Supporting Information

δ-Cyano Substituted *para*-Quinone Methides Enables Access to Unsymmetric Tri- and Tetraarylmethanes Containing All-Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters

Yue Qi, Fang Zhang, Lin Wang, Aili Feng, Rongxiu Zhu, Shutao Sun, Wei Li and Lei Liu

Table of contents

Table of contents	S2
General information	S3
Substrate preparation	S4
Analytical data for products	\$15
Synthetic utilities	
Computation details	\$36
Notes and references	\$37
NMR spectra	

General information

Proton (¹H NMR) nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded at 500 MHz respectively. Carbon (¹³C NMR) nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded at 126 MHz respectively. The chemical shifts are given in parts per million (ppm) on the delta (δ) scale. The solvent peak was used as a reference value, for ¹H NMR: CDCl₃ = 7.26 ppm, (CD₃)₂CO = 2.05 ppm; for ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ = 77.23 ppm, (CD₃)₂CO = 206.23 ppm/29.82ppm. Analytical TLC was performed on precoated silica gel GF254 plates. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (200–300 mesh). HRMS were carried out on an Orbitrap analyzer.

Substrate preparation



Regent and condition:(**a**) ArMgBr (1.0 equiv), THF, 0 °C; (**b**) $InCl_3$ (0.1 equiv), TMSCN (1.3 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C; (**c**) Pd/C (10%), MeOH, hydrogen balloon, r.t; (**d**) DDQ (1.0 equiv), CH₂Cl₂, rt.

To a solution of S-1 (10.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF at 0 °C was added a freshly prepared solution of ArMgBr (1.0 M, 10 mL) in THF dropwise under N₂. After stirred at the same temperature for 0.5h, the reaction was warmed up to room temperature slowly and stirred for 2 h. Upon completion, the mixture was quenched dropwise by a saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (15 mL). The organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and removed under vacuum to afford crude S-2.

To a mixture of InCl₃ (1.0 mmol, 0.1 equiv) and TMSCN (13.0 mmol, 1.3 equiv) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added a solution of **S-2** in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) dropwise at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred at the same temperature and monitored by TLC until the complete conversion. Then it was quenched by saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL) and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by a column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether as eluent to give **S-3**. The product **S-3** was dissolved in 20 mL MeOH solution, and 10% Pd/C (10 wt % of the substrate) was added. The mixture was stirred overnight under a hydrogen balloon at room temperature before it was filtered through a Celite pad. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by a column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether as eluent to give S-4.

To a solution of S-4 in CH_2Cl_2 (20.0 mL) was added DDQ (1.0 equiv) and it was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Then the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether as eluent to afford product 1.



2-(4-Oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-phenylacetonitrile (1a)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.50 (m, 5H), 7.48 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.6, 139.8, 137.1, 134.6, 132.1, 131.6, 131.5, 131.4, 130.6, 129.5, 124.1, 117.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₁₀NO [M + H]⁺ 208.0757, found 208.0752.



2-(3,5-Dimethyl-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-phenylacetonitrile (1b)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (dd, J = 2.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53–7.47 (m, 5H), 7.21 (dd, J = 2.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 2.02 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 187.1, 140.6, 139.9, 139.9, 133.3, 132.6, 130.7, 130.7, 130.6, 129.3, 120.1, 117.9, 17.0, 16.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₁₄NO [M + H]⁺ 236.1070, found 236.1073.



2-(3-Methyl-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-phenylacetonitrile (1c)

1c was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of the Z/E isomers. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.47 (m, 9H), 7.40 (dd, J =10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H), 2.03 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.9, 186.8, 140.5, 140.4, 140.3, 140.2, 136.7, 134.2, 133.6, 132.4, 132.3, 131.3, 131.3, 131.0, 130.6, 130.5, 129.4, 129.4, 122.0, 117.6, 16.8, 16.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₂NO [M + H]⁺ 222.0913, found 222.0909.



2-(3-bromo-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-phenylacetonitrile (1d)

1d was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of the Z/E isomers. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.66–7.42 (m, 11H), 6.75 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.1, 179.1, 139.6, 139.4, 138.4, 137.0, 136.1, 134.7, 131.9, 131.9, 131.9, 130.7, 130.7, 130.7, 130.6, 130.5, 130.2, 129.7, 129.6, 124.7, 124.6, 117.1, 117.0, 100.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉BrNO [M + H]⁺ 285.9862, found 285.9865.



