

## Supporting Information

### Visible-Light-Promoted Cascade Cyclization towards Benzo[*d*]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazoles under Metal- and Photocatalyst- Free Conditions

Kelu Yan,<sup>\*‡</sup> Min Liu,<sup>‡</sup> Jiangwei Wen, Xiao Liu, Xinyue Wang, Xinyu Chen,  
Jing Li, Shao Wang, Xiu Wang, and Hua Wang\*

Institute of Medicine and Materials Applied Technologies, College of Chemistry and  
Chemical Engineering, Qufu Normal University, Qufu, Shandong 273165, P. R. China.

E-mail: [yankelu317@163.com](mailto:yankelu317@163.com), [huawang@qfnu.edu.cn](mailto:huawang@qfnu.edu.cn)

<sup>‡</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work

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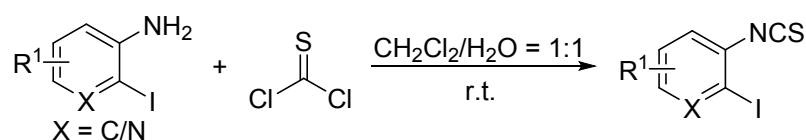
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## 1. Experimental Section:

**General Considerations.** All products were prepared under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk technique.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR data were recorded with Bruker Advance III (500 MHz) spectrometers with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. All chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants ( $J$ ) in Hz. All chemical shifts are reported relative to tetramethylsilane and d-solvent peaks ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 7.26$  ppm,  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 77.00$  ppm.  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$   $\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.50$  ppm,  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 39.52$  ppm.), respectively. Multiplicities are reported as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), doublet of doublets (dd), triplet (t), quartet (q), and multiplet (m). Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 200–300 mesh. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance (254 nm). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were done on Varian 7.0 T FTICR-mass spectrometer. Unless otherwise noted below, all other compounds have been reported in the literature or are commercially available from Aldrich, Acros, Alfa Aesar, and Energy Chemical Company and used as received without any further purification.

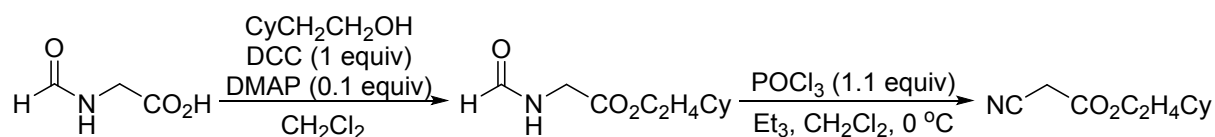
## 2. Synthetic Procedures

### (a) General Procedure for the Preparation of **1c**, **1f**, **1g**, **1m**



A mixture of substituted *o*-iodoarylamines (5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), thiophosgene (10 mmol, 2 equiv) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar.  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h under air. The mixture was quenched with 10 mL of water and extracted 3 times with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL each time), the organic solutions were combined and dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . Then, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether to give the corresponding *o*-iodoarylisothiocyanates (**1c**, **1f**, **1g**, and **1m**).

### (a) General Procedure for the Preparation of **2h**



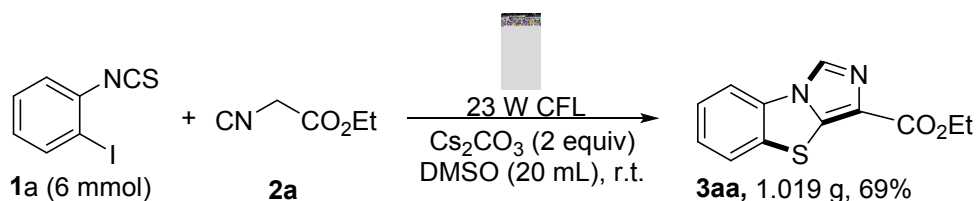
2-Cyclohexylethyl 2-cyanoacetate (**2h**) was prepared according to the previous work.<sup>1</sup> DCC (3.64 g, 17.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and DMAP (215 mg, 1.76 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added in sequence to a stirred suspension of *N*-formyl glycine (2.00 g, 19.4 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and benzyl alcohol (1.8 mL, 1.0 eq) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (60 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 hours at room temperature, then the solids were filtered off and solvents were evaporated. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether to give 2-cyclohexylethyl formylglycinate in 70% yield (2621.6 mg, 12.3 mmol). Then, POCl<sub>3</sub> (0.75 mL, 8 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added dropwise over 20 minutes to a stirred solution of 2-cyclohexylethyl formylglycinate (7.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.4 mL, 17.5 mmol, 2.4 equiv) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) at 0 °C. Upon addition the colorless reaction mixture became turbid and turned orange, then brown. After stirring at 0 °C for 15 minutes, saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution (10 mL) was added and the phases were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted twice with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL), then the collected organic phases were washed with brine, dried over K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and filtered. The mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether to give **2h** in 83% yield (1182.3 mg, 6.06 mmol).

