

*Supporting Information*

**Ruthenium (II)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Indazolone-Fused Cinnolines  
via C-H Coupling with Diazo Compounds**

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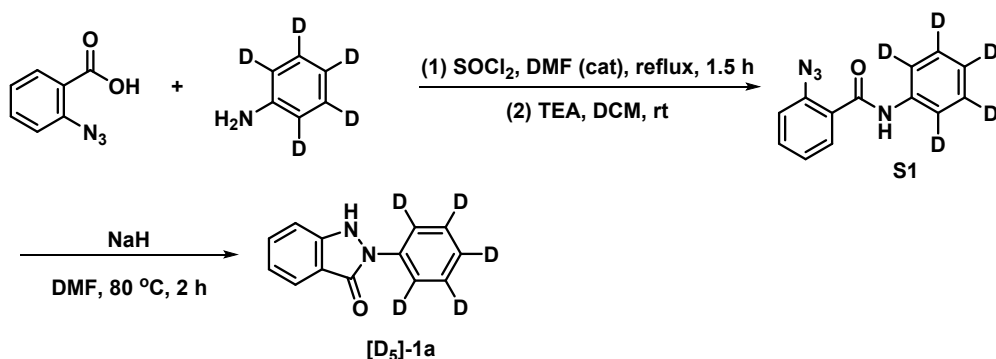
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## I. Mechanistic Studies

### 1. Synthesis of [D<sub>5</sub>]-1a



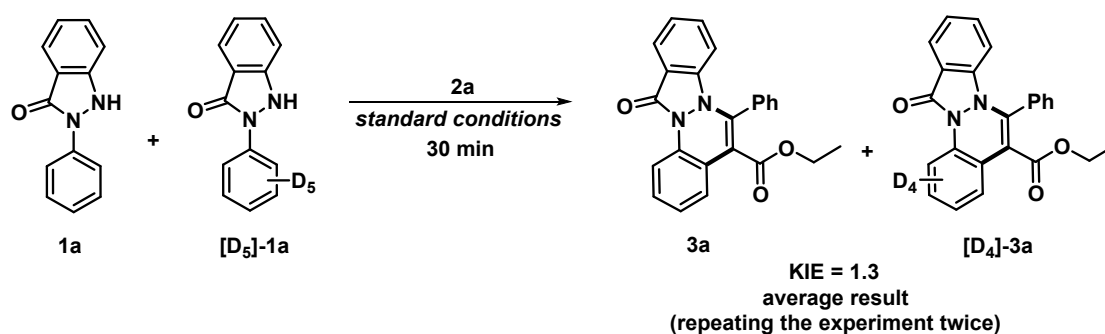
By using commercial available 2-azidobenzoic acid and aniline-D<sub>5</sub>, the intermediate **S1** was prepared following a literature method.<sup>23b</sup> A mixture of 2-azidobenzoic acid (490 mg, 3.0 mmol), thionyl chloride (0.87 mL, 12.0 mmol), and DMF (0.1 mL) in DCM (10 mL) was stirred under reflux for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, evaporated in vacuo, and dried with a high vacuum pump to obtain crude 2-azidobenzoyl chloride. Without purification, 2-azidobenzoyl chloride and aniline-D<sub>5</sub> (284 mg, 2.9 mmol) were dissolved in DCM (15 mL) with an ice-bath. Triethylamine (0.84 mL, 6.0 mmol) was added slowly to the solution, and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), 1 N HCl (10 mL), and brine (10 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in vacuo to get the crude product, followed by the purification with silica-gel chromatography (PE : EA = 5 : 1) to afford **S1** (599 mg, 85% yield) as a solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.32 (s, 1H), 8.25 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.5, 137.8, 136.8, 132.8, 132.6, 128.5 (t, *J* = 24 Hz), 125.4, 125.2, 124.0 (t, *J* = 24.4 Hz), 120.1 (t, *J* = 24.5 Hz), 118.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> 244.1247, found 244.1258.