2-(3-Chloro-4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-phenylacetonitrile (1e)

1e was obtained as a 1:1 mixture of the Z/E isomers. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.54 (m, 5H), 7.54–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.48 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, J =9.9 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.1, 179.0, 139.2, 139.0, 137.5, 137.3, 136.9, 134.7, 134.3, 132.1, 131.9, 131.8, 131.1, 131.1, 130.7, 130.6, 129.7, 129.6, 124.9, 124.8, 117.0, 116.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉ClNO [M + H]⁺ 242.0367, found 242.0372.



2-(4-Oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-(p-tolyl)acetonitrile (4a)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 142.5, 139.2, 137.3, 134.9, 131.4, 131.4, 130.7, 130.2, 129.4, 124.5, 117.4, 21.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₂NO [M + H]⁺ 222.0913, found222.0916.



2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4b) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.66–7.60 (m, 4H), 7.58 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.41 (m, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 144.5, 139.6, 139.5, 137.2, 134.7, 131.5, 131.3, 131.0, 129.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.4, 123.9, 117.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₀H₁₄NO [M + H]⁺ 284.1070, found 284.1066.



2-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4c) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (hept, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.6, 153.0, 139.0, 137.1, 134.7, 131.2, 131.2, 130.7, 129. 6, 127.5, 124.4, 117.2, 34.2, 23.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₇H₁₆NO [M + H]⁺ 250.1226, found 250.1229.



2-(4-(*tert***-Butyl)phenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4d)** ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 2H), 6.61 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 155.5, 139.2, 137.2, 134.9, 131.3, 131.3, 130.6, 129.4, 126.5, 124.4, 117.3, 35.3, 31.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₈NO [M + H]⁺ 264.1383, found 264.1378.



2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4e)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.5, 140.1, 138.1, 136.9, 134.1, 131.8, 131.8, 130.5, 129.9, 122.6, 116.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉ClNO [M + H]⁺ 242.0367, found 242.0365.



2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4f)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.62 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.6, 164.3 (d, J = 255.0 Hz), 139.9, 136.9, 134.2, 132.9, 132.8, 131.7 (d, J = 2.8 Hz), 128.2 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 117.1, 116.9 (d, J = 22.3 Hz); HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉FNO [M + H]⁺ 226.0663, found 226.0666.



2-(4-Oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetonitrile (4g)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.4, 141.2, 136.7, 135.4, 133.8, 133.1 (q, J = 33.2 Hz), 132.2, 132.1, 130.9, 126.6 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 123.6 (q, J = 272.6 Hz), 121. 9, 116.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₉F₃NO [M + H]⁺ 276.0631, found 276.0635.



2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4h) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.6Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 6.60 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.8, 139.5, 139.4, 137.2, 135.0, 133.3, 132.1, 131.5, 131.3, 128.4, 124.79, 117.4, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{16}H_{14}NO [M + H]^+$ 236.1070, found 236.1067.



2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4i)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.37–7.31 (m, 2H), 6.56 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.5, 140.7, 136.8 135.7, 134.0, 133.6, 132.0, 131.9, 131.5, 130.8, 130.3, 128.7, 122.1, 116.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉ClNO [M + H]⁺ 242.0367, found 242.0365.



2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4j)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.4, 162.8 (d, J = 250.3 Hz), 140.6, 136.8, 134.1, 133.7 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 131.9, 131.8, 131.2 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 126.3 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 122.2, 118.4 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 117.4 (d, J = 23.4 Hz), 116.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₄H₉FNO [M + H]⁺ 226.0663, found 226.0667.



2-(4-Oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)-2-(o-tolyl)acetonitrile (4k)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 16.8, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 141.6, 137.4, 136.4, 134.5, 131.9, 131.5, 131.4, 131.0, 130.9, 130.7, 126.7, 123.4, 116.4, 20.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₅H₁₂NO [M +H]⁺ 222.0913, found 222.0915.



2-(Naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4l)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.86 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.47 (dd, J = 7.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, J = 10.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.7, 142.5, 136.4, 136.0, 134.8, 134.3, 133.9, 133.3, 131.9, 131.8, 131.7, 131.3, 131.1, 130.0, 129.6, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 126.7, 125.3, 124.9, 124.7, 124.2, 122.2, 120.8, 117.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₂NO [M + H]⁺ 258.0913, found 258.0910.



