

Supporting Information

Arylacetylenes as Two-carbon Synthons: Synthesis of Eight-membered Rings via C≡C Bond Cleavage

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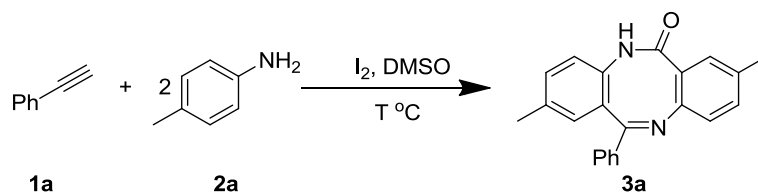
1. General

All other substrates and reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200–300 mesh). ^1H spectra were recorded in $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{DMSO}$ on 600/400MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in parts per million relative to tetramethylsilane. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ^{13}C spectra were recorded in $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{DMSO}$ on 150/100 MHz NMR spectrometers and resonances (δ) are given in ppm. HRMS were obtained on a Bruker 7-tesla FT-ICR MS equipped with an electrospray source. The X-ray crystal-structure determinations of **3a**, **3k** were obtained on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD system. Melting points were determined using XT-4 apparatus and not corrected.

2. General procedure for the synthesis of **3** (**3a** as an example)

A mixture of phenylacetylene **1a** (1.2 mmol), **2a** (2.0 mmol), H_2O (2.0 mmol) and Iron(III) trifluoromethanesulfonate (1.0 mmol), iodine (1.0 mmol) in DMSO (4 mL), the mixture was stirred at 130 $^\circ\text{C}$, until almost completed conversion of the substrates by TLC analysis, the mixture was quenched with saturation $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ solution (50 mL), extracted with EtOAc (3 $\times$ 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether/EtOAc = 3:1) to afford the product **3a**.

3. Optimization of the bicyclization reaction^a (Table S1)



Entry	I_2 (mmol)	Temp ($^\circ\text{C}$)	Additive	Yield (%) ^b
1	1.6	120	-	40
2	1.6	80	-	trace
3	1.6	100	-	15
4	1.6	110	-	23
5	1.6	130	-	45
6	1.6	140	-	32
7	1.0	130	-	55
8	0.8	130	-	38
9	0.5	130	-	20
10	2.0	130	-	37

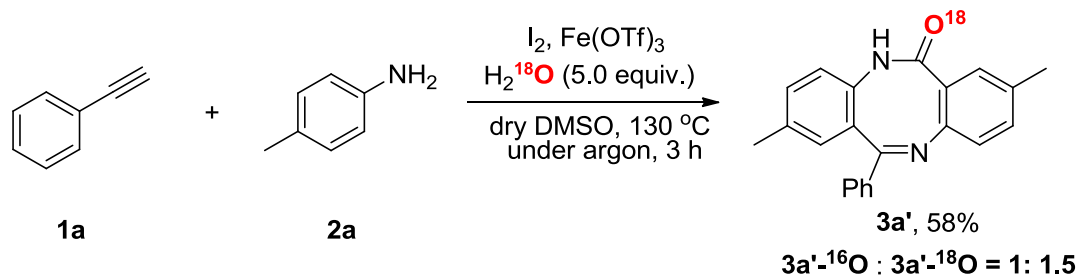
11	-	130	-	ND
12	1.0	130	TFA	60
13	1.0	130	TfOH	46
14	1.0	130	HCl	35
15	1.0	130	Cu(OTf) ₂	38
16	1.0	130	Fe(OTf) ₃	62
17	1.0	130	Fe(OTf) ₃	65 ^c (60) ^d (57) ^e

^aReaction conditions: **1a** (1.2 mmol), **2a** (2.0 mmol), I₂ (mmol), additive (1.0 mmol), indicated temperature, DMSO 4 mL, 3 h, unless otherwise noted. ^bIsolated yields. ^c2.0 mmol of water was added. ^d4.0 mmol of water was added. ^e6.0 mmol of water was added.

