

*Supporting Information*

**1,1,2-Tribromoethyl arenes: a novel and highly efficient  
precursor for the synthesis of 1-bromoalkynes and  $\alpha$ -  
bromoketones**

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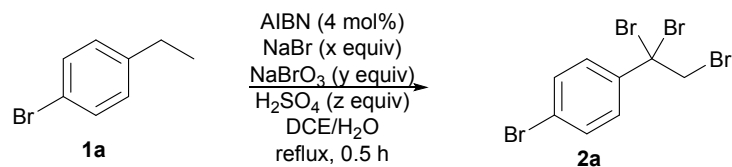
## I. General remarks

NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV-600 MHz spectrometer. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as the internal reference ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta = 7.26$  ppm;  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ :  $\delta = 2.50$  ppm). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz) chemical shifts were given using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  as the internal standard ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta = 77.16$  ppm;  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ :  $\delta = 39.52$  ppm). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters-Q-TOF-Premier (ESI). Melting points were determined with XRC-1 and are uncorrected. Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

## II. Optimization of tribromination of 1-bromo-4-ethylbenzene **1a**

A 25-mL boiling flask-3-neck with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-ethylbenzene **1a** (3 mmol, 1 equiv), NaBr (x equiv),  $\text{NaBrO}_3$  (y equiv), DCE and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The reaction mixture was heated to reflux. AIBN was added and then  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (z equiv) was added dropwise to the solution. The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 0.5 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and then quenched with 10 mL of saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The resulting mixture was extracted with DCE (3x), and the combined organic phase was dried with  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **2a**.

**Table S1.** Optimization of tribromination of 1-bromo-4-ethylbenzene **1a**<sup>a</sup>



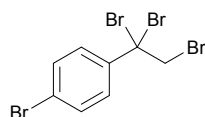
Entry	<b>1a</b> /x/y/z	AIBN(mol%)	DCE (mL)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (mL)	Yield (%)
1	1:2:1:1.5	4	5	0.5	83
2	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	5	0.5	85
3	1:2.3:1.15:1.75	4	5	0.5	84
4	1:2.4:1.2:1.8	4	5	0.5	85
5	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	3	0.5	83
6	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	9	0.5	85

7	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	12	0.5	86
8	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	12	0.8	84
9	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	12	1.0	81
10	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	4	12	0	76
11	1:2.2:1.1:1.65	8	12	0.5	85

<sup>a</sup>Yields of isolated products. AIBN = azobisisobutyronitrile, DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane.

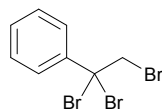
### III. General procedure for tribromination of ethylbenzene derivatives

A 25-mL boiling flask-3-neck with a magnetic stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-ethylbenzene **1a** (3 mmol, 1 equiv), NaBr (2.2 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (1.1 equiv), DCE and H<sub>2</sub>O. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux. AIBN (20 mg, 4 mol%) was added and then H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (1.65 equiv) was added dropwise to the solution. The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 0.5-2.5 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and then quenched with 10 mL of saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The resulting mixture was extracted with DCE (3x), and the combined organic phase was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product.



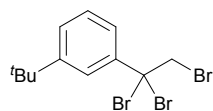
#### 1-Bromo-4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2a)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (1.09 g, 86% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.61 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 140.3, 131.45, 128.9, 123.9, 63.1, 45.2.



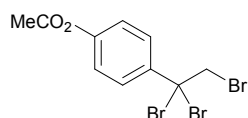
#### (1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)benzene (2b)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as yellow oil (1.01 g, 98%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.1, 129.5, 128.3, 127.1, 64.6, 45.5. GC-MS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> (M-Br): 262.9. Found: 262.9.



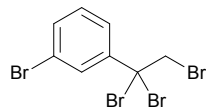
### 1-(*tert*-Butyl)-3-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2c)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (1.2 g, 77% yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 1.37 (s, 9H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  151.3, 140.9, 128.1, 126.7, 124.6, 124.4, 65.6, 45.7, 35.0, 31.4.



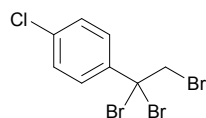
### 4-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)phenyl acetate (2d)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (0.97 g, 81%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.05-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.2, 168.8, 155.1, 131.6, 130.8, 122.3, 30.7, 21.3.



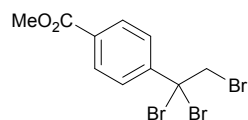
### 1-Bromo-3-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2e)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (0.95 g, 75%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.91 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.60 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  143.3, 132.8, 130.7, 129.9, 126.0, 122.5, 62.6, 45.4.



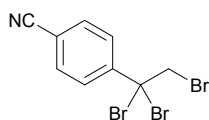
### 1-Chloro-4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2f)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (0.98 g, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.69 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 4.61 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.7, 135.6, 128.6, 128.4, 63.1, 45.2.