2-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-2-(4-oxocyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-ylidene)acetonitrile (4m)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.96–7.87 (m, 3H), 7.6–7.55 (m, 4H), 6.64 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, J = 10.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.6, 139.8, 137.2, 134.9, 134.2, 132.9, 131.7, 131.6, 131.6, 129.5, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 126.5, 124.3, 117.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₂NO [M + H]⁺ 258.0913, found 258.0917.

General procedure

To a solution of **1** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (3.0 mL) was successively added $Bi(OTf)_3$ (0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv) and **2** (0.12 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at rt. The mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 20 min. Then the mixture was concentrated and purified by a flash column chromatography to give the desired product.

Analytical data for products



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (3a)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **3a** (25.3 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.78 (m, 2H), 6.41–6.32 (m, 1H), 6.04 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 139.6, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.2, 115.8, 112.5, 106.3, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₂NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 274.0874, found 274.0878.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (3b)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **3b** (25.7 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 6.38–6.34 (m, 1H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 2.21 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.3, 151.4, 143.7, 138.7, 129.6, 128.7, 128.3, 128.1, 127.9, 123.3, 120.7, 111.0, 110.4, 52.0, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₀H₁₆NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 302.1187, found 302.1182.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methylphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (3c)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **3c** (24.8 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.41–6.35 (m, 1H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.2, 151.2, 143.8, 138.6, 130.5, 130.0, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 124.6, 120.7, 115.1, 111.2, 110.5, 52.1, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₄NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 288.1030, found 288.1034.



2-(3-Bromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (3d)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **3d** (29.7 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.37 (m, 4H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.44–6.35 (m, 1H), 6.14–6.06 (m, 1H), 5.89 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.8, 150.7, 144.3, 138.1, 132.0, 131.7, 129.1, 129.1, 129.0, 128.0, 120.2, 116.5, 111.6, 110.8, 110.7, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁BrNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 351.9979, found 351.9976.



2-(3-Chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (3e)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **3e** (27.2 mg, 88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.33–6.28 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 139.6, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.2, 115.8, 112.5, 106.3, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁ClNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 308.0484, found 308.0480.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(p-tolyl)acetonitrile (5a)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5a** (25.7 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.10 (m, 6H), 6.84–6.79 (m, 2H), 6.38–6.32 (m, 1H), 6.03 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.7, 151.4, 143.7, 138.3, 135.6, 130.7, 129.4, 129.4, 127.7, 120.6, 115.5, 111.0, 110.4, 51.7, 21.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₄NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 288.1030, found 288.1033.



2-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5b)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5b** (30.9 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 7.77–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.72–7.68 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.95–6.90 (m, 2H), 6.51 (m, 1H), 6.11 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 139.6, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.2, 115.8, 112.5, 106.3, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₄H₁₆NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 350.1187, found 350.1185.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(4-isopropylphenyl)acetonitrile (5c)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5c** (27.9 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.84–6.79 (m, 2H), 6.39–6.31 (m, 1H), 6.03 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.95–2.87 (m, 1H), 1.25 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 151.6, 149.4, 143.9, 135.9, 130.7, 129.5, 127.9, 127.0, 120.8, 115.8, 111.2, 110.7, 51.9, 33.9, 24.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₁H₁₈NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 316.1343, found 316.1348.



2-(4-(Tert-butyl)phenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5d)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5d** (28.7 mg, 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (dd, J = 1.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.11 (m, 4H), 6.84–6.80 (m, 2H), 6.38–6.32 (m, 1H), 6.04 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 151.9, 151.9, 144.2, 135.9, 131.1, 129.8, 127.9, 126.1, 121.0, 116.0, 111.4, 110.9, 52.1, 35.0, 31.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₂₀NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 330.1500, found 330.1504.



2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5e)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5e** (27.2 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.11–7.05 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.53–6.48 (m, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 150.8, 144.2, 137.3, 134.8, 130.1, 129.5, 129.5, 129.1, 120.3, 115.9, 111.5, 110.8, 51.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁ClNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 308.0484, found 308.0487.