### (c) General Procedure for the Visible-Light-Promoted Preparation of **3**



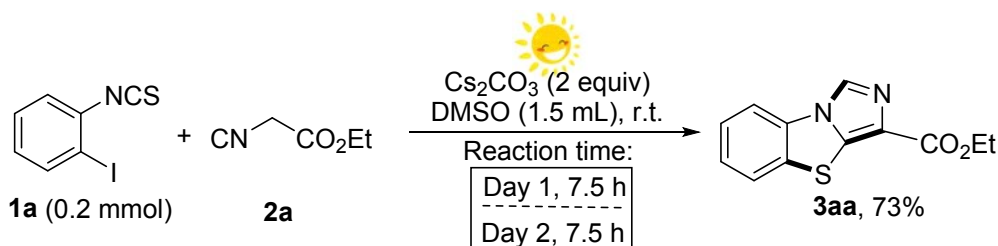
A mixture of substituted *o*-haloarylisothiocyanates (**1**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), isocyanides (**2**) (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) were weighed in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature with the irradiation of a 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) for 15 h under air. Then, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether.

#### (d) Gram-Scale Preparation of **3aa**



A mixture of 1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (**1a**) (1619.5 mg, 6 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl 2-isocyanoacetate (**2a**) (1017.4 mg, 9 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (2 equiv) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (20 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature with the irradiation of a 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) for 15 h under air. Then, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether, the product **3aa** was afforded as a yellow solid in 69% yield (1.019 g, 4.14 mmol).

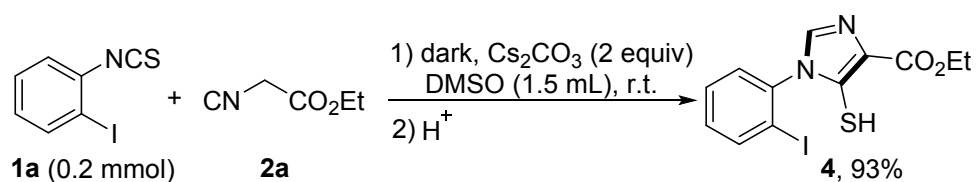
#### (e) Preparation of **3aa** under Natural Light Irradiation



A mixture of 1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl 2-isocyanoacetate (**2a**) (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (2 equiv) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature under sunlight for 15 h under air. Then, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether, the product **3aa** was afforded as a yellow solid in 73% yield (35.9 mg, 0.146 mmol).

