

Supporting Information
**Ligand Promoted Palladium-Catalyzed
Dehydrogenative Alkenylation of Heteroarenes**

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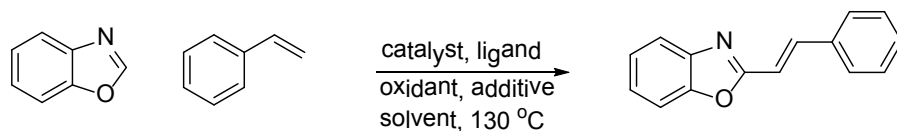
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General. All air-sensitive manipulations were performed under an atmosphere of nitrogen using Schlenk technique or in a glovebox. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were run a Bruker 300 MHz, or 400 MHz spectrometer using the residual proton of the deuterated solvent for reference (CDCl₃, ¹H NMR: 7.24 ppm. ¹³C NMR: 77.2 ppm). Chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ); coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hz. Standard abbreviations are used: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, qn = quintet, m = multiplet. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (spherical, 40-63 μm). Analytical TLC was performed on Merck silica gel plates with QF-254 indicator. Visualization was performed with UV light (254 nm). GC analyses were performed on an Agilent Technologies 7890 GC instrument. High resolution mass spectra were obtained with a JEOL, JMS-700 (EI or FAB+) spectrometer. High resolution MALDI-mass spectra were conducted on an Applied Biosystems 4800 Proteomics Analyzer (Applied Biosystem, Foster City) equipped with an Nd/YAG laser (335nm) operating at a repetition rate of 200 Hz.

Chemicals. All reagents were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, and Alfa Aesar without further purification in advance before use. Solvents for chromatography were reagent grade. Toluene was dried over sodium with benzophenone-ketyl intermediate as an indicator. All azoles and styrene derivatives were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, and Alfa Aesar and used without further purification.

Table S1. Optimization.^a

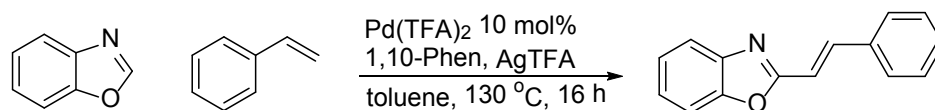


entry	catalyst	ligand	oxidant	solvent	Yield (%) ^b
1	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgOAc (2)	NMP	NR
2	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	BQ (2)	NMP	NR
3	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	Cu(OAc) ₂ (1)	NMP	9
4	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	Cu(OTf) ₂ (2), Ag ₂ O (2)	toluene	NR
5	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2)	NMP	15
6	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2)	toluene	17
7	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgOAc (2)	TFA	NR
8	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	Ag ₂ O (2)	TFA	NR
9	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	Cu(OAc) ₂ (2)	TFA	NR
10	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	Cu(OAc) ₂ (1)	NMP	14
11	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PPh ₃ (0.2)	Cu(OAc) ₂ (1)	NMP	6
12	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	bipy (0.1)	Cu(OAc) ₂ (1)	NMP	4
13	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2), KO ^t Bu (0.5)	toluene	9
14	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2), KO ^t Bu (1)	toluene	NR
15	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2), AlMe ₃ (0.2)	toluene	23
16	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2), IPr (0.1)	toluene	49
17	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.1)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	53
18	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	64
19	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgOAc (2)	toluene	NR
20	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	toluene	NR
21	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	Cu(OAc) ₂ (2)	toluene	NR
22	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	CuCl (2)	toluene	NR
23	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	toluene	NR
24	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgOAc (2)	toluene	NR
25	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	BQ-Me ₂ (2)	toluene	NR
26	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	PhI(OAc) ₂	toluene	NR
27	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	toluene	NR
28	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2)	toluene	60
29	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	---	AgTFA (2) in air	toluene	29
30	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	50
31	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2), NaOTf (1)	toluene	49
32	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2), Sc(OTf) ₃ (1)	toluene	NR
33	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2), Cu(OTf) ₂ (1)	toluene	37
34	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	PCy ₃ (0.2)	AgTFA (2), AlCl ₃ (0.5)	toluene	NR
35	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	pyridine (0.2)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	30
36	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	pyridine (0.3)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	30
37	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	pyridine (0.5)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	40
38	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	pyridine (1)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	68
39	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	bipyridine (0.2)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	50
40	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	87
41	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	2,9-Me-1,10-Phen (0.5)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	43
42	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	(CH ₂ PCy ₂) ₂ (0.1)	AgTFA (2)	toluene	38
43	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	AgTFA (2)	xylene	55
44	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	AgTFA (2)	DMF	67
45	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	AgTFA (2)	DMSO	NR
46	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	AgTFA (2)	NMP	73
47	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	air (balloon)	toluene	39
48	Pd(TFA) ₂ (0.1)	1,10-Phen (0.15)	O ₂ (balloon)	toluene	49

