

# Metal-free synthesis of imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridines via elemental sulfur mediated sequential dual oxidative Csp<sup>3</sup>-H amination

Jie Sheng,<sup>a</sup> Jidan Liu,<sup>\*a,b</sup> He Zhao,<sup>a</sup> Liyao Zheng<sup>a</sup> and Xingchuan Wei<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, 510006, P. R. China. E-mail: xing6363@126.com, jdliu@gzhu.edu.cn*

<sup>b</sup>*Key Laboratory of Functional Molecular Engineering of Guangdong Province, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, P. R. China.*

## Supporting Information

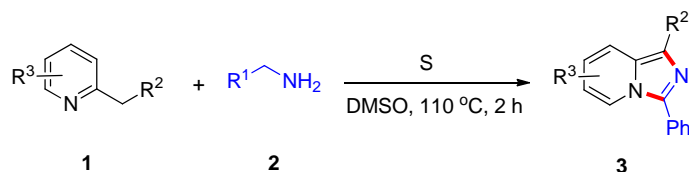
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## 1. General information

$^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR were recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature on the Bruker spectrometer (500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$ ). The chemical-shifts scale is based on internal TMS. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; qui, quintet; sxt, sextet. The coupling constants,  $J$  are reported in Hertz (Hz). If not stated otherwise, all melting points are uncorrected. Mass spectroscopy data were collected on an HRMS-ESI instrument. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Glassware was dried for 4 h at 140 °C. All solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. Products were purified by flash column chromatography on 200-300 mesh silica gel,  $\text{SiO}_2$ .

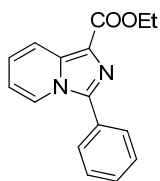
## 2. General procedure for elemental sulfur mediated sequential dual oxidative Csp<sup>3</sup>-H amination.



2-pyridyl acetate **1** (0.2 mmol), amine **2** (0.24 mmol), elemental sulfur (0.6 mmol), and anhydrous DMSO (1 mL) were added in a sealed pressure vessel (25 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar and then capped and stirred at 110 °C for 2 h under air atmosphere. After the reaction was completed (TLC), the cooled mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered with a short column on silica gel. The combined organic layer was washed with brine and dried over sodium sulfate. Concentration in vacuo followed by silica gel column purification with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate eluent to afford product **3**.

## 3. Characterization data of products.

### Ethyl 3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (**3a**)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 88% yield.

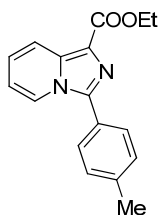
**M.p.** = 129-130 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.28 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.78-6.72 (m, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.52, 139.06, 135.33, 129.45, 128.99, 128.89, 128.69, 124.14, 122.42, 121.67, 119.96, 114.32, 60.31, 14.58;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 267.1128, found: 267.1123.

### **Ethyl 3-(*p*-tolyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3b)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 90% yield.

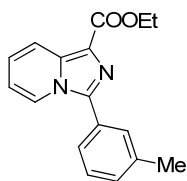
**M.p.** = 113-114 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.59, 139.54, 139.27, 135.29, 129.56, 128.61, 126.12, 124.01, 122.51, 121.53, 119.95, 114.17, 60.28, 21.39, 14.61;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1289.

### **Ethyl 3-(*m*-tolyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3c)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 85% yield.

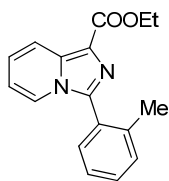
**M.p.** = 86-87 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.71 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.45, 139.16, 138.72, 135.22, 130.12, 129.51, 128.78, 128.55, 125.27, 124.00, 122.46, 121.50, 119.81, 114.15, 60.17, 21.23, 14.53;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1286.

### **Ethyl 3-(*o*-tolyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3d)**



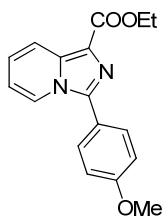
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow oil in 82% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.25 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.76-6.70 (m, 1H), 4.49 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.69, 138.77, 138.55, 134.60, 130.87, 130.60, 130.07, 128.27, 126.05, 124.06, 122.51, 121.20, 119.84, 114.11, 60.33, 19.60, 14.65;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1285.

### **Ethyl 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3e)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 83% yield.