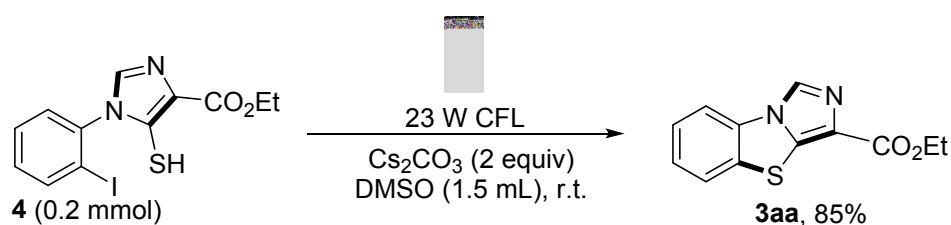
### 3. Mechanism Research

#### (a) Preparation of Intermediate **4**



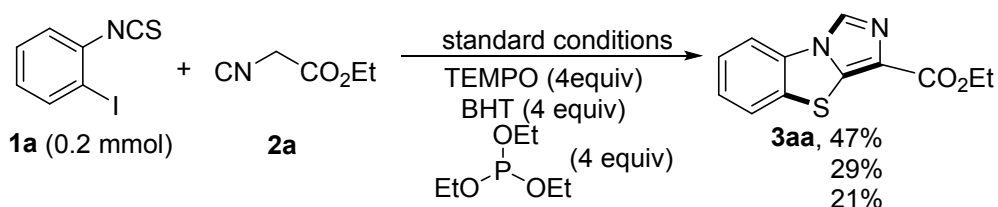
A mixture of 1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl 2-isocyanoacetate (**2a**) (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature under dark for 15 h under air. The mixture was acidified to PH = 5 with hydrochloric acid (1 M), and distributed in water and ethyl acetate. The organic layer was separated and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether, the desired product **4** was afforded as a yellow solid in 93% yield (69.6 mg, 0.186 mmol).

### (b) The Transformation Reaction from **4** to **3aa**



A mixture of ethyl 1-(2-iodophenyl)-5-mercapto-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylate (**4**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature with the irradiation of a 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) for 15 h under air. Then, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether, the product **3aa** was afforded as a yellow solid in 85% yield (41.8 mg, 0.17 mmol).

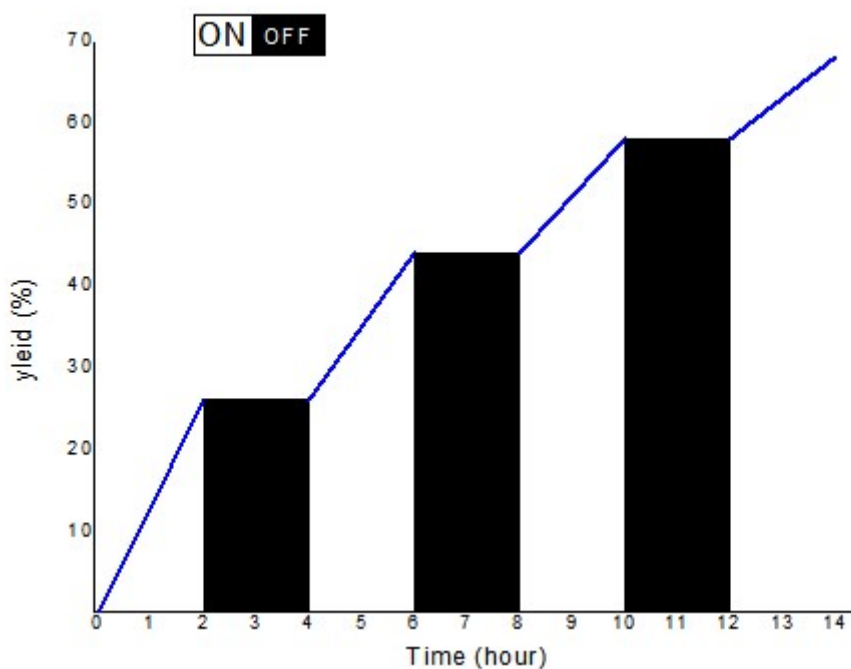
### (c) Free Radical Capture Experiments



A mixture of 1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), ethyl 2-isocyanoacetate (**2a**) (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv), and 4 equiv of TEMPO (or BHT or triethoxyphosphorus) were weighted in a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar. Dry DMSO (1.5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature with the irradiation of a 23 W compact fluorescent light (CFL) for 15 h under air. Then, the mixture

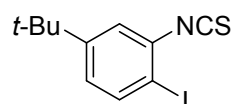
was concentrated in vacuo and the resulting residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc/petroleum ether, the product **3aa** was afforded as a yellow solid in 47% (or 29% or 21%) yield.

