# Supplementary Information for

# Platinum-catalysed diborylation of arynes: synthesis and reaction of 1,2-diborylarenes

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#### General remarks.

All manipulations of oxygen- and moisture-sensitive materials were conducted with a standard Schlenk technique under a purified argon atmosphere. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were taken on a JEOL EX-270 (<sup>1</sup>H, 270 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C, 67.8 MHz) spectrometer or a JEOL Lambda-400 (<sup>1</sup>H, 400 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C, 99.5 MHz) spectrometer using residual chloroform ( ${}^{1}H$ ,  $\delta = 7.25$ ), benzene ( ${}^{1}H$ ,  $\delta = 7.15$ ), CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( ${}^{13}C$ ,  $\delta = 77.0$ ) or C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> ( $^{13}$ C,  $\delta = 128.0$ ) as an internal standard.  $^{1}$ H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), integration. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained with a JEOL JMS-SX102A spectrometer. Melting points were measured with Yanaco Micro Melting Point apparatus and uncorrected. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography was performed with GL Science PU 614 equipped with Shodex GPC H-2001L and -2002L columns (chloroform or toluene as an eluent). Unless otherwise noted, commercially available reagents were used without purification. 18-Crown-6 was recrystallized from distilled MeCN. KF (spray-dried) was vacuum dried at 100 °C for 12 h. DME was distilled from sodium/benzophenone ketyl. MeCN was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide.

#### Arvne precursors.

2-(Trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1a**), <sup>1</sup> 4-methoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1b**), <sup>2</sup> 4-methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1c**), <sup>3</sup> 4-fluoro-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1d**), <sup>4</sup> 4-phenyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1e**), <sup>2</sup> 6-methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1f**), <sup>2</sup> 3,4-dimethoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1g**), <sup>2</sup> 4,5-dimethyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1h**), <sup>5</sup> 3,6-dimethoxy-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1i**) and 3,6-dimethyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl triflate (**1j**) were prepared according to literature procedures.

#### Diborylation of arynes: a general procedure.

A DME solution (2 mL) of Pt(dba)<sub>2</sub> (2.0 mg, 3.0 μmol) and 1-adamantyl isocyanide (2.4 mg, 0.015 mmol) was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. To this solution were added 18-Crown-6 (0.032 g, 0.12 mmol), bis(pinacolato)diboron (0.021 g, 0.084 mmol), an aryne precursor (0.060 mmol) and KF (7.0 mg, 0.12 mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for the period as specified in Tables 1 and 2. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with cold brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (chloroform as an eluent) gave the corresponding product.

In <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, boron-bound carbons were not detected because of quadrupolar relaxation.

#### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzene (2a)

Isolated in 77% yield as a white solid: mp 108–111 °C;  $^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.35 (s, 24 H), 7.32–7.40 (m, 2 H), 7.59–7.67 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.9, 83.9, 129.1, 133.4; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{28}B_{2}O_{4}$ :  $M^{+}$ , 330.2174. Found: m/z 330.2176.

### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-4-methoxybenzene (2b)

Isolated in 78% yield as a colorless oil:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.33 (s, 12 H), 1.36 (s, 12 H), 3.81 (s, 3 H), 6.88 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.8, 24.9, 55.0, 83.6, 83.9, 114.5, 118.1, 136.0, 160.5; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{30}B_2O_5$ :  $M^+$ , 360.2279. Found: m/z 360.2290.

#### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-4-methylbenzene (2c)

**S**3

Isolated in 73% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 69–73 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (s, 12 H), 1.36 (s, 12 H), 2.31 (s, 3 H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (s, 1 H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.5, 24.9, 83.7, 83.8, 129.8, 133.8, 134.0, 139.0; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{30}B_2O_4$ :  $M^+$ , 344.2330. Found: m/z 344.2330.

# 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-4-fluorobenzene (2d)

Isolated in 73% yield as a pale yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (s, 12 H), 1.36 (s, 12 H), 7.04 (td, J = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.9 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.9, 84.0, 84.1, 115.9 (d, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 19.7 Hz), 119.8 (d, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 18.8 Hz), 136.1 (d, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 7.4 Hz), 163.7 (d, J<sub>C-F</sub> = 250.0 Hz); HRMS Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>27</sub>B<sub>2</sub>FO<sub>4</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 348.2079. Found: m/z 348.2083.

#### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-4-phenylbenzene (2e)

Isolated in 67% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 122–125 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.37 (s, 12 H), 1.38 (s, 12 H), 7.29–7.45 (m, 3 H), 7.58–7.63 (m, 3 H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.85 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.9, 83.8, 83.9, 127.21, 127.24, 127.7, 128.6, 132.1, 134.2, 141.1, 141.7; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{24}H_{32}B_2O_4$ :  $M^+$ , 406.2487. Found: m/z 406.2489.

#### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3-methylbenzene (2f)

Isolated in 84% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 57–58 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.35 (s, 12 H), 1.45 (s, 12 H), 2.43 (s, 3 H), 7.18–7.29 (m, 2 H), 7.64 (dd, J = 6.3, 2.3 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.9, 24.8, 25.4, 83.8, 128.0, 131.6, 132.2, 140.3; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>30</sub>B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 344.2330. Found: m/z 344.2334.

# 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3,4-dimethoxybenzene (2g)

Isolated in 67% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 111–112 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.29 (s, 12 H), 1.41 (s, 12 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H), 3.84 (s, 3 H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.8, 25.1, 55.3, 61.1, 83.7, 83.9, 112.1, 132.8, 151.2, 154.2; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{32}B_2O_6$ : M<sup>+</sup>, 390.2385. Found: m/z 390.2388.

# 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-4,5-dimethylbenzene (2h)

Isolated in 80% yield as a colorless oil:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (s, 24 H), 2.23 (s, 6 H), 7.41 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  19.6, 24.8, 83.6, 134.9, 137.6; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{32}B_2O_4$ :  $M^+$ , 358.2487. Found: m/z 358.2490.

#### 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3,6-dimethoxybenzene (2i)

Isolated in 50% yield as a brown solid: mp 128–131 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.36 (s, 24 H), 3.72 (s, 6 H), 6.82 (s, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.9, 57.0, 83.7, 113.9, 157.9; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{32}B_2O_6$ : M<sup>+</sup>, 390.2385. Found: m/z 390.2391.

# 1,2-Bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-3,6-dimethylbenzene (2j)

Isolated in 44% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 136–140 °C;  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.37 (s, 24 H), 2.39 (s, 6 H), 7.01 (s, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  22.0, 25.2, 83.6, 130.8, 139.2; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{32}B_{2}O_{4}$ :  $M^{+}$ , 358.2487. Found: m/z 358.2484.

# Cross-coupling of 2a for synthesis of symmetrical *ortho*-terphenyls: a general procedure.

A DME solution (1.4 mL) of 2a (0.013 g, 0.039 mmol), an aryl halide (0.086 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.029 g, 0.090 mmol),  $Pd[P(t-Bu)_3]_2$  (1.0 mg, 2.0 µmol) and  $H_2O$  (0.015 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for the period as specified in Table 3. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (chloroform or toluene as an eluent) gave the corresponding product.

# 1,2-Diphenylbenzene (3a)<sup>6</sup>

Isolated in 85% yield:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.12–7.25 (m, 10 H), 7.39–7.46 (m, 4 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  126.4, 127.5, 127.8, 129.9, 130.6, 140.6, 141.5.

# 1,2-Di(4-acetylphenyl)benzene (3b)<sup>7</sup>

Isolated in 82% yield: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.57 (s, 6 H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.42–7.50 (m, 4 H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.6, 128.2, 128.3, 130.0, 130.6, 135.4, 139.5, 146.0, 197.8.

#### 1,2-Di(4-nitrophenyl)benzene (3c)<sup>8</sup>

Isolated in 72% yield: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.28 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4 H), 7.43–7.57 (m, 4 H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  123.5, 129.1, 130.59, 130.64, 138.3, 146.8, 147.4.

