Supporting Information

Copper-Mediated C3-Cyanation of Indole by the Combination of Amine and Ammonium

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1. General experimental details

Unless otherwise noted, materials were either purchased from commercial suppliers or purified by standard techniques. DMSO was purchased to use without any further purified. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500 MHz instrument or a Bruker 300 MHz instrument. All ¹H NMR experiments were reported in δ units, parts per million (ppm), and were measured relative to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm) or DMSO (2.5 ppm) in the deuterated solvent. All ¹³C NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to deuterochloroform (77.0 ppm) or DMSO-*d*₆ (39.5 ppm) and all were obtained with ¹H decoupling. All coupling constants *J*, were reported in Hz. The following abbreviations were used to describe peak splitting patterns when appropriate: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, brs = broad singlet.

Caution: Work with cyanides is hazardous; the experiments and work-up need to be carried out in a well-ventilated fume-hood.

1.1 Typical experimental procedure for the cyanation of indoles (Fig 1):



Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with indole **1** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12-24 h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 × 2 mL) from brine and the collected organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel to give the products.

1.2 Typical experimental procedure for the reaction of *N*-methyl containing partners:



Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-Methylindole (25 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), *N*-methyl compound (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 × 2 mL) from brine and the collected organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel to give the products.

2. Results of Other N-Methyl Containing Partners



3. ¹³C labeled DMSO and ¹⁵N labeled NH₄Cl Study

Ammonium chloride (¹⁵N, 99%, cat. No. NLM-467-5) and Dimethyl sulfoxide (carbonyl-¹³C, 99%, cat. No. CLM-503-1) were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc.

3.1 The reaction of 1-Methylindole with (NH₄)₂CO₃ in (¹³CH ₃)₂SO:



Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-methylindole (25 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and ¹³C labeled DMSO (0.3 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 × 2 mL) from brine and the collected organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel to give the products (21.3 mg, 68% yield) as a brown oil.

3.2 The reaction of 1-Methylindole with ¹⁵NH₄Cl in DMSO:



Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-methylindole (25 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), ¹⁵NH₄Cl (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), Na₂CO₃ (42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and DMSO (0.3 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12 h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was extracted with EtOAc (10 × 2 mL) from brine and the collected organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on a silica gel to give the products (15.7 mg, 51% yield) as a brown oil. HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₁₀H₉¹⁵NN : 158.0730, found : 158.0723.

4. Preliminary Mechanism Study

4.1 Experiment on TEMPO as a Radical Scavenger:

Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-methylindole **1a** (0.2 mmol), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂

(35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv), TEMPO (15.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 50 mol %) and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O_2 . The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12 h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was analyzed by GC-MS.



4.2 Experiment on 1,4-Diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane (DABCO) as a Singlet Oxygen Inhibitor:

Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-methylindole **1a** (0.2 mmol), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv), DABCO (11.2 mg, 0.1 mmol, 50 mol % or 22.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 100 mol %) and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was analyzed by GC-MS.



4.3 The reaction of carboxamide compounds to form nitriles (Scheme 2):

Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1H-indole-3-carboxamide (30.0 mg, 0.2 mmol), TMEDA (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv), and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12h in oil bath. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was analyzed by GC-MS.



5. Detection of Iminium Ion 3 by HRMS

Under air, a 20 mL of Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-methylindole **1a** (0.2 mmol), N-Benzyldimethylamine (75 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv), (NH₄)₂CO₃ (76.8 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv), CuCl₂ (35 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and DMSO (0.5 mL). The tube was sealed with a rubber plug and charged with O₂. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 2, 4 and 6h in oil bath respectively. After cooling to room temperature, the resultant mixture was analyzed by HRMS and the

concentration of iminium ion **3** in different reaction time was consistent with reaction tendency.HRMS (ESI-TOF, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd. for $C_{18}H_{19}N_2$: 263.1543, found : 263.1521



6. Characterization Data for the Products

1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2a)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (25.9 mg, 83% yield) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.30-7.17 (m, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 135.9, 135.5, 127.7, 123.7, 122.0, 119.7, 115.9, 110.3, 85.2, 33.5.