#### (d) Visible-light Irradiation ON/OFF Experiment



The reaction between 1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (**1a**) (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and ethyl 2-isocyanoacetate (**2a**) (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was conducted under the standard conditions. The mixture was subjected to sequential periods of stirring under visible light irradiation (23 W compact fluorescent light) followed by stirring in the absence of light. At each time point, one reaction system was suspended, which was then purified with chromatography column on silica gel (EtOAc:petroleum ether: 1:1) to give the corresponding products **3aa**. The yield of **3aa** was measured by weight of the product.

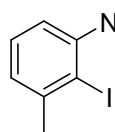
#### 4. Characterization of Compounds **1c**, **1f**, **1g**, **1m**, **2h**, **3**, and **4**



**4-(tert-butyl)-1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (1c)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether) as a white solid in 82% yield (1299.6 mg, 4.1 mmol). Mp: 42 – 43 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H),

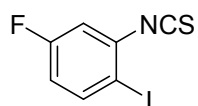
1.30 (s, 9H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 152.1, 137.1, 130.3, 128.4, 126.4, 125.4, 120.4, 34.8, 31.0. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>INS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 317.9808, found: 317.9804.



**2-iodo-1-isothiocyanato-3-methylbenzene (1f)**

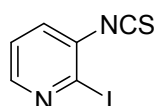
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether) as a white solid in 79% yield (1086.0 mg, 3.95 mmol). Mp: 66 – 67 °C.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 143.9, 135.9, 135.2, 128.6, 127.9, 124.2, 100.9, 29.2. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>INS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 275.9338, found: 275.9341.



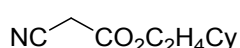
**4-fluoro-1-iodo-2-isothiocyanatobenzene (1g)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether) as a white solid in 76% yield (1056.7 mg, 3.8 mmol). Mp: 74 – 75 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 7.74 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.00 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 6.78 – 6.74 (m, 1H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.7 (d, *J* = 250.4 Hz), 140.2 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 138.0, 136.2 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 116.2 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz), 114.4 (d, *J* = 25.3 Hz), 87.7 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz). **<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):** δ -111.3. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>FINS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 279.9088, found: 279.9086.



**2-iodo-3-isothiocyanatopyridine (1m)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: petroleum ether) as a white solid in 71% yield (929.8 mg, 3.55 mmol). Mp: 60 – 61 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.19 – 8.19 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.41 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.26 (m, 1H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 147.6, 139.4, 134.0, 132.8, 123.1, 117.9. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 262.9134, found: 262.9131.

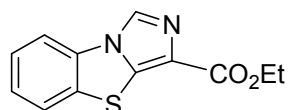


**ethyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-b]thiazole-3-carboxylate (2h)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 5/1) as a pale yellow oil in 58% total yield. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 4.24 – 4.17 (m, 4H), 1.69 – 1.59 (m, 5H), 1.53 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.37 – 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.22 – 1.08 (m, 3H),

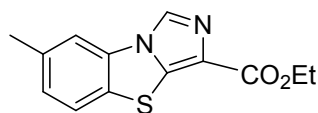


0.94 – 0.85 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 163.9, 160.9, 64.8, 43.4, 35.5, 34.2, 32.8, 26.2, 25.9. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 196.1332, found: 196.1335.



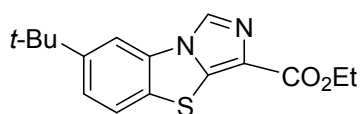
**ethyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-b]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3aa)<sup>2</sup>**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 78% yield (38.4 mg, 0.156 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.3, 133.6, 130.9, 127.5, 126.5, 126.3, 124.6, 122.7, 113.3, 60.7, 14.4.



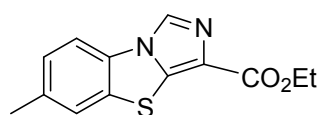
**ethyl 7-methylbenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-b]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ba)<sup>3</sup>**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 77% yield (40.0 mg, 0.154 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.4, 137.6, 137.2, 131.1, 130.4, 127.6, 127.2, 124.2, 122.6, 113.8, 60.7, 21.4, 14.5.