^a Conditions: benzoxazole (0.5 mmol), styrene (2.5 mmol), metal catalyst (0.05 mmol), oxidant, ligand, additive in solvent (1 mL) at 130 °C for 16 hours unless otherwise noted.

^b Isolated yield.

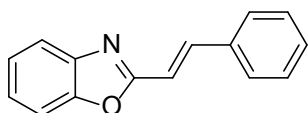
Table S2. Optimization process.



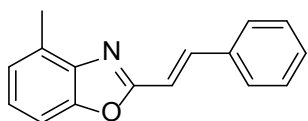
entry	AgTFA (eq)	1,10-Phen (eq)	styrene (eq)	Yield (%)
1	1.5	0.15	5	68
2	2	0.15	5	87
3	2	0.05	5	54
4	2	0.10	5	63
5	2	0.20	5	83
6	2	0.15	2	77
7	2	0.15	3	80
8	2	0.15	4	82

^a Conditions: benzoxazole (0.5 mmol), styrene (2.5 mmol), Pd(TFA)₂ (0.05 mmol), AgTFA, and 1,10-Phen in toluene (1 mL) at 130 °C for 16 hours unless otherwise noted.

General procedure for Pd-catalyzed styrylation of heteroarenes: To a toluene solution (~1mL) of Pd(TFA)₂ (17 mg, 0.05 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (14 mg, 0.075 mmol), and benzoxazole (0.5 mmol) was added styrene (2.5 mmol) into the vial. After the vial was screw-capped, the reaction solution was taken outside the glovebox and heated at 130 °C for 16 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through *Celite* and washed with dichloromethane. The filtrate solution was concentrated in *vacuo* to afford crude product. The crude was further purified by flash chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane (15-25%) as eluent.

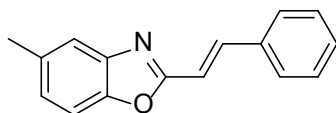


(E)-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10aa):¹⁻³ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a beige solid (87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (d, ³J_{HH} = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.57 (d, ³J_{HH} = 4.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.41-7.34 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.06 (d, ³J_{HH} = 20.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.9, 150.6, 142.4, 139.6, 135.3, 129.9, 129.1, 127.7, 125.3, 124.6, 120.0, 114.1, 110.5. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂NO ([M+H]⁺) 222.0919, found 222.0915. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁻³

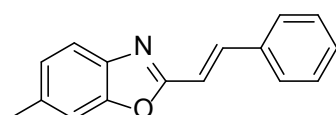


(E)-4-methyl-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10ba): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow oil (86%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.42-7.33 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.21 (t, ³J_{HH} =

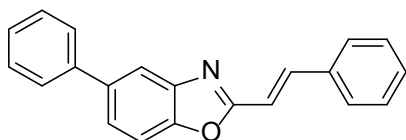
8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.11 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 1H, Ar), 2.63 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.1, 150.3, 141.5, 139.0, 135.4, 130.5, 129.7, 129.1, 127.6, 125.1, 125.1, 114.3, 107.7, 16.7. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 236.1075, found 236.1032.



