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# **Electronic Supporting Information**

# Metal-free C(sp<sup>2</sup>)–H Functionalization of Azoles: K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>/I<sub>2</sub> Mediated Oxidation, Imination, and Amination

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### I.1 C2-Functionalized azole containing Bio-Active Natural Products and Drugs

### I.2. C2-Functionalized thiazole containing Bio-Active Natural Products and Drugs



**II. Previous Work:** 



Scheme S1: Previously reported work on C2-H oxidation and imination of imidazole and benzimidazole.



Scheme S2: Previously reported work on C2-H imination of imidazole and benzimidazole.

## **III. Reaction Condition Optimization:**

Table S1: Reaction	Condition O	ptimization	for C2	2-H oxidation <sup>a</sup> .
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Entry	Iodine Sources	Solvent	Base	Time	Temp	Yield <sup>b</sup>	
21	NIS	MeOH/ H <sub>2</sub> O	$K_2CO_3$	30 min	40 °C	-	
22	PIDA	MeOH/ H <sub>2</sub> O	$K_2CO_3$	30 min	40 °C	-	
<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: 1.12 mmol (7c) was reacted with 1.12 mmol Iodinated Sources, in presences of 2.24							
mmol of K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> at 40 °C in MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (9:1) as a solvent mixture. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields are displayed over here.							

√N N⊕ 7r	H Benzyl amine Dry MeOH temp, time		DH 12a
Entry	Time	temp	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	12 h	rt	-
2	12 h	40 °C	31
3	12 h	50 °C	63 <sup>c</sup>
4	6 h	50 °C	72 <sup>c</sup>
5	2 h	50 °C	81

Table S2: Reaction Condition Optimization for C2-H imination with benzyl amine reaction<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: 2-(2-(benzylimino)-3-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-1-yl)ethanol was obtained in 81% yield by using 2 equiv. of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, 1.0 equiv. of I<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 equiv. of BnNH<sub>2</sub> and in MeOH. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields of chromatographically pure products displayed. <sup>c</sup>Multiple products.

**Table S3:** Reaction Condition Optimization for C2-H oxidation of azoles other than imidazole and benzimidazole<sup>a</sup>

	S <sup>N⊕</sup> ⊖ S <sup>Br</sup>	base/ I <sub>2</sub> MeOH/H <sub>2</sub> O (9:1)		
	7cc	tomp, time	16c	
Entry	Bases	Time	temp	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2 h	rt	-
2	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2 h	40 °C	59
3	$K_2CO_3$	2 h	50 °C	71 <sup>c</sup>
4	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30 mins	50 °C	<b>79</b>
5	Et <sub>3</sub> N	30 mins	50 °C	51

<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: 3-benzylbenzo[*d*]thiazol-2(3*H*)-one was obtained in 81% yield by using 2 equiv. of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, 1.0 equiv. of I<sub>2</sub>, in MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1). <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields of chromatographically pure products displayed. <sup>c</sup>Multiple products.

**Table S4:** Reaction Condition Optimization for C2-H Imination of azoles other than imidazole and benzimidazole<sup>a</sup>

	N⊕ ⊕ Br 7cc	base/ I <sub>2</sub> NaNH <sub>2</sub> /MeOH temp, time					
Entry	Bases	Time	temp	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)			
1	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30 min	rt	61 <sup>c</sup>			
2	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30 min	-2 °C	65 <sup>c</sup>			
3	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	10 min	-5 °C	76			
4	Et <sub>3</sub> N	10 mins	-5 °C	59			
<sup>a</sup> Reagents and conditions: 3-benzylbenzo[d]thiazol-2(3H)-imine was obtained in 81% yield							

<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: 3-benzylbenzo[*d*]thiazol-2(3*H*)-imine was obtained in 81% yield by using 2 equiv. of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, 1.0 equiv. of I<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 equiv. of NaNH<sub>2</sub> and in MeOH. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yields of chromatographically pure products displayed. <sup>c</sup>Multiple products

### **V. HRMS Analyses:**



Figure S1: LCMS Chromatogram of compounds 7c, 15a and 8c isolated from crude reaction mixture.



