

Electronic Supplementary Information

Study on the ArI-catalyzed Intramolecular Oxy-Cyclization of 2-Alkenylbenzamides to Benzoiminolactones

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General information

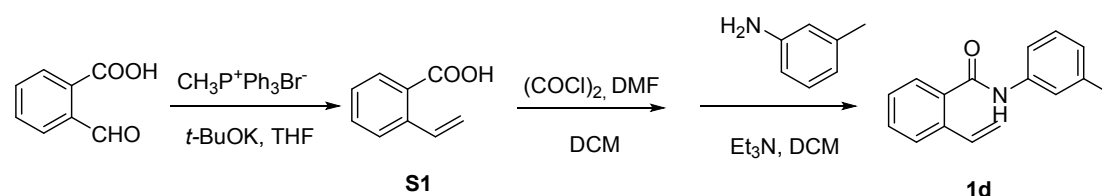
All commercially available reagents and solvents, unless otherwise notes, were used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was used to monitor reaction progress performed on GF-254 silica gel plates (0.2 mm). Flash column chromatography (200-300 mesh silica gel purchased from Yantai, China and 200-300 mesh Alumina-B purchased from Greagent) eluted with the gradient of petroleum ether (PE) and ethyl acetate (EtOAc) was used to isolate and purify products. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on Bruker ADVANCE III 400 MHz (or Bruker ADVANCE III 600 MHz) using CDCl₃ as solvent (CDCl₃, $\delta = 7.26$ ppm for ¹H NMR, $\delta = 77.0$ ppm for ¹³C NMR). ¹H NMR experiments used CD₃CN as solvent (CD₃CN, $\delta = 1.94$ ppm). Chemical shift are presented as: multiplicities (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad). Coupling constant (Hz) were given as a *J* value. MS was recorded on Agilent 6260C Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer. HRMS was performed on Waters I-Class VION IMS Q-ToF Mass Spectrometer of Instrument Analysis Center of Xi'an Jiaotong University.

1. Synthesis of iodine reagents and substrates

Iodine reagents **I1-I6**, **PIDA** were all commercially available. **I7**,¹ **I8**¹ and **I6(OAc)**₂² are known compounds and were synthesized according to the methods of reported literature. Substrates **1a-1r**,³ **1s-1ab**,^{3,4} **1ac-1ag**,^{3,5} **1ah**,³ **1ai-1aj**^{3,6} and **1ak**^{3,7} were synthesized according to the methods of reported literature and typical procedures for their synthesis were described below. Among them, **1d**, **1i**, **1j**, **1q** and **1v-1ab** are new compounds and were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS.

2.1 Typical procedures for the synthesis of substrates 1a-1r, 1ah-1ak

Take the synthesis of **1d** as an example.



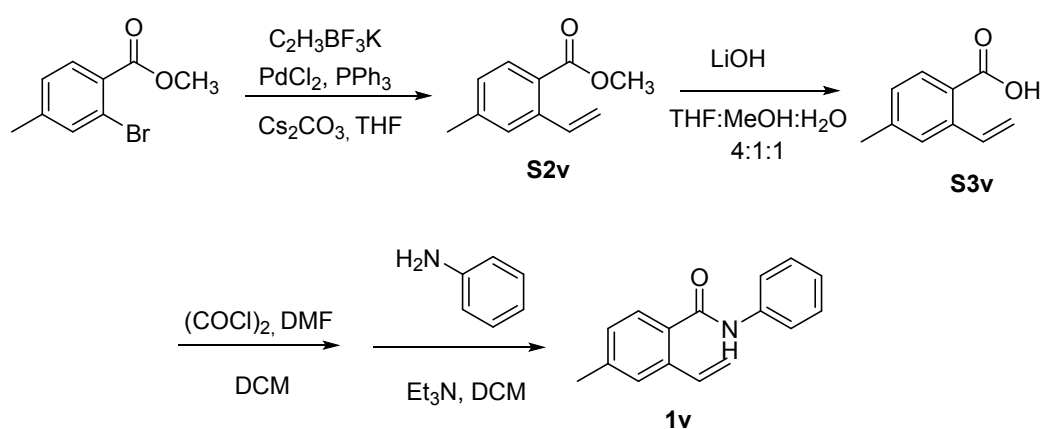
A 250 mL three necked bottle charged with methyl triphenylphosphonium bromide (7.2 g, 20.0 mmol) and $t\text{-BuOK}$ (3.4 g, 30.0 mmol) was added anhydrous THF (50.0 mL) under argon protection and stirred. After 1 h, a solution of 2-carboxybenzaldehyde (1.5 g, 10.0 mmol) in dry THF (10.0 mL) was added through syringe and refluxed overnight. The reaction solution was detected by TLC until completely finished. After cooling down, the mixture quenched with saturated NH_4Cl solution (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (30 mL \times 3), the organic layer was separated and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel ($\text{PE}:\text{EtOAc} = 5:1$) to give the compound **S1** (1.3 g, 89%) as a white solid.

To a stirring solution of **S1** (740 mg, 5 mmol) in dry DCM (10 mL) was added $(\text{COCl})_2$ (2.1 mL, 25 mmol) and a drop of DMF. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. Then, the above mixture was slowly added to a solution of $m\text{-toluidine}$ (642 mg, 6 mmol) and Et_3N (1.4 mL, 10 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) through syringe at 0 °C. After been stirred at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O (20 mL) and aqueous solution was acidified to $\text{pH} = 1$ with 2 N HCl solution. The

organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (20 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 5:1) to afford desired product **1d** (749 mg, 79%) as a white solid.

2.2 Typical procedures for the synthesis of substrates 1s-1ab

Take the synthesis of **1v** as an example.



A 250 mL three necked bottle was charged with methyl 2-bromo-4-methylbenzoate (1.1 g, 5 mmol), cesium carbonate (4.6 g, 7.0 mmol), triphenylphosphine (136 mg, 5.2 mmol), potassium vinyltrifluoroborate (700 mg, 5.2 mmol), palladium (II) chloride (36 mg 1 mmol), THF (18 mL) and degassed water (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C under argon protection for 40 h, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. After cooling down, the reaction mixture was diluted with DCM (50 mL) and filtered over celite. The organic layer was separated and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 8:1) to give the compound **S2v** (730 mg, 86%) as a colorless oil.

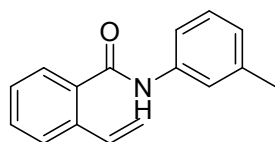
To a solution of **S2v** (730 mg, 4.1 mmol) in a mixed solvent (30 mL, THF: MeOH: H₂O = 4:1:1) was added lithium hydroxide (196 mg, 8.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at 70 °C for 5 h, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. After cooling down, the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove THF and then adjusted to pH = 1 using 2 N HCl solution. The mixture was extracted with

DCM (20 mL × 2). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 5:1-3:1) to yield the compound **S3v** (680 mg, 99%) as a white solid.

To a stirring solution of **S3v** (650 mg, 4 mmol) in dry DCM (10 mL) was added (COCl)₂ (2.1 mL, 25 mmol) and a drop of DMF. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. Then, the above mixture was slowly added to a solution of aniline (558 mg, 6 mmol) and Et₃N (1.4 mL, 10 mmol) in DCM (10 mL) through syringe at 0 °C. After being stirred at room temperature for 3 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O (20 mL) and aqueous solution was acidified to pH = 1 with 2 N HCl solution. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (20 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 5:1) to afford desired product **1v** (635 mg, 67%) as a white solid.

2.3 Characterization data of the new substrates

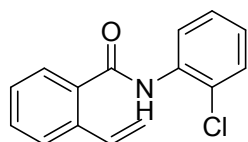
N-(*m*-tolyl)-2-vinylbenzamide (**1d**):



1d

White solid (749 mg, 79%); m.p. 117.9–118.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52-7.41 (m, 3H), 7.36 (q, *J* = 7.6, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 139.1, 137.8, 136.0, 135.4, 134.5, 130.6, 128.9, 127.9, 127.6, 126.6, 125.5, 120.4, 117.3, 116.7, 21.5; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₅NO 238.1226, found 238.1224.

N-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-vinylbenzamide (**1i**):



1i

White solid (874 mg, 85%); m.p. 114.5–115.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 5.79 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 136.5, 134.8, 134.7, 134.4, 131.0, 129.1, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 124.9, 123.1, 121.6, 117.8; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClNO 258.0680, found 258.0680.

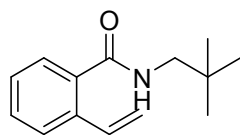
***N*-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-vinylbenzamide (1j):**



1j

White solid (894 mg, 87%); m.p. 113.3–115.7 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (s, 1H), 7.61 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 5.75 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.7, 139.1, 136.0, 134.7, 134.7, 134.2, 130.8, 130.0, 127.8, 127.5, 126.6, 124.6, 120.0, 118.0, 117.4; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClNO 258.0680, found 258.0680.

***N*-neopentyl-2-vinylbenzamide (1q):**

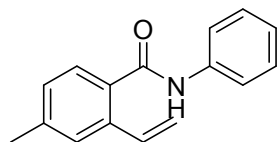


1q

White solid (739 mg, 91%); m.p. 110.2–112.0 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 5.73 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.37 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.4, 135.9, 135.8, 134.8, 130.1, 127.8, 127.4,

126.3, 116.8, 51.1, 32.0, 27.3 (3C); HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{19}NO$ 218.1539, found 218.1539.

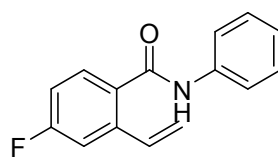
4-Methyl-*N*-phenyl-2-vinylbenzamide (1v):



1v

White solid (635 mg, 67%); m.p. 114.5–115.6 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 14.0, 6.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.16 (dd, $J = 7.6, 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 5.75 (d, $J = 18.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.38 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.3, 140.9, 138.0, 136.1, 134.7, 132.5, 129.1 (2C), 128.7, 127.8 (2C), 127.4, 124.5, 119.7, 117.1, 21.5; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}NO$ 238.1226, found 238.1225.

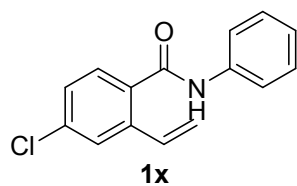
4-Fluoro-*N*-phenyl-2-vinylbenzamide (1w):



1w

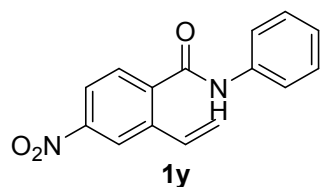
White solid (858 mg, 89%); m.p. 109.5–110.9 °C; m.p. 109.5–110.9 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.67 – 7.54 (m, 4H), 7.36 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 5.76 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.44 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 166.5, 165.1, 162.59, 138.9 (d, $J_{CF} = 8.2$ Hz), 137.8, 133.5 (d, $J_{CF} = 2.2$ Hz), 131.5, 129.9 (d, $J_{CF} = 8.9$ Hz), 129.1, 124.8, 119.9, 118.4, 114.9 (d, $J_{CF} = 21.8$ Hz), 113.2 (d, $J_{CF} = 22.2$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ -109.4; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{15}H_{12}FNO$ 242.0975, found 242.0973.

4-Chloro-*N*-phenyl-2-vinylbenzamide (1x):



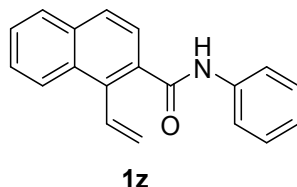
White solid (853 mg, 83%); m.p. 118.5–119.8 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 – 7.48 (m, 5H), 7.42 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 137.9, 137.7, 136.8, 133.4, 129.2 (2C), 129.1, 127.9, 126.7, 124.9, 120.1, 119.9, 119.8, 118.6; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₂ClNO 258.0680, found 258.0679.

4-Nitro-*N*-phenyl-2-vinylbenzamide (1y):



White solid (911 mg, 85%); m.p. 120.8–123.0 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.44 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 5.95 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (d, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 148.9, 140.4, 137.6, 137.2, 132.3, 129.3(2C), 128.8, 125.3, 122.4, 121.4, 120.2, 120.1 (2C); HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₂O₃ 269.0921, found 269.0918.

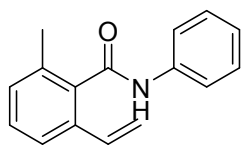
***N*-phenyl-1-vinyl-2-naphthamide (1z):**



White solid (699 mg, 64%); m.p. 121.0–122.4 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 – 8.17 (m, 1H), 7.91 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.51 (m, 5H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.1, 138.1, 134.2, 133.1, 132.7, 131.2, 129.4, 129.1 (2C), 128.3,

128.1, 127.1, 126.9, 126.0, 124.7, 124.6, 123.8, 122.8, 119.8; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{15}NO$ 274.1226, found 274.1222.

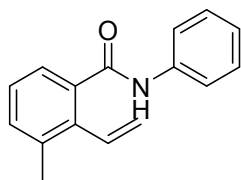
2-Methyl-N-phenyl-6-vinylbenzamide (1aa):



1aa

White solid (597 mg, 63%); m.p. 101.2–102.5 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.62 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 17.2, 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.77 (dd, $J = 17.2, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (dd, $J = 10.8, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 167.9, 137.7, 136.2, 135.0, 134.7, 133.9, 129.7, 129.3, 129.2 (2C), 124.8, 122.9, 119.9 (2C), 116.9, 19.2; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}NO$ 238.1226, found 238.1225.

2-Methyl-N-phenyl-6-vinylbenzamide (1ab):

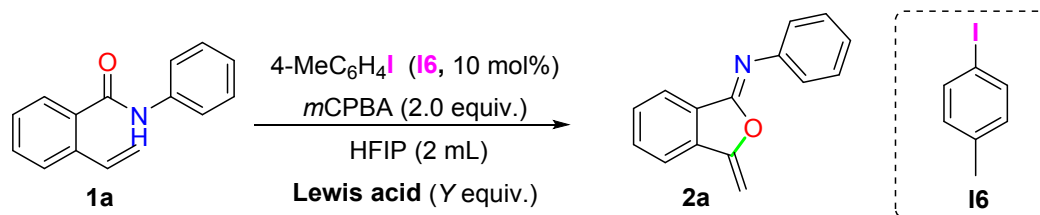


1ab

White solid (683 mg, 73%); m.p. 111.0–112.2 °C; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, $J = 18.0, 11.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.55 (d, $J = 11.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.48 (d, $J = 18.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 168.3, 138.1, 136.8, 136.3, 135.4, 133.8, 132.1, 129.1 (2C), 127.3, 125.7, 124.5, 120.9, 119.7 (2C), 20.6; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{15}NO$ 238.1226, found 238.1226.