(E)-5-methyl-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10ca):⁴ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give white needle crystals (79%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 20.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.48 (s, 1H, Ar), 7.41-7.35 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.12 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.17$ Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.04 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 20.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.0, 148.8, 142.5, 139.2, 135.3, 134.4, 129.7, 129.0, 127.6, 126.4, 119.9, 114.2, 109.8, 21.6. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 236.1075, found 236.1076. The above ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.⁴

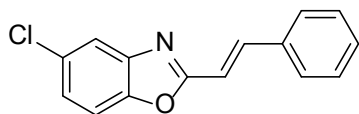


(E)-6-methyl-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10da):^{5,6} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a beige solid (87%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.74 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 20.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 12.0$ Hz, 3H, Ar), 7.42-7.35 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.31 (s, 1H, Ar), 7.13 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.12.0$ Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.04 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 20.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.4, 150.8, 140.1, 138.9, 135.8, 135.3, 129.7, 129.0, 127.6, 125.8, 119.3, 114.2, 110.6, 21.9. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 236.1075, found 236.1071. The above ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.⁵⁻⁶

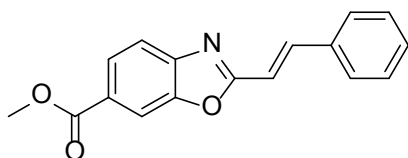


(E)-5-phenyl-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10ea):⁷ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a white solid (85%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 6H, Ar), 7.47-7.36 (m, 6H, Ar), 7.09 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 163.6, 150.1, 143.0, 141.2, 139.8, 138.6, 135.3, 130.0, 129.1, 129.0, 127.8, 127.6, 127.4, 125.0, 118.4, 114.0, 110.5. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 298.1232, found 298.1231. The above ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectral data are

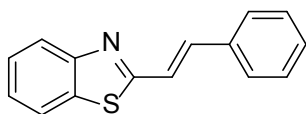
consistent with those reported in the literature.⁷



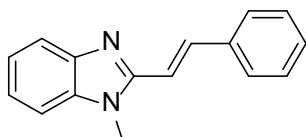
(E)-5-chloro-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole (10fa):⁴ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give brown oil (56%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H, Ar), 7.58 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.44-7.38 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.29 (d, ³J_{HH} = 12.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.04 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.2, 149.1, 143.5, 140.5, 135.0, 130.1, 129.1, 127.8, 125.5, 119.9, 113.6, 111.1. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁NOCl ([M+H]⁺) 256.0529, found 256.0523. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.⁴



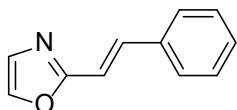
(E)-methyl-2-styrylbenzo[d]oxazole-6-carboxylate (10ga):⁸ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (70%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19 (s, 1H, Ar), 8.05 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.85 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.60 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.43-7.38 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.07 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.7, 165.3, 150.2, 146.2, 141.2, 134.9, 130.2, 129.1, 127.9, 127.2, 126.4, 119.4, 113.5, 112.0, 52.4. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₄NO₃ ([M+H]⁺) 280.0974, found 280.0971. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.⁸



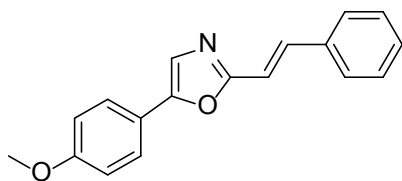
(E)-2-styrylbenzo[d]thiazole (10ka):^{2,9,10} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow solid (81%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.55 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.43-7.35 (m, 7H, Ar). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.2, 154.1, 137.9, 135.6, 134.6, 129.6, 129.2, 127.6, 126.5, 125.6, 123.2, 122.3, 121.7. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{2,9,10}



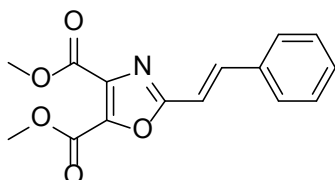
(E)-1-methyl-2-styryl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (10ma):¹⁰ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow solid (62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.74 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.61 (d, ³J_{HH} = 12.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.35-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.27-2.25 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.10 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H, N-CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 142.0, 138.7, 135.5, 135.5, 129.6, 129.0, 127.6, 123.6, 119.4, 112.7, 109.7, 30.4. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₅N₂ ([M+H]⁺) 235.1235, found 235.1231. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁰



(E)-2-styryloxazole (10ha):^{2,10} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow oil (55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (s, 1H, Ar), 7.53-7.47 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.40-7.32 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.17 (s, 1H, Ar), 6.95 (d, ³J_{HH} = 24.0 Hz, 1H, Ar). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.9, 138.27, 136.3, 135.6, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 127.3, 114.0. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₁H₁₀NO ([M+H]⁺) 172.0762, found 172.0761. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{2,10}

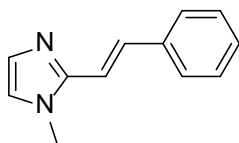


(E)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-styryloxazole (10ia):² The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow crystals (72%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62 (d, ³J_{HH} = 7.9 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.40-7.32 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.27 (s, 1H, Ar), 6.98-6.94 (m, 3H, Ar), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.7, 160.1, 151.2, 135.9, 135.5, 129.2, 129.1, 127.3, 126.0, 122.4, 121.0, 114.6, 114.2, 55.6. HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₁₅NO₂ ([M+H]⁺) 278.1181, found 278.1193. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.²

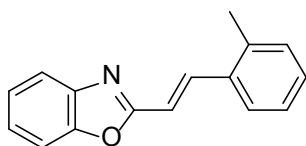


(E)-dimethyl 2-styryloxazole-4,5-dicarboxylate (10ja): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give gold needle crystals (58%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.40-7.38 (m, 3H, Ar), 6.94 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 6H, OCH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.2, 160.8, 157.2,

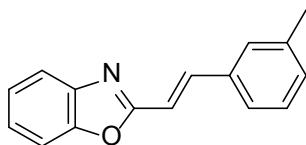
141.5, 140.9, 137.3, 134.5, 130.3, 129.0, 127.7, 111.9, 52.9. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $C_{15}H_{14}NO_5$ ($[M+H]^+$) 288.0872, found 288.0877.



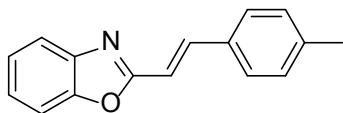
(E)-1-methyl-2-styryl-1H-imidazole (10na): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light brown solid (67%). 1H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.90 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.35-7.33 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.22 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (75 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 143.9, 141.9, 134.5, 130.7, 129.2, 128.1, 122.2, 121.3, 106.8, 34.6. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $C_{13}H_{13}N$ ($[M+H]^+$) 183.1048, found 183.1045.



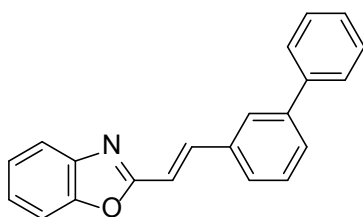
(E)-2-(2-methylstyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ab):¹¹ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow oil (71%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 8.05 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.26-7.21 (m, 3H, Ar), 6.99 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 163.0, 150.5, 142.4, 137.2, 137.1, 134.2, 130.9, 129.7, 126.6, 126.0, 125.3, 124.6, 120.0, 115.0, 110.4, 20.0. HR-MS (FAB): m/z calcd. for $C_{16}H_{14}NO$ ($[M+H]^+$) 236.1075, found 236.1078. The above 1H and $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹¹



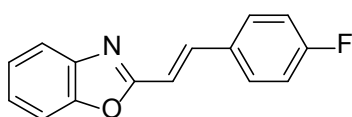
(E)-2-(3-methylstyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ac): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a golden solid (68%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 7.75 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.52-7.50 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.33-7.28 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.19 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 8.0$ Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.05 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.4, 139.8, 138.7, 135.3, 130.8, 129.0, 128.4, 125.3, 124.9, 124.6, 112.0, 113.8, 110.4, 21.5. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $C_{16}H_{14}NO$ ($[M+H]^+$) 236.1075, found 236.1078.