**Figure S2:** HRMS values of **2**-iodo-1,3-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (**15a**), 3-benzyl-1methyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium bromide (**7c**) and 1-benzyl-3-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2(3*H*)-one (**8c**).

#### **V.1: Control Experiments:**



Scheme S3: Control Experiments for Mechanistic Investigation of the  $C(sp^2-H)$  functionalization reaction

#### Synthesis of 1-benzyl-2-iodo-1H-imidazole (15c)<sup>S1</sup>

The title compound was prepared by a modified procedure reported in the literature. To a twonecked round bottom flask,1-benzyl-1*H*-imidazole (900 mg, 5.68 mmol) was added. To the flask, THF (30 mL) was injected, and the resulting solution was cooled to  $-60^{\circ}$ C. Then a hexane solution of n-BuLi (1.6 M, 4.62 mL, 7.39 mmol) was added dropwise to the cooled mixture over 1.5 h. A THF solution (10 mL) of iodine (1.89 g, 7.39 mmol) was added to the mixture at  $-60^{\circ}$ C, and the resulting mixture was slowly allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for 30 min. Volatile components were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (200 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (100 mL × 2), Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> aq. (1M, 100 mL × 2), and brine (100 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give crude solid. The crude was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: EtOAc) to afford 2-iodo-1-phenyl-1*H*imidazole as yellowish white solid (1.2 g, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  5.16 (s, 2H), 7.01 (m, 1H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.36 (m, 2H) 7.46 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ . 51.22, 124.35, 127.08, 127.74, 132.02, 136.97. HR-ESIMS (m/z): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>9</sub>IN<sub>2</sub> 284.9883 observed value: 284.9878.



Figure S3: HRMS values of compound (8c) and (8c-O<sup>18</sup>) for isotope labeling study.



**Figure S4:** A) HRMS spectra of 3-(2-aminobenzoyl)-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-3-ium chloride. B) Reaction scheme of hydrolysis of methyl benzoxazole salt.





Scheme S4: General synthetic strategy for the synthesis of *N*-methyl-2-benz(imid)azolone

Characterization data of compound (30)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.85-7.87 (d, 1H), 7.20-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, 1H), 4.51 (q, J= 7.12 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 1.47 (t, *J*= 7.12 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*<sub>3</sub>): 151.03, 150.71, 130.29, 126.09, 124.31, 122.50, 114.58, 107.60, 63.75, 27.19, 14.40. HR-ESIMS (m/z): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 221.0921 observed value: 221.0927.

#### General synthetic strategy to make compounds 24, 25, 26, and 27



Scheme S5: General synthetic strategy for the synthesis of (N-methyl)-2-amino-azole

#### General procedures for the synthesis of substituted Imines (12a-d)



benzimidazoloimino compounds (12a-d)

General procedures for the synthesis of substituted imines (23a-b)



Scheme S7: General synthetic procedure for the synthesis of N,N'-disubstituted benzimidazoloimino compounds (23a-b)

#### VI. X-ray crystallography:





CCDC No: 1520599

Lattice : monoclinic Formula:  $C_{15}H_{14}N_2O$ Formula Weight : 238.28 Space Group : P 2<sub>1</sub>/c a/ A° : 10.5352(5) b/ A° : 5.6590(3) c/ A° : 20.7179(8) a/ ° : 90.000  $\beta$ / ° : 95.495 (2)  $\gamma$ / ° : 90.000 V/ A°<sup>3</sup> : 1229.50(10) Z : 4 Temperature (K) : 299(2) Radiation ( $\lambda$ )/A° : 0.71073

$$\label{eq:relation} \begin{split} \rho/\left(g\ cm^{-3}\right) &: 1.45 \\ \mu\ (Mo\ K_{\alpha})\ mm^{-1} : 0.295 \\ \theta_{max}/deg : 26.4 \\ No.\ of\ data\ collected\ : 42477 \\ No.\ of\ data\ : 2492 \\ No.\ of\ parameters\ : 165 \\ R_1\ [I>2\sigma I]\ : 0.071 \\ wR_2\ [I>2\sigma I]\ : 0.071 \\ wR_2\ [I>2\sigma I]\ : 0.130 \\ R_1\ [all\ data]\ : 0.043 \\ wR_2\ [all\ data]\ : 0.0697 \\ GOF\ : 2.890 \\ Dr_{min}\ and\ Dr_{max}\ (e\mbox{$\AA^{-3}$)}:\ -0.129\ and\ 0.132. \end{split}$$