1-ethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2b)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (30.9 mg, 91% yield) as a brown soild. Mp: 88-90 °C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 1H), 4.21 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.51 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 135.0, 133.9, 127.9, 123.7, 122.0 119.9, 116.0, 110.4, 85.4, 41.8, 15.1. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 2977, 2212, 1527, 1462, 925, 735.

MS (EI) 170 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₁₁H₁₁N₂ : 171.0917, found : 171.0911.

1-allyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2c)³



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (23.3 mg, 64% yield) as a brown oil.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.66-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 2H), 6.04-5.98 (m, 2H), 5.21-5.18 (m, 1H), 5.09-5.05 (m, 1H), 4.93-4.91 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 136.9, 135.2, 133.2, 127.2, 123.5, 122.1, 118.8, 117.8, 116.0, 111.8, 83.7, 48.8.

1-benzyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2d)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (29.2 mg, 63% yield) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.26 (m, 7H), 5.52 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz): δ 137.2, 136.7, 135.1, 128.7, 127.8, 127.3, 127.2, 123.6, 122.1, 118.8, 115.9, 111.9, 84.0, 49.9.

1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2e)²



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (19.6 mg, 69% yield) as a yellow solid.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.21 (br, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 135.3, 134.5, 126.8, 123.4, 121.8, 118.5, 116.5, 113.0, 84.2

1,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2f)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (27.3 mg, 80% yield) as a brown oil.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, , 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 135.3, 134.4, 131.8, 128.1, 125.4, 119.4, 116.0, 109.9, 84.8, 33.5, 21.3.

5-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2g)⁴



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (26.1 mg, 83% yield) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 12.08 (br, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* =3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.11 (m, 2H), 7.10 (d, *J* =3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 134.2, 133.5, 130.7, 127.0, 124.9, 117.9, 116.5, 112.6, 83.6, 21.0.

1,6-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2h)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (30.9 mg, 91% yield) as a yellow solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 136.3, 135.0, 133.9, 125.5, 123.8, 119.3, 116.1, 110.2, 85.1, 33.5, 21.8.

1,7-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2i)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (20.4 mg, 60% yield) as a yellow solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 2.75 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 136.7, 134.7, 128.9, 126.4, 112.3, 122.2, 117.9, 115.9, 85.2, 37.6, 19.4.

5-methoxy-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2j)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (26.0 mg, 70% yield) as a yellow solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 156.0, 135.3, 131.0, 128.6, 116.2, 114.6, 111.2, 100.7, 84.8, 55.7, 33.7.

5-methoxy-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2k)⁴



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (21.8 mg, 64% yield) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.05 (br, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 155.3, 134.3, 130.0, 127.5, 116.6, 113.8, 99.7, 84.0, 55.4.

5-fluoro-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2l)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (22.9 mg, 66% yield) as a pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.07 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 159.2 (d, J_{C-F} = 238.8 Hz), 136.7, 132.6, 128.4 (d, J_{C-F} = 11.3 Hz), 115.4, 112.5 (d, J_{C-F} = 26.3 Hz), 111.4 (d, J_{C-F} = 11.3 Hz), 105.1 (d, J_{C-F} = 25.0 Hz), 85.6 (d, J_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz), 33.9.

6-fluoro-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2m)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (28.5 mg, 82% yield) as a yellow solid. Mp: 78-80°C.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.68-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 2 H), 3.80 (s, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 160.6 (d, $J_{C-F} = 241.3$ Hz), 136.2 (d, $J_{C-F} = 12.5$ Hz), 136.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 3.8$ Hz), 124.0, 120.9 (d, $J_{C-F} = 10.0$ Hz), 115.4, 111.1 (d, $J_{C-F} = 25.0$ Hz), 97.0 (d, $J_{C-F} = 26.3$ Hz), 85.9, 33.7.

IR (prism, cm⁻¹):2217, 1626, 1534, 1381, 911, 758.

MS (EI) 174 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₁₁H₈FN₂: 175.0666, found: 175.0677.

5-chloro-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile(2n)²



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (28.8 mg, 86% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.39 (br, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 136.1, 133.8, 127.8, 126.5, 123.6, 117.8, 115.7, 114.7, 84.1.

6-chloro-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (20)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (15.6 mg, 41% yield) as a brown solid. M.p:91-93°C

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.5Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 136.4, 136.1, 130.1, 126.2, 123.0, 120.8, 115.3, 110.5, 86.0, 33.7. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 2219, 1537, 1466, 1062, 807.