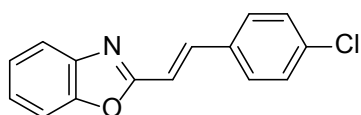
(E)-2-(4-methylstyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ad):^{12,13} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a white solid (87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.67 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.52-7.48 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.47 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.20 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.2, 150.6, 142.4, 140.3, 139.7, 132.6, 129.9, 127.7, 125.2, 124.6, 120.0, 113.1, 110.5, 21.6. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO ([M+H]⁺) 236.1075, found 236.1066. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{12,13}



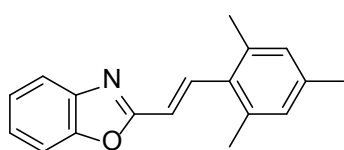
(E)-2-(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)vinyl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ae): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.66-7.65 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.63-7.61 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.38 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.10 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.6, 142.4, 140.3, 139.1, 134.3, 129.0, 128.2, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 125.3, 124.7, 120.0, 114.0, 110.5. HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₁₅NO ([M+H]⁺) 298.1232, found 298.1244.



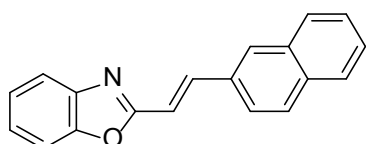
(E)-2-(4-fluorostyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11af):¹⁴ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow crystals (91%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.52-7.50 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.33-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.98 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.7 (d, ¹J_{CF} = 250.0 Hz), 162.6, 150.5, 142.3, 138.1, 131.5, 129.4, 129.3, 125.3, 124.6, 120.0, 116.1 (d, ²J_{CF} = 20.0 Hz), 113.7, 110.4. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁NOF ([M+H]⁺) 240.0825, found 240.0823. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁴



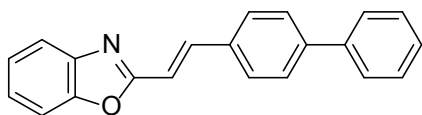
(E)-2-(4-chlorostyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ag):¹⁴ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give colorless crystals (94%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.72 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.52-7.50 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.39-7.31 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.03 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.5, 150.5, 142.3, 138.0, 135.7, 133.7, 129.3, 128.7, 125.4, 124.7, 120.1, 114.6, 110.4. HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₀NOCl ([M+H]⁺) 256.0529, found 256.0540. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁴



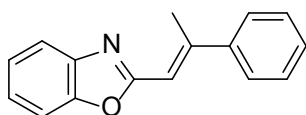
(E)-2-(2,4,6-trimethylstyryl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ah):¹⁵ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give an off-white crystal (62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.93 (s, 2H, Ar), 6.70 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.30 (s, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.4, 138.3, 138.2, 136.9, 131.8, 129.5, 125.3, 124.7, 120.1, 119.3, 110.5, 21.4, 21.2. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈NO ([M+H]⁺) 264.1388, found 264.1383. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁵



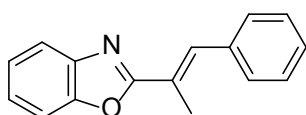
(E)-2-(2-(naphthalen-2-yl)vinyl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ai): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (64%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.97 (s, 1H, Ar), 7.91 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88-7.82 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.77-7.71 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.55-7.49 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.18 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.4, 139.6, 134.1, 133.6, 132.8, 129.2, 128.9, 128.6, 127.9, 127.2, 126.8, 125.4, 124.7, 123.3, 120.0, 114.2, 110.5. HR-MS (FAB): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₄NO ([M+H]⁺) 272.1075, found 272.1077.