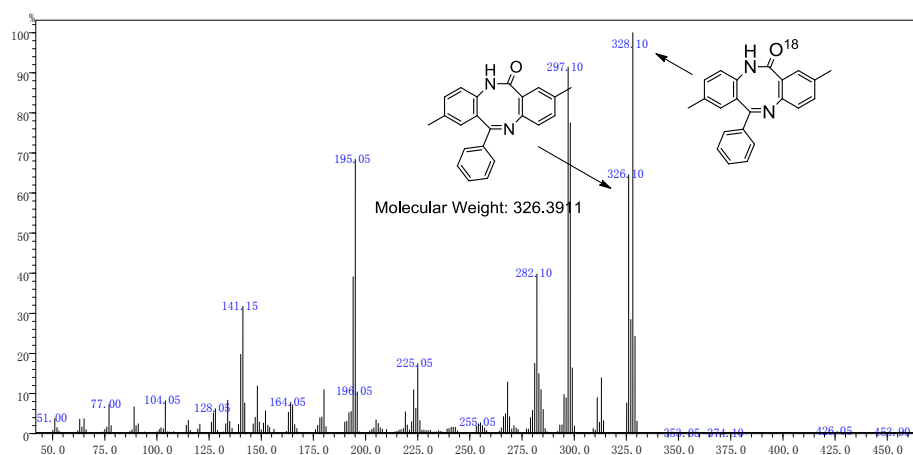
4. Mechanistic studies

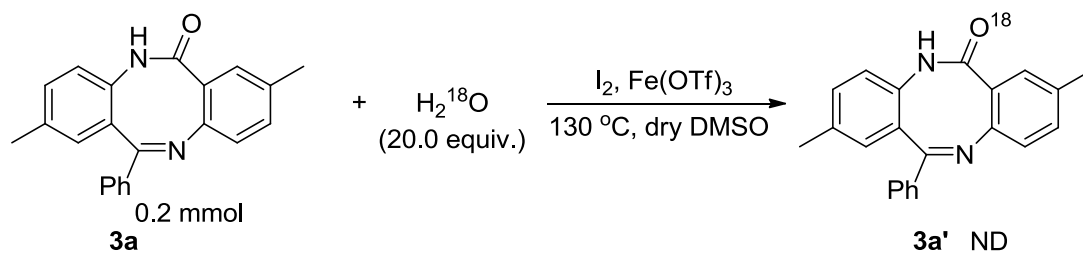
4.1 Spectra for ¹⁸O-labelling experiment

We have conducted ¹⁸O-labelling to investigate the source of oxygen in eight-membered N-Heterocycles ring, ring, as determined by GC-MS. Moreover, an oxygen atom exchange experiment have excluded the oxygen atom exchange between ¹⁶O-labeled product **3a** and H₂¹⁸O under the reaction conditions. The ¹⁸O-labeling experiment suggests that H₂¹⁸O participated in this bicyclization/ring-opening process to provide the oxygen atom in the eight-membered N-Heterocycles ring.