MS (EI) 190 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd. for $C_{10}H_8CIN_2$: 191.0371, found: 191.0367.

6-chloro-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2p)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (19 mg, 50% yield) as a yellow solid.

M.p: 174-176 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.3 (br, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 135.7, 135.6, 128.0, 125.4, 122.1, 119.9, 115.8, 112.6, 84.6.

IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 3242, 2221, 1624, 1525, 1409, 1016, 736.

MS (EI) 176 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd. for C₉H₆ClN₂ : 177.0214, found : 177.0203.

5-bromo-1-methyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2q)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (14.4 mg, 31% yield) as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 136.3, 134.7, 129.2, 127.0, 122.4, 115.8, 115.1, 111.8, 85.2, 33.8.

5-bromo-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2r)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:3) to give the products (32.6 mg, 74% yield) as a pale yellow solid.

M.p: 181-182°C

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.39 (br, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.5 Hz 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 135.9, 134.0, 128.4, 126.1, 120.7, 115.6, 115.0, 114.4, 84.0. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 3108, 2211, 1524, 1487, 1074, 762.

MS (EI) 222 (M⁺); HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₉H₆BrN₂: 220.9709, found: 220.9692

$\label{eq:constraint} 6-bromo-1-methyl-1 \ensuremath{\textit{H}}\xspace{-ind} ole-3-carbonitrile(2s)$



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (21.3 mg, 46% yield) as a yellow solid. Mp: 127-129 °C

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.60-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.38 (s, d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 136.8, 136.1, 126.5, 125.5, 121.1, 117.5, 115.2, 113.5, 86.0, 33.7. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 2213, 1525, 1467, 1027, 789.

MS (EI) 234 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₁₀H₈BrN₂: 234.9865, found: 234.9881.

5-nitro-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2u)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:2) to give the products (23.6 mg, 63% yield) as a yellow solid. Mp: 184-186 °C.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.8 (br, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, $J_1 = 9.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 142.6, 138.5, 138.3, 126.0, 118.6, 115.1, 114.9, 113.8, 86.8. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 3100, 2216, 1623, 1538, 1336, 832.

MS (EI) 187 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd. for C₉H₆N₃O₂ : 188.0455, found: 188.0477.

1*H*-indole-3,5-dicarbonitrile (2w)

NC

Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:2) to give the products (25.4 mg, 76% yield) as a yellow solid. Mp: 246-248°C.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.70 (br, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 137.3, 137.0, 126.4, 126.3, 124.1, 119.6, 115.2, 114.3, 104.2, 85.5. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 3103, 2218, 2188, 1623, 1524, 763.

MS (EI) 167 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, [M+H]⁺) Calcd. for C₁₀H₆N₃ : 168.0556, found : 168.0553.

1*H*-indole-3,5-dicarbonitrile (2x)



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:2) to give the products (20.4 mg, 66% yield) as a yellow solid. Mp: 246-248°C.

¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): δ 12.69 (br, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H).

¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): δ 137.3, 137.0, 126.4, 126.3, 124.1, 119.6, 115.2, 114.3, 104.1, 85.5. IR (prism, cm⁻¹): 3106, 2222, 2219, 1621, 1509, 777.

MS (EI) 167 (M^+); HRMS (ESI-TOF, $[M+H]^+$) Calcd. for $C_{10}H_6N_3$: 168.0556, found: 168.0562.

1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carbonitrile (2y)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (16.3 mg, 52% yield) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 1H), 3.97 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 146.8, 145.2, 135.8, 128.2, 120.0, 118.1, 115.1, 84.2, 32.0.

1-methyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-3-carbonitrile (2z)¹



Flash column chromatography on a silica gel (ethyl acetate:petroleum ether, $1:10 \rightarrow$ ethyl

acetate:petroleum ether, 1:5) to give the products (29.2 mg, 63% yield) as a white solid.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 148.1, 136.8, 129.9, 129.8, 129.0, 128.7, 127.6, 123.8, 122.4, 119.5, 116.6, 110.5, 85.5, 31.7.

7. References

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200

190 180 170

160 150 140 130



100 90 f1 (ppm)

120 110

70 60

50 40

80

30 20

10

-10

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