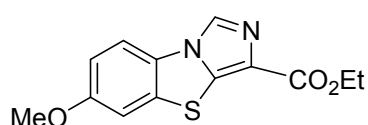
**ethyl 7-(tert-butyl)benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-b]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ca)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 81% yield (48.9 mg, 0.162 mmol). Mp: 145 – 146 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.69 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.37 (s, 9H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.5, 161.2, 150.3, 133.7, 128.9, 127.3, 124.2, 122.7, 121.2, 112.8, 60.8, 35.2, 31.4, 14.5. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 303.1162, found: 303.1158.



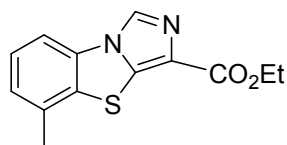
ethyl 6-methylbenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate  
(3da)<sup>2</sup>

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 83% yield (43.2 mg, 0.166 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.44 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.4, 137.1, 136.8, 133.7, 129.0, 127.5, 127.2, 124.6, 122.7, 112.9, 60.7, 21.3, 14.5.



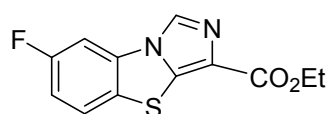
ethyl 6-methoxybenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ea)<sup>2</sup>

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 74% yield (40.9 mg, 0.148 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.4, 158.3, 136.9, 135.1, 127.1, 125.2, 122.9, 113.9, 113.8, 108.6, 60.7, 56.0, 14.5.



ethyl 5-methylbenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3fa)

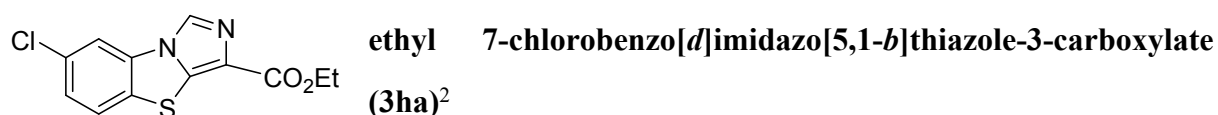
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 72% yield (37.4 mg, 0.144 mmol). Mp: 170 – 171 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.28 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.4, 134.6, 133.6, 130.8, 127.4, 126.9, 126.6, 122.7, 110.8, 60.8, 19.7, 14.5. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 261.0692, found: 261.0690.



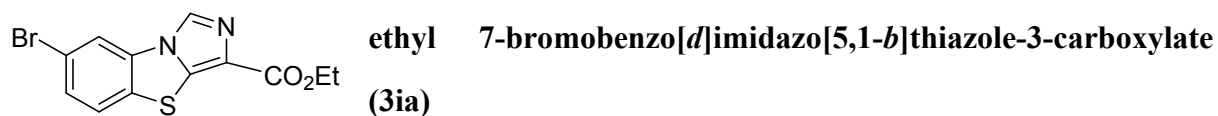
ethyl 7-fluorobenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate  
(3ga)<sup>2</sup>

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 66% yield (34.9 mg, 0.132 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ

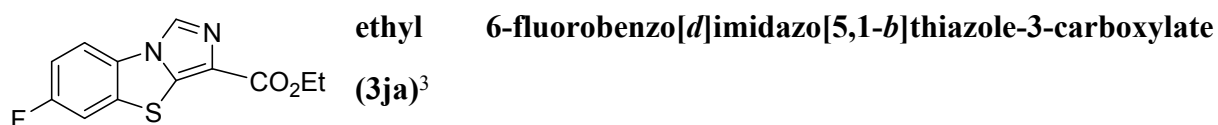
8.27 (s, 1H), 7.66 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 4.42 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.1, 161.3 (d,  $J = 247.7$  Hz), 138.1, 131.5 (d,  $J = 11.3$  Hz), 128.7 (d,  $J = 2.5$  Hz), 127.4, 125.5 (d,  $J = 9.3$  Hz), 122.9, 114.3 (d,  $J = 23.8$  Hz), 101.6 (d,  $J = 27.9$  Hz), 60.9, 14.4.  **$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):**  $\delta$  -112.7.



The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 70% yield (39.2 mg, 0.140 mmol).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.2, 137.5, 132.7, 132.0, 131.7, 127.4, 126.8, 125.4, 123.0, 113.9, 60.9, 14.5.