2. Optimization of the reaction conditions

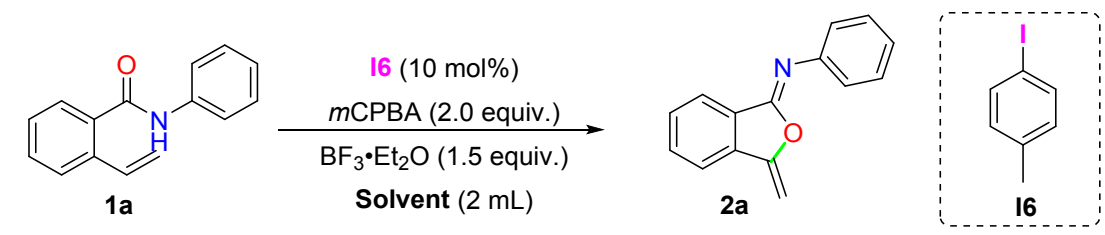
Table S1. Influence of Lewis acid screening on the reaction.



Entry ^a	Lewis acid	Equiv (<i>Y</i>)	Time	Temp. (°C)	Yield ^b (%)
1	CF ₃ COOH	2.0	60 min	25	15
2	CH ₃ SO ₃ H	2.0	60 min	25	23
3	C ₇ H ₇ SO ₃ H	2.0	60 min	25	-
4	CF ₃ SO ₃ H	2.0	60 min	25	-
5	CH ₃ COOH	2.0	60 min	25	-
6	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	2.0	30 min	25	55
7	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	1.0	30 min	25	36
8	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	1.2	30 min	25	46
9	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	1.5	30 min	25	58
10	BF ₃ ·Et ₂ O	0	60 min	25	trace

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **I6** (10 mol%), *m*CPBA (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), **Lewis acid** (*Y* equiv.), HFIP (2 mL), air atmosphere; ^b Isolated yield.

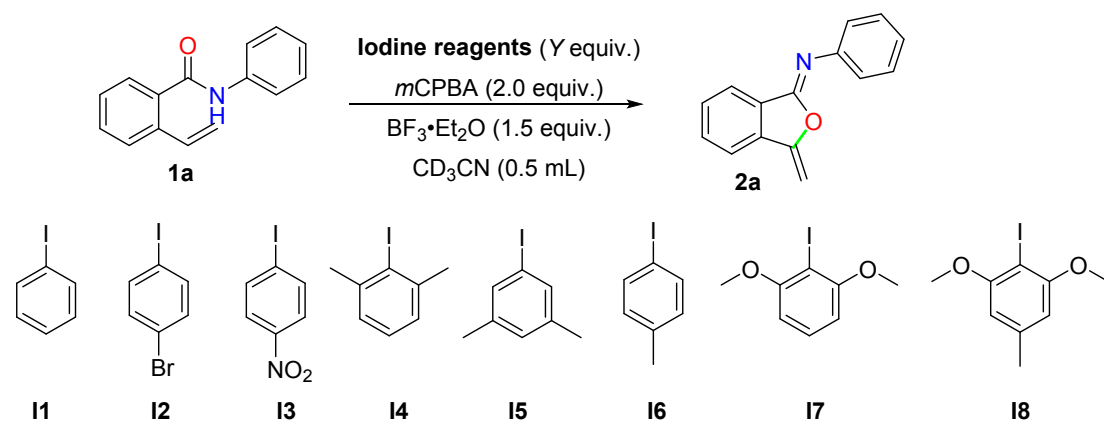
Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (86.3 mg, 80%, 0.4 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. HFIP (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, **1a** (44.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and **Lewis acid** was added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product.

Table S2. Influence of solvent on the reaction.

Entry ^a	Solvent	Time	Temp. (°C)	Yield ^b (%)
1	HFIP	30 min	25	58
2	DCM	60 min	25	46
3	DCE	1 h	25	34
4	THF	8 h	25	-
5	MeCN	30 min	25	88
6	DMF	1 h	25	23
7	<i>i</i> -PrOH	8 h	25	-
8	$\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	8 h	25	-
9	<i>n</i> -Hexane	8 h	25	-
10	$\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{F}_3$	8 h	25	-

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **I6** (10 mol%), *m*CPBA (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), **Solvent** (2 mL), air atmosphere; ^b Isolated yield.

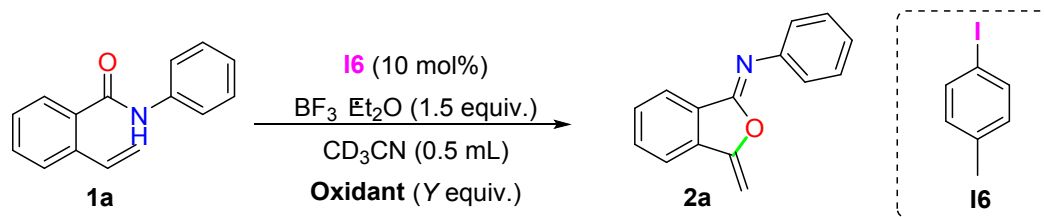
Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (86.3 mg, 80%, 0.2 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. **Solvent** (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, **1a** (44.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (38 μL , 0.3 mmol) was added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product.

Table S3. Influence of iodine reagents on the reaction.

Entry ^a	ArI reagents	Equiv (Y)	Time	Yield ^b (%)
1	11	0.1	30 min	91
2	12	0.1	30 min	81
3	13	0.1	30 min	85
4	14	0.1	30 min	88
5	15	0.1	30 min	89
6	16	0.1	30 min	95
7	17	0.1	30 min	93
8	18	0.1	30 min	95(89)
9	PIDA	1.0	30 min	86(79)
10	I ₂	0.1	3 h	87(78)
11	KI	0.2	3 h	89(83)
12	16	0	30 min	trace
13	16	0.05	1 h	90(85)
14	16	0.15	30 min	92
15	16	0.2	30 min	91

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol), **ArI reagents**, BF₃·Et₂O (0.075 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), *m*CPBA (0.1 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), CD₃CN (0.5 mL), r.t., air atmosphere; ^b ¹H NMR yield; Isolated yield was given in parentheses.

Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (21.6 mg, 80%, 0.075 mmol), **ArI reagents** and **1a** (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried septum-capped NMR tube. CD₃CN (0.5 mL, with 0.5 μL CH₂Br₂/mL) and BF₃·Et₂O (10 μL, 0.075 mmol) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was shocked for 5 min. Then, the mixture was placed for 25 minutes for ¹H NMR spectroscopic analyses. Some experiments with low yields will be detected for a prolonged reaction time.

Table S4. Influence of oxidant on the reaction.

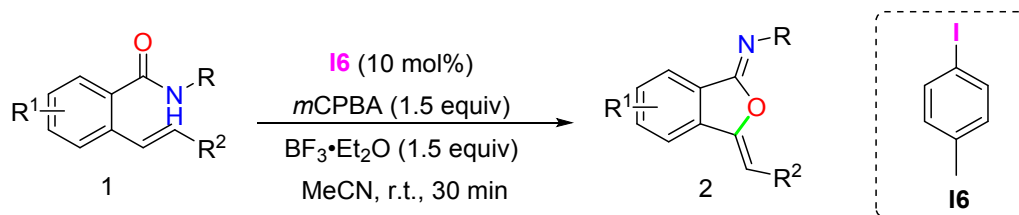
Entry ^a	Oxidant	Equiv (Y)	Time	Yield ^b (%)
1	<i>m</i> CPBA	2	30 min	90
2	H_2O_2	2	3 h	trace
3	DTBP	2	3 h	trace
4	TBHP	2	3 h	trace
5	TBPB	2	3 h	trace
6	CHP	2	3 h	trace
7	Oxone	2	3 h	25(22)
8	<i>m</i> CPBA	0	3 h	-
9	<i>m</i> CPBA	1.0	30 min	35
10	<i>m</i> CPBA	1.2	30 min	65
11	<i>m</i> CPBA	1.5	30 min	95(90)
12	<i>m</i> CPBA	3.0	30 min	70

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.05 mmol), **16** (10 mol%), **Oxidant** (Y equiv.), $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (0.075 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), CD_3CN (0.5 mL), r.t., air atmosphere; ^b ^1H NMR yield; Isolated yield was given in parentheses.

Experimental Procedure: Oxidant, **16** (1.1 mg 0.005 mmol) and **1a** (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried septum-capped NMR tube. CD_3CN (0.5 mL, with 0.5 μL $\text{CH}_2\text{Br}_2/\text{mL}$) and $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (10 μL , 0.075 mmol) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was shocked for 5 min. Then, the mixture was placing for 25 minutes, for ^1H NMR spectroscopic analyses. Some experiments with low yields will be detected for a prolonged reaction time.

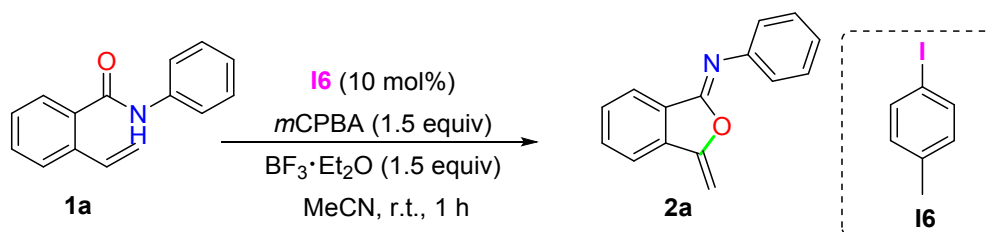
3. General procedure for the reaction of 2-alkenylbenzamides

4.1 General procedure for the reaction of 1a-1ah (Table 2)



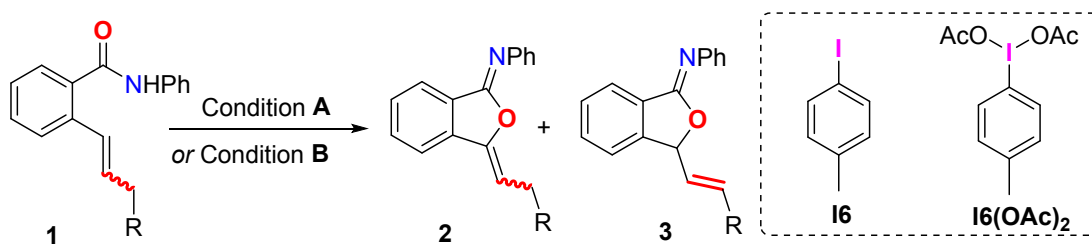
Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (64.8 mg, 80%, 0.3 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Dry CH_3CN (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, 2-Alkenylbenzamides **1** (0.2 mmol) and $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (38 μL , 0.3 mmol) was added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product **2**.

4.2 1.0 mmol scale-up reaction of 1a



Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (324 mg, 80%, 1.5 mmol) and **I6** (22 mg 0.1 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 100 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Dry CH_3CN (10.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, **1a** (223 mg, 1 mmol) and $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$ (189 μL , 1.5 mmol) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was evaporated to remove the most of the solvent and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product **2a** as a colorless oil with 82% yield.

4.3 General procedure for the reaction of 1ai-1ak (Scheme 2)



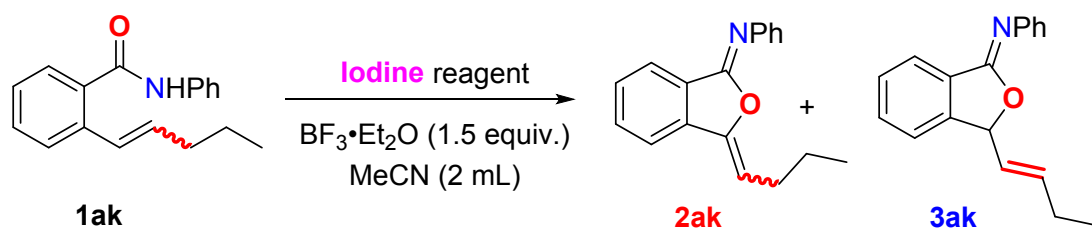
Conditions A:

Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (64.8 mg, 80%, 0.3 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Dry CH₃CN (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, 2-alkenylbenzamides **1** (0.2 mmol) and BF₃·Et₂O (38 μL, 0.3 mmol) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product.

Conditions B:

Experimental Procedure: **I6(OAc)₂** (80.7 mg 0.24 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Then, 2-alkenylbenzamides **1** (0.2 mmol), BF₃·Et₂O (38 μL, 0.3 mmol) and dry CH₃CN (2.0 mL) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product.

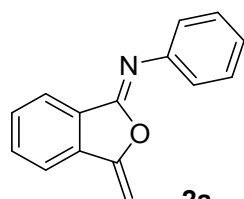
4.4 General procedure for the reaction of 1ak (Scheme 3)



Experimental Procedure: An oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was added the corresponding **iodine reagent** and **mCPBA**, then added CH₃CN (2.0 mL). After that, 2-alkenylbenzamides **1ak** (53 mg, 0.2 mmol) and BF₃·Et₂O (38 μL, 0.3 mmol) was added in turn, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. The reaction solution was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product

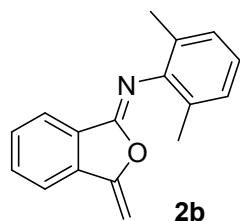
4.5 Characterization data of products

(Z)-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2a):



2a Colorless oil (39.8 mg, 90%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.58 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.16 (tt, *J* = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 153.9, 145.7, 136.2, 132.2, 130.8, 130.2, 128.8 (2C), 124.7, 123.7 (2C), 123.6, 120.3, 87.2; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₁NO 222.0913, found 222.0912.