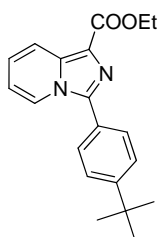
**M.p.** = 127-128 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.27-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77-6.72 (m, 1H), 4.48 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.63, 160.44, 139.14, 135.23, 130.23, 123.94, 121.44, 121.42, 119.99, 114.32, 114.15, 60.30, 55.35, 14.64 (one signal was overlapped by other ones);

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 297.1234, found: 297.1236.

#### **Ethyl 3-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3f)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 80% yield.

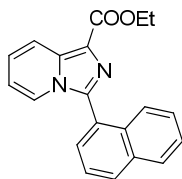
**M.p.** = 153-154 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 1H), 6.77-6.68 (m, 1H), 4.48 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.59, 152.73, 139.28, 135.30, 128.41, 126.11, 125.84, 124.01, 122.60, 121.59, 119.97, 114.13, 60.27, 34.80, 31.16, 14.60;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 323.1754, found: 323.1757.

#### **Ethyl 3-(naphthalen-1-yl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3g)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 84% yield.

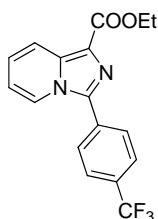
**M.p.** = 137-138 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd,  $J$  = 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.69-6.62 (m, 1H), 4.51 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.62, 137.80, 134.97, 133.61, 131.73, 130.47, 129.45, 128.57, 127.15, 126.36, 126.10, 125.23, 125.06, 124.24, 122.83, 121.63, 119.78, 114.03, 60.31, 14.62;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 317.1285, found: 317.1282.

### Ethyl 3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3h)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 75% yield.

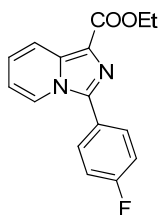
**M.p.** = 144-145 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.28 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.11 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.77 (m, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.21, 137.30, 135.53, 132.51, 131.00 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 32.5 Hz), 128.75, 125.81 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 3.7 Hz), 124.46, 123.69 (q,  $J_{C-F}$  = 270 Hz), 122.27, 122.08, 120.08, 114.88, 60.40, 14.48;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 335.1002, found: 335.1003.

### Ethyl 3-(4-fluorophenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3i)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 82% yield.

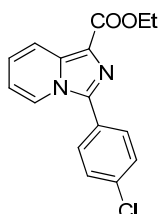
**M.p.** = 124-125 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.24 (dd, *J* = 14.3, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.82-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.83-6.76 (m, 1H), 4.49 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.46 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.53, 163.31 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 248.8 Hz), 138.14, 135.36, 130.83 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.8 Hz), 125.25, 124.20, 122.22, 121.79, 120.14, 116.19 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22.5 Hz), 114.57, 60.46, 14.64;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 285.1034, found: 285.1034.

#### Ethyl 3-(4-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3j)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 86% yield.

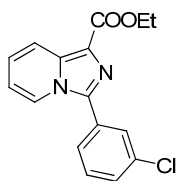
**M.p.** = 138-139 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.76-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.77 (m, 1H), 4.48 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.40, 137.86, 135.45, 135.43, 129.93, 129.22, 127.52, 124.25, 122.19, 121.95, 120.11, 114.65, 60.42, 14.59;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 301.0738, found: 301.0741.

#### Ethyl 3-(3-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,5-a]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3k)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 85% yield.

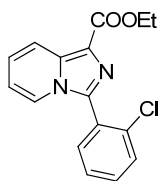
**M.p.** = 117-118 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.71-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.35, 137.46, 135.47, 134.96, 130.75, 130.16, 129.50, 128.74, 126.53, 124.35, 122.20, 122.04, 120.09, 114.75, 60.42, 14.58;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 301.0738, found: 301.0739.

### **Ethyl 3-(2-chlorophenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3l)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 84% yield.

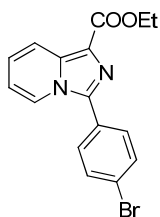
**M.p.** = 102-103 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.75 (m, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.45, 136.57, 134.91, 134.36, 133.54, 131.37, 129.72, 128.29, 127.16, 124.34, 123.16, 121.47, 119.70, 114.03, 60.34, 14.60;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 301.0738, found: 301.0738.

### **Ethyl 3-(4-bromophenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3m)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 86% yield.