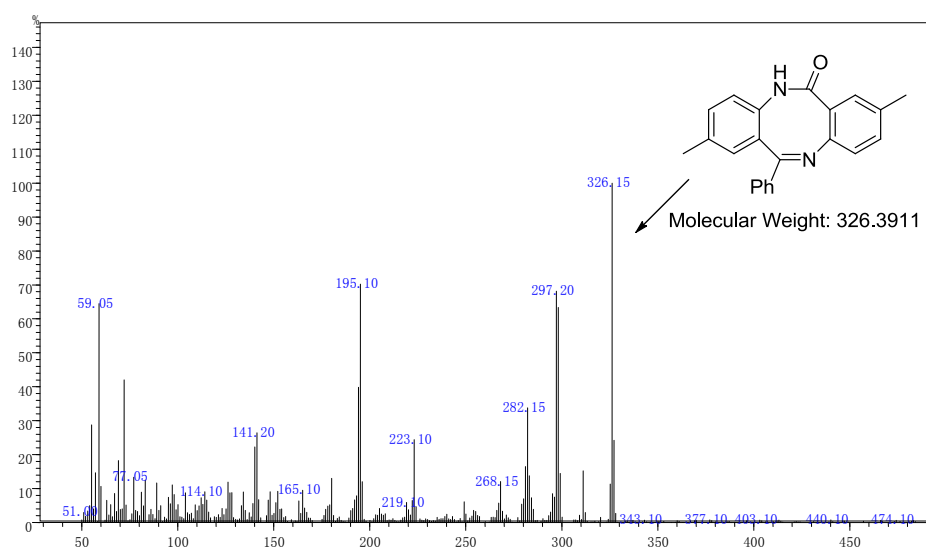


The MS-spectrums of ¹⁸O-labelling experiment



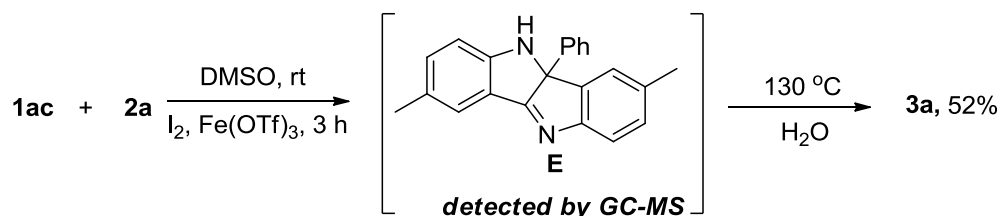


The MS-spectrums of oxygen atom exchange experiment

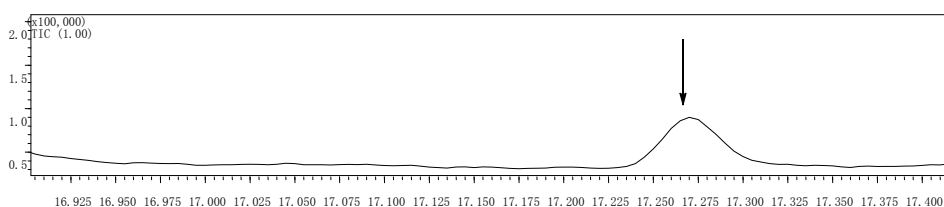
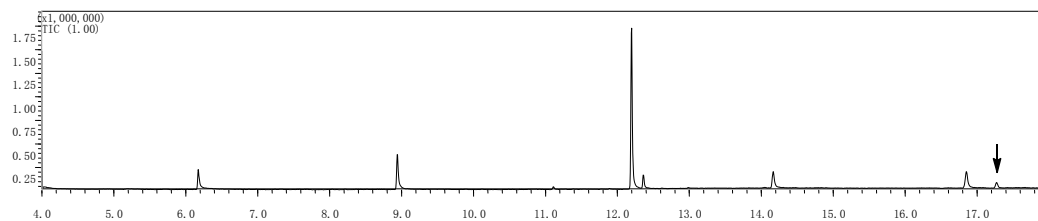


4.2 Research on intermediates

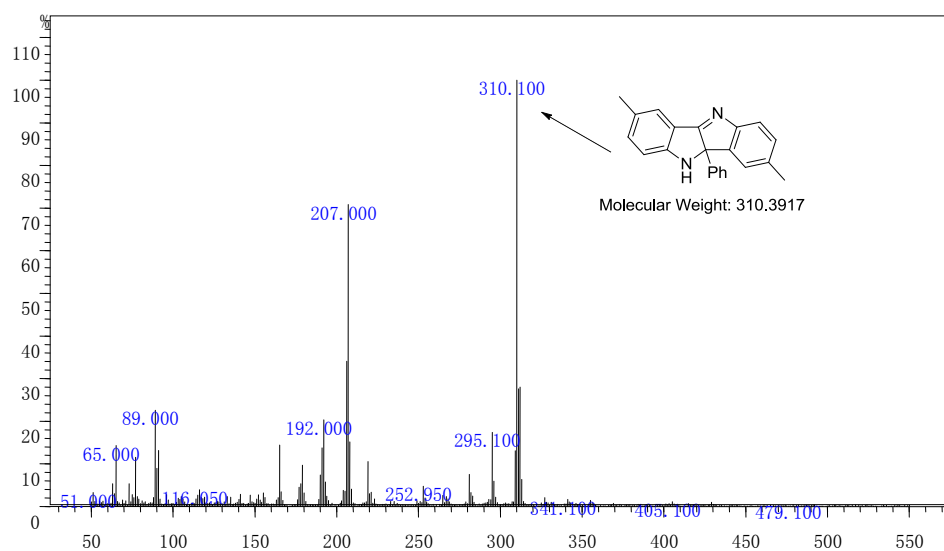
1ac reacted with *p*-toluidine **2a** with adding Iron(III) trifluoromethanesulfonate in DMSO at room temperature for 3 h, affording bicyclization structure **E** (detected by GC-MS), which was further transformed into eight-membered ring **3a** at 130 °C.



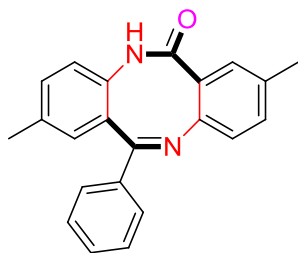
The GC-spectrums see below



The MS-spectrums see below: Retention time: [17.265]

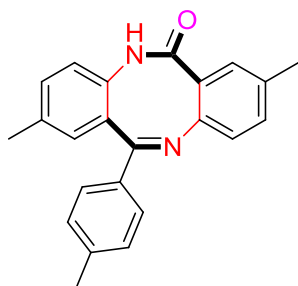


5. Characterization data for compounds 3, 4 and 9a



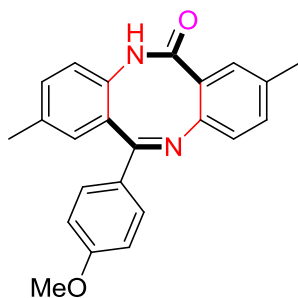
(Z)-2,8-dimethyl-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3a):

Yield 65%; 211.9 mg; yellow solid; mp > 300 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 9.89 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.7, 167.1, 145.7, 137.5, 136.2, 134.7, 133.3, 133.0, 131.5, 131.0, 130.9, 128.70, 128.68, 128.0, 127.7, 125.8, 125.7, 120.4, 20.4, 20.2 HRMS (ESI): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}_2$: 327.1492, found: 327.1496.