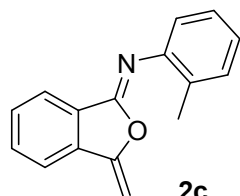
(Z)-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2b):



2b Colorless oil (41.5 mg, 83%); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.08 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.97 – 4.89 (m, 2H), 2.17 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 153.1, 144.6, 136.8, 135.2, 134.5, 132.3, (130.3, 130.2) (1C), (129.7,

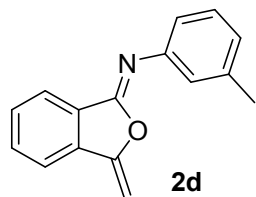
129.8) (1C), (128.2, 127.9) (1C), 127.7 (2C), (123.7, 123.5) (1C) 120.36, 87.11, 18.37 (2C); HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{15}NO$ 250.1226, found 250.1227.

(Z)-3-methylene-N-(o-tolyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2c):



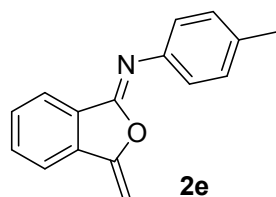
2c Colorless oil (37.2 mg, 79%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.00 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.96 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.0, 153.3, 144.9, 136.5, 132.2, 130.6, 130.4, 130.3, 130.2, 126.1, 124.2, 123.6, 121.7, 120.3, 87.1, 18.2; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}NO$ 236.1070, found 236.1072.

(Z)-3-methylene-N-(m-tolyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2d):



2d Colorless oil (37.1 mg, 79%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.99 (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.1, 153.7, 145.6, 138.5, 136.2, 132.1, 130.8, 130.1, 128.5, 125.5, 124.2, 123.5, 120.5, 120.2, 87.1, 21.5; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}NO$ 236.1070, found 236.1071.

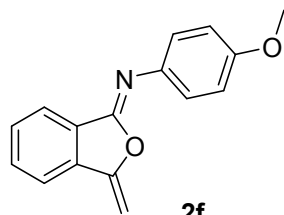
(Z)-3-methylene-N-(p-tolyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2e):



2e Colorless oil (38.1 mg, 81%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.23 (m,

2H), 7.19 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.00 (q, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 153.5, 142.9, 136.1, 134.4, 132.0, 130.9, 130.1, 129.4 (2C), 123.8 (2C), 123.5, 120.2, 86.9, 21.1; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1070.

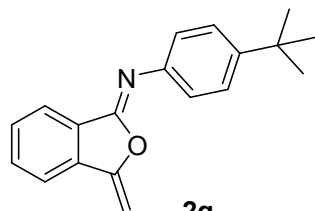
(Z)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2f):



2f

White solid (39.2 mg, 78%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (dt, $J = 7.2, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 6.96 – 6.90 (m, 2H), 5.06 – 4.97 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.0, 155.2, 152.8, 138.5, 135.9, 131.8, 131.2, 130.1, 125.7 (2C), 123.4, 120.2, 114.0 (2C), 86.6, 55.4; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$ 252.1019, found 252.1020.

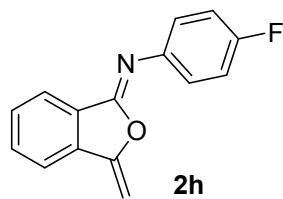
(Z)-N-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2g):



2g

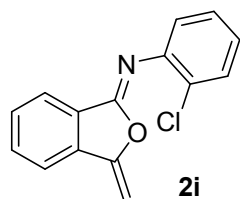
White solid (44.0 mg, 79%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (dt, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dt, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 5.04 – 4.97 (m, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 153.4, 147.7, 142.8, 136.1, 132.0, 131.0, 130.1, 125.6 (2C), 123.7 (2C), 123.5, 120.2, 86.9, 34.5, 31.5 (3C); HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}$ 278.1539, found 278.1537.

(Z)-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2h):



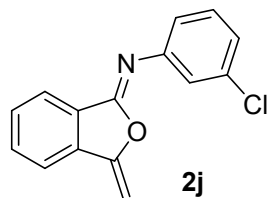
Colorless oil (39.2 mg, 82%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 8.8, 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.06 (t, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.02 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 161.3, 158.9, 155.1, 153.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 1.6$ Hz), 141.5 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.0$ Hz), 136.1, 132.2, 130.7, 130.2, 125.5 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.0$ Hz), 123.5, 120.3, 115.5, 115.3, 87.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -118.1; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FNO}$ 240.0819, found 240.0823.

(Z)-N-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2i):



Colorless oil (42.3 mg, 83%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.65 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 5.05 – 4.97 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 154.9, 143.8, 136.6, 132.6, 130.3, 130.0, 129.7, 127.0, 127.0, 125.0, 123.9, 123.5, 120.3, 87.8; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}$ 256.0524, found 256.0521.

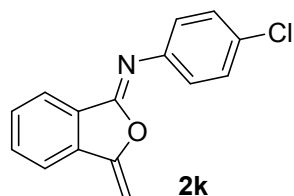
(Z)-N-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2j):



Colorless oil (42.3 mg, 83%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dt, $J = 8.0, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.9, 154.6, 147.0, 136.3, 134.2, 132.5,

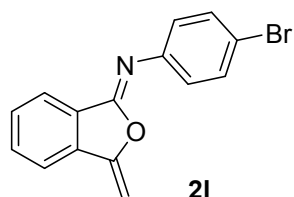
130.4, 130.3, 129.7, 124.7, 123.8, 123.6, 122.0, 120.3, 87.8; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{15}H_{10}ClNO$ 256.0524, found 256.0523.

(Z)-N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2k):



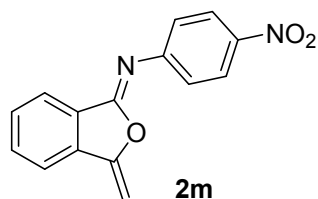
2k White solid (44.9 mg, 88%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 7.6$, 1H), 7.67 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.32 (s, 4H), 5.02 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.0, 154.2, 144.2, 136.2, 132.3, 130.6, 130.3, 130.0, 128.8 (2C), 125.3 (2C), 123.6, 120.3, 87.5; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{15}H_{10}ClNO$ 256.0524, found 256.0524.

(Z)-N-(4-bromophenyl)-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2l):



2l White solid (50.7 mg, 85%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.88 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.48 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 4.96 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.0, 154.3, 144.7, 136.2, 132.4 (2C), 130.3, 129.7, 127.7, 125.6 (2C), 123.6, 120.3, 117.8, 87.6; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{15}H_{10}BrNO$ 300.0019, found 300.0017.

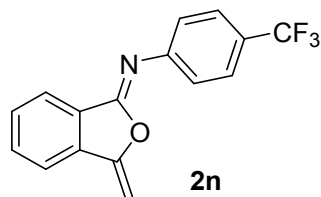
(Z)-3-methylene-N-(4-nitrophenyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2m):



2m Light yellow solid (47.4 mg, 88%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.25 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H),

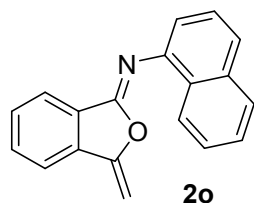
7.59 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.14 – 5.04 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.6, 154.8, 152.4, 144.3, 136.4, 133.0 (2C), 130.5, 129.9, 124.7 (2C), 123.9, 123.8, 120.5, 88.7; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ 267.0764, found 267.0762.

(Z)-3-methylene-N-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2n):



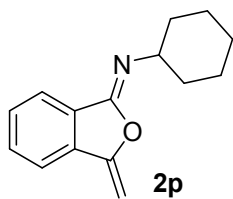
White solid (52.0 mg, 90%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, $J = 12.4, 6.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.08 – 5.00 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.9 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 5.9$ Hz), 149.1, 136.4, 132.6, 130.3 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.9$ Hz), 126.3 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 271.1$ Hz), 125.9 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 29.6$ Hz), 123.7, 123.5, 120.4, 88.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -62.21; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$ 290.0787, found 290.7881.

(Z)-3-methylene-N-(naphthalen-1-yl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2o):



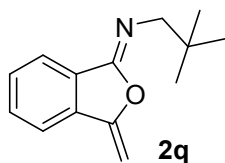
White solid (47.7 mg, 88%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.30 – 8.23 (m, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.54 (m, 5H), 7.47 (dq, $J = 12.0, 7.6, 6.4$ Hz, 4H), 5.05 – 4.87 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.1, 154.3, 142.2, 136.5, 134.2, 132.3, 130.7, 130.2, 128.7, 127.8, 126.0, 125.8, 125.5, 124.5, 124.1, 123.7, 120.3, 117.7, 87.4; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 272.1070, found 272.1067.

(Z)-N-cyclohexyl-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2p):



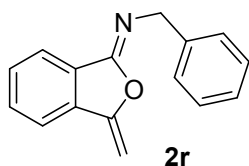
2p Colorless oil (35.4 mg, 78%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.95 – 4.86 (m, 2H), 3.90 (tt, $J = 10.4, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.90 – 1.76 (m, 3H), 1.73 – 1.63 (m, 1H), 1.54 – 1.33 (m, 5H), 1.26 (ddt, $J = 12.8, 7.6, 3.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.1, 153.3, 136.4, 131.3, 130.7, 129.8, 123.1, 120.1, 84.8, 56.2, 34.0 (2C), 25.8, 25.0 (2C); HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ 228.1383, found 228.1382.

(Z)-3-methylene-N-neopentylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2q):



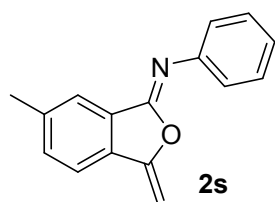
2q Colorless oil (32.3 mg, 75%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (dt, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dt, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 5.00 – 4.78 (m, 2H), 3.39 (s, 2H), 1.01 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.1, 154.0, 136.4, 131.2, 130.8, 129.8, 123.0, 120.1, 84.7, 59.6, 32.3, 27.8 (3C); HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ 216.1383, found 216.1385.

(Z)-N-benzyl-3-methyleneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2r).



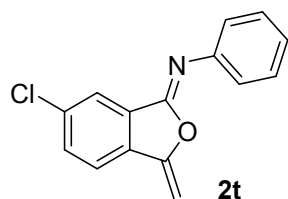
2r White solid (37.6 mg, 78%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3); δ 7.93 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 5.06 – 4.96 (m, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.4, 155.0, 140.2, 136.5, 131.6, 130.5, 130.0, 128.4 (2C), 127.9 (2C), 126.7, 123.2, 120.2, 85.7, 51.7; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1077.

(Z)-6-methyl-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2s):



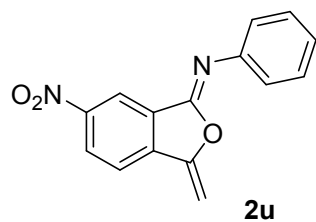
2s Colorless oil (37.6 mg, 80%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 5H), 7.15 (tt, $J = 6.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (q, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.2, 154.0, 145.7, 140.7, 133.8, 133.4, 131.1, 128.7(2C), 124.6, 123.7 (2C), 123.6, 120.1, 86.3, 21.6; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1071.

(Z)-6-chloro-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2t):



2t White solid (45.4 mg, 89%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.94 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.37 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.17 (tt, $J = 5.4, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.4, 152.3, 145.1, 136.4, 134.5, 132.5, 132.5, 128.8 (2C), 125.1, 123.9 (2C), 123.6, 121.5, 87.8; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}$ 256.0524, found 256.0523.

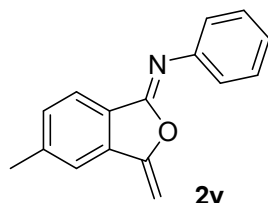
(Z)-3-methylene-6-nitro-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2u):



2u Light yellow solid (47.9 mg, 90%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.77 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.15 (ddd, $J = 8.4, 5.2, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.20 – 5.12 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.7, 151.1, 149.4, 144.5, 140.7, 132.4, 128.9 (2C), 127.1, 125.6, 124.0 (2C), 121.4, 119.6, 91.2; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$

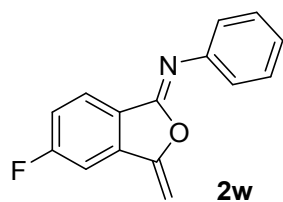
267.0764, found 267.0764.

(Z)-5-methyl-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2v):



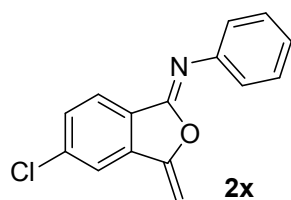
Colorless oil (38.0 mg, 81%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.15 (td, $J = 6.8, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.1, 154.0, 145.8, 143.0, 136.6, 131.5, 128.7 (2C), 128.3, 124.5 (2C), 123.7, 123.3, 120.4, 86.8, 21.9; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1071.

(Z)-5-fluoro-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2w):



Colorless oil (41.1 mg, 87%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (dd, $J = 8.4, 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.26 (ddd, $J = 10.8, 6.8, 2.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.16 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.04 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.7, 164.2, 154.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 4.4$ Hz), 152.7, 145.4, 138.4 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 10.3$ Hz), 128.8 (2C), 125.9 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 9.8$ Hz), 124.8, 123.7 (2C), 118.5 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 24.2$ Hz), 107.0 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 24.6$ Hz), 88.4; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -106.2; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{FNO}$ 240.0819, found 240.0819.

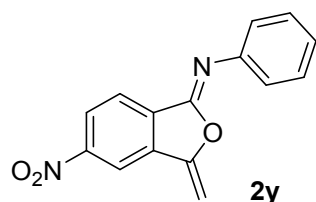
(Z)-5-chloro-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2x).



White solid (45.4 mg, 89%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

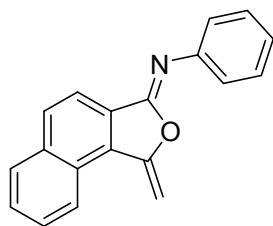
7.88 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.0$, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.16 (tq, $J = 6.4, 4.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.03 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.98 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.9, 152.7, 145.3, 138.6, 137.7, 130.7, 129.3, 128.8 (2C), 125.0, 124.8, 123.8 (2C), 120.5, 88.4; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{ClNO}$ 256.0524, found 256.0524.

(Z)-3-methylene-5-nitro-*N*-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3*H*)-imine (2y):



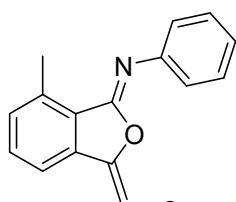
2y Light yellow solid (47.3 mg, 89%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.49 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.22 (tt, $J = 6.0, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.19 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.5, 151.3, 150.6, 144.6, 137.0, 135.8, 128.9 (2C), 125.7, 125.2, 124.9, 124.1 (2C), 116.1, 89.8; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ 267.0764, found 267.0763.