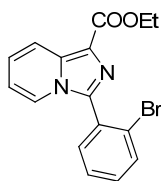
**M.p.** = 142-143 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.31-8.15 (m, 2H), 7.72-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.31, 137.82, 135.38, 132.10, 130.05, 127.91, 124.24, 123.61, 122.15, 121.92, 120.03, 114.64, 60.36, 14.55;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 345.0233, found: 345.0235.

### Ethyl 3-(2-bromophenyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3n)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 82% yield.

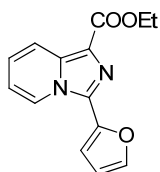
**M.p.** = 145-146 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.13 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.74 (m, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.43, 137.65, 134.69, 133.69, 132.85, 131.53, 130.34, 127.64, 124.34, 124.11, 123.14, 121.21, 119.64, 113.98, 60.30, 14.57;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 345.0233, found: 345.0236.

### Ethyl 3-(furan-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3o)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 75% yield.

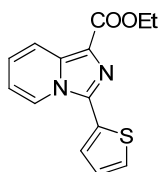
**M.p.** = 105-106 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.10 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.75 (m, 1H), 6.58 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.25, 145.23, 142.57, 134.89, 131.05, 124.34, 124.00, 121.82, 119.76, 114.78, 111.82, 110.43, 60.46, 14.54;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 257.0921, found: 257.0926.

### Ethyl 3-(thiophen-2-yl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3p)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a white solid in 72% yield.

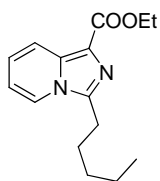
**M.p.** = 131-132 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.40 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.78 (m, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.27, 135.32, 133.57, 130.43, 127.51, 127.23, 127.05, 124.19, 122.62, 121.78, 119.95, 114.79, 60.41, 14.52;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 273.0692, found: 273.0690.

### Ethyl 3-pentylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3q)



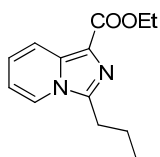
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/3) as a yellow oil in 67% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.08-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.81-6.72 (m, 1H), 4.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.07-2.96 (m, 2H), 1.83 (dt,  $J$  = 15.7, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.46-1.35 (m, 7H), 0.90 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.62, 140.27, 134.74, 123.32, 121.65, 120.14, 120.02, 113.73, 60.20, 31.66, 26.78, 26.76, 22.35, 14.68, 13.94;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 261.1598, found: 261.1597.

### Ethyl 3-propylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3r)



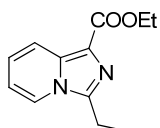
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/3) as a yellow oil in 63% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.80-6.74 (m, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.04-2.97 (m, 2H), 1.86 (dd,  $J$  = 15.3, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.60, 140.09, 134.73, 123.33, 121.66, 120.14, 120.00, 113.72, 60.19, 28.62, 20.54, 14.66, 13.98;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 233.1285, found: 233.1283.

### Ethyl 3-ethylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3s)



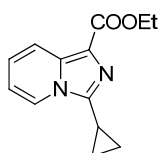
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/3) as a yellow oil in 70% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.82-6.75 (m, 1H), 4.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.06 (q,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.46-1.41 (m, 6H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.59, 141.02, 134.81, 123.43, 121.56, 120.04, 113.79, 60.24, 20.11, 14.65, 11.20 (one signal was overlapped by other ones);

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 219.1128, found: 219.1131.

### Ethyl 3-cyclopropylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3t)



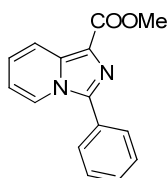
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/3) as a yellow oil in 65% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (dd,  $J$  = 9.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82-6.79 (m, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.05-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.43 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.17-1.13 (m, 2H), 1.13-1.07 (m, 2H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.58, 140.84, 134.95, 123.80, 121.81, 119.91, 119.66, 113.70, 60.24, 14.62, 6.68, 6.16;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 231.1128, found: 231.1126.

### Methyl 3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3u)



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 92% yield.

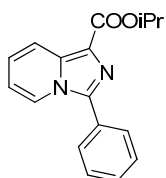
**M.p.** = 132-133 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.27 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 1H), 6.78-6.72 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.84, 139.03, 135.45, 129.45, 128.90, 128.87, 128.61, 124.26, 122.42, 121.31, 119.81, 114.37, 51.47;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 253.0972, found: 253.0970.