To a stirred solution of **S1** (729.9 mg, 3 mmol) in dry DMF (10 mL) was added NaH (87 mg, 3.6 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting reaction mixture was then heated under 80 °C with stirring for 2 hours and monitored by TLC. After completion, it was quenched by sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aq., extracted with EtOAc, washed with water and brine, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/EtOAc as the eluent to afford [D<sub>5</sub>]-1a (581 mg, 90% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500

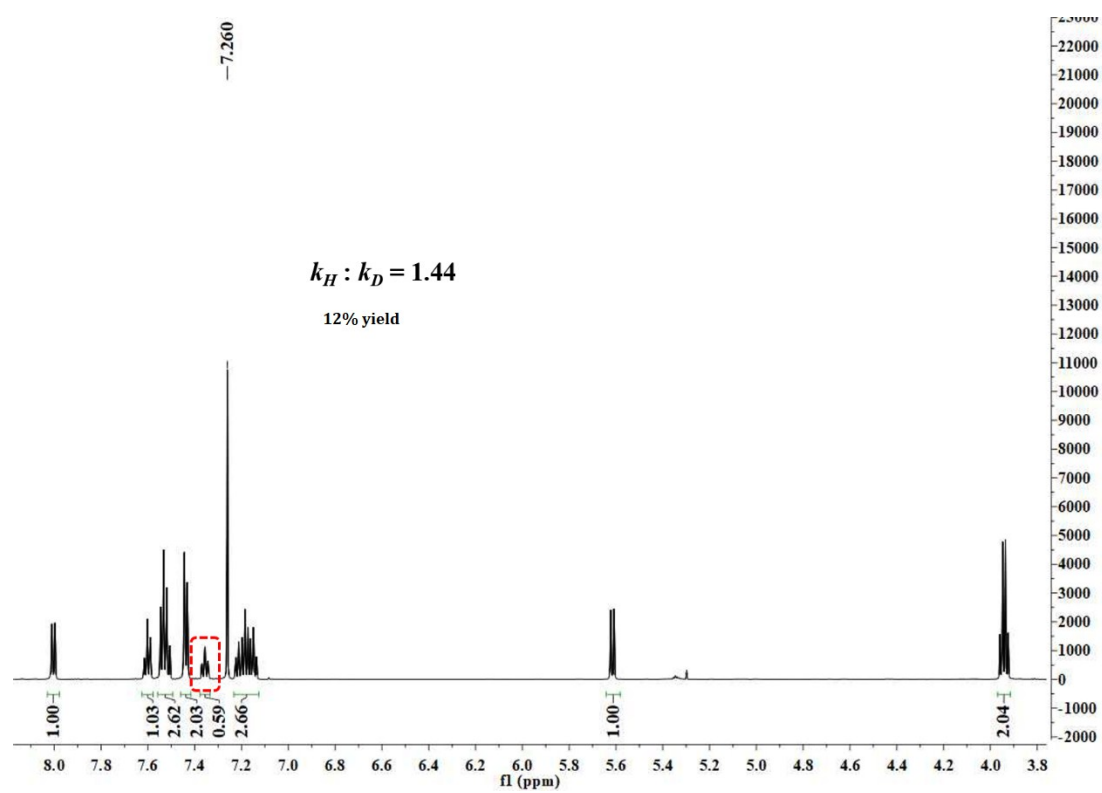
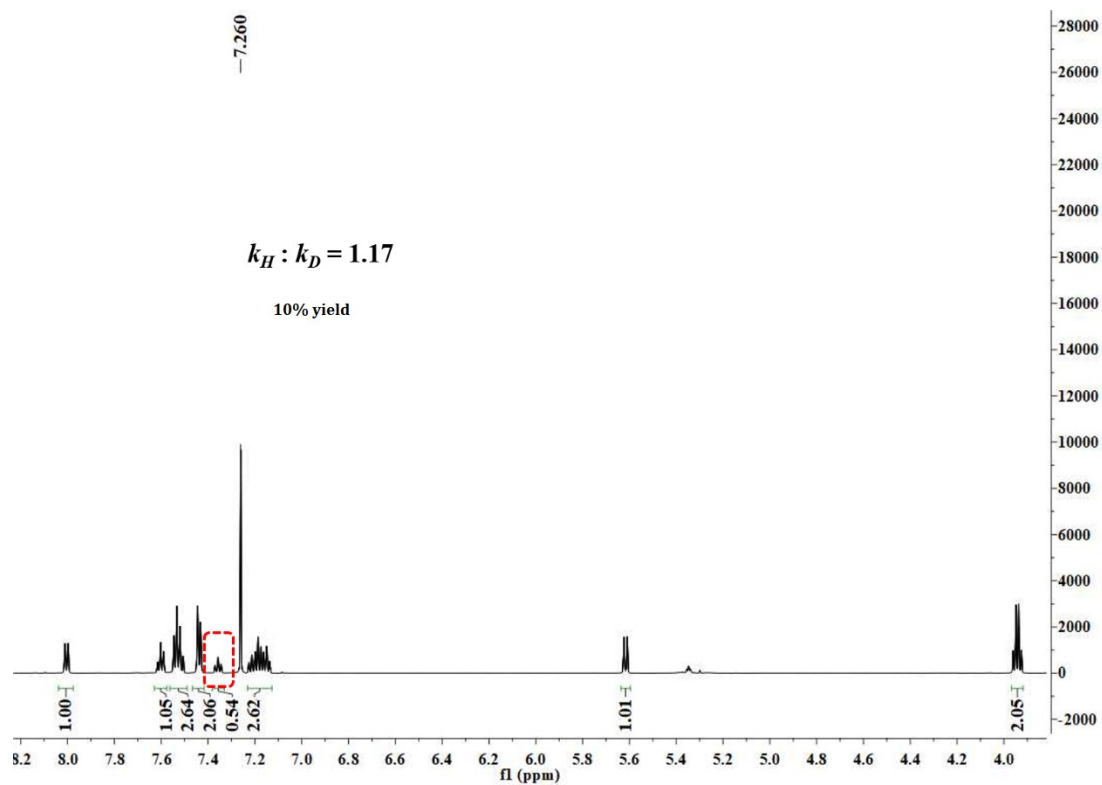
MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  160.2, 146.6, 137.4, 132.5, 128.6 (t,  $J$  = 24.2 Hz), 124.35 (t,  $J$  = 22.4 Hz), 123.4, 121.8, 118.4 (t,  $J$  = 24.9 Hz), 118.1, 112.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup> [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> 216.1185, found 216.1179.