(Z)-1-methylene-*N*-phenylnaphtho[1,2-*c*]furan-3(1*H*)-imine (2z):



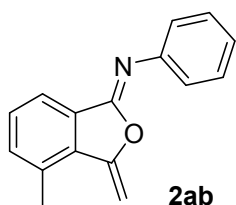
2z White solid (47.7 mg, 88%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.27 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.03 – 7.95 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.13 (m, 1H), 5.45 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.32 (d, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.8, 154.1, 145.8, 135.7, 132.1, 131.8, 130.8, 129.7, 128.8 (2C), 128.3, 127.8, 127.0, 124.7, 124.0 (2C), 123.7, 119.5, 92.2; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 272.1070, found 272.1271.

(Z)-7-methyl-3-methylene-*N*-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3*H*)-imine (2aa):



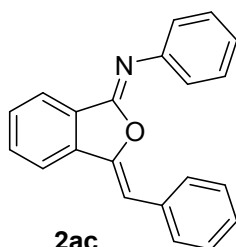
2aa Colorless oil (32.0 mg, 68%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45 (q, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.95 – 4.90 (m, 2H), 2.78 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.9, 154.2, 146.3, 137.8, 136.7, 132.0, 131.6, 128.7 (2C), 127.9, 124.3, 123.4 (2C), 117.6, 86.1, 18.6; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1071.

(Z)-4-methyl-3-methylene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ab):



2ab Colorless oil (37.6 mg, 80%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 5H), 7.15 (tt, $J = 6.0$, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.7, 154.1, 145.9, 134.1, 133.8, 133.5, 131.6, 130.0, 128.7 (2C), 124.5, 123.7 (2C), 121.4, 91.3, 20.0; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1072.

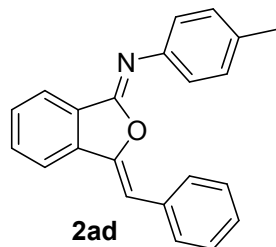
(Z)-3-((Z)-benzylidene)-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ac):



2ac White solid (35.6 mg, 60%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.39 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.42 (q, $J = 8.8$, 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.34 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.26 (s, 2H), 7.14 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.7, 149.8, 146.8, 134.0, 132.5, 132.4, 129.5, 128.8 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.2, 127.5, 125.7, 124.6 (2C), 123.7, 123.6, 122.4 (2C), 100.9; HRMS:

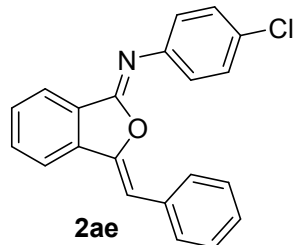
$[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{21}H_{15}NO$ 298.1226, found 298.1228.

(Z)-3-((Z)-benzylidene)-N-(p-tolyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ad):



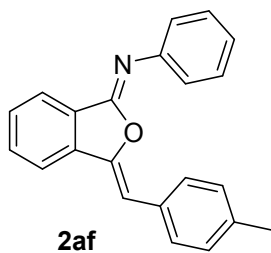
White solid (39.8 mg, 64%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.38 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, $J = 6.8, 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.20 (s, 4H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 151.8, 149.4, 143.8, 133.9, 133.1, 132.5, 132.3, 129.4, 129.3 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.1, 127.5, 125.6, 124.7 (2C), 124.0, 122.6 (2C), 100.9, 21.1; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{22}H_{17}NO$ 312.1383, found 312.1379.

(Z)-3-((Z)-benzylidene)-N-(4-chlorophenyl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ae):



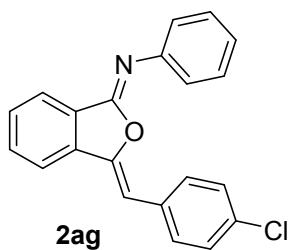
White solid (43.7 mg, 66%); 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.36 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.55 (m, 3H), 7.44 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 151.7, 150.2, 145.3, 134.0, 132.7, 132.2, 129.6, 128.8 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 128.6, 128.3, 127.5, 125.7, 124.6 (2C), 123.9 (2C), 123.5, 101.1; HRMS: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{21}H_{14}ClNO$: 332.0837, found 332.0838.

(Z)-3-((Z)-4-methylbenzylidene)-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2af):



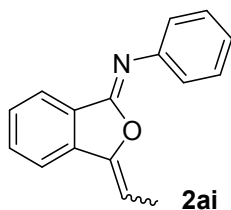
White solid (40.4 mg, 65%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.37 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.9, 149.9, 146.9, 139.7, 134.2, 132.4, 129.6, 129.4 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 128.0, 127.5, 125.5, 124.6 (2C), 123.6 (2C), 122.5 (2C), 100.1, 21.3; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ 312.1383, found 312.1378.

(Z)-3-((Z)-4-chlorobenzylidene)-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ag):



White solid (46.3 mg, 70%); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.37 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.2$, 1H), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dt, $J = 15.6, 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.31 (t, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 3H), 7.22 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.6, 149.5, 146.7, 135.4, 133.7, 132.5, 130.8, 129.5, 128.9 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 128.4, 127.6, 125.9 (2C), 125.7, 123.7, 122.3 (2C), 101.2; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClNO}$ 332.0837, found 332.0838.

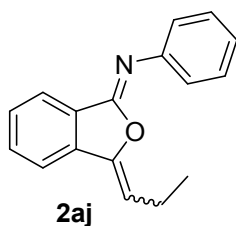
(1Z)-3-ethylidene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ai):



A mixture of inseparable *cis-trans* isomerism ($Z:E \approx 5.8:1$);

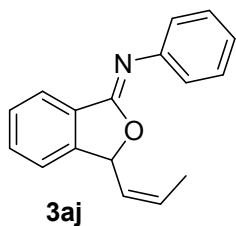
Colorless oil; Major isomer shown: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 3H), 7.39 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.43 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.92 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.1, 149.6, 145.8, 136.6, 132.0, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7 (2C), 124.6, 124.2 (2C), 123.8, 119.2, 99.6, 11.1; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}$ 236.1070, found 236.1071.

(1Z,3Z)-N-phenyl-3-propylideneisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2aj):



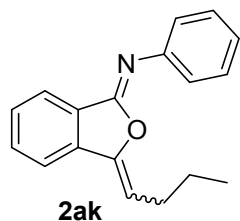
A mixture of inseparable *cis-trans* isomerism ($Z:E \approx 6.3:1$); Colorless oil; Major isomer shown: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd, $J = 15.2, 7.6$ Hz, 3H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.16 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.41 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.41 (p, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.12 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 148.4, 145.7, 136.7, 132.0, 130.2, 129.1, 128.7 (2C), 124.5, 124.2 (2C), 123.6, 119.3, 106.7, 19.2, 14.1; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ 250.1226, found 250.1226.

(Z)-N-phenyl-3-((Z)-prop-1-en-1-yl)isobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (3aj):



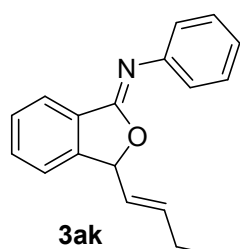
Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 5H), 7.10 (dq, $J = 6.4, 4.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.04 – 5.94 (m, 1H), 5.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.47 (ddd, $J = 15.6, 8.8, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.84 – 1.63 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.3, 146.6, 145.8, 132.0, 131.9, 130.8, 128.9, 128.7 (2C), 127.6, 124.0, 123.9, 123.5 (2C), 122.1, 85.5, 17.9; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}$ 250.1226, found 250.1231.

(1Z,3Z)-3-butyldiene-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (2ak):



A mixture of inseparable *cis-trans* isomerism (*Z:E* \approx 6.7:1); Colorless oil; Major isomer shown: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.97 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.42 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 5.43 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.37 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 1.52 (dt, $J = 14.8, 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.2, 148.4, 145.8, 136.7, 132.0, 130.3, 129.1, 128.7 (2C), 124.6, 124.2 (2C), 123.6, 119.3, 106.7, 29.7, 19.2, 14.1. HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ 264.1383, found 264.1384.

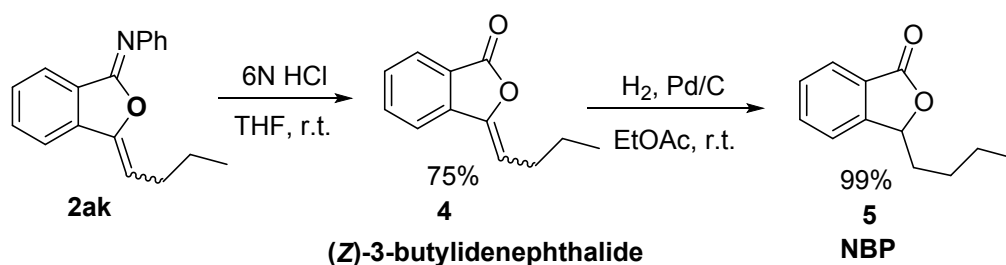
(Z)-3-((Z)-but-1-en-1-yl)-N-phenylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-imine (3ak).



Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.09 (tt, $J = 6.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dt, $J = 15.2, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.87 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.47 – 5.41 (m, 1H), 2.14 – 2.10 (m, 2H), 1.02 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.3, 146.6, 145.9, 138.6, 131.9, 130.8, 128.9, 128.7 (2C), 125.4, 123.9 (2C), 123.5 (2C), 122.1, 85.6, 25.3, 13.0; HRMS: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$ 264.1383, found 264.1385.

4. Transformation of the products

5.1 Synthesis of NBP (Scheme 4)

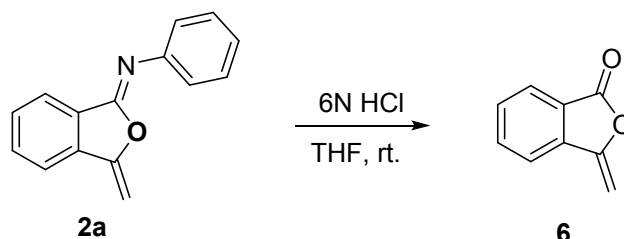


Compound **4** was synthesized according to the methods of reported literature⁸: the obtained product **2ak** (60 mg, 2.3 mmol) was dissolved in THF (2 mL). 6N HCl (0.5 mL) was added and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature. After 3h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted by EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 8:1) to afford desired product **4** (*Z/E* = 25:1) (32.5 mg, 75%) as a light yellow oil. Major isomer shown: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). The spectroscopic data was in agreement with literature report.^{8,9}

Compound **5** was synthesized according to the methods of reported literature⁹: to a solution of product **4** (30 mg, 1.6 mmol) in EtOAc (3 mL) was added Pd/C (5 %, 60 mg). The reaction mixture was allowed to stir under H₂ protection at room temperature. After 16 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and filtered over celite. The organic layer was separated and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 8:1) to give the compound **NBP** (30 mg, 1.6 mmol, 99%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.14 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.57 – 1.18 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 150.1,

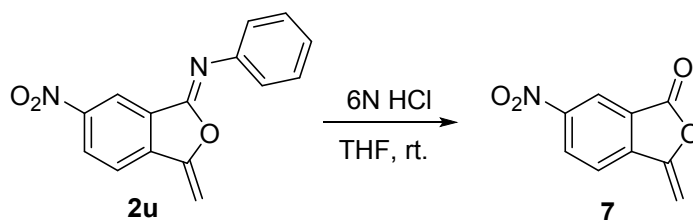
133.9, 129.0, 126.1, 125.6, 121.7, 81.4, 34.4, 26.9, 22.4, 13.9. The spectroscopic data were in agreement with literature report.⁹

5.2 Transformation of the product 2a



Compound **6** was synthesized according to the methods of reported literature⁸: the obtained product **2a** (88 mg, 4 mmol) was dissolved in THF (2 mL). 6N HCl (1 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 3 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted by EtOAc (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 8:1) to afford desired product **6** (46 mg, 78%) as white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 151.8, 139.0, 134.5, 130.5, 125.3, 125.1, 120.6, 91.3. The spectroscopic data of **6** were in agreement with literature report.⁹

5.3 Transformation of the product 2u



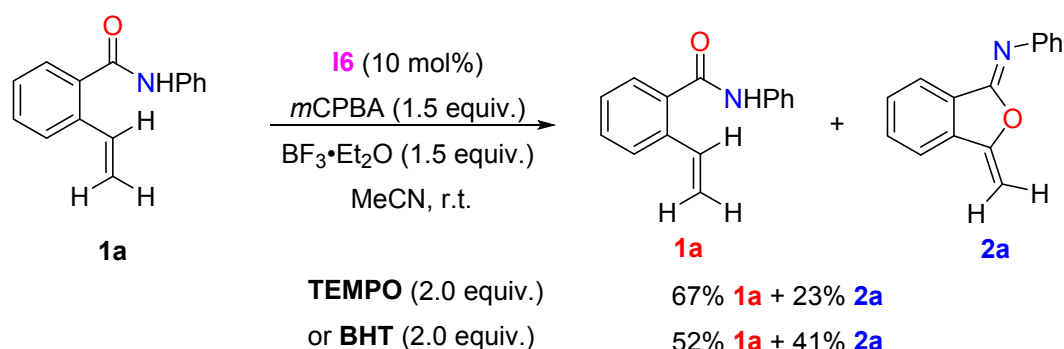
Compound **7** was synthesized according to the methods of reported literature⁸: The obtained product **2u** (106 mg, 4 mmol) was dissolved in THF (2 mL). 6N HCl (1 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 3h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted by

EtOAc (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EtOAc = 8:1) to afford desired product **7** (61 mg, 80%) as white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.54 – 5.47 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.4, 150.4, 149.4, 143.3, 129.4, 126.4, 122.0, 121.3, 95.8; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₉H₅NO₄ 192.0291, found 192.0280.

5. Control experiments

6.1 Free radical inhabitation test

Scheme S1 Free radical inhabitation test.