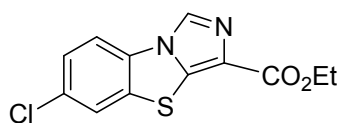


The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 72% yield (46.6 mg, 0.144 mmol). Mp: 187 – 188 °C.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.30 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.2, 136.7, 135.6, 130.1, 129.8, 127.6, 127.3, 123.1, 119.4, 114.4, 61.0, 14.5. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 324.9641 and 326.9620, found: 324.9645 and 326.9624.



The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 62% yield (32.7 mg, 0.124 mmol).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.27 (s, 1H), 7.76 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 4.43 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.2, 160.5 (d,  $J = 248.1$  Hz), 137.12, 135.3 (d,  $J = 10.0$  Hz), 127.7, 127.4, 123.2, 114.4 (d,

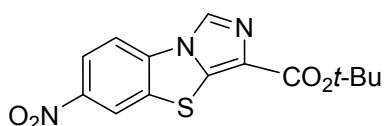
$J = 25.0$  Hz), 114.2 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz), 111.7 (d,  $J = 27.4$  Hz), 60.9, 14.5.  **$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):**  $\delta$  -113.4.



**ethyl 6-chlorobenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ka)<sup>3</sup>**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a vermeil solid in 70% yield (39.2 mg, 0.140 mmol).

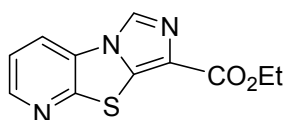
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.29 (s, 1H), 7.72 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.1, 136.8, 135.2, 132.1, 129.6, 127.5, 127.0, 124.3, 123.0, 114.1, 60.9, 14.4.



**tert-butyl 6-nitrobenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3le)<sup>2</sup>**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 48% yield (30.6 mg, 0.096 mmol).

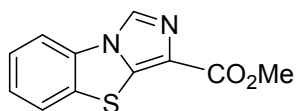
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.66 (s, 1H), 8.46 – 8.34 (m, 2H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 9H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  161.0, 145.7, 135.3, 135.0, 128.1, 128.0, 122.6, 120.7, 113.7, 82.1, 28.3.



**ethyl imidazo[5',1':2,3]thiazolo[5,4-*b*]pyridine-8-carboxylate (3ma)<sup>2</sup>**

The mixture in the title were obtained by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solids in 76% yield (37.6 mg, 0.152 mmol).

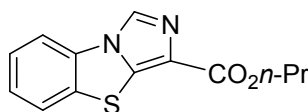
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.58 (d,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.07 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 4.45 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.45 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.1, 156.2, 147.6, 134.5, 128.4, 126.4, 123.9, 121.6, 120.7, 120.3, 61.0, 14.5.



**methyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ab)<sup>2</sup>**

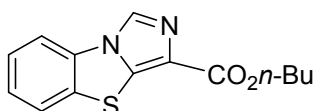
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 80% yield (37.1 mg, 0.160 mmol).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.29 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H),

7.47 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.7, 137.2, 133.6, 131.0, 127.4, 126.6, 126.4, 124.7, 122.5, 113.4, 51.9.



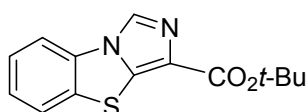
**propyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ac)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 84% yield (43.7 mg, 0.168 mmol). Mp: 124 – 125 °C.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.30 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.33 – 4.30 (m, 2H), 1.85 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.3, 136.9, 133.5, 130.9, 127.4, 126.5, 126.3, 124.5, 122.7, 113.3, 66.3, 22.1, 10.5. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 261.0692, found: 261.0688.



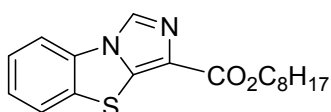
**butyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ad)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 75% yield (41.1 mg, 0.150 mmol). Mp: 120 – 121 °C.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.30 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  162.3, 137.0, 133.6, 131.0, 127.4, 126.5, 126.4, 124.6, 122.7, 113.3, 64.6, 30.8, 19.2, 13.7. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 275.0849, found: 275.0843.