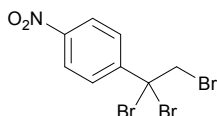
### Methyl 4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzoate (2g)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (0.96 g, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.06 – 8.03 (m, 2H), 7.84 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.9, 145.3, 131.0, 129.5, 127.3, 63.0, 52.3, 45.1.



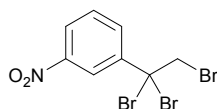
#### 4-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)benzonitrile (2h)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (0.50 g, 45%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.62 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 145.5, 132.1, 128.1, 126.8, 117.7, 113.3, 61.6, 44.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>3</sub>NNa (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 387.7933, found 387.7943.



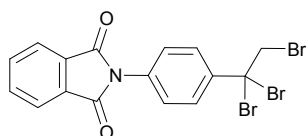
#### 1-Nitro-4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2i)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a yellow solid (0.52 g, 45%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.26 – 8.23 (m, 2H), 7.95 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 148.0, 147.3, 128.5, 123.4, 61.1, 44.6. GC-MS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M-Br): 307.9. Found: 307.9.



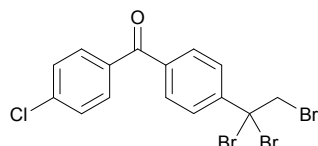
#### 1-Nitro-3-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2j)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a yellow solid (0.70 g, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.63 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 2.0, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.9, 143.2, 133.1, 129.5, 124.3, 122.5, 61.1, 44.8. GC-MS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M-Br): 307.9. Found: 307.9.



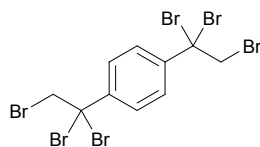
### 2-(4-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)phenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (2k)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (1.20 g, 82%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.97 (dd,  $J = 5.4, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.91 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.81 (dd,  $J = 5.5, 3.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 4.66 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8, 140.4, 134.6, 132.7, 131.5, 128.0, 125.6, 123.9, 63.4, 45.2. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}_3\text{NNaO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  507.8160, found 507.8154.



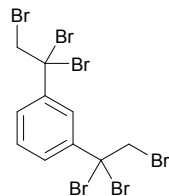
### (4-Chlorophenyl)(4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)phenyl)methanone (2l)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (1.21 g, 84%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.78 (dd,  $J = 8.5, 6.9$  Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 4.67 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.2, 145.1, 139.3, 137.9, 135.2, 131.4, 129.7, 128.8, 127.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}_3\text{ClNaO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{Na}$ ) $^+$  500.7859, found 500.7863.



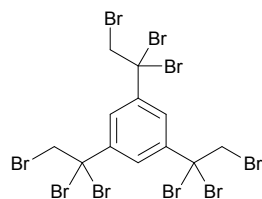
### 1,4-Bis(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2m)

$\text{NaBr}$  (4.4 equiv),  $\text{NaBrO}_3$  (2.2 equiv) and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (3.3 equiv) were used to afford the product as a white solid (1.64 g, 90%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.76 (s, 4H), 4.62 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  142.2, 127.2, 62.8, 45.0.



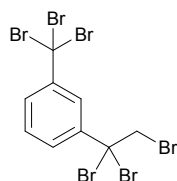
### 1,3-Bis(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2n)

$\text{NaBr}$  (4.4 equiv),  $\text{NaBrO}_3$  (2.2 equiv) and  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  (3.3 equiv) were used to afford the product as colorless oil (1.27 g, 70%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.17 (t,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.75 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 2.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.63 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  141.3, 128.3, 126.6, 63.2, 45.3.



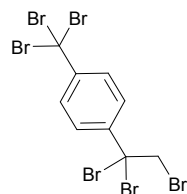
### 1,3,5-Tris(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2o)

NaBr (6.6 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (3.3 equiv), H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (4.4 equiv) and AIBN (6 mol%) were used to afford the product as colorless oil (2.35 g, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.15 (s, 3H), 4.62 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.6, 127.5, 62.1, 45.1.



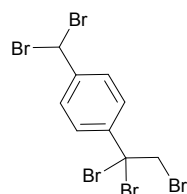
### 1-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)-3-(tribromomethyl)benzene (2p)

NaBr (4.4 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (2.2 equiv) and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3.3 equiv) were used to afford the product as a white solid (1.26 g, 71%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.42 (t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 146.8, 141.2, 128.8, 128.2, 127.4, 125.6, 62.8, 45.1, 34.6.



### 1-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)-4-(tribromomethyl)benzene (2q)

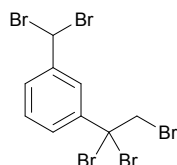
NaBr (4.4 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (2.2 equiv) and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (3.3 equiv) were used to afford the product as a white solid (1.28 g, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.03 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.79 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 4.64 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.5, 142.7, 127.0, 126.5, 62.4, 44.9, 34.1.