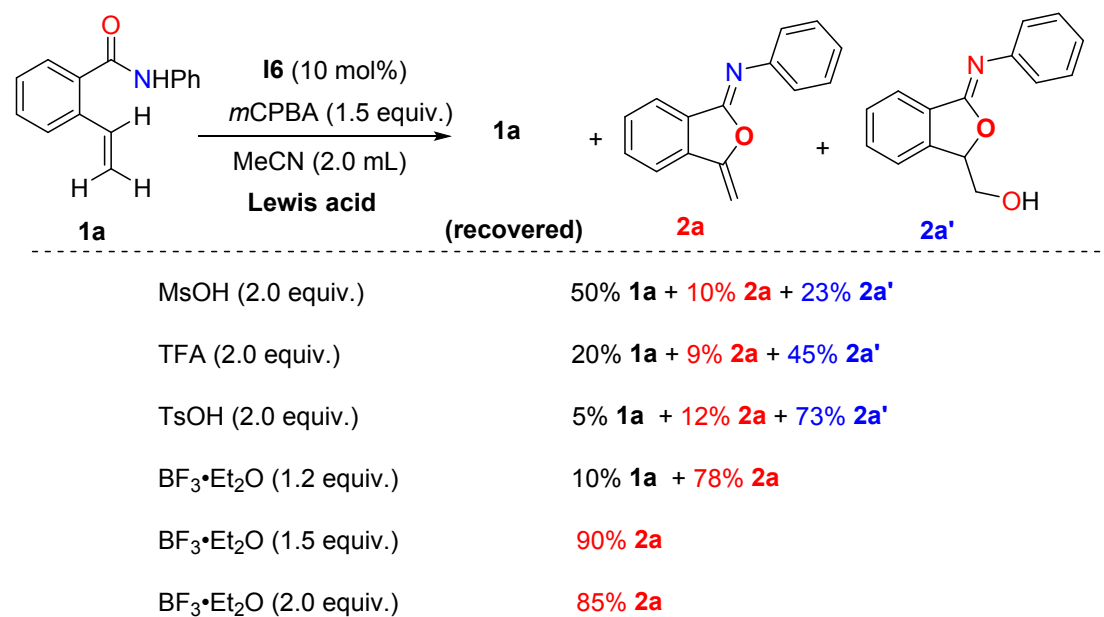


^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **I6** (0.02 mmol), *m*CPBA (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), BF₃·Et₂O (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), MeCN (2 mL), r.t., air atmosphere, 30 min. ^b Isolated yield.

Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (64.8 mg, 80%, 0.3 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. CH₃CN (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, **1a** (44.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), **TEMPO/BHT (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.)** and BF₃·Et₂O (38 μL, 0.3 mmol) were added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product. For 2.0 equiv. TEMPO, 67 % **1a** was recovered and 23 % **2a** was isolated. For 2 equiv. BHT, 52 % **1a** was recovered and 41 % **2a** was isolated.

6.2 Further Lewis acid comparative experiments (Scheme 5a)

Scheme S2 Further Lewis acid effect experiments^{a,b}

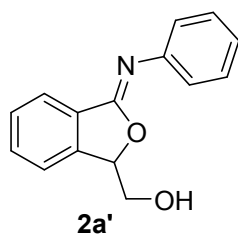


^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **I6** (0.02 mmol), *m*CPBA (0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), **Lewis acid**, MeCN (2 mL), r.t., air atmosphere, 30 min. ^b Isolated yield.

Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (64.8 mg, 80%, 0.3 mmol) and **I6** (4.4 mg 0.02 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried 10 mL Pyrex tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Dry CH₃CN (2.0 mL) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 5 min. Then, **1a** (44.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) and **Lewis acid** were added in turn. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature, which was detected by TLC until completely finished. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash chromatography (mixture of one tenth Alumina-B and nine tenth silica gel) with an eluent of PE:EtOAc = 30:1 to afford the desired product.

Characterization data of **2a'**:

(*Z*)-(3-(phenylimino)-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-1-yl)methanol (**2a'**):



Colorless oil (37.3 mg, 78%); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.22 (m, 4H), 7.11 – 7.04 (m, 1H), 5.52 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.90 (m, 1H), 3.81 – 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.30 (br, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.8, 146.2, 143.4, 132.1, 131.3, 129.3, 128.7 (2C), 124.2, 124.1, 123.5 (2C), 121.6, 84.9, 64.2; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₃NO₂ 240.1019, found 240.1013.

6.3 ¹H NMR experiments

6.3.1 Characterization of product 2a

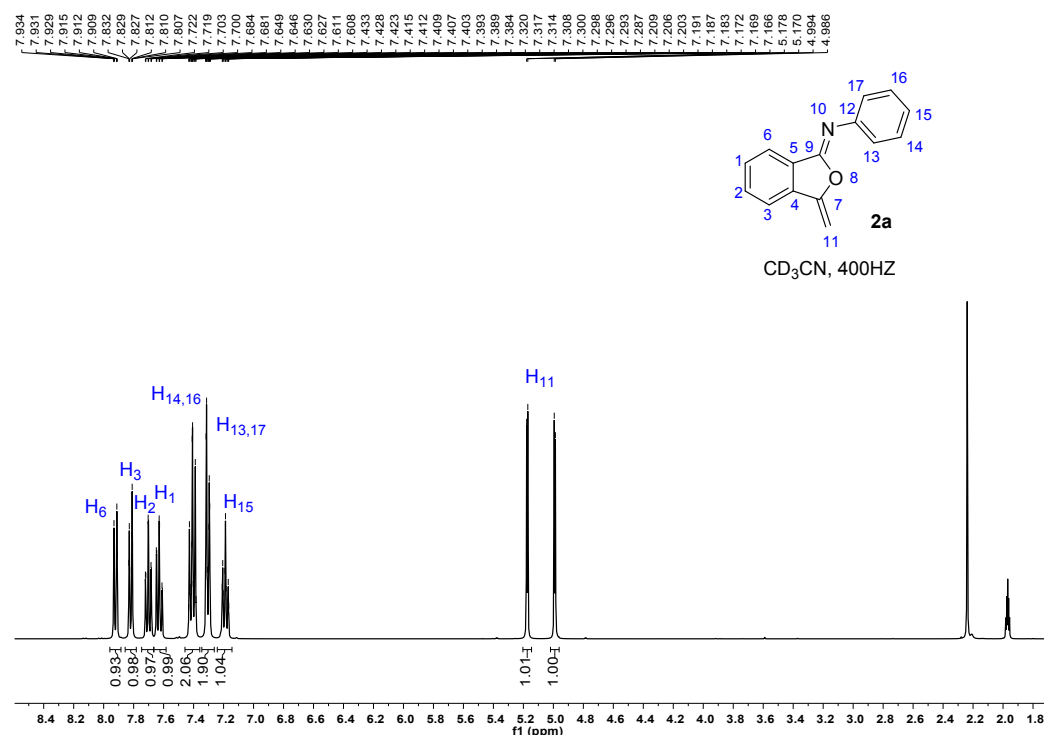


Figure S1 ¹H NMR spectrum for 2a in CD₃CN

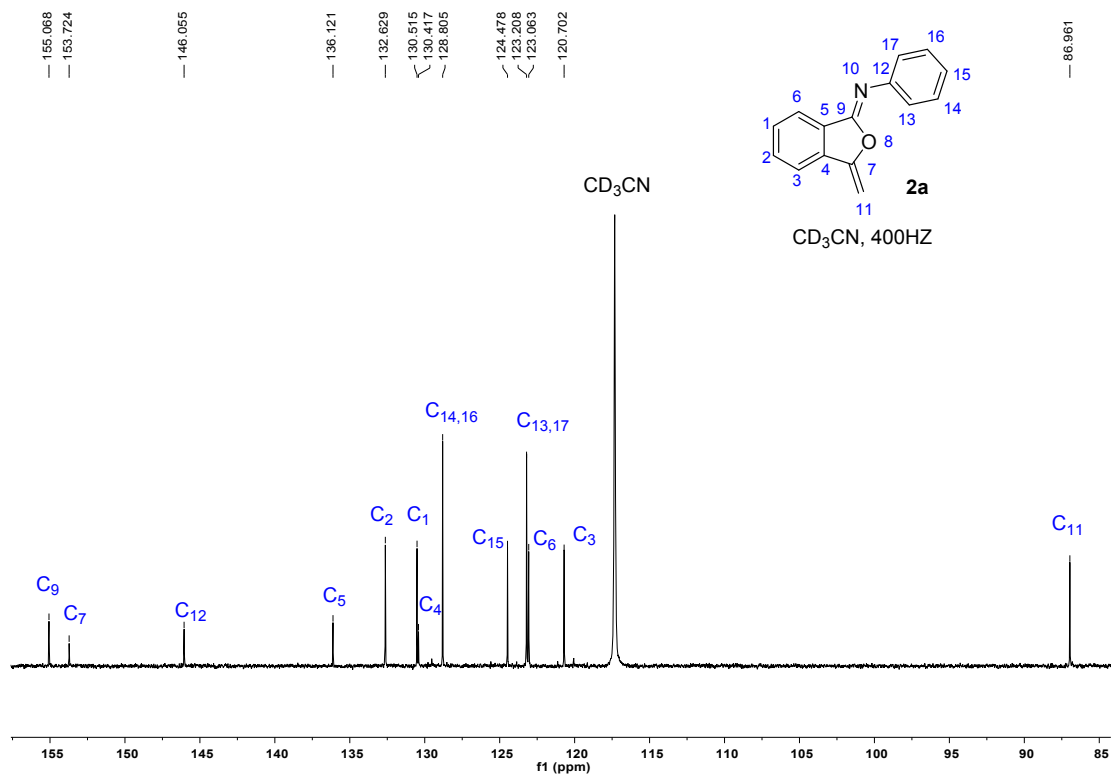


Figure S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum for **2a** in CD₃CN

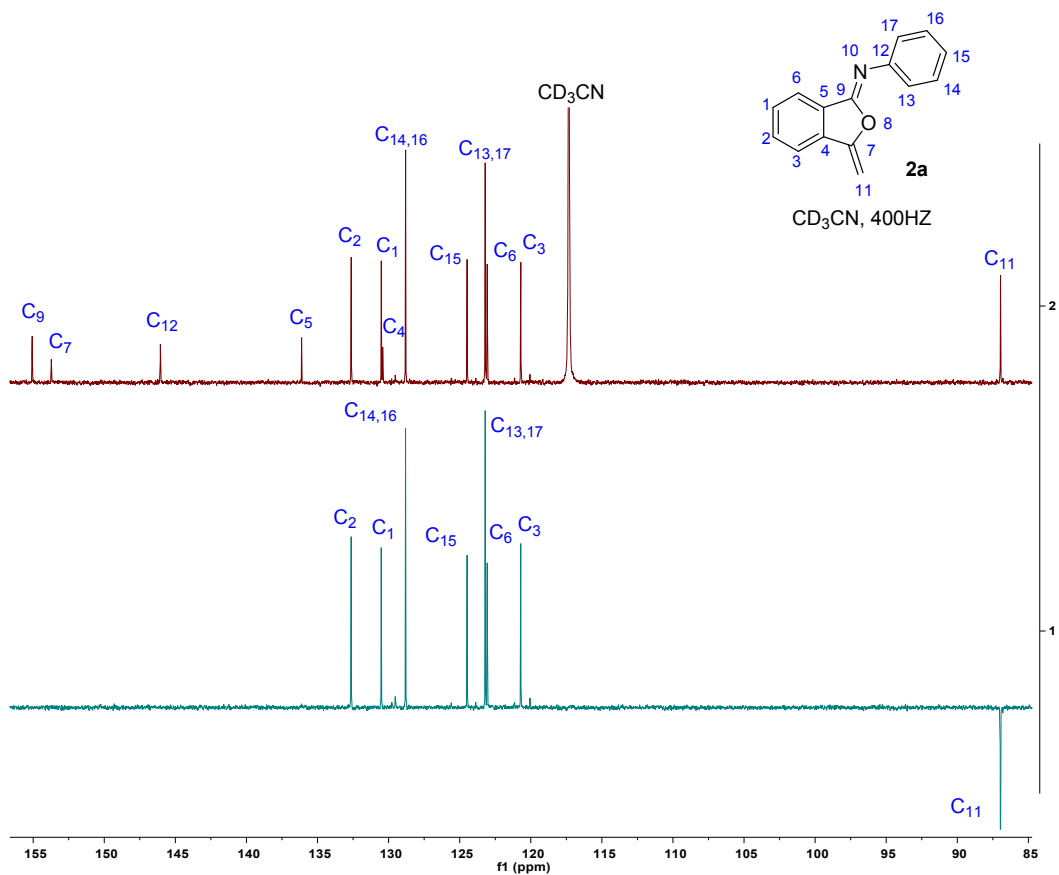


Figure S3 DEPT 135° spectrum for **2a** in CD₃CN

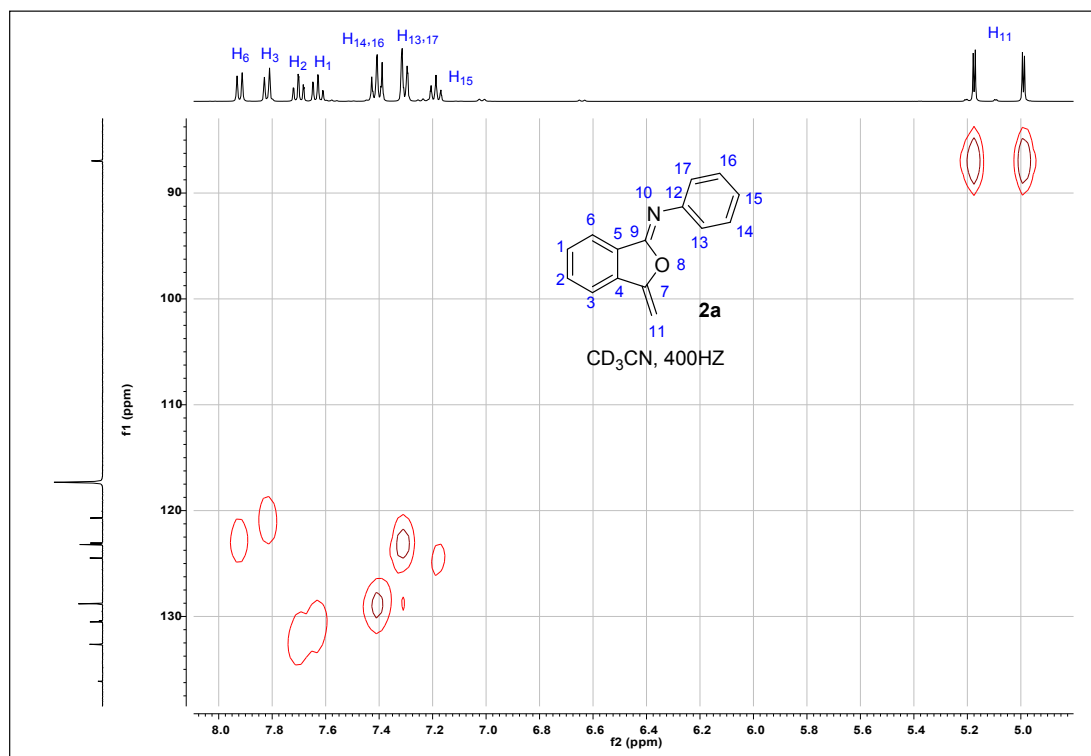
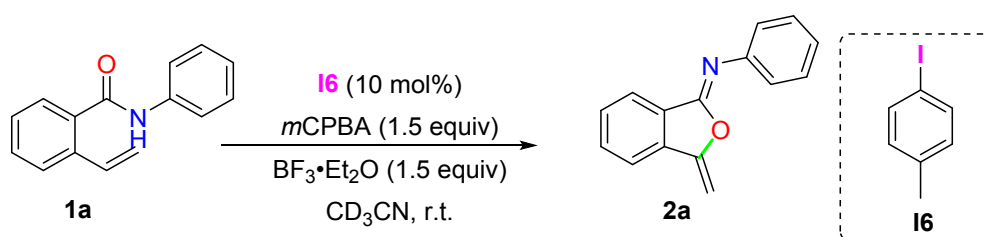