**Isopropyl 3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3v)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 86% yield.

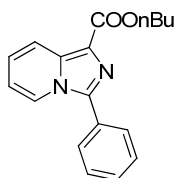
**M.p.** = 144-145 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (hept, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 6H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.12, 139.05, 135.06, 129.38, 129.06, 128.86, 128.71, 123.96, 122.36, 122.05, 120.02, 114.19, 67.62, 22.09;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1288.

**Butyl 3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3w)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 84% yield.

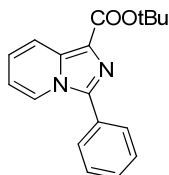
**M.p.** = 130-131 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.78-6.71 (m, 1H), 4.41 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.53-1.40 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.59, 139.09, 135.20, 129.42, 128.99, 128.86, 128.67, 124.10, 122.40, 121.71, 119.92, 114.25, 64.18, 30.94, 19.19, 13.74;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 295.1441, found: 295.1437.

**Tert-butyl 3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3x)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 82% yield.

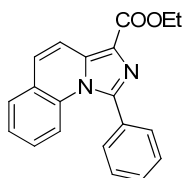
**M.p.** = 136-137 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.83-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.08-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.76-6.69 (m, 1H), 1.67 (s, 9H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.84, 138.86, 134.62, 129.29, 129.25, 128.86, 128.60, 123.62, 123.12, 122.34, 120.14, 114.06, 80.78, 28.47;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 295.1441, found: 295.1438.

**Ethyl 1-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]quinoline-3-carboxylate (3y)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 90% yield.

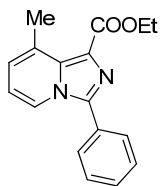
**M.p.** = 162-163 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 1H), 4.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.47, 142.30, 134.36, 132.82, 131.88, 129.77, 129.72, 128.80, 128.71, 128.20, 126.16, 125.67, 125.19, 123.16, 117.43, 117.36, 60.41, 14.51;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 317.1285, found: 317.1288.

**Ethyl 8-methyl-3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3z)**



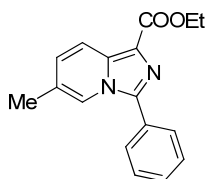
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow oil in 85% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.72, 138.82, 134.73, 130.49, 129.46, 129.37, 129.10, 128.91, 124.47, 123.21, 120.29, 114.13, 60.63, 21.94, 14.53;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1287.

#### Ethyl 6-methyl-3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3aa)



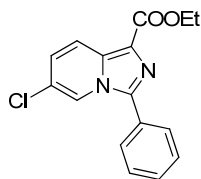
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow oil in 88% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J$  = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 1H), 6.96 (dd,  $J$  = 9.3, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.53, 138.55, 134.48, 129.27, 128.82, 128.70, 127.55, 124.13, 121.47, 119.58, 119.15, 60.18, 18.30, 14.56;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 281.1285, found: 281.1284.

#### Ethyl 6-chloro-3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxylate (3ab)



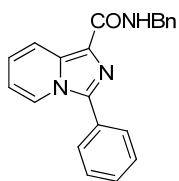
Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow oil in 80% yield.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 -7.73 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.06 (dd,  $J$  = 9.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.19, 139.19, 133.43, 129.86, 129.11, 128.72, 128.52, 125.49, 123.09, 122.89, 120.53, 120.06, 60.61, 14.58;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 301.0738, found: 301.0740.

***N*-benzyl-3-phenylimidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridine-1-carboxamide (3ac)**



Following the general procedure the title compound was isolated by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether =1/2) as a yellow solid in 83% yield.

**M.p.** = 125-126 °C;

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.42-8.40 (m, 1H), 8.25-8.23 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.33 (dd,  $J$  = 10.2, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.05-7.01 (m, 1H), 6.75-6.69 (m, 1H), 4.69 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 2H);

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.42, 138.86, 137.42, 133.01, 129.35, 129.33, 129.11, 128.54, 128.32, 127.83, 127.18, 124.41, 122.97, 121.90, 120.55, 114.27, 42.81;

**HRMS (ESI)** calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 328.1444, found: 328.1446.