CCDC No : 1520600	Radiation $(\lambda)/A^{\circ}: 0.71073$
Lattice : monoclinic	$\rho/(\text{g cm}^{-3}): 1.45$
Formula: $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_3$	$\mu$ (Mo K <sub>a</sub> ) mm <sup>-1</sup> : 0.101
Formula Weight : 222.22	$\theta_{\text{max}}/\text{deg}: 26.4$
Space Group : P $2_1/c$	No. of data collected : 19365
a/ A°: 4.6419(3)	No. of data : 2121
b/ A°: 24.9757(17)	No. of parameters : 148
c/ A° : 9.9967(6)	$R_1 [I > 2\sigma I] : 0.127$
α/°: 90.000	wR <sub>2</sub> [I> 2σI] : 0.137
β/°:97.3710 (2)	R <sub>1</sub> [all data]: 0.060
γ/ ° : 90.000	wR <sub>2</sub> [all data] : 0.112
V/ A <sup>°3</sup> : 1073.50(3)	R <sub>int</sub> [all data] : 0.0829
Z:4	GOF : 2.890
Temperature (K) : 293(2)	$Dr_{min}$ and $Dr_{max}$ (eÅ <sup>-3</sup> ): -0.172 and 0.184.



Figure S7: ORTEP diagram of 1-benzyl-2-iodo-1*H*-imidazole (15c)

CCDC No : 1520602

Lattice : Orthorhombic Formula:  $C_{10}H_9IN_2$ Formula Weight : 284.10 Space Group : P 2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub> a/ A° : 8.7463(3) b/ A° : 9.1092(3) c/ A° : 13.1444(5) a/ ° : 90  $\beta$ / ° : 90  $\gamma$ / ° : 90 V/ A°<sup>3</sup> : 1047.24(3) Z : 4 Temperature (K) : 297(2)  $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Radiation } (\lambda)/A^{\circ}: 0.71073 \\ \label{eq:relation} \rho/ \, (g \ cm^{-3}): 3.66 \\ \mu \ (Mo \ K_{\alpha}) \ mm^{-1}: 0.295 \\ \theta_{max}/deg: 26.4 \\ \mbox{No. of data collected}: 22036 \\ \mbox{No. of data : 2146} \\ \mbox{No. of parameters}: 119 \\ \mbox{R}_1 \ [I> 2\sigma I]: 0.015 \\ \mbox{wR}_2 \ [I> 2\sigma I]: 0.031 \\ \mbox{R}_1 \ [all \ data]: 0.060 \\ \mbox{wR}_2 \ [all \ data]: 0.014 \\ \mbox{R}_{int} \ [all \ data]: 0.0272 \\ \mbox{GOF}: 1.060 \\ \mbox{D}r_{min} \ and \ Dr_{max} \ (e\ A^{-3}): -0.295 \ and 0.372. \\ \end{array}$ 



Figure S8: ORTEP diagram of 1-benzyl-2-iodo-3-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium iodide (15a)