# 1,2-Di(4-cyanophenyl)benzene (3d)

Isolated in 64% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 184–188 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.20 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 4 H), 7.40–7.55 (m, 8 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  110.9, 118.6, 128.9, 130.4, 130.6, 132.0, 138.6, 145.5; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{12}N_2$ : M<sup>+</sup>, 280.1000. Found: m/z 280.1007.

# 1,2-Di(4-methylphenyl)benzene (3e)<sup>9</sup>

Isolated in 64% yield:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.32 (s, 6 H), 7.02–7.08 (m, 8 H), 7.37–7.43 (m, 4 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.1, 127.2, 128.6, 129.7, 130.6, 135.9, 138.7, 140.4.

# 1,2-Di(4-methoxyphenyl)benzene (3f)<sup>9</sup>

Isolated in 55% yield:  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.78 (s, 6 H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 4 H);  ${}^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  55.1, 113.3, 127.1, 130.5, 130.9, 134.1, 140.0, 158.2.

#### 1,2-Di(3-thienyl)benzene (3g)

Isolated in 74% yield as a brown oil:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.79 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.06 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.17 (dd, J = 5.0, 3.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.32–7.49 (m, 4 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  122.8, 124.6, 127.5, 128.9, 130.2, 135.4, 142.1; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{14}H_{10}S_2$ :  $M^+$ , 242.0224. Found: m/z 242.0222.

#### 1,2-Di(1-naphthyl)benzene (3h)

(A mixture of two conformers)

Isolated in 74% yield as a white solid: mp 164–167 °C;  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.87–7.02 (m), 7.05–7.13 (m), 7.18–7.30 (m), 7.40–7.65 (m), 7.72–7.90 (m);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  124.4, 124.8, 125.19, 125.21, 125.4, 125.7, 126.2, 126.4, 126.8, 126.95, 126.98, 127.1, 127.2, 127.8, 128.1, 128.2, 131.58, 131.64, 131.7, 132.5, 133.2, 133.3, 138.8, 138.9, 140.2, 140.3; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{18}$ :  $M^{+}$ , 330.1409. Found: m/z 330.1407.

#### Cross-coupling of 2a for synthesis of fluoranthenes: a general procedure.

A DME solution (1.4 mL) of **2a** (0.013 g, 0.039 mmol), an 1,8-dihalonaphthalene (0.043 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.029 g, 0.090 mmol),  $Pd[P(t-Bu)_3]_2$  (1.0 mg, 2.0  $\mu$ mol) and  $H_2O$  (0.015 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for the period as specified in Scheme 2. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (chloroform or toluene as an eluent) gave the corresponding product.

# Fluoranthene (3i)<sup>6</sup>

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Isolated in 56% yield:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.29–7.38 (m, 2 H), 7.51–7.63 (m, 2 H), 7.72–7.92 (m, 6 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  120.0, 121.5, 126.6, 127.5, 127.9, 130.0, 132.5, 137.0, 139.4.

# 1,2-Dihydrocyclopenta[cd]fluoranthene (3j)<sup>10</sup>

Isolated in 71% yield:  $^{1}$ H NMR ( $C_{6}D_{6}$ )  $\delta$  3.02 (s, 4 H), 7.18–7.24 (m, 2 H), 7.25–7.30 (m, 2 H), 7.74–7.77 (m, 2 H), 7.84–7.88 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  32.4, 120.8, 122.05, 122.07, 126.7, 132.6, 136.7, 140.2, 145.9.

# Synthesis of 2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)biphenyl.

A DME solution (1.2 mL) of 2a (0.14 g, 0.42 mmol), iodobenzene (0.086 g, 0.42 mmol), KOH (0.35 g, 0.63 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.024 g, 0.021 mmol) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.21 mL) was stirred at 40 °C for 23 h. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (chloroform as an eluent) gave 2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)biphenyl (0.066 g, 56% yield).

#### Cross-coupling for synthesis of unsymmetrical ortho-terphenyls: a general procedure.

A DME solution (1.4 mL) of 2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)biphenyl (0.011 g, 0.039 mmol), an aryl halide (0.043 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.015 g, 0.045 mmol),  $Pd[P(t-Bu)_3]_2$  (1.0 mg, 2.0 µmol) and  $H_2O$  (7.5 µL) was stirred at 80 °C for the period as specified in Table 4. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over  $MgSO_4$  and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (chloroform or toluene as an eluent) gave the corresponding product.