## 2. KIE Measurements

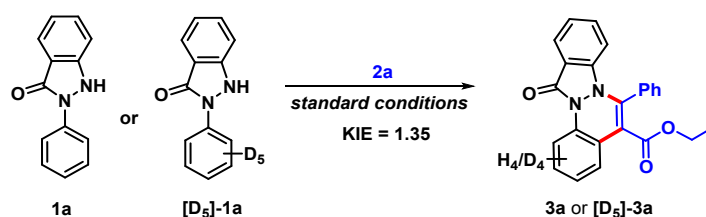
### Intermolecular Competition Experiments



A mixture of **1a** (0.1 mmol) and **[D<sub>5</sub>]-1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene) (MeCN)<sub>3</sub>(SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (3 mol %), HOAc (0.1 mmol) and DCE (1 mL) were added to a test tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using PE/EA to afford the mixed products **3a** and **[D<sub>4</sub>]-3a** (10% and 12% yield, respectively). An average KIE value ( $k_H/k_D$  = 1.3) was determined on the basis of <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.



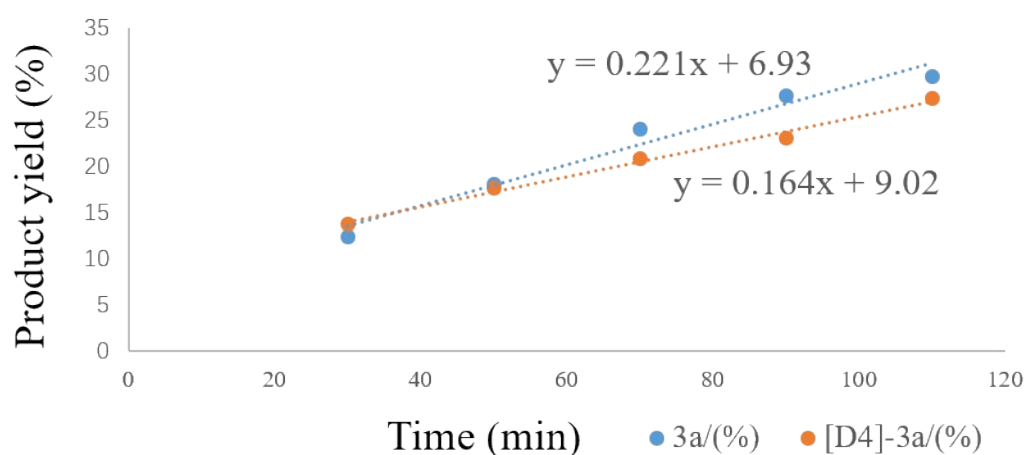
## Parallel Kinetic Isotope Effect



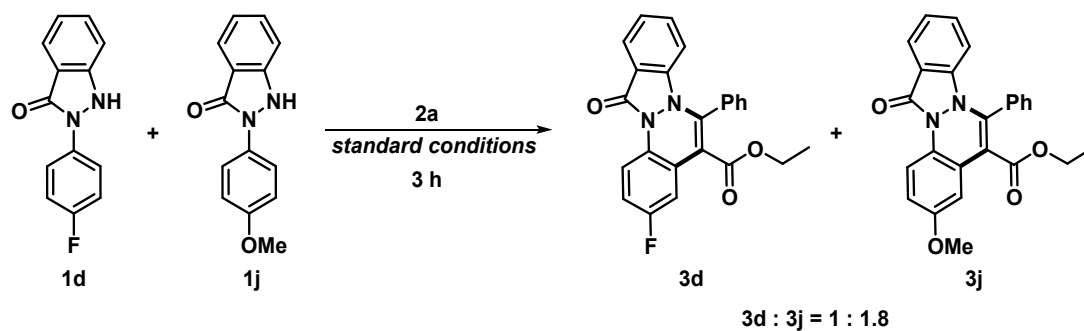
Two parallel reactions of **2a** with **1a** and **[D<sub>5</sub>]-1a** respectively were performed to determine the KIE value by comparison of the initial rates. Diazo compound **2a** (52 mg, 0.24 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene) (MeCN)<sub>3</sub>(SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (5 mg, 3 mol %), and HOAc (12 mg, 0.2 mmol) were added to a solution of **1a** (42 mg, 0.2 mmol) or **[D<sub>5</sub>]-1a** (43 mg, 0.2 mmol) in DCE (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at 60 °C. A periodic aliquot (100 μL) was abstracted by a pipette and analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR with dibromomethane as an internal standard to provide the following conversions:

Time/min	30	50	70	90	110
<b>3a</b> /(%)	12.4	18.1	24.1	27.7	29.7
<b>[D<sub>4</sub>]-3a</b> /(%)	13.7	17.6	20.8	23.0	27.4