(Z)-2,8-dimethyl-12-(p-tolyl)dibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3b):

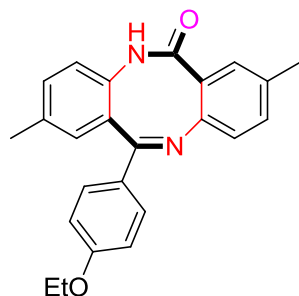
Yield 68%; 231.2 mg; yellow solid; mp 250-252 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.94 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.2, 166.8, 146.4, 141.5, 136.7, 135.4, 134.0, 133.6, 133.4, 131.4, 130.7, 129.2, 129.0, 128.5, 128.3, 125.5, 124.5, 121.0, 21.4, 20.9, 20.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 341.1648, found 341.1649.



(Z)-12-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3c):

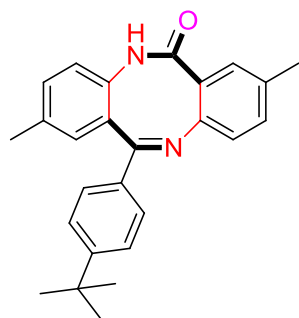
Yield 53%; 189.2 mg; yellow solid; mp 228-230 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 9.87 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J =

7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.06-6.98 (m, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.8, 166.2, 161.9, 146.0, 136.0, 134.7, 133.2, 132.8, 130.8, 130.6, 130.5, 130.1, 127.9, 127.8, 126.0, 125.6, 120.5, 113.9, 55.4, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 357.1598, found 357.1599.



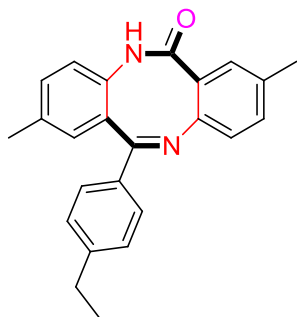
(Z)-12-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3d):

Yield 52%; 192.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 237-239 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 9.84 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.03-6.97 (m, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.07 (q, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.7, 166.1, 161.1, 146.0, 136.0, 134.7, 133.1, 132.8, 130.8, 130.6, 130.4, 129.9, 127.9, 127.7, 126.0, 125.5, 120.5, 114.3, 63.4, 20.3, 20.1, 14.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 371.1754, found 371.1758.



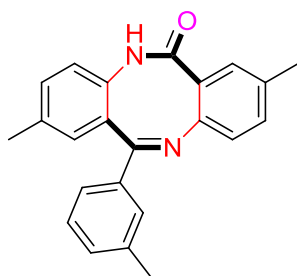
(Z)-12-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one

(3e): Yield 62%; 236.8 mg; yellow solid; mp 286-288 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.92 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.24 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 6H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.2, 166.8, 154.7, 146.3, 136.7, 135.2, 134.0, 133.5, 131.5, 130.7, 129.1, 128.5, 128.3, 125.5, 125.3, 124.4, 121.0, 34.9, 31.1, 20.9, 20.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 383.2118, found 383.2129.



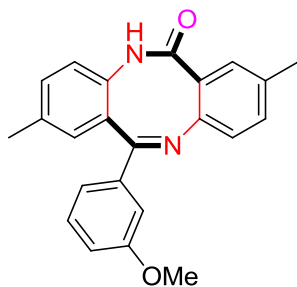
(Z)-12-(4-ethylphenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3f):

Yield 65%; 230.1 mg; yellow solid; mp 256-258 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 8.63 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.0, 166.8, 147.9, 146.3, 136.8, 135.5, 133.9, 133.7, 133.5, 131.5, 130.8, 129.3, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 125.5, 124.4, 121.0, 103.8, 28.8, 20.9, 20.6, 15.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$ 377.1624, found 377.1629.



(Z)-2,8-dimethyl-12-(m-tolyl)dibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3g):

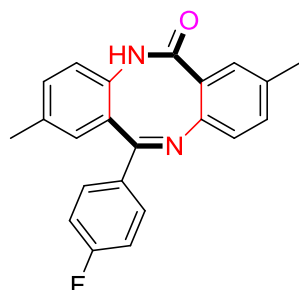
Yield 59%; 200.6 mg; yellow solid; mp 220–222 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) ^1H 8.98 (s, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 3H), 6.87-6.79 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.2, 167.3, 146.2, 138.1, 137.9, 136.8, 134.0, 133.6, 132.0, 131.5, 130.8, 129.4, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 125.5, 124.4, 120.9, 21.3, 20.9, 20.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 341.1648, found 341.1649.



(Z)-12-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3h):

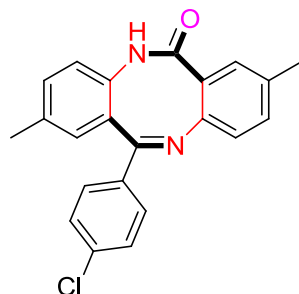
Yield 61%; 217.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 220–222 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.69 (s, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 2H),

7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.06 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.0, 166.7, 159.6, 146.2, 139.3, 136.8, 133.9, 133.6, 133.5, 131.5, 130.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.3, 125.5, 124.3, 122.4, 120.9, 117.5, 113.2, 55.4, 20.9, 20.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 357.1597, found 357.1598.