2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5f)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5f** (27.0 mg,93%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 7.71–7.67 (m, 1H), 7.32–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.09–7.04 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.52–6.44 (m, 1H), 6.07 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.6 (d, J = 248.8 Hz), 156.2, 151.0, 144.1, 134.4 (d, J = 3.3 Hz), 130.2, 129.8 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 129.4, 120.6, 116.0, 115.8 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 111.4, 110.7, 51.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁FNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 292.0779, found 292.0776.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetonitrile (5g)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5g** (29.3 mg, 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14–7.07 (m, 2H), 6.87–6.80 (m, 2H), 6.41–6.35 (m, 1H), 6.09 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 156.1, 150.4, 144.4, 142.6, 131.1, 129.9, 129.6, 128.6, 126.0 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 120.0, 116.0, 111.6, 110.9, 52.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₁F₃NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 342.0747, found 342.0743.



2-(3,5-Dimethylphenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5h)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5h** (26.7 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51–7.43 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.89–6.77 (m, 4H), 6.40–6.32 (m, 1H), 6.07–6.01 (m, 1H), 2.28 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.6, 151.4, 143.7, 138.4, 138.2, 130.7, 130.1, 129.4, 128.7, 127.9, 125.6, 120.7, 115.5, 111.0, 110.4, 51.9, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₀H₁₆NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 302.1187, found 302.1192.



2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5i)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5i** (27.2 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 7.78–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.97–6.88 (m, 2H), 6.57–6.46 (m, 1H), 6.13 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 150.3, 144.1, 140.4, 134.8, 130.0, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 128.0, 126.1, 120.0, 115.8, 111.4, 110.6, 51.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁ClNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 308.0484, found 308.0493.



2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-(furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetonitrile (5j)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5j** (26.6 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.02 (m, 4H), 6.98–6.90 (m, 1H), 6.89–6.79 (m, 2H), 6.42–6.33 (m, 1H), 6.07 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.9 (d, J = 247.6 Hz), 156.1, 150.7, 144.2, 141.1 (d, J = 7.1 Hz), 130.5 (d, J = 8.3 Hz), 130.0, 129.5, 123.8 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 120.2, 115.9, 115.8 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 23.8 Hz), 111.5, 110.8, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁FNO₂ [M - H]⁻ 292.0779, found 292.0766.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(o-tolyl)acetonitrile (5k)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5k** (26.1 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 7.72 (dd, J = 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.56 (dd, J = 7.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.51–6.47 (m, 1H), 5.97 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.4, 152.5, 144.9, 138.0, 137.8, 133.4, 129.6, 129.6, 129.1, 129.0, 127.0, 120.3, 116.5, 116.4, 112.0,

111.7, 51.8, 20.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{19}H_{14}NO_2$ [M - H]⁻ 288.1030, found 288.1042.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(naphthalen-1-yl)acetonitrile (5l)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:9) as eluent to afford **5I** (29.7 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.03–7.95 (m, 3H), 7.78–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.56–6.52 (m, 1H), 6.04 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.4, 152.5, 144.9, 135.6, 135.1, 131.1, 130.8, 130.0, 129.6, 129.5, 128.1, 126.9, 126.7, 126.2, 125.8, 120.8, 116.6, 112.2, 111.8, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₄NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 324.1030, found 324.1020.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)acetonitrile (5m)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **5m** (27.8 mg, 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86–7.79 (m, 3H), 7.70 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 2H), 6.85–6.81 (m, 2H), 6.40–6.35 (m, 1H), 6.10 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.0, 151.0, 143.9, 135.7, 132.9, 132.9, 130.1, 129.5, 128.7, 128.4, 127.6,

127.0, 127.0, 126.7, 125.4, 120.6, 115.7, 111.3, 110.6, 52.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{22}H_{14}NO_2$ [M - H]⁻ 324.1030, found 324.1036.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7a)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7a** (24.7 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.85–6.79 (m, 2H), 5.95–5.91 (m, 1H), 5.82 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 0.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.0, 154.1, 149.2, 138.8, 130.6, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 128.0, 121.0, 115.7, 112.3, 106.6, 52.3, 13.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₄NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 288.1030, found 288.1039.