Figure S4 HSQC spectrum for **2a** in CD₃CN

6.3.2 Dynamic ¹H NMR analysis (Scheme 5b)



Experimental Procedure: *m*CPBA (21.6 mg, 80%, 0.075 mmol), **I6** (1.1 mg 0.005 mmol) and **1a** (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) were weighted into an oven-dried septum-capped NMR tube. CD₃CN (0.5 mL, with 0.5 μL CH₂Br₂/mL) was added the for the first ¹H NMR spectroscopic analyses. Then BF₃·Et₂O (10 μL, 0.075 mmol) was added to the NMR tube and the ¹H NMR spectrum was detected continuously until completed.

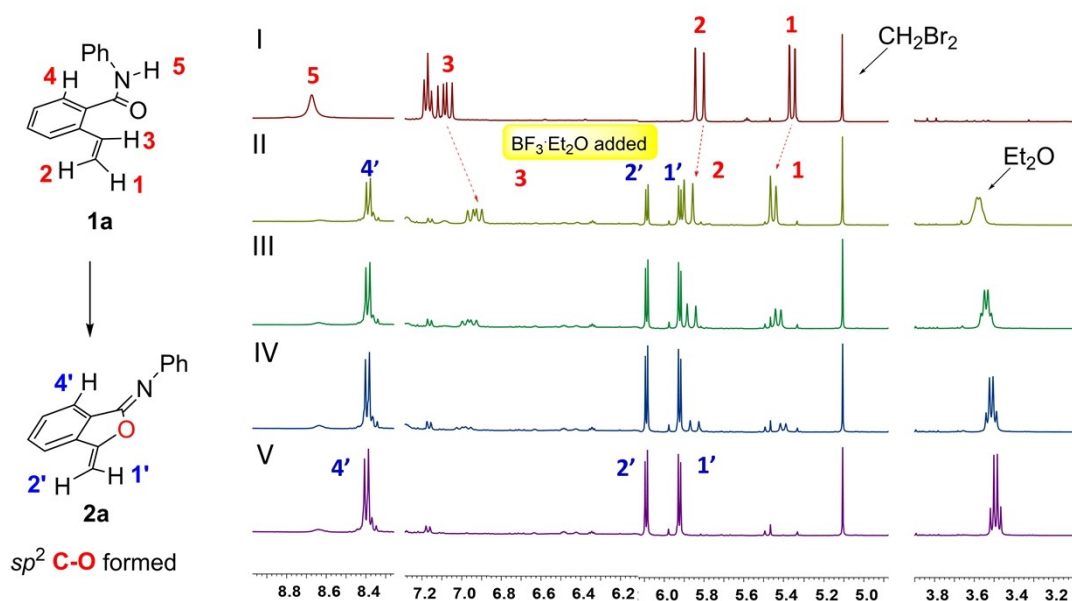
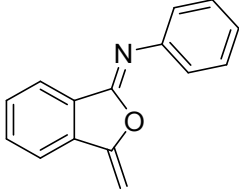
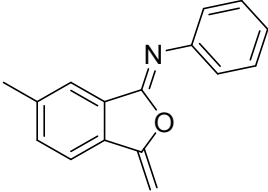


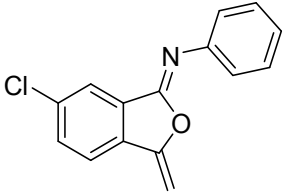
Figure S5 ^a **I**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of reaction mixture of **1a** (0.05 mmol), **I6** (10 mol%), and *m*CPBA (0.075 mmol) in CD₃CN (0.5 mL) with CH₂Br₂ (2.5 μL) as internal standard. **II**: BF₃·Et₂O (0.075 mmol) was added to the NMR tube; **III**: for 12 min; **IV**: for 22 min; **V**: for 30 min.

Discussion:

The reaction progress was conveniently showed by chemical shifts and intensity changes in hydrogen resonances obtained from ¹H NMR spectroscopy. As shown, no obvious signal changes were observed during the oxidation of **1a** with *m*CPBA (Figure S5, I). Upon adding BF₃·Et₂O, signals of substrate (**H1**, **H2** and **H3**) decreased and new signals of product (**H1'**, **H2'**, and **H4'**) appeared (Figure S5, II). And the gradual appearance of free Et₂O (–CH₂ signals) confirmed liberation of the BF₃ unit (Figure S5, II–V). These outcomes confirmed the significant role of BF₃·Et₂O in triggering and accelerating the reaction process. Elongated reaction times (30 min) enabled the formation of **2a** in 95% ¹H NMR yield as the main product (Figure S5, V).

6. Comparison of the structure data of 2a, 2s and 2t with the reported¹⁰

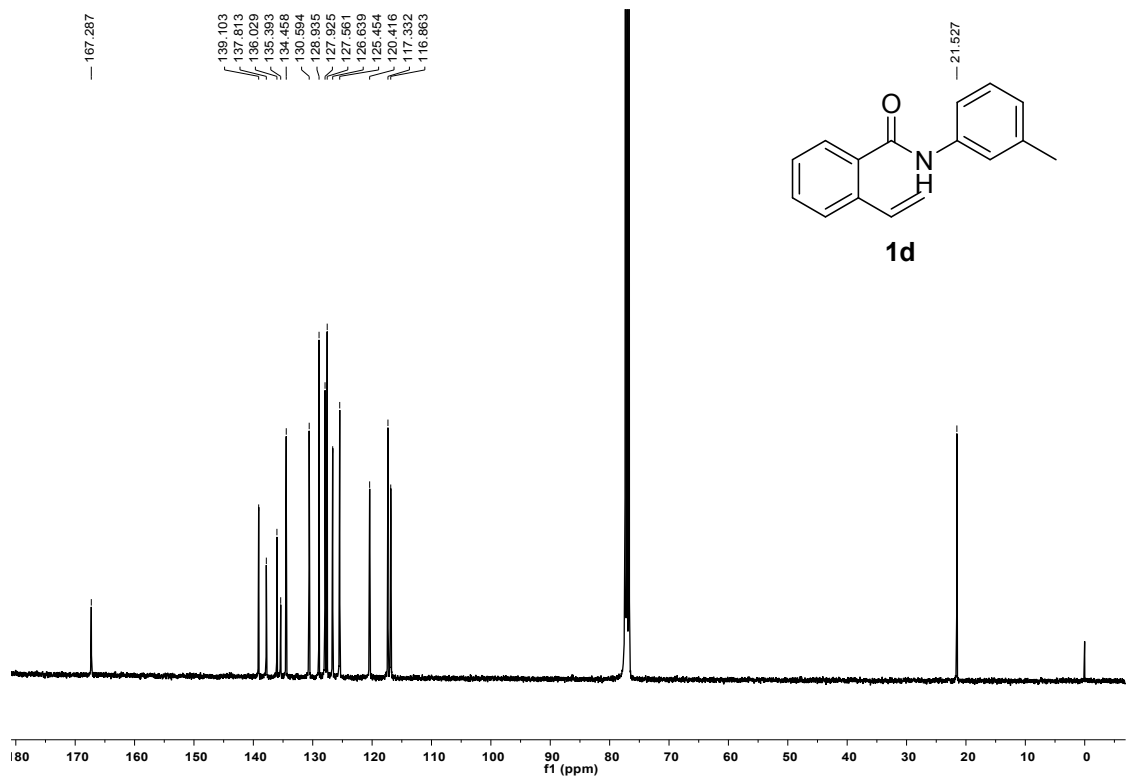
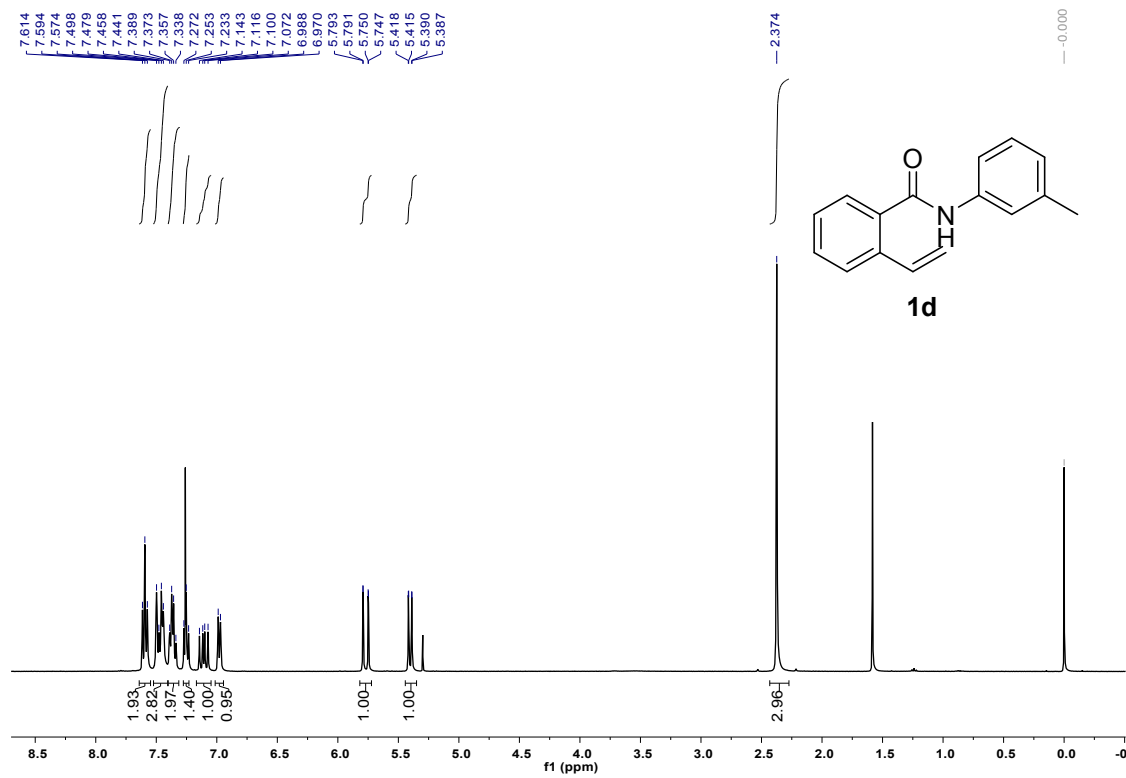
	4a reported by Liu group ¹⁰	Blue solid; ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 7.95 - 7.90 (m, 1H), 7.79 - 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.67 - 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.59 - 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.44 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 5.24 - 7.21 (m, 1H), 4.82 - 4.78 (m, 1H); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 166.7, 143.1, 136.2, 134.5, 132.3, 129.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.1, 128.0, 123.6, 120.0, 90.5; HRMS: [M+H] ⁺ calcd for C ₁₅ H ₁₁ NO 222.0913, found 222.0912.
	2a reported by our group	Colorless oil; ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 7.98 (dt, <i>J</i> = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 - 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.58 - 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.45 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.16 (tt, <i>J</i> = 6.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 2H); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 155.1, 153.9, 145.7, 136.2, 132.2, 130.8, 130.2, 128.8 (2C), 124.7, 123.7 (2C), 123.6, 120.3, 87.2; HRMS: [M+H] ⁺ calcd for C ₁₅ H ₁₁ NO 222.0913, found 222.0912.
	4b reported by Liu group ¹⁰	Blue solid; ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, <i>J</i> = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, <i>J</i> = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 166.8, 143.1, 140.2, 134.6, 133.7, 133.3, 129.3, 128.1, 127.9, 126.5, 123.7, 119.9, 89.7, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C ₁₆ H ₁₄ NO ⁺ : 236.1070 (M ⁺ +H), found: 236.1076.
	2s reported by our group	Colorless oil; ¹ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, <i>J</i> = 5.6 Hz, 5H), 7.15 (tt, <i>J</i> = 6.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (q, <i>J</i> = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ¹³ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl ₃) δ 155.2, 154.0, 145.7, 140.7, 133.8, 133.4, 131.1, 128.7(2C), 124.6, 123.7 (2C), 123.6, 120.1, 86.3, 21.6; HRMS: [M+H] ⁺ calcd for C ₁₆ H ₁₃ NO 236.1070, found 236.1071.