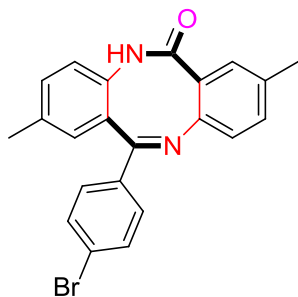
(Z)-12-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3i):

Yield 66%; 227.2 mg; yellow solid; mp 250-252 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.92 (s, 1H), 7.73-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 2H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 170.6, 165.9, 164.9, 163.2, 145.6, 136.2, 134.7, 134.1, 133.3, 132.7, 131.2, 131.1, 130.9, 128.0, 127.6, 125.8, 125.7, 120.4, 115.7, 115.6, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_2\text{O}^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 345.1398, found 345.1402.



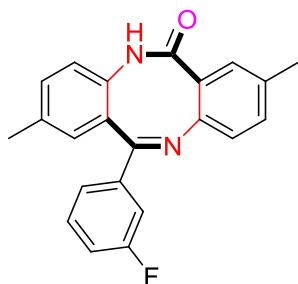
(Z)-12-(4-chlorophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3j):

Yield 64%; 230.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 242-244 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.86 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 170.6, 166.0, 145.4, 136.4, 136.3, 136.2, 134.8, 133.3, 132.5, 130.95, 130.91, 130.3, 128.7, 128.0, 127.6, 125.8, 125.7, 120.4, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 361.1102, found 361.1107.



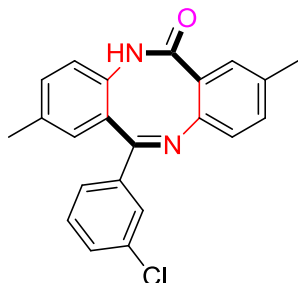
(Z)-12-(4-bromophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3k):

Yield 60%; 243.6 mg; yellow solid; mp 268-270 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 9.34 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 3H), 6.81 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.3, 166.1, 145.9, 136.9, 134.2, 134.1, 133.8, 132.8, 131.5, 131.4, 131.0, 130.6, 128.5, 128.0, 125.9, 125.6, 124.3, 120.8, 20.9, 20.6.; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 407.0597, found 407.0602.



(Z)-12-(3-fluorophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3l):

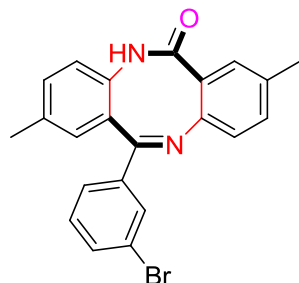
Yield 56%; 192.6 mg; yellow solid; mp 270-272 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.96 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 170.6, 166.0, 163.1, 161.4, 145.3, 140.04, 140.00, 136.3, 134.8, 133.6, 132.5, 131.1, 131.0, 130.8, 128.0, 127.7, 125.8, 125.2, 120.4, 118.5, 118.3, 114.7, 114.5, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 345.1398, found 345.1402.



(Z)-12-(3-chlorophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3m):

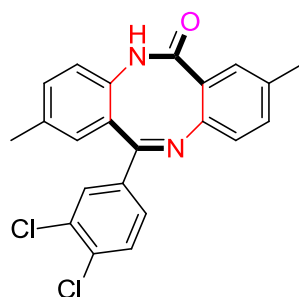
Yield 65 %; 234.5 mg; yellow solid; mp 252-254 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.95 (s, 1H), 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, J =

7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (d, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 170.6, 165.9, 145.3, 139.7, 136.4, 134.8, 133.7, 133.6, 132.4, 131.22, 131.18, 131.0, 130.7, 128.0, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 125.81, 125.76, 120.4, 20.3, 20.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 361.1102, found 361.1096.



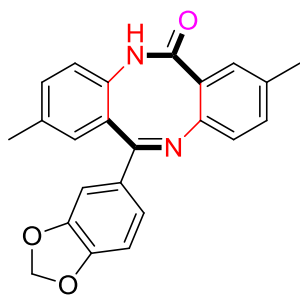
(Z)-12-(3-bromophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3n):

Yield 52%; 211.1 mg; yellow solid; mp 258-260 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.96 (s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 170.5, 165.8, 145.3, 139.8, 136.3, 134.8, 134.0, 133.5, 132.3, 131.1, 130.9, 130.8, 128.0, 127.9, 127.5, 125.8, 125.7, 122.1, 120.4, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 407.0579, found 407.0585.