2-(Benzofuran-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7b)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7b** (27.6 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.77 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.44 (m, 3H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.19 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.96–6.92 (m, 2H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 155.7, 154.1, 138.1, 136.6, 130.0, 129.7, 129.1,

128.8, 128.2, 127.6, 125.3, 123.5, 121.5, 120.4, 115.9, 111.9, 108.4, 52.7; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{22}H_{14}NO_2$ [M - H]⁻ 324.1030, found 324.1023.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)acetonitrile (7c)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7c** (24.7 mg, 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 7.57 (dd, J = 5.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49–7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.07 (m, 3H), 6.96–6.88 (m, 3H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 144.6, 140.8, 132.8, 129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.1, 127.1, 122.6, 115.7, 53.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₂NOS [M - H]⁻ 290.0645, found 290.0649.



2-(5-Bromothiophen-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7d)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7d** (29.7 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 3H), 6.94–6.89 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 145.8, 140.1, 132.0, 129.9, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 128.9, 128.0, 122.0, 115.8, 114.2, 53.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₁BrNOS [M - H]⁻ 367.9750, found 367.9755.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenyl-2-(5-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)acetonitrile (7e)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7e** (30.1 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.27 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.22 (m, 9H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.77–6.71 (m, 2H), 6.43–6.25 (m, 1H), 5.79–5.73 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 139.6, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5, 130.1, 129.7, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.2, 115.8, 112.5, 106.3, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₄H₁₇N₂O [M - H]⁻ 349.1346, found 349.1341.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(5-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7f)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7f** (25.4 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.40–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.19–7.06 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.72 (m, 2H), 5.87–5.74 (m, 1H), 5.65 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.9, 139.6, 134.0, 132.1, 131.5, 130.1, 129.6, 129.6, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 126.9, 126.4, 124.1, 122.2, 115.8, 112.5, 106.3, 51.9; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₅N₂O [M - H]⁻ 287.1190, found 287.1195.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7g)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7g** (29.5 mg, 91%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 11.26 (s, 1H), 9.68 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 3H), 6.97–6.92 (m, 1H), 6.82–6.76 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 157.1, 140.1, 137.1, 129.7, 128.8, 128.8, 128.0, 127.5, 126.1, 124.7, 122.6, 121.8, 119.4, 119.3, 115.5, 114.5, 112.2, 50.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₅N₂O [M - H]⁻ 323.1190, found 323.1187.



2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7h)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7h** (25.0 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.67 (s, 2H), 7.47–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.28–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.07–6.98 (m, 4H), 6.90–6.85 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.0, 157.9, 142.2, 132.3, 130.6, 129.4, 129.2, 128.7, 124.5, 116.2, 116.1, 56.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₀H₁₄NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 300.1030, found 300.1027.



2-(4-Hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7i) It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7i** (28.3 mg, 90%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.07–6.99 (m, 2H), 6.84–6.75 (m, 4H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 2.18 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.6, 152.1, 140.9, 132.6, 131.8, 130.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.1, 124.2, 123.5, 115.6, 56.3, 16.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₈NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 328.1343, found 328.1347.



2-(4-Hydroxy-2-isopropylphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7j) It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7j** (31.6 mg, 95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.56 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.06–6.99 (m, 3H), 6.89–6.83 (m, 3H), 6.77 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.34–3.23 (m, 1H), 1.14 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 157.9, 154.9, 142.3, 135.6, 132.5, 132.3, 130.6, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 127.6, 127.4, 124.5, 116.1, 115.7, 57.0, 27.7, 22.5; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₃H₂₀NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 342.1500, found 342.1503.



2-(4-Hydroxynaphthalen-1-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7k)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7k** (28.1 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.36 (dd, J = 8.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51–7.37 (m, 5H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.1, 155.1, 141.9, 132.5, 132.0, 130.8, 130.2, 129.7, 129.4, 128.8, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 125.5, 124.1, 123.8, 116.4, 107.4, 62.8, 56.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₄H₁₆NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 350.1187, found 350.1182.



2-(4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7l)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:4) as eluent to afford **71** (27.0 mg, 86%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.62 (s, 1H), 7.44–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.25–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.95 (m, 4H), 6.88–6.83 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.72 (m, 2H), 2.95 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.0, 151.1, 142.6, 132.8, 130.7, 130.0, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 124.7, 116.2, 112.9, 56.8, 40.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₉N₂O [M - H]⁻ 327.1503, found 327.1506.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(4-morpholinophenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7m)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:4) as eluent to afford **7m** (30.7 mg, 85%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.05–7.01 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.79–6.75 (m, 2H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 3.91–3.84 (m, 4H), 3.23–3.15 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 158.1, 151.9, 142.3, 132.4, 131.7, 130.6, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 128.8, 124.5, 116.2, 116.1, 115.7, 67.2, 62.8, 56.8, 49.2; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₄H₂₁N₂O₂ [M - H]⁻ 369.1609, found 369.1604.