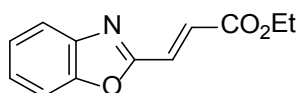
(E)-2-(2-((1,1'-biphenyl)-4-yl)vinyl)benzo[d]oxazole (11aj):¹⁶ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (75%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.70 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.66 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.63 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.47 (t, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.38 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H, Ar), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.10 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.7, 142.4, 140.4, 139.1, 134.3, 129.1, 128.2, 127.9, 127.8, 127.2, 125.4, 124.7, 120.1, 114.0, 110.5. HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₁₅NO ([M+H]⁺) 298.1232, found 298.1240. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁶



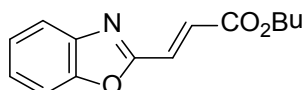
(E)-2-(2-phenylprop-1-en-1-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ak):¹⁷ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (67%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75-7.72 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.60-7.57 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.44-7.30 (m, 5H, Ar), 6.78-6.77 (m, 1H, Ar), 2.79 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.2, 150.1, 142.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.3, 127.8, 126.5, 125.1, 124.6, 120.1, 113.0, 110.5, 19.0. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO ([M+H]⁺) 236.1075, found 236.1079. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁷



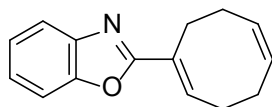
(E)-2-(1-phenylprop-1-en-2-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (11al):¹⁸ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give white crystals (53%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.53-7.48 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.42 (t, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ar), 7.34-7.29 (m, 3H, Ar), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.3, 150.7, 142.2, 136.2, 135.1, 129.7, 128.5, 128.2, 125.1, 124.6, 124.4, 119.9, 110.3, 14.9. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO ([M+H]⁺) 236.1075, found 236.1071. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁸



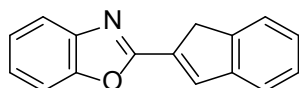
(E)-ethyl 3-(benzo[d]oxazol-2-yl)acrylate (11am): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (71%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.76 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.42-7.34 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.99 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.32 (q, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 20.0$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.36 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 12.0$ Hz, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.4, 160.3, 150.7, 142.1, 129.2, 128.3, 126.8, 125.1, 120.9, 110.9, 61.3, 14.3. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 218.0817, found 218.0818.



(E)-butyl 3-(benzo[d]oxazol-2-yl)acrylate (11an): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give white needle crystals (66%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.61 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H, Ar), 6.97 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.67 (qn, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.41 (sextet, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 0.93 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.0$ Hz, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.4, 160.3, 150.7, 142.1, 129.2, 128.3, 126.8, 125.1, 120.9, 110.9, 65.2, 30.7, 19.3, 13.8. HR-MS (FAB): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 246.1130, found 246.1127.

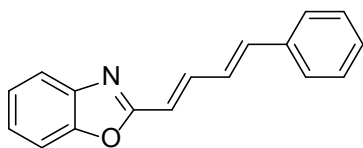


2-((1E,5Z)-cycloocta-1,5-dien-1-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ao):¹⁹ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give light yellow crystals (56%). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.67-7.63 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.44-7.40 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.28-7.22 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.07 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.57 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, CH), 3.09 (t, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.67-2.60 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.57-2.48 (m, 4H, CH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.4, 150.8, 142.3, 137.3, 129.3, 128.2, 128.1, 124.8, 124.3, 119.9, 110.3, 29.2, 28.4, 27.3, 27.0. HR-MS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) 226.1232, found 226.1227. The above ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁹

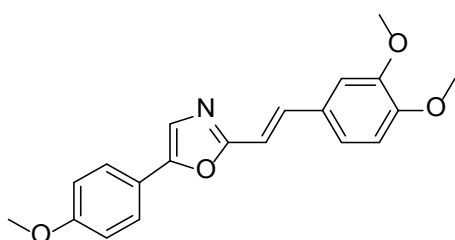


2-(1H-inden-2-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (11ap):¹⁹ The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give dark orange powder (32%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.81 (s, 1H, Ar-CH), 7.74-7.72 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.56-7.52 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.34-7.32 (m, 4H, Ar), 4.02 (s, 2H, CH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.3, 150.8, 144.3, 143.7, 142.5, 136.9, 133.3, 127.3, 125.5, 124.8, 124.4, 123.0, 120.1, 110.6, 38.9. The above ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ spectral data are

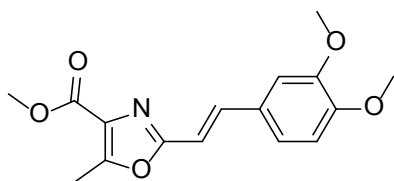
consistent with those reported in the literature.¹⁹



2-((1E,3E)-4-phenylbuta-1,3-dien-1-yl)benzo[d]oxazole (11aq): The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a dark yellow solid (55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.75-7.71 (m, 1H, Ar), 7.60 (dd, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 and 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 3H, Ar), 7.41-7.31 (m, 5H, Ar), 7.06-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.0, 150.6, 142.5, 139.9, 138.9, 136.5, 129.0, 127.4, 127.3, 125.3, 124.7, 120.0, 117.2, 110.4. HR-MS (EI): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₃NO ([M+H]⁺) 247.0997, found 247.1001.