CCDC No: 1520603

Lattice : Orthorhombic Formula:  $C_{11}H_{12}I_2N_2$ Formula Weight : 426.10 Space Group : P-1 a/ A° : 10.1088(11) b/ A° : 10.1122(11) c/ A° : 15.6369(16) a/ ° : 106.118(4)  $\beta$ / ° : 90.8624(4)  $\gamma$ / ° : 117.901(4) V/ A°<sup>3</sup> : 1337.2(3) Z : 4 Temperature (K) : 293(2) Radiation  $(\lambda)/A^{\circ}$ : 0.71073  $\rho/(g \text{ cm}^{-3})$ : 2.116  $\mu$  (Mo K<sub>a</sub>) mm<sup>-1</sup>: 4.676  $\theta_{max}/deg$ : 26.4 No. of data collected : 26112 No. of data : 5073 No. of parameters : 268 R<sub>1</sub> [I> 2 $\sigma$ I] : 0.139 wR<sub>2</sub> [I> 2 $\sigma$ I] : 0.248 R<sub>1</sub> [all data]: 0.096 wR<sub>2</sub> [all data] : 0.228 R<sub>int</sub> [all data] : 0.0781 GOF : 1.088 Dr<sub>min</sub> and Dr<sub>max</sub> (eÅ<sup>-3</sup>): -1.425 and 2.659.





one (32i)

CCDC No: 1587815.	Radiation ( $\lambda$ )/A° : 0.71073
Lattice : Monoclinic	$\rho/(g \text{ cm}^{-3})$ : 1.416
Formula: C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>14</sub> ClN <sub>3</sub> O	$\mu$ (Mo K <sub>a</sub> ) mm <sup>-1</sup> : 0.967
Formula Weight : 359.8084	$\theta_{max}/deg: 25$
Space Group : P-1	No. of data collected : 14899
a/ A°: 5.0704 (37)	No. of data : 3144
b/ A°: 20.6683 (**)	No. of parameters : 236
c/ A° : 16.0005(**)	$R_1 [I > 2\sigma I] : 0.0.118$
α/°:90.000	wR <sub>2</sub> [I> 2σI] : 0.310
β/ ° : 93.393 (21)	R <sub>1</sub> [all data]: 0.225
γ/ ° : 90.000	wR <sub>2</sub> [all data] : 0.396
V/ A <sup>°3</sup> : 1673.86(30)	R <sub>int</sub> [all data] : 0.445
Z:2	GOF : 1.118
Temperature (K) : 297(2)	Dr <sub>min</sub> and Dr <sub>max</sub> (eÅ <sup>-3</sup> ): -0.384 and 0.752.

## **VII.** Computational Details:



**Table S5:** Theoretical calculation for 2-imidazolones, 2 benzimidazolones, 2-aminoimidazole and 2-aminobenzimidazole.



**Figure S10:** Gibbs free energy profile (kcal/mol) of  $C(sp^2)$ -H oxidation and imination of imidazole obtained at the M06-2X/6- 311G (d,p), def2-TZVPP (iodine) level of theory.

	7	-0.314068000	1.536854000	1.086394000
	7	-0.314485000	1.537466000	-1.086016000
	6	0.477567000	2.585138000	0.677230000
	6	0.477363000	2.585491000	-0.676547000
	6	-0.730326000	0.878398000	0.000083000
	6	-0.358882000	0.999930000	2.441999000
	1	-1.385760000	0.757722000	2.711057000
	1	0.029724000	1.757487000	3.118070000
	6	-0.359100000	1.000807000	-2.441774000
	1	0.278808000	0.111908000	-2.459369000
<b>U</b>	1	0.029091000	1.758697000	-3.117708000
	1	-1.385865000	0.758106000	-2.710805000
E = -900.0513489 HF	1	0.278552000	0.110690000	2.459532000
	1	0.983951000	3.219584000	-1.381753000
	1	0.984487000	3.218775000	1.382606000
	53	2.071577000	-0.761852000	-0.000142000
	53	-1.929178000	-0.776106000	-0.000051000

	7	0.473820000	-0.979639000	-1.100838000
	7	0.473783000	-0.979619000	1.100757000
	6	1.802758000	-0.943156000	-0.697459000
	6	1.802723000	-0.943194000	0.697454000
	6	-0.287047000	-0.890577000	-0.000040000
	6	0.025584000	-0.669591000	-2.450885000
	1	-0.933588000	-1.148142000	-2.635466000
	1	0.758495000	-1.058213000	-3.154336000
	6	0.025494000	-0.669827000	2.450841000
	1	-0.065901000	0.418045000	2.529980000
	1	0.758633000	-1.058154000	3.154213000
	1	-0.933470000	-1.148772000	2.635469000
E = -1053.6726602 HF	1	-0.065405000	0.418316000	-2.529977000
	53	-0.086366000	2.252337000	0.000039000
	53	-2.335324000	-0.999902000	-0.000020000