2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (7n)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **7n** (25.3 mg, 83%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.09 (m, 2H), 7.07–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.89–6.84 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.78 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H);¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 155.7, 140.8, 132.7, 132.6, 130.3, 130.1, 128.8, 128.2, 124.0, 115.6, 114.12, 56.31, 55.6; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₁H₁₆NO₂ [M - H]⁻ 314.1187, found 314.1191.



2-(2,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile (70)

It was synthesized following the general procedure and purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:6) as eluent to afford **70** (30.4 mg, 92%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.23–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.00 (m, 2H), 6.82–6.76 (m, 2H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.42–6.29 (m, 2H), 5.44 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.4, 158.5, 155.7, 140.4, 131.8, 130.9, 129.9, 128.6, 128.4, 127.8, 123.3, 121.5, 115.6, 104.2, 100.0, 55.9, 55.6, 53.1; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₈NO₃ [M - H]⁻ 344.1292, found 344.1295.

Synthetic utilities



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2,2-diphenylacetonitrile (8)

To a solution of **3a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL) were added pyridine (0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and a solution of Tf₂O (0.115 mmol, 1.15 equiv) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL) sequentially. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h. Then water (10 mL) was added. The layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL×3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash

chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford the trifluoromethanesulfonate ester. Then a mixture of the trifluoromethanesulfonate ester, 10% Pd/C (9.3 mg, 10 wt %), NH₄OAc (15.4 mg), and Mg (12.0 mg) in methanol (5.0 mL) was stirred at room temperature under hydrogen balloon for 12 h. The mixture was passed through a short length of silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford **8** (29.0 mg, 87% yield) as an oil.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetamide (9)¹

To a solution of **3a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in *t*-amyl alcohol (1 mL) was added KOH (0.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and the mixture was heated to 140 °C for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was passed through a pad of celite. Then the filtrate was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:3) as eluent to afford **9** (24.4 mg, 92% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.70–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.86–6.73 (m, 3H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.46–6.39 (m, 1H), 6.01 (dd, *J* = 3.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, Acetone) δ 173.0, 156.4, 156.4, 142.9, 142.6, 133.1, 130.5, 129.4, 127.6, 126.9, 114.5, 111.5, 110.2, 62.8; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₈H₁₅NNaO₃ [M +Na]⁺ 316.0944, found 316.0947.



2-(Furan-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-phenylacetaldehyde (10)¹

To a solution of **3a** (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (5 mL) was added NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.24 mmol, 2.4 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then iodomethane (0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 4h. After completion, water (5 mL) was added and the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent. Then to a solution of the product in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was added di-isobutyl aluminium hydride (1 M in toluene, 0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) at -78 °C under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature overnight and warmed to room temperature. The mixture was quenched by a saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution. The organic layer was extracted with ethyl acetate and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaCl solution, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, filtered and removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford 10 (22.2 mg, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.15 (s, 1H), 7.54–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.06–7.03 (m, 2H), 6.97-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.40-6.36 (m, 1H), 6.06 (dd, J = 3.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9, 159.1, 153.7, 143.0, 138.7, 130.8, 130.3, 129.6, 128.5, 127.8, 113.9, 111.3, 110.2, 66.0, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₁₉H₁₇O₃ [M + H]⁺ 293.1172, found 293.1176.



6-(Furan-2-yl(4-methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine (11)¹

To a solution of 3a (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (5 mL) was added NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.24 mmol, 2.4 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then iodomethane (0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 4h. After completion, water (5 mL) was added and the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL×3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford the product. To a flame-dried 10 mL sealable glass vessel containing a magnetic stirring bar were added the product (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), cyanoguanidine (0.125 mmol, 1.25 equiv), KOH (0.07 mmol, 0.7 equiv) and ethanol (0.5 mL) and then the vessel was sealed. The mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (1 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 ×15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:1) as eluent to afford 11 (20.5 mg, 55% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.13–7.05 (m, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (dd, J = 3.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (brs, 2H), 4.93 (brs, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, rotamers seen) δ 180.1, 166.7, 158.4, 157.2, 143.7, 142.6, 142.3, 135.3, 131.3, 131.2, 130.1, 123.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 113.1, 111.2, 110.9, 110.2, 110.0, 63.0, 55.5, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for $C_{21}H_{20}N_5O_2[M + H]^+$ 374.1612, found 374.1609.