### 1-(Dibromomethyl)-4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2r)



NaBr (3.3 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (1.65 equiv) and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (2.5 equiv) were used to afford the product as yellow oil (1.17 g, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.78 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.63 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 142.7, 142.4, 127.5, 126.5, 62.9, 45.1, 39.4.



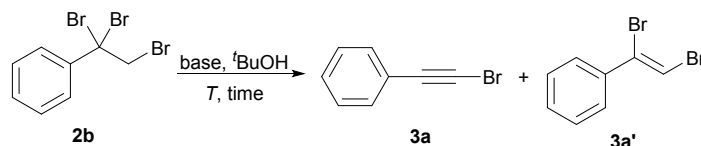
### 1-(Dibromomethyl)-3-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene (2s)

NaBr (3.3 equiv), NaBrO<sub>3</sub> (1.65 equiv) and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (2.5 equiv) were used to afford the product as yellow oil (1.15 g, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.94 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 4.63 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 141.9, 141.6, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 125.4, 63.1, 45.1, 39.8.

## IV. Optimization of β-H elimination of 1,1,2-tribromoethyl arenes

A 25-mL round-bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with <sup>t</sup>BuOK and <sup>t</sup>BuOH. The mixture was stirred at rt for 5 min, and then (1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene **2b** (0.34g, 1.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 0.5 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phase was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **3a**.

**Table S2.** Optimization of β-H elimination of (1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene **2b**<sup>a</sup>



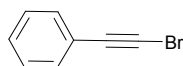
Entry	base	<i>T</i>	Time	Yield of <b>3a</b>	Yield of <b>3a'</b>
1	NaOH, 4.0 equiv	85 °C	10 h	0	91
2	KOH, 4.0 equiv	85 °C	10 h	0	93
3	NaH, 4.0 equiv	85 °C	10 h	0	0
4	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, 4.0 equiv	85 °C	10 h	95	0
5	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, 4.0 equiv	35 °C	10 h	95	0

6	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, 4.0 equiv	35 °C	0.5 h	98	0
7	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, 2.1 equiv	35 °C	0.5 h	98	0
8	<sup>t</sup> BuOK, 2.0 equiv	35 °C	0.5 h	95	0
<b>9<sup>b</sup></b>	<b><sup>t</sup>BuOK, 2.1 equiv</b>	<b>35 °C</b>	<b>0.5 h</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>a</sup>1.0 mmol of **2b**, 5 mL of <sup>t</sup>BuOH was used. Yields of isolated products. <sup>b</sup>3 mL of <sup>t</sup>BuOH was used..

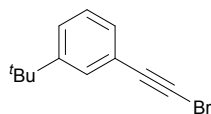
## V. General procedure for the synthesis of 1-bromoalkynes

A 25-mL round-bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.24g, 2.1 mmol, 2.1 equiv) and <sup>t</sup>BuOH (3 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt for 5 min, and then (1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene derivative (1.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 35 °C for 0.5 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phase was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product.



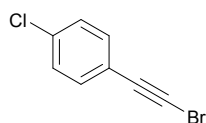
### (Bromoethynyl)benzene (**3a**)<sup>1</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (177 mg, 98%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.47 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 2.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, J = 2.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 131.9, 128.6, 128.3, 122.6, 80.0, 49.7.



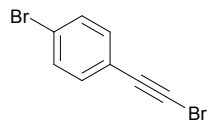
### 1-(Bromoethynyl)-3-(*tert*-butyl)benzene (**3b**)

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (182 mg, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 2H), 1.37 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 151.4, 129.2, 128.2, 126.1, 122.4, 80.7, 49.1, 34.8, 31.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>Br (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 237.0279, found 237.0274.



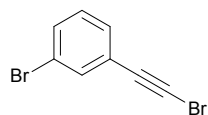
### 1-(Bromoethynyl)-4-chlorobenzene (3c)<sup>1</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (211 mg, 98%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.7, 133.1, 128.6, 121.1, 78.9, 51.0.



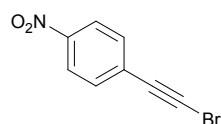
### 1-Bromo-4-(bromoethynyl)benzene (3d)<sup>1</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (223 mg, 86%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.7, 133.1, 128.6, 121.1, 78.9, 51.0.



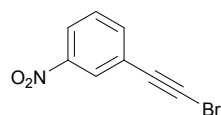
### 1-Bromo-3-(bromoethynyl)benzene (3e)<sup>2</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (210 mg, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 134.7, 131.8, 130.5, 129.7, 124.6, 122.0, 78.5, 51.6.



### 1-(