	6	2.985557000	-0.895958000	-1.427578000
	6	4.163522000	-0.856524000	-0.701625000
	1	2.988493000	-0.870425000	-2.508777000
	1	5.107523000	-0.808901000	-1.229112000
	6	4.163486000	-0.856570000	0.701637000
	6	2.985520000	-0.896040000	1.427584000
	1	2.988522000	-0.870489000	2.508780000
	1	5.107452000	-0.808906000	1.229188000
		1 410545000	1.0025.42000	0.260.422000
		-1.410545000	1.083543000	0.360433000
	6	-0.695878000	-0.064824000	0.308972000
	7	-1.448238000	-0.961166000	-0.359633000
	6	-2.607661000	0.909452000	-0.318691000
	1	-3.354790000	1.682727000	-0.363415000
	6	-0.950140000	2.318493000	0.968494000
	6	-2.623797000	-0.364968000	-0.771374000
	1	-3.390993000	-0.915234000	-1.288075000
	6	-1.005789000	-2.328508000	-0.575797000
	1	-0.437115000	-2.399815000	-1.504971000
	1	-1.880361000	-2.976615000	-0.619759000
E = -658.2218063 HF	1	-0.379388000	-2.572367000	0.292503000
	1	-0.398386000	2.923182000	0.245714000
	1	-1.814797000	2.871431000	1.333685000
	1	-0.300983000	2.069347000	1.805801000
	53	1.426556000	0.214439000	-0.344887000
	7	0.389137000	-1.847343000	2.202454000
	1	-0.120358000	-1.715737000	3.080752000
	1	1.056811000	-1.075298000	2.204383000

7	-1.781187000	1.093842000	-0.066758000
6	-1.496034000	-0.003616000	0.654221000

	7	-1.804401000	-1.070657000	-0.101466000
	6	-2.195851000	0.713701000	-1.317811000
	1	-2.430210000	1.432012000	-2.083408000
	6	-1.356374000	2.438940000	0.296806000
	6	-2.210124000	-0.642792000	-1.339373000
	1	-2.462613000	-1.330737000	-2.126691000
	6	-1.409271000	-2.432040000	0.237868000
	1	-0.345369000	-2.533322000	0.009100000
	1	-2.008750000	-3.124618000	-0.349036000
	1	-1.576938000	-2.595368000	1.299071000
	1	-0.398812000	2.629527000	-0.193749000
E = -678.1527749 HF	1	-2.123096000	3.149175000	-0.005813000
	1	-1.216197000	2.467625000	1.373247000
	53	1.833966000	-0.004627000	-0.167971000
	1	-1.373661000	-0.064531000	3.043136000
	8	-0.769934000	-0.048996000	2.240490000
	6	-0.000008000	-0.664004000	0.000040000
	7	-1.092826000	0.183730000	-0.000007000
	7	1.092849000	0.183837000	0.000092000
•	6	-0.673151000	1.508733000	-0.000023000
	6	0.673068000	1.508753000	0.000016000
	6	-2.452901000	-0.303639000	-0.000036000
	1	-2.398963000	-1.391534000	0.000036000
	1	-2.986713000	0.031322000	-0.891756000
	6	2.452896000	-0.303580000	-0.000080000
E = -360.0245015 HF	1	2.986571000	0.031109000	-0.891985000
	1	2.986979000	0.031694000	0.891359000
	1	2.398898000	-1.391472000	0.000285000
	8	0.000077000	-1.881087000	0.000033000
	1	1.370952000	2.327857000	0.000128000