# 1-(4-Acetylphenyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4a)<sup>11</sup>

Isolated in 93% yield: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.57 (s, 3 H), 7.10–7.16 (m, 2 H), 7.19–7.27 (m, 4 H), 7.41–7.48 (m. 5 H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.6, 126.7, 127.6, 127.97, 128.04, 128.2, 129.8, 130.1, 130.4, 130.8, 135.1, 139.4, 140.7, 141.0, 146.6, 197.9.

# 1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4b)

Isolated in 86% yield as a brown solid: mp 81–83 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.07–7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.20–7.33 (m, 5 H), 7.40–7.50 (m, 4 H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  123.2, 127.0, 127.8, 128.2, 128.6, 128.8, 129.8, 130.3, 130.6, 130.9, 138.2, 140.5, 140.7, 148.5; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 275.0946. Found: m/z 275.0943.

#### 1-(4-Cyanophenyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4c)

Isolated in 72% yield as a white solid: mp 105–109 °C;  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.04–7.13 (m, 2 H), 7.16–7.31 (m, 5 H), 7.35–7.54 (m, 6 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  110.2, 119.0, 126.9, 127.8, 128.2, 128.6, 129.8, 130.2, 130.5, 130.9, 131.7, 138.6, 140.59, 140.64, 146.4; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{13}N$ :  $M^{+}$ , 255.1048. Found: m/z 255.1040.

# 1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4d)<sup>12</sup>

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Isolated in 85% yield:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.31 (s, 3 H), 7.03 (brs, 4 H), 7.13–7.24 (m, 5 H), 7.41 (brs, 4H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  21.1, 126.3, 127.2, 127.4, 127.8, 128.6, 129.7, 129.9, 130.6, 136.0, 138.5, 140.5, 141.7.

# 1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4e)<sup>11</sup>

Isolated in 68% yield: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  3.77 (s, 3 H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.12–7.25 (m, 5 H), 7.40 (brs, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  55.1, 113.3, 126.3, 127.1, 127.5, 127.9, 129.8, 130.5, 130.6, 130.9, 133.8, 140.1, 140.4, 141.6, 158.2.

#### 1-Phenyl-2-(3-thienyl)benzene (4f)

Isolated in 87% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 62–63 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.71 (dd, J = 4.9, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (dd, J = 4.9, 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.16–7.30 (m, 5 H), 7.36–7.42 (m, 3 H), 7.45–7.52 (m, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  123.0, 124.5, 126.7, 127.4, 127.5, 127.9, 129.1, 129.5, 130.1, 130.6, 135.2, 140.5, 141.6, 141.9; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{12}S$ : M<sup>+</sup>, 236.0660. Found: m/z 236.0662.

# 1-(1-Naphthyl)-2-phenylbenzene (4g)

Isolated in 87% yield as a white solid: mp 111–113 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.95–7.10 (m, 5 H), 7.13–7.57 (m, 8 H), 7.62–7.85 (m, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  125.0, 125.5, 125.7, 126.25, 126.34, 126.9, 127.2, 127.6, 127.8, 128.05, 128.14, 129.1, 130.3, 131.7, 132.2, 133.4, 138.9, 139.3, 141.3, 141.9; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>16</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 280.1252. Found: m/z 280.1248.

# 1-(9-Phenanthryl)-2-phenylbenzene (4h)

Isolated in 81% yield as a white solid: mp 105–107 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.95–7.05 (m, 3 H), 7.12–7.20 (m, 2 H), 7.38–7.80 (m, 11 H), 8.67 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  122.4, 122.6, 126.2, 126.3, 126.35, 126.41, 126.6, 127.1, 127.2, 127.7, 127.9, 128.6, 128.7, 129.0, 129.8, 130.2, 130.3, 131.4, 131.5, 131.7, 138.1, 138.9, 141.3, 142.0; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{18}$ : M<sup>+</sup>, 330.1409. Found: m/z 330.1401.

