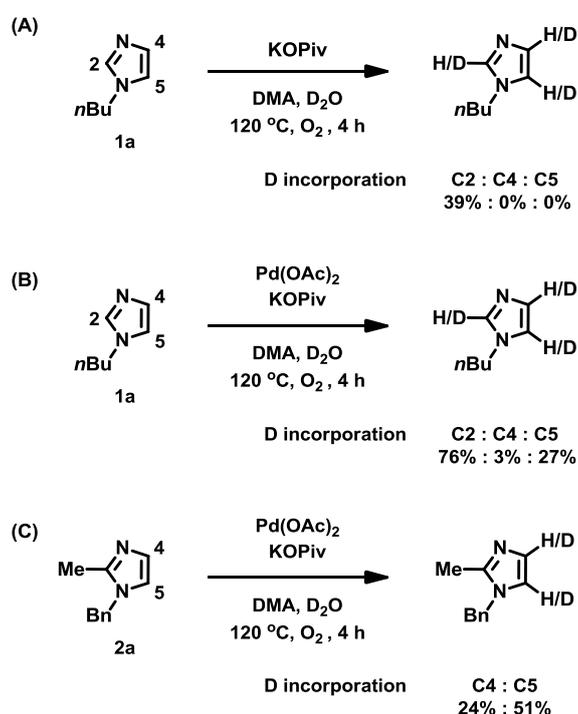


Figure S1. Initial rates of 1-butylimidazole **1a** and 1-butyl-2,4,5-D-imidazole **1a-d₃**

V.C. H/D Exchange Experiments

The H/D isotope exchange experiments were conducted in the presence of D₂O (Scheme S1). In the absence of Pd(OAc)₂, deuterium incorporation was observed only at the C2 position (Scheme S1A).⁶ Under the palladium conditions, both the C2 and C5 positions of C2-unsubstituted imidazole **1a** were labeled, indicating the critical role of the palladium complex in the deuteration of the C5 position (Scheme S1B). In addition, C2-substituted imidazole **2a** was labeled at both the C4 and C5 positions with a slight preference for the C5 position (Scheme S1C).



Scheme S1. H/D exchange experiments of imidazoles

⁶ For C2-deuteration of imidazoles by base, see: (a) J. D. Vaughan, Z. Mughrabi, E. C. Wu, *J. Org. Chem.* **1970**, 35, 1141; (b) T. L. Amyes, S. T. Diver, J. P. Richard, F. M. Rivas, K. Toth, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 4366.

VI. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