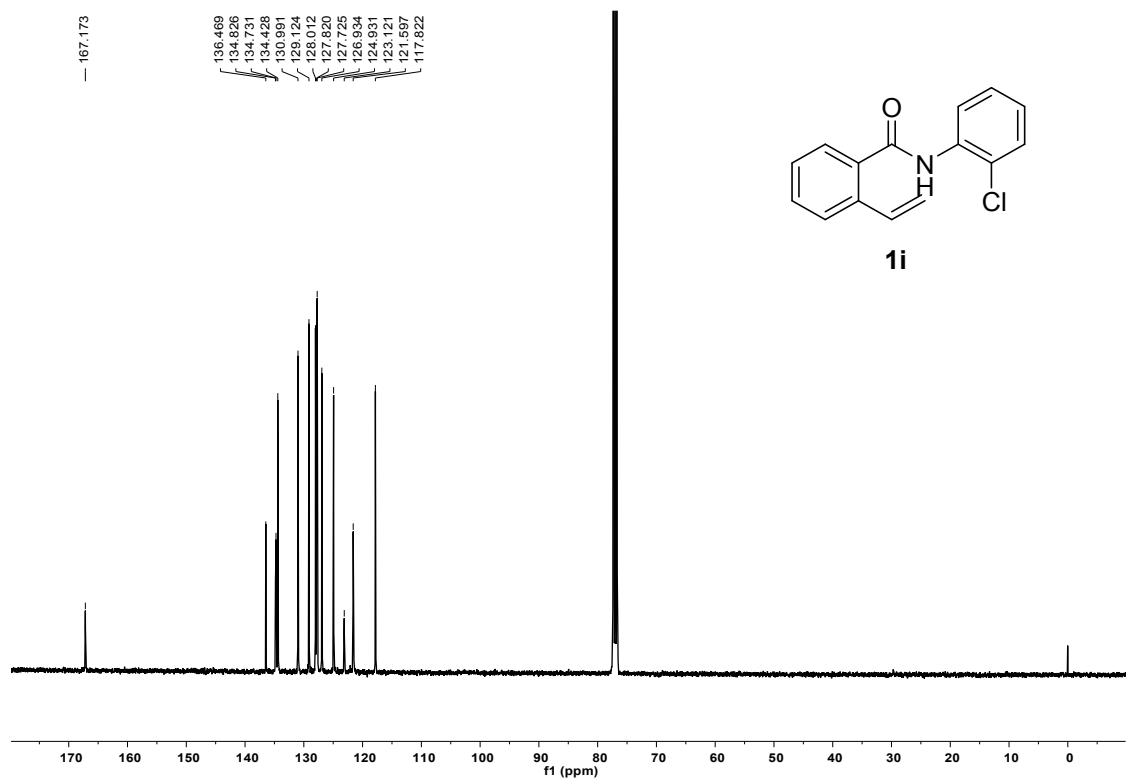
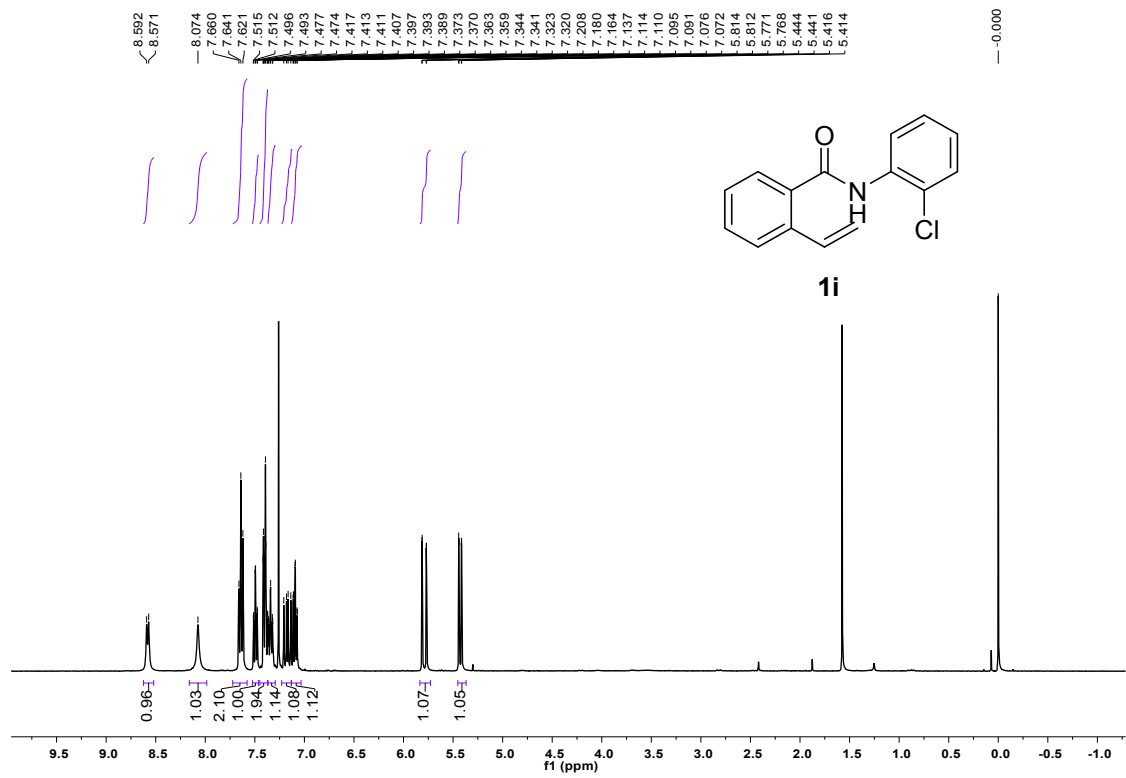
	<p>4e reported by Liu group¹⁰</p>	<p>Blue solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, <i>J</i> = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 - 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, <i>J</i> = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.16 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.8, 143.1, 140.2, 134.6, 133.7, 133.3, 129.3, 128.1, 127.9, 126.5, 123.7, 119.9, 89.7, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₁₄NO⁺: 236.1070 (M⁺+H), found: 236.1076.</p>
	<p>2t reported by our group</p>	<p>White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.37 (d, <i>J</i> = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 7.17 (tt, <i>J</i> = 5.4, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, <i>J</i> = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, <i>J</i> = 3.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.4, 152.3, 145.1, 136.4, 134.5, 132.5, 132.5, 128.8 (2C), 125.1, 123.9 (2C), 123.6, 121.5, 87.8; HRMS: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₀ClNO 256.0524, found 256.0523.</p>

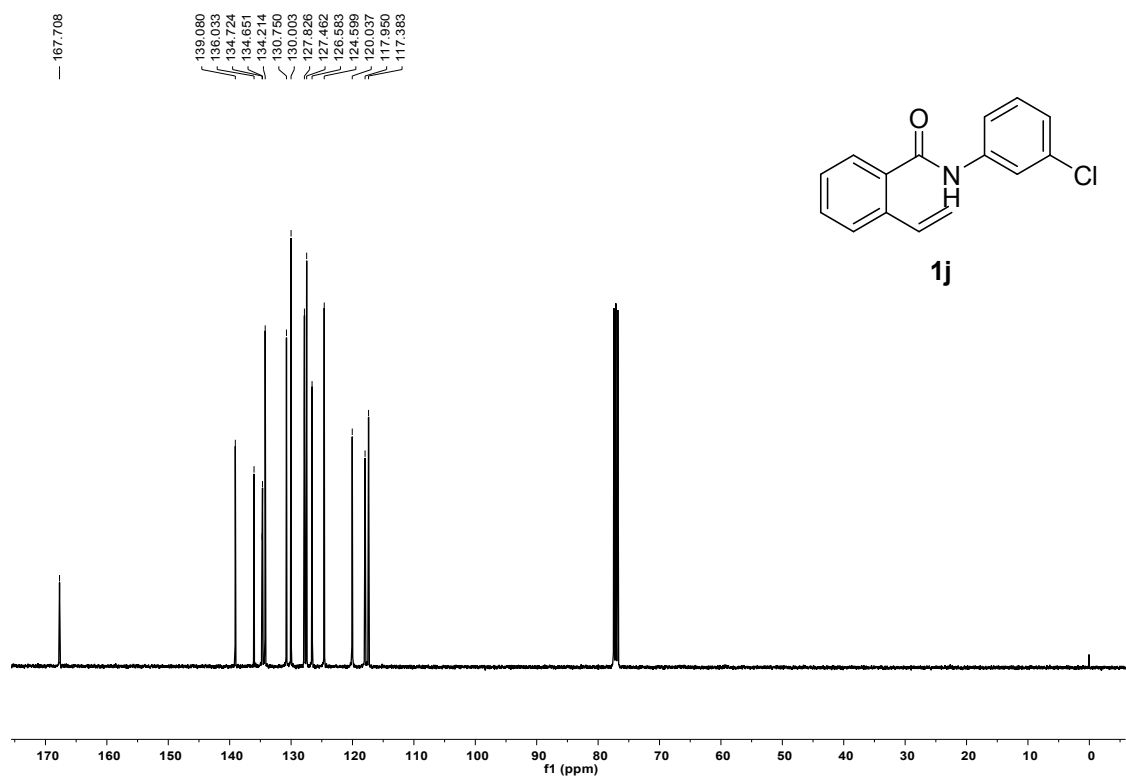
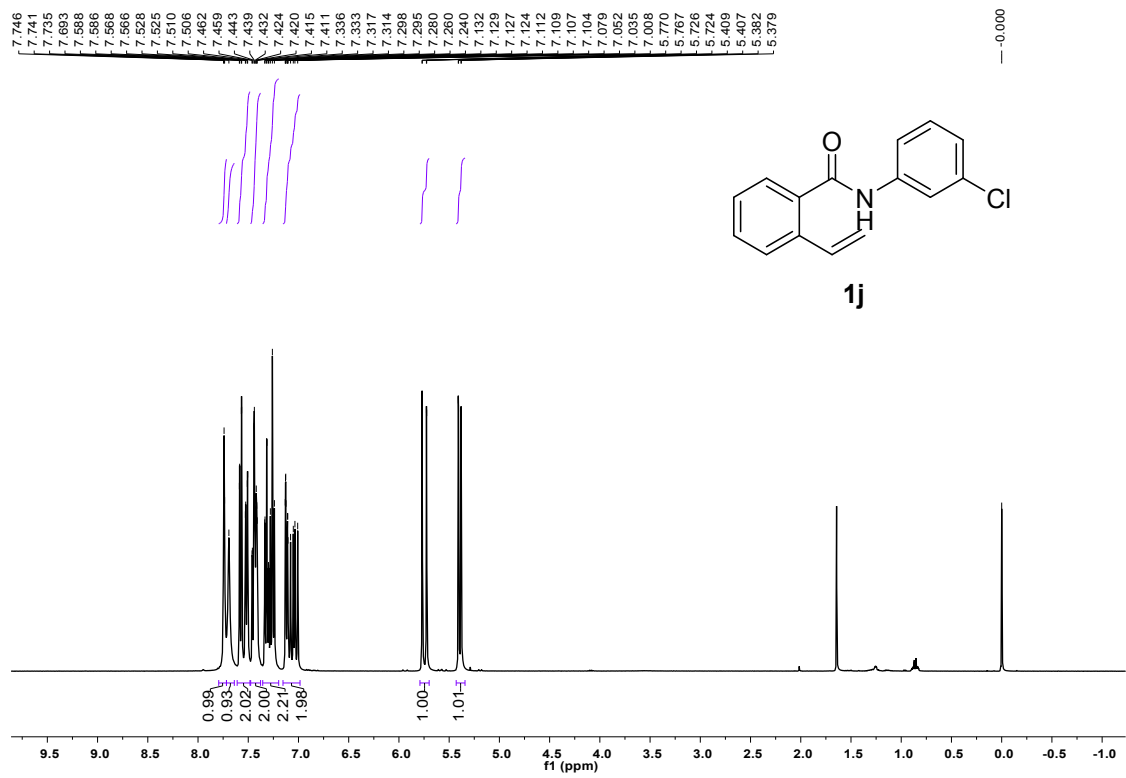
7. Reference