3-(Furan-2-yl(4-methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methyl)-5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazole (12)¹ To a solution of 3a (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (5 mL) was added NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.24 mmol, 2.4 equiv) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then iodomethane (0.3 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 4h. After completion, water (5 mL) was added and the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL×3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford the product. To a flame-dried 10 mL sealable glass vessel containing a magnetic stirring bar were added the product (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NH₂OH (66 µL, 50% in H₂O), and ethanol (0.5 mL) and then the vessel was sealed. The mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (1 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The resulting crude product was treated with acetic anhydride (0.5 mL) in a flame-dried 10 mL sealable glass vessel and the reaction mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (1 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 ×15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate /petroleum ether (1:10) as eluent to afford 12 (18.3 mg, 53%).

Computation details

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were conducted with Gaussian 09 package.² The geometries of all stationary points were optimized using the B3LYP functional³ with the 6-31G(d)⁴ basis set for all of atoms in the gas phase. The vibrational frequencies were carried out at the same level of theory to verify stationary points (no imaginary frequency). To get the electronic properties, we performed natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis⁵ using the NBO 3.1 version⁶ of the Gaussian 09 at the B3LYP/6-311+g(d,p) level. The electrostatic potential (ESP) maps were implemented by Multiwfn program.⁷
Notes and references

1. Nambo, M.; Yar, M.; Smith, J. D.; Crudden, C. M. Org. Lett. 2015, 17, 50.

M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, Ö. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D. J. Fox, Gaussian 09, Revision B.01, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford, CT, **2010**.

3. (a) A. D. Becke, J. Chem. Phys. 1993, 98, 5648; (b) C. Lee, W. Yang, R. G. Parr, Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter Mater. Phys. 1988, 37, 785.

4. (a) K. A. Peterson, D. Figgen, M. Dolg and H. Stoll, J. Chem. Phys. 2007, 126, 124101; (b) D. Figgen, K. A. Peterson, M. Dolg and H. Stoll, J. Chem. Phys. 2009, 130, 164108.

5. (a) A. E. Reed, R. B.Weinstock and F. Weinhold, *J. Chem. Phys.* 1985, 83, 735.
(b) A. E. Reed, L. A.Curtiss and F. Weinhold, *Chem. Rev.* 1988, 88, 899.

6. E. D. Glendening, A. E. Reed, J. E. Carpenter and F. Weinhold, NBO, version 3.1; Gaussian Inc.: 2003.

7. (a) T. Lu and F. Chen, J. Comput. Chem. 2012, 33, 580; (b) S. Manzetti and T. Lu, J. Phys. Org. Chem. 2013, 26, 473.

NMR spectra





L2.1465 L2.1437 L2.0315 L2.0287





























S50



7 8360 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8370 7 8400 8 700 7 8400 8 700 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 7000 7 70000









S55























$\begin{array}{c} -8.7481\\ -8.7481\\ 7.6993\\ 7.69016\\ 7.69016\\ 7.69016\\ 7.69016\\ 7.69019\\ 6.94958\\ 6.0693\\ 6.0663\\ 6.0663\\ 6.0663\\ 6.06619\end{array}$







S67



S68

-8.7636 -8.7636 -8.771194 -7.71137 -7.7251137 -7.7252128 -7.703555 -7.705555 -7.7055







$\begin{array}{c} -8.7276\\ -8.77614\\ 7.7514\\ 7.7514\\ 7.77514\\ 7.77614\\ 7.77614\\ 7.77614\\ 7.77623\\ 7.75375\\ 6.693376\\ 6.63375\\ 6.63376\\ 6.63276\\ 6.632$


7.8470 7.8293 7.55341 7.55341 7.55341 7.55341 7.551483 7.55147 7.55147 7.55147 7.55147 7.55147 7.55145













-8.3521 5229 7.4239 7.4239 7.53313 7.533137 7.53317 7.53317 7.533137 7.533137 7.533137 7.53317 7.53317 7.53



