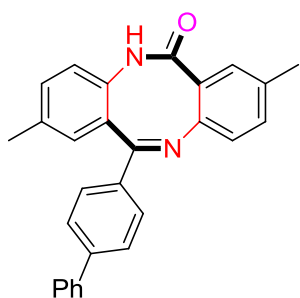


(Z)-12-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3o):

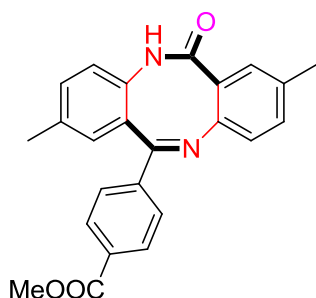
Yield 49%; 193.0 mg; yellow solid; mp 290-292 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6 + \text{CDCl}_3$) δ (ppm) 9.78 (s, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6 + \text{CDCl}_3$) δ (ppm) 170.3, 164.9, 145.0, 137.9, 136.3, 134.8, 134.3, 133.5, 131.8, 131.7, 131.1, 130.85, 130.81, 129.7, 128.6, 127.9, 127.5, 125.7, 125.6, 120.3, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 395.0712, found 395.0718.



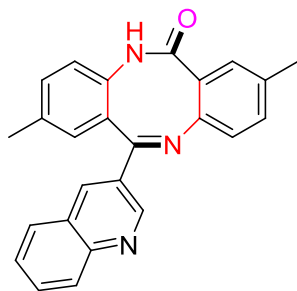
(Z)-12-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3p): Yield 47%; 173.9 mg; yellow solid; mp 265-267 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 9.39 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.12 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.08 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 173.3, 166.0, 150.2, 147.9, 146.3, 136.6, 134.0, 133.4, 133.3, 132.5, 131.4, 130.7, 128.4, 128.2, 125.5, 125.2, 124.5, 120.9, 108.3, 107.5, 101.5, 20.8, 20.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3^+ (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 371.1390, found 371.1395.



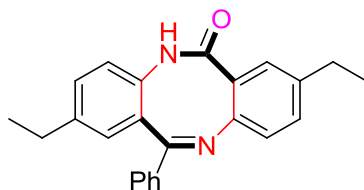
(Z)-12-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2,8-dimethyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3q): Yield 38%; 152.7 mg; yellow solid; mp 264-266 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.78 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 170.7, 166.7, 145.8, 142.9, 139.1, 136.5, 136.1, 134.8, 133.1, 132.9, 130.9, 130.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 126.81, 126.77, 125.9, 125.6, 120.5, 20.3, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+ (\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 403.1805, found 403.1811.



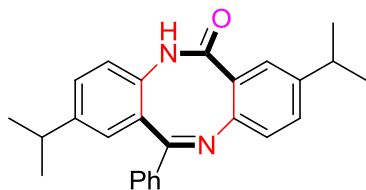
(Z)-methyl 4-(2,8-dimethyl-12-oxo-11,12-dihydrodibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6-yl)benzoate (3r): Yield 53%; 203.5 mg; yellow solid; mp 230-232 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87–6.81 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.26 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 172.5, 166.5, 166.2, 145.8, 141.7, 137.3, 134.2, 133.8, 133.2, 132.2, 131.7, 131.2, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.2, 125.7, 124.0, 120.9, 52.4, 21.0, 20.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₂N₂O₃⁺ (M+H)⁺ 385.1547, found 385.1551.



(E)-2,8-dimethyl-12-(quinolin-3-yl)dibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (3s): Yield 55%; 207.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 295-297 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 9.93 (s, 1H), 9.38 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.10 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 170.5, 165.7, 149.3, 148.3, 145.2, 137.2, 136.6, 134.8, 133.7, 132.1, 131.5, 131.3, 131.1, 130.2, 129.4, 128.8, 128.0, 127.8, 127.6, 126.6, 125.9, 125.8, 120.5, 20.4, 20.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₂₀N₃O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 378.1601, found 378.1606.

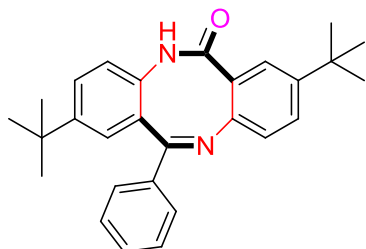


(Z)-2,8-diethyl-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4a): Yield 66%; 234.3 mg; yellow solid; mp 226-226 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 9.83 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06–6.99 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47–2.41 (m, 4H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 170.7, 166.9, 145.9, 142.2, 139.3, 137.6, 134.9, 132.9, 131.4, 129.8, 129.5, 128.64, 128.60, 126.8, 126.7, 125.71, 125.67, 120.5, 27.3, 27.2, 15.1, 15.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₃N₂O⁺ (M+H)⁺ 355.1805, found 355.1810.