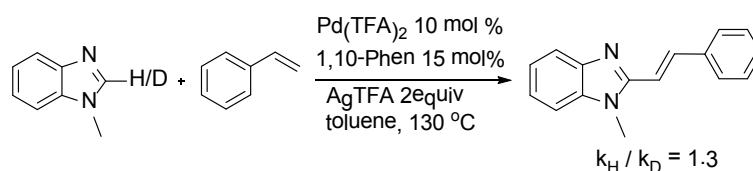
(E)-2-(3,4-dimethoxystyryl)-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)oxazole (12):^{2,9} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (68%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.61 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, ³J_{HH} = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, ³J_{HH} = 20.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.9, 159.9, 150.8, 150.3, 149.4, 135.2, 128.9, 125.8, 122.2, 121.2, 121.0, 114.5, 112.1, 111.4, 109.2, 56.0, 56.0, 55.4. HR-MS (MALDI): *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄ ([M+H]⁺) 338.1392, found 338.1402. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{2,9}



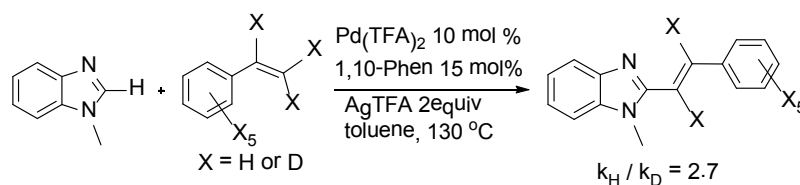
methyl (E)-2-(3,4-dimethoxystyryl)-5-methyloxazole-4-carboxylate (13):^{20,21} The reaction was performed according to the above general procedure to give a light yellow solid (50%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, ³J_{HH} = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.65 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.4, 159.4, 155.5, 150.2, 149.0, 136.6, 128.1, 128.0, 121.0, 111.0, 110.7, 108.9, 55.7, 55.6, 51.6, 11.7. The above ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature.^{20,21}

Kinetic Isotope Effect (KIE) Experiments

(a) Intermolecular competition reactions between N-methylbenzimidazole and its deuterated derivative with styrene: To perform the KIE experiments, the target coupling product **10na** was prepared as the standard for GC-MS analysis to afford the calibration curve involving product concentration and peak area. The deuterated N-methylbenzimidazole was prepared according to the procedure in our recent report.²² The intermolecular competition reactions between N-methylbenzimidazole and its deuterated derivative with styrene were examined in two separated vials. The reaction was carried out according to the general procedure under the same conditions. After cooling down, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude mixture was subjected and analyzed by GC. The GC yield of the product **10na** was obtained according to the calibration curve. The ratio of the two product yields represents the KIE value ($k_H/k_D = 1.3$).



(b) Intermolecular competition reactions between styrene and *d*₈-styrene with N-methylbenzimidazole: To perform the KIE experiments, the target coupling product **10na** was prepared as the standard for GC-MS analysis to afford the calibration curve involving product concentration and peak area. The *d*₈-styrene was purchased from Aldrich and was directly used in the reaction. The intermolecular competition reactions between styrene and *d*₈-styrene with N-methylbenzimidazole were examined in two separated vials. The reaction was carried out according to the general procedure. After cooling down, the reaction mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and washed with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude mixture was subjected and analyzed by GC. The GC yield of the product **10na** was obtained according to the calibration curve. The ratio of the two product yields represents the KIE value ($k_H/k_D = 2.7$).



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