#### 1-(9-Anthryl)-2-phenylbenzene (4i)

Isolated in 64% yield as a pale yellow solid: mp 120–123 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.71–7.07 (m, 5 H), 7.22–7.84 (m, 10 H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 8.38 (s, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  124.9, 125.3, 126.4, 126.5, 126.8, 127.2, 127.3, 128.1, 128.3, 128.4, 130.2, 130.4, 131.1, 132.4, 136.1, 136.9, 141.1, 143.1; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>18</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 330.1409. Found: m/z 330.1402.

#### One-batch cross-coupling.

A DME solution (4 mL) of **2a** (0.026 g, 0.078 mmol), 1-iodonaphthalene (0.021 g, 0.082 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.032 g, 0.099 mmol),  $Pd[P(t-Bu)_3]_2$  (2.0 mg, 3.9  $\mu$ mol) and  $H_2O$  (0.020 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for 7 h before addition of 4-iodoacetophenone (0.039 g, 0.16

mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.032 g, 0.099 mmol) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.020 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h, diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative thin layer chromatography (dichloromethane/hexane as an eluent) followed by preparative recycling gel permeation chromatography (toluene as an eluent) gave 4j.

#### 1-(4-Acetylphenyl)-2-(1-naphthyl)-benzene (4j)

Isolated in 43% yield as a waxy colorless solid:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.45 (s, 3 H), 7.02–7.21 (m, 3 H), 7.22–7.67 (m, 10 H), 7.68–7.86 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  26.5, 125.0, 125.6, 126.0, 127.5, 127.65, 127.73, 127.9, 128.1, 128.2, 129.2, 130.1, 131.8, 132.0, 133.4, 134.9, 138.8, 138.9, 140.7, 146.4, 197.8; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{24}H_{18}O$ :  $M^{+}$ , 322.1358. Found: m/z 322.1363.

#### Cross-coupling of 2a for synthesis of monoborylbiaryls: a general procedure.

A DME solution (4 mL) of 2a (0.026 g, 0.078 mmol), an aryl halide (0.082 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (0.032 g, 0.098 mmol),  $Pd[P(t-Bu)_3]_2$  (2.0 mg, 3.9  $\mu$ mol) and  $H_2O$  (0.020 mL) was stirred at 60 °C for the period as specified in Scheme 4. The mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and washed with brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Preparative thin layer chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate as an eluent) gave the corresponding product.

#### Methyl 2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)biphenyl-2'-carboxylate (5a)

Isolated in 82% yield as a pale yellow waxy solid:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.07 (s, 12 H), 3.57 (s, 3 H), 7.12–7.56 (m, 6 H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.93 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.5, 51.5, 83.2, 126.1, 126.6, 128.3, 129.4, 129.8, 130.3, 130.7, 131.2, 134.0, 144.8, 147.8, 167.9; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{23}BO_4$ :  $M^+$ , 338.1689. Found: m/z 338.1688.

# 9-[2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl]phenanthrene (5b)

Isolated in 55% yield as an ocher solid: mp 104–106 °C;  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.72 (s, 6 H), 0.87 (s, 6 H), 7.35–7.75 (m, 9 H), 7.80–7.95 (m, 2 H), 8.65–8.85 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.1, 24.3, 83.3, 122.38, 122.43, 122.55, 122.60, 126.0, 126.1, 126.3, 126.5, 126.7, 127.1, 128.6, 129.9, 130.1, 130.2, 130.4, 131.6, 132.6, 134.3, 140.1, 145.9; HRMS Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{25}BO_2$ :  $M^+$ , 380.1948. Found: m/z 380.1951.

# 4'-Acetyl-2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)biphenyl (5c)

Isolated in 31% yield as a white solid: mp 104–107 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.20 (s, 12 H), 2.65 (s, 3 H), 7.33–7.42 (m, 2 H), 7.44–7.53 (m, 3 H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  24.6, 26.7, 83.9, 127.0, 127.9, 128.9, 129.4, 130.3, 134.9, 135.5, 146.4, 148.1, 198.1; HRMS Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>: M<sup>+</sup>, 322.1740. Found: m/z 322.1737.

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