	1	-1.371152000	2.327729000	-0.000029000
	1	-2.986779000	0.031445000	0.891596000
	8	-2.906334000	-0.000011000	0.000150000
	7	-0.856441000	-1.106465000	0.000409000
	7	-0.856457000	1.106455000	-0.000408000
	6	-1.696760000	-0.000024000	0.000075000
	6	0.467582000	-0.702835000	0.000157000
	6	0.467548000	0.702836000	-0.000245000
	6	1.648667000	-1.421001000	0.000406000
•	1	1.647183000	-2.504035000	0.000696000
	6	-1.341944000	2.465585000	0.000298000
	1	-1.000939000	2.996008000	0.892509000
6-6	1	-2.429870000	2.419184000	-0.000772000
	6	-1.341938000	-2.465556000	-0.000480000
	1	-1.000494000	-2.997188000	0.890820000
	1	-0.999801000	-2.996221000	-0.892123000
E = -533.6603077 HF	1	-2.429875000	-2.419132000	-0.000842000
	6	2.843764000	-0.695604000	0.000183000
	1	3.785563000	-1.229660000	0.000323000
	6	1.648640000	1.421002000	-0.000341000
	1	1.647133000	2.504032000	-0.000591000
	6	2.843744000	0.695620000	-0.000140000
	1	3.785536000	1.229683000	-0.000221000
	1	-0.999294000	2.997345000	-0.890471000
	8	0.000000000	0.000000000	0.117887000
	1	0.000000000	0.756290000	-0.471547000
	1	0.000000000	-0.756290000	-0.471547000
E = -76.4123628 HF				
	1	0.000000000	0.000000000	-1.575645000

	53	0.000000000	0.000000000	0.029729000
E = -298.2241748 HF				
	7	-1.091450000	-0.205091000	-0.017426000
	7	1.099098000	-0.196355000	-0.030040000
	6	2.447278000	0.313082000	0.024777000
	1	2.503221000	1.208975000	-0.598299000
	1	3.135608000	-0.446965000	-0.352664000
	1	2.731234000	0.588539000	1.047293000
	6	0.003697000	0.647184000	-0.017931000
	6	-0.662409000	-1.533721000	0.003400000
	1	-1.360265000	-2.356805000	0.005583000
	6	-2.446902000	0.277933000	0.020629000
	6	0.684455000	-1.522946000	0.000413000
	1	1.390747000	-2.338999000	0.001254000
E = -360.1196723 HF	1	-2.666220000	0.896217000	-0.858311000
	1	-3.128670000	-0.574609000	0.025666000
	1	-2.624911000	0.876490000	0.922842000
	7	0.091707000	1.930580000	-0.004368000
	1	-0.832946000	2.354019000	-0.018264000
	7	-0.835866000	-1.117192000	0.013448000
	7	-0.864414000	1.099463000	0.007205000
	6	-1.695006000	-0.023223000	-0.005925000
	6	0.480943000	-0.697509000	0.010174000
	6	0.469636000	0.709422000	-0.003016000
	6	1.669463000	-1.407567000	0.014744000
	1	1.674160000	-2.493508000	0.026904000
	6	-1.351323000	2.454479000	0.025749000
	1	-0.609554000	3.093995000	0.511258000
	1	-2.271906000	2.500897000	0.615632000
	6	-1.291029000	-2.485265000	-0.001212000

	1	-0.965035000	-3.012133000	0.902843000
	1	-0.902888000	-3.010301000	-0.881616000
	1	-2.381346000	-2.463359000	-0.038471000
	6	2.862083000	-0.672369000	0.002840000
	1	3.810241000	-1.201600000	0.005228000
	6	1.646821000	1.436292000	-0.021675000
	1	1.642864000	2.522005000	-0.048514000
	6	2.851238000	0.719148000	-0.015348000
	1	3.790356000	1.263896000	-0.029523000
<b>U</b>	1	-1.550925000	2.839329000	-0.981660000
E = -513.7566066 HF	7	-2.968054000	-0.128384000	-0.027094000
	1	-3.414589000	0.783119000	-0.074974000
	7	-0.000313000	1.072531000	0.000000000
	1	0.002817000	1.695549000	0.802179000
	1	0.002817000	1.695549000	-0.802179000
	11	-0.000313000	-0.990801000	0.000000000
E = -218.1799690 HF				
	53	0.000000000	0.000000000	0.464559000
	11	0.000000000	0.000000000	-2.238330000
E = -459.9686144 HF				

<u>General synthetic scheme for the synthesis of *N*,*N*'-disubstituted imidazolium and benzimidazolium salts:</u>



Figure S11: List of synthesized *N*,*N'*-disubstituted imidazolium and benzimidazolium salts.