**tert-butyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ae)<sup>2</sup>**

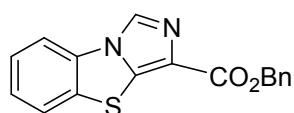
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 77% yield (42.2 mg, 0.154 mmol).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.28 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.64 (s, 9H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  161.3, 136.2, 133.3, 130.8, 127.2, 126.2, 126.0, 124.2, 123.6, 113.2, 81.1, 28.2.



**octyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3af)**

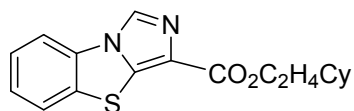
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 70% yield (46.2 mg, 0.140 mmol).

Mp: 112 – 113 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.48 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.23 (m, 8H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.3, 136.9, 133.6, 131.0, 127.4, 126.5, 126.4, 124.6, 122.7, 113.3, 64.9, 31.7, 29.2, 29.1, 28.8, 25.9, 22.6, 14.0. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 331.1475, found: 331.1470.



**benzyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ag)**

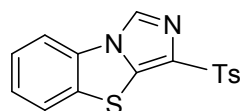
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a vermeil solid in 81% yield (49.9 mg, 0.162 mmol). Mp: 188 – 189 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (s, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 161.9, 137.3, 136.1, 133.5, 130.9, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 126.5, 126.4, 124.6, 122.3, 113.3, 66.3. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 309.0692, found: 309.0687.



**2-cyclohexylethyl benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-carboxylate (3ah)**

**benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole-3-**

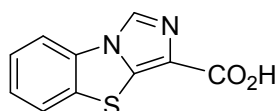
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 72% yield (47.2 mg, 0.144 mmol). Mp: 141 – 142 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.82 – 1.60 (m, 8H), 1.51 – 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.22 – 1.10 (m, 2H), 1.00 – 0.92 (m, 2H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):** δ 162.3, 133.6, 131.0, 127.5, 126.5, 126.4, 124.6, 122.7, 113.4, 63.0, 58.3, 36.1, 34.4, 33.1, 26.4, 26.1, 18.3. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 329.1318, found: 329.1313.



**3-tosylbenzo[d]imidazo[5,1-*b*]thiazole (3ai)<sup>3</sup>**

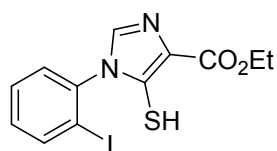
The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 65% yield (42.6 mg, 0.130 mmol). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz):** δ 8.96 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz,

1H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2H), 2.36 (s, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  144.2, 138.3, 135.2, 132.2, 130.9, 130.7, 130.0, 128.4, 127.0, 126.8, 126.8, 125.2, 114.6, 21.0.



**benzo[d]imidazo[5,1-b]thiazole-3-carboxylic acid (3aj)<sup>2</sup>**

The title compound was isolated by acidification to PH 5–6 and filtration as a white solid in 61% yield (26.6 mg, 0.122 mmol).  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  8.88 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  163.2, 136.3, 132.7, 131.0, 129.4, 126.8, 126.3, 125.1, 122.4, 114.3.



**ethyl 5-mercapto-1-phenyl-1H-imidazole-4-carboxylate (4)**

The title compound was isolated by column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1/1) as a yellow solid in 93% yield (69.6 mg, 0.186 mmol). Mp: 126 – 127 °C.  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):**  $\delta$  9.85 (s, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.81 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.47 (q,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.44 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H).  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):**  $\delta$  164.8, 153.9, 141.9, 140.1, 135.6, 129.4, 125.3, 124.7, 116.9, 90.6, 61.1, 14.5. **HRMS (ESI):** Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>IN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 374.9659, found: 374.9654.

## 5. References:

- (1) Franchino, A.; Jakubec, P.; Dixon, D. *J. Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2016**, *14*, 93–96.
- (2) Yan, K.; Yang, D.; Wei, W.; Sun, P.; Lu, Y.; Wang, H. *Org. Chem. Front.* **2016**, *3*, 556–560.
- (3) Hao, W.; Sang, X.; Jiang, J.; Cai, M. *Tetrahedron Letters* **2016**, *57*, 1511–1514.

## 6. Spectral Copies of $^1\text{H}$ , $^{13}\text{C}$ of Compounds Obtained in This Study