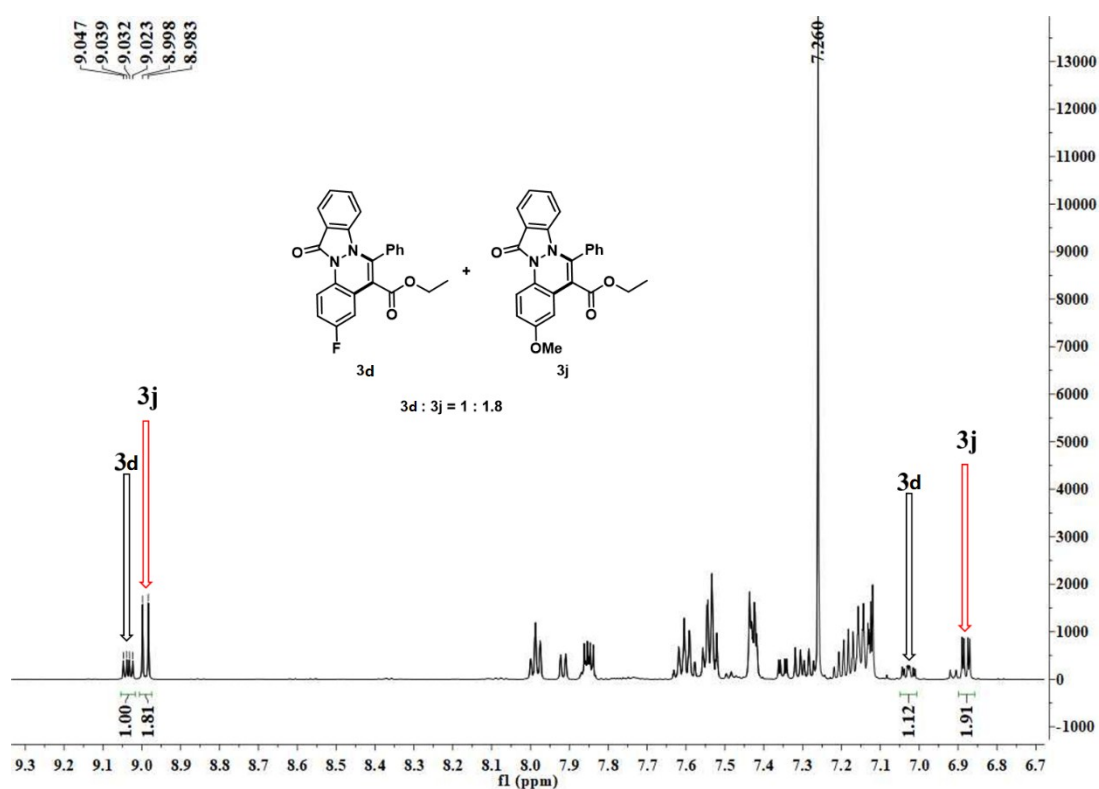
## Parallel Reactions



### 3. Competitive Reaction

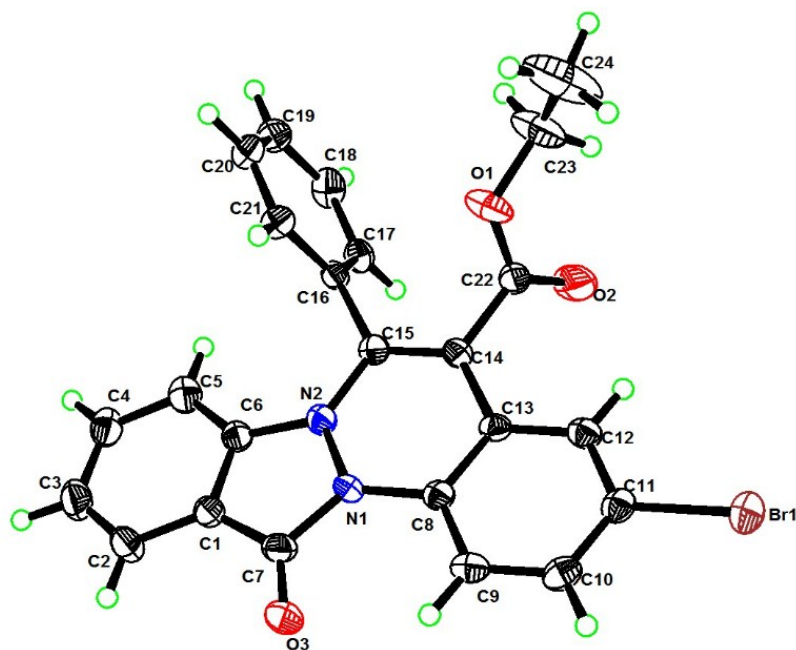


A mixture of **1d** (0.1 mmol), **1j** (0.1 mmol), [Ru(*p*-cymene) (MeCN)<sub>3</sub>(SbF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (3 mol %), HOAc (0.1 mmol), diazo compound **2a** (0.1 mmol) and DCE (1 mL) were added to a test tube. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using PE/EA to afford compounds **3d** and **3j** as a mixture, which was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.



## II. Crystal Structure and Data of Product 3f

### 1. Crystal Structure for 3f



### 2. Crystal data and structure refinement for 3f

Empirical formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>17</sub> BrN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	461.30
Temperature/K	173
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
a/Å	8.811(3)
b/Å	20.892(8)
c/Å	10.950(4)
α/°	90
β/°	105.717(12)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1940.3(12)
Z	4
ρ <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.579
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.149
F(000)	936.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.28 × 0.15 × 0.12

Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^{\circ}$	4.328 to 52.992
Index ranges	$-11 \leq h \leq 10$ , $-21 \leq k \leq 26$ , $-13 \leq l \leq 13$
Reflections collected	12115
Independent reflections	3940 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0623$ , $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0806$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	3940/18/273
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.042
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0458$ , $wR_2 = 0.1138$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0661$ , $wR_2 = 0.1245$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.54/-0.71



### III. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Spectra