General synthetic strategy for the synthesis of N-substituted benzothiazoles and thiazoles:



Figure S12: list of synthesized N'-substituted benzothiazolium salts.

## X. References:

- (S1) S. H. Jungbauer, S. M. Huber, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 12110-2120.
- (S1) Full Citation of Reference 14 (main manuscript): Gaussian 09, Revision A.02, Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Caricato, M.; Li, X.; Hratchian, H.P.; Izmaylov, A. F.; Bloino, J.; Zheng, G.; Sonnenberg, J. L.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Vreven, T.; Montgomery, Jr., J. A.; Peralta, J. E.;Ogliaro, F.; Bearpark, M.; Heyd, J. J.; Brothers, E.; Kudin, N. K.; Staroverov, V. N.; Kobayashi, R.; Normand, J.; Raghavachari, K.; Rendell, A.; Burant, J. C.; Iyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Cossi, M.; Rega, N.; Millam, J. M.; Klene, M.; Knox, J. E.; Cross, J. B.; Bakken, V.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.; Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Martin, R. L.; Morokuma, K.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Voth, G. A.; Salvador, P.; Dannenberg, J. J.; Dapprich, S.; Daniels, A. D.; Farkas, O.; Foresman, J. B.; Ortiz, J. V.; Cioslowski, J.; Fox, D. J. Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, **2009**.

## IX. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Data



Figure S13: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Figure S14: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

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**Figure S15:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d and <sup>13</sup>C NMR in DMSO- $d_6$  of **8c**.



Figure S16: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8d in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.-d.



Figure S17: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8e in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S18: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 8f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S19: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 28 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S20: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 29 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S21: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S22: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9d** in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>-*d*.



Figure S23: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9e** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.


Figure S24: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S25: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9g** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S26: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9h** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S27: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9i in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



Figure S28: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 91 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S29: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9a** in MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S30: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9b in MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S31: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9m** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S32: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9n** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S33: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 30 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S34: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 9k in DMSO.-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S35: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **9**j in DMSO.-*d*<sub>6</sub>



Figure S36: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 24 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-d.



Figure S37: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **10a** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S36: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 10b in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S39: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 10c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S40: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **10d** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.*d*.



Figure S41: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 25 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S42: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 11a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S43: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 11b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S44: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **11c** in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S45: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in MeOH- $d_4$  and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 11d in DMSO- $d_6$ .



Figure S46: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **11e** in MeOH-*d*<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S47: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **12a** in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S48: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **12b** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S49: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 12c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>- d.



Figure S50: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **12d** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S51: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 13a in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S52: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 13b in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S53: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **16a** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S54: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16c in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S55: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **16b** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S56: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16d in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S57: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16f in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S58: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16j in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S59: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16k in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d


Figure S60: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16h in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S61: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 16i in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S62: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 18a in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S63: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 18b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S64: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 20 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S65: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **17a** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S66: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **17b** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S67: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **17c** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S68: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 17f in MeOH-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S69: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **17e** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S70: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 23a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S71: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 23b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S72: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **19a** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S73: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 27 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>



Figure S74: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 22 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S75: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **31d** in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S76: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32a in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S77: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **32j** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S78: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32i in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S79: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32k in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S80: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **32b** in CDCl<sub>3-</sub>d.



Figure S81: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32g in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S82: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 19b in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S83: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32e in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S84: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 32c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.d.



Figure S85: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **32h** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S86: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **32f** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>-*d*.



Figure S87: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 21 in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S88: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **17d** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



Figure S89: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 15c in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>



Figure S90: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in DMSO- $d_6$  and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum in MeOH- $d_4$  of 15a.