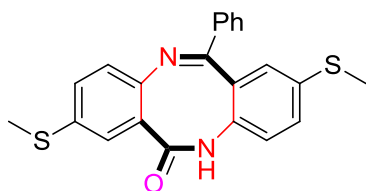
(2-benzoyl-6-methylquinolin-3-yl)(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (4b):

Yield 53%; 202.5 mg; orange solid; mp 224-226 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 9.93 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.85–6.82 (m, 1H), 1.14–1.09 (m, 6H), 1.08–1.06 (m, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.7, 166.7, 146.6, 145.9, 143.9, 137.7, 135.1, 132.7, 131.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6, 125.5, 120.7, 32.6, 32.5, 23.8, 23.7, 23.5, 23.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 383.2118, found 383.2122.



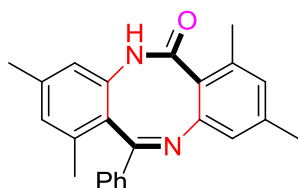
(Z)-2,8-di-tert-butyl-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4c):

Yield 55%; 225.5 mg; yellow solid; mp 244-266 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 1.26 (s, 9H), 1.24 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.8, 166.6, 148.9, 146.2, 145.6, 137.7, 134.8, 132.3, 131.4, 128.7, 128.6, 127.7, 127.2, 125.5, 125.4, 125.0, 124.6, 124.5, 120.7, 113.8, 34.3, 34.1, 31.0, 30.9. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 411.2431, found 411.2430.



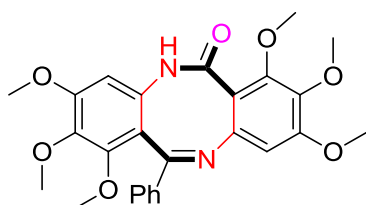
(Z)-2,8-bis(methylthio)-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4d):

Yield 58%; 226.2 mg; yellow solid; mp 219-221 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 169.8, 166.8, 145.2, 137.2, 137.0, 133.8, 133.54, 133.52, 131.7, 128.72, 128.67, 128.1, 127.2, 126.54, 126.46, 124.8, 123.9, 121.3, 14.8, 14.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{OS}_2^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 391.0933, found 391.0940.



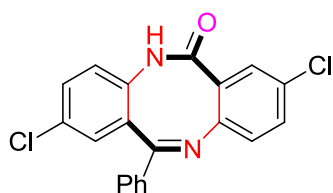
(Z)-1,3,7,9-tetramethyl-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4e):

Yield 52%; 184.1 mg; yellow solid; mp 254-256 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 10.02 (s, 1H), 7.59 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ (ppm) 169.8, 167.7, 149.1, 139.2, 138.6, 137.1, 137.0, 134.8, 131.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.8, 127.7, 126.4, 123.1, 122.7, 116.6, 20.7, 20.5, 19.4, 18.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 355.1805, found 355.1809.



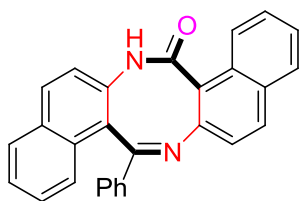
(Z)-1,2,3,7,8,9-hexamethoxy-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4f):

Yield 60%; 286.8 mg; yellow solid; mp 229-231 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 9.49 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.26 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 169.2, 166.2, 154.43, 154.41, 150.7, 150.0, 145.6, 140.5, 138.3, 138.2, 132.5, 130.7, 128.03, 128.02, 120.1, 112.5, 104.1, 99.3, 61.4, 60.7, 60.6, 60.5, 55.9, 55.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_7^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 479.1813, found 479.1820.



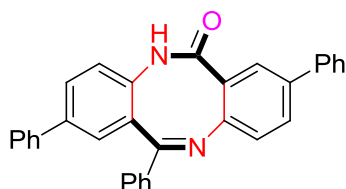
(Z)-2,8-dichloro-12-phenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4g):

Yield 43%; 157.4 mg; yellow solid; mp 257-259 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 10.20 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (s, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 168.7, 166.4, 146.7, 136.4, 135.8, 134.4, 132.0, 131.3, 130.5, 130.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 127.29, 127.26, 122.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{13}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}^+(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ 367.0399, found 367.0404.



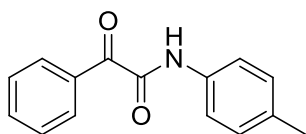
(Z)-16-phenyldinaphtho[2,1-b:2',1'-f][1,5]diazocin-8(7H)-one (4h):

Yield 64%; 254.7 mg; yellow solid; mp > 300°C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 10.64 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.33 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 169.0, 167.2, 146.8, 137.2, 135.6, 131.8, 131.3, 130.5, 130.3, 130.0, 129.7, 129.6, 128.9, 128.34, 128.32, 128.1, 128.0, 127.6, 127.4, 126.2, 125.05, 124.99, 124.4, 123.4, 119.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 399.1492, found 399.1497.