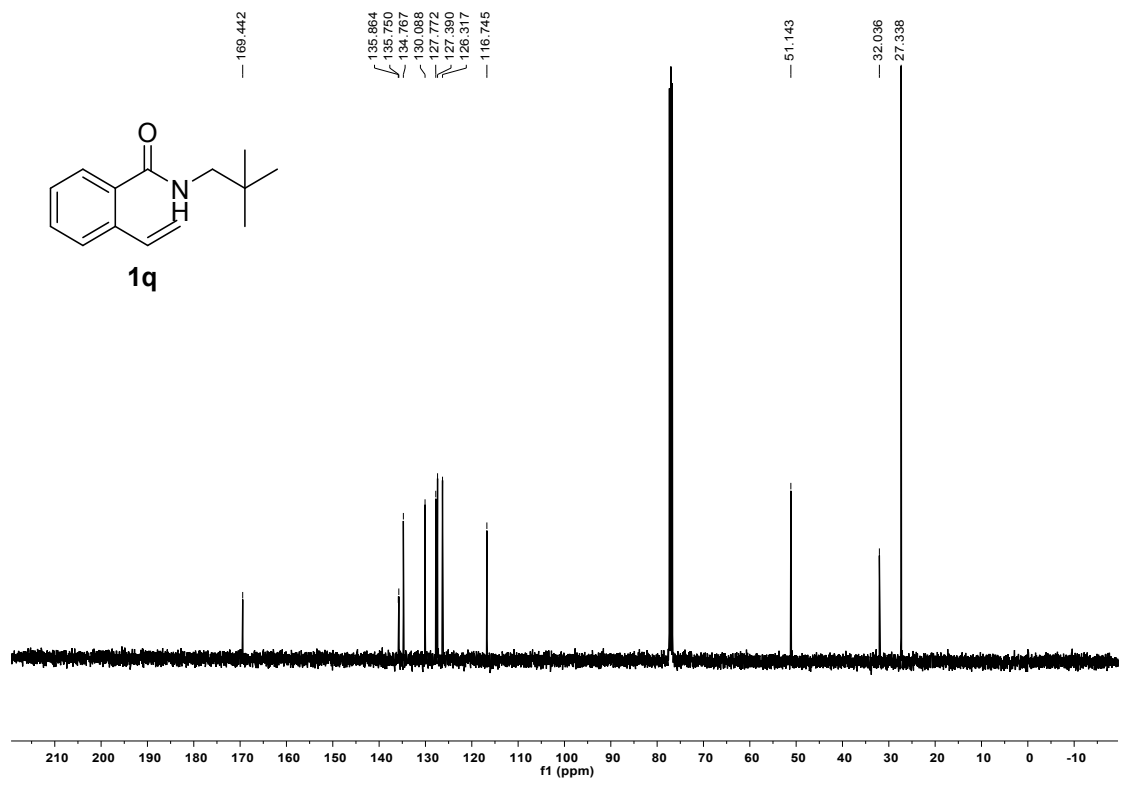
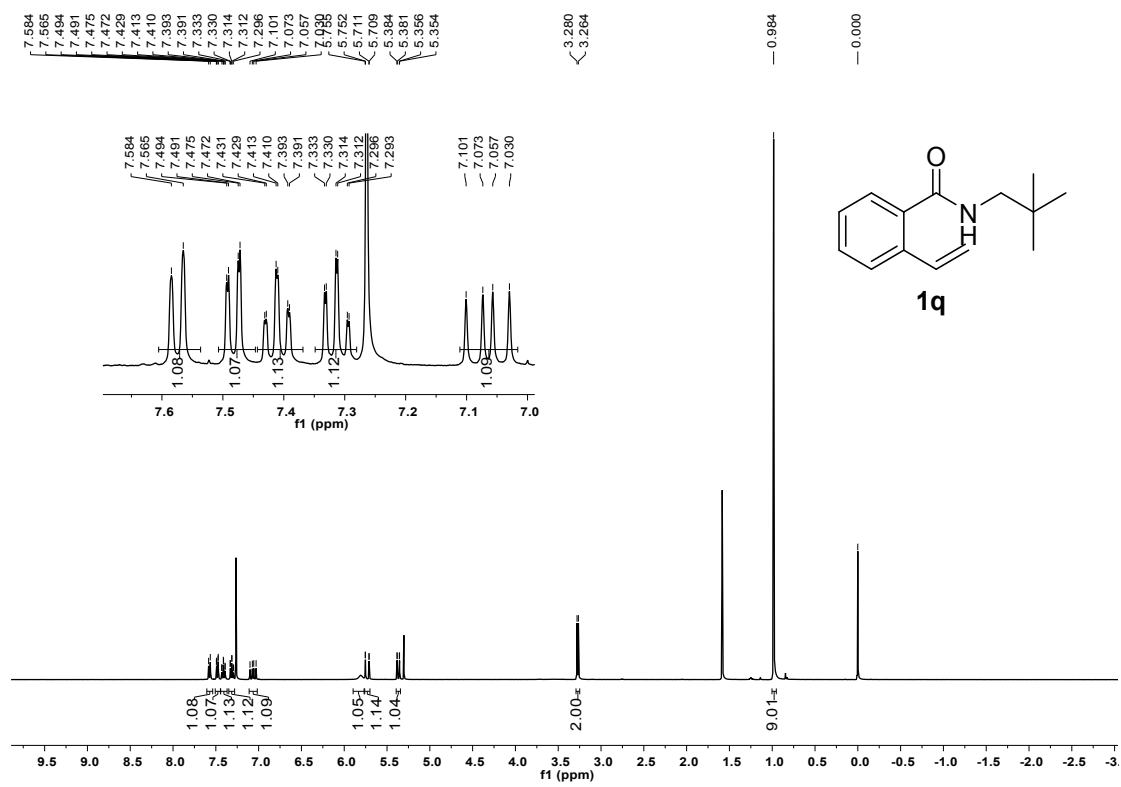
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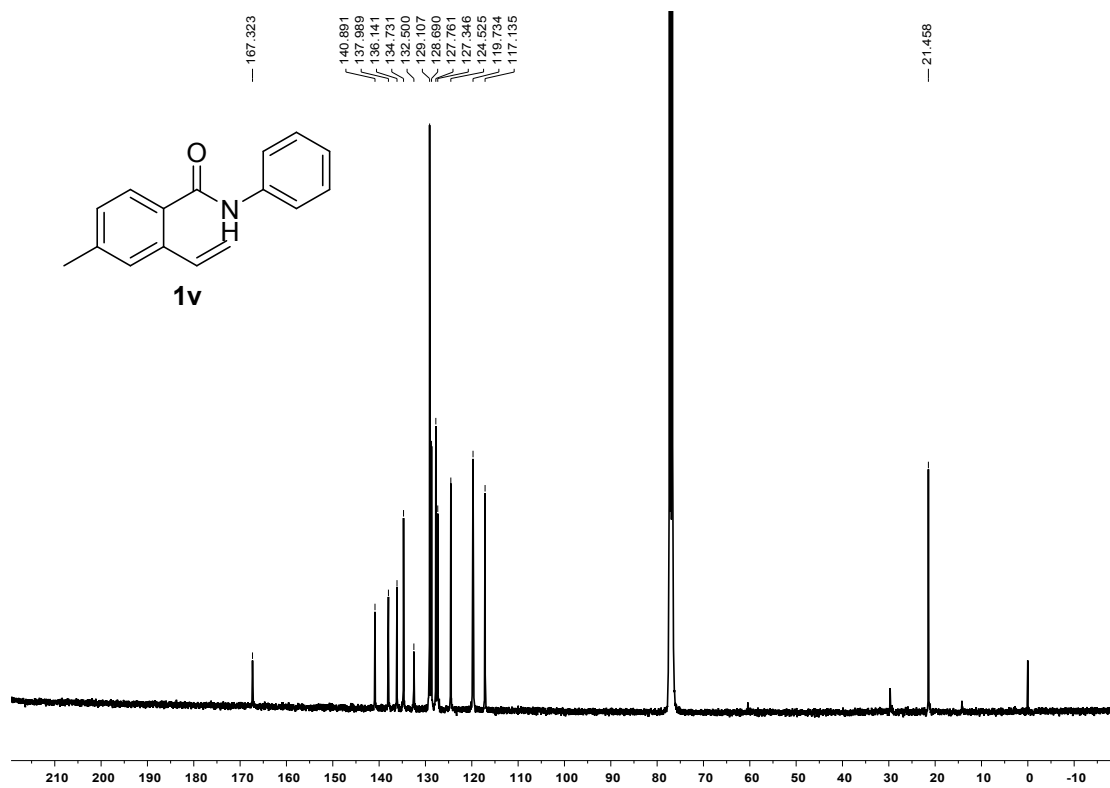
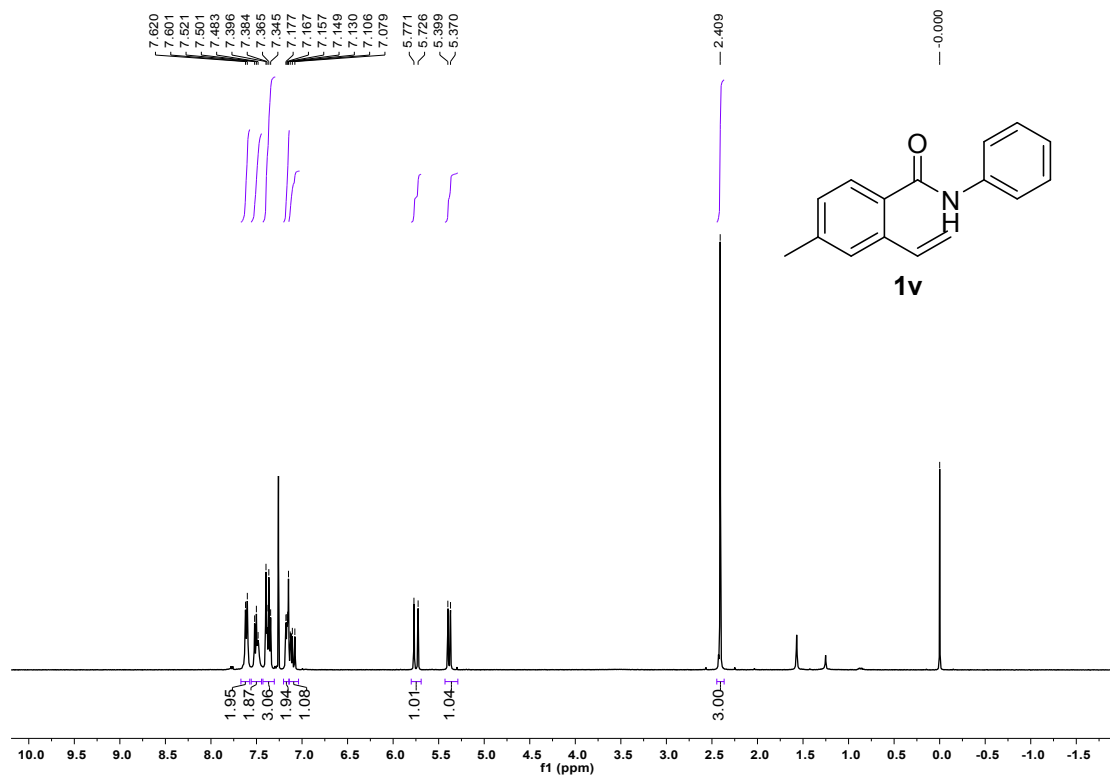
8. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{19}F NMR spectra

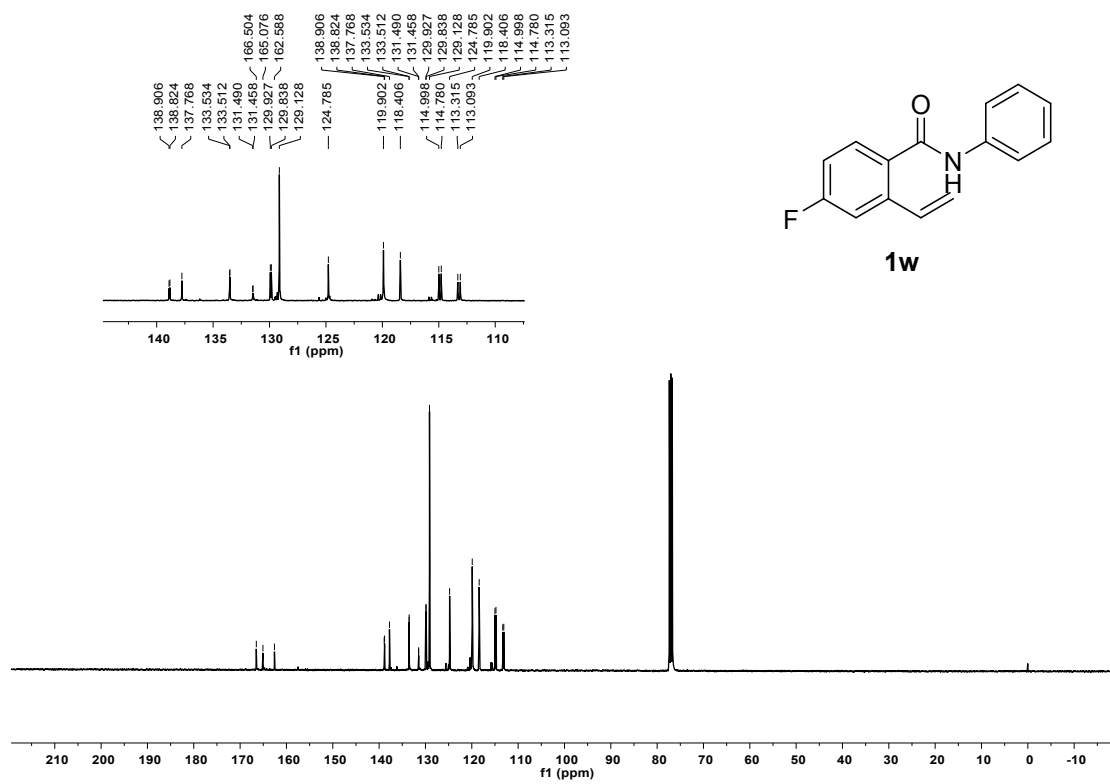
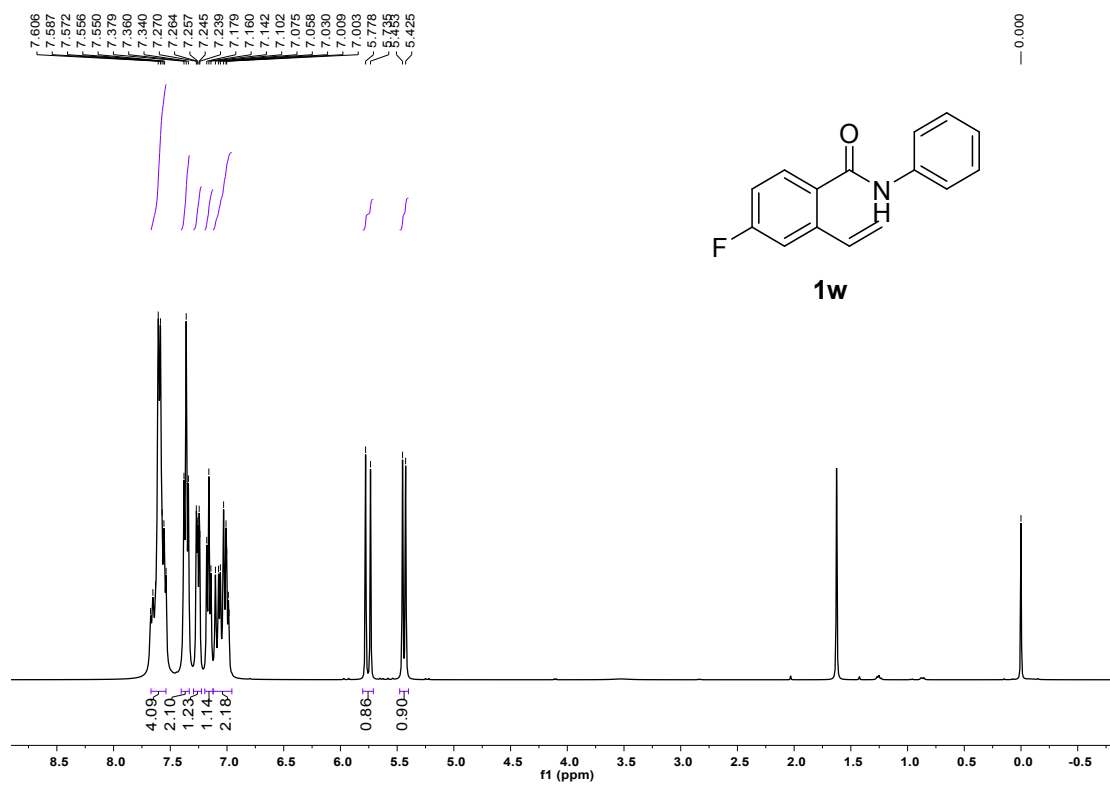


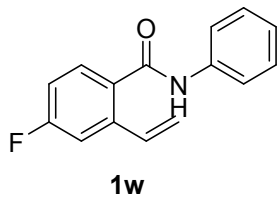












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