(Z)-2,8,12-triphenyldibenzo[b,f][1,5]diazocin-6(5H)-one (4i):

Yield 58%; 261.3 mg; yellow solid; mp 264-266 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 10.18 (s, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.71-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.53-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.42 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 170.3, 167.0, 147.5, 138.6, 138.2, 138.1, 137.2, 136.4, 135.9, 133.5, 131.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.4, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.2, 125.8, 125.5, 121.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_2\text{O}^+$ ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$ 451.1805, found 451.1810.



2-oxo-2-phenyl-N-(p-tolyl)acetamide (9a):

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 9.02 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm) 187.5, 158.8, 134.8, 134.4, 134.0, 133.0, 131.3, 129.6, 128.4, 119.8, 20.9.

6. Crystallographic data and molecular structure of 3a, 3k

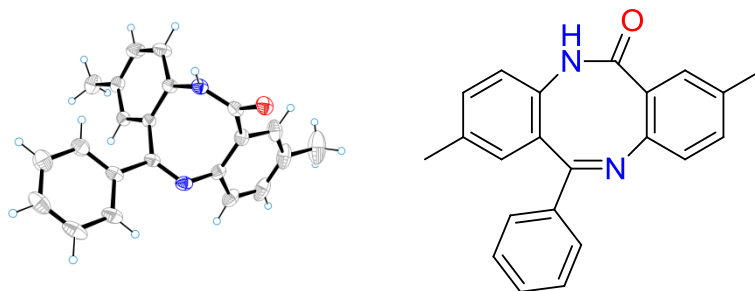


Figure S1. X-ray crystal structure of **3a**

Crystal Data for Compound **3a**: CCDC 2021412 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0027 Å	Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:	a=13.602 (3) alpha=90	b=13.685 (3) beta=99.361 (3)
Temperature:	293 K	c=19.401 (4) gamma=90
Volume	Calculated 3563.3 (13)	Reported 3563.2 (12)
Space group	C 2/c	C 1 2/c 1
Hall group	-C 2yc	-C 2yc
Moiety formula	C22 H18 N2 O	C22 H18 N2 O
Sum formula	C22 H18 N2 O	C22 H18 N2 O
Mr	326.38	326.38
Dx, g cm ⁻³	1.217	1.217
Z	8	8
Mu (mm ⁻¹)	0.075	0.075
F000	1376.0	1376.0
F000'	1376.52	
h, k, lmax	16, 16, 23	16, 16, 23
Nref	3328	3323
Tmin, Tmax	0.985, 0.989	0.669, 0.746
Tmin'	0.985	
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.669 Tmax=0.746		
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN		
Data completeness=	0.998	Theta (max)= 25.500
R(reflections)=	0.0486 (2732)	wR2(reflections)= 0.1557 (3323)
S =	1.057	Npar= 229

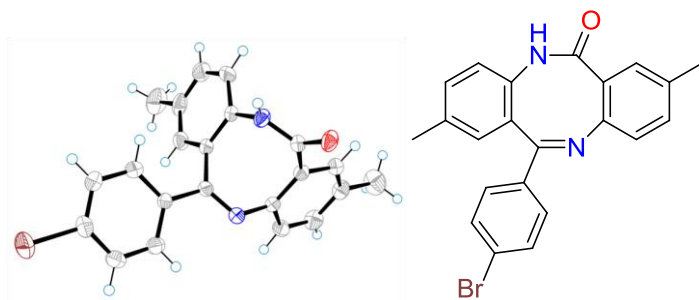


Figure S2. X-ray crystal structure of **3k**

Crystal Data for Compound **3k**: CCDC 2021411 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0057 Å		Wavelength=0.71073	
Cell:	a=8.4050 (19)	b=10.003 (2)	c=15.623 (4)
	alpha=71.488 (4)	beta=78.914 (5)	gamma=66.772 (3)
Temperature:	273 K		
	Calculated	Reported	
Volume	1141.2 (5)	1141.2 (5)	
Space group	P -1	P -1	
Hall group	-P 1	-P 1	
Moiety formula	C22 H17 Br N2 O, C H Cl3	C22 H17 Br N2 O, C H Cl3	
Sum formula	C23 H18 Br Cl3 N2 O	C23 H18 Br Cl3 N2 O	
Mr	524.64	524.65	
Dx, g cm-3	1.527	1.527	
Z	2	2	
Mu (mm-1)	2.170	2.170	
F000	528.0	528.0	
F000'	528.47		
h, k, lmax	10, 12, 18	10, 12, 18	
Nref	4233	4184	
Tmin, Tmax	0.771, 0.805	0.315, 0.746	
Tmin'	0.771		
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.315 Tmax=0.746			
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN			
Data completeness=	0.988	Theta(max)= 25.500	
R(reflections)=	0.0606(3381)	wR2(reflections)= 0.1799(4184)	
S =	1.082	Npar= 273	

7. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds 3, 4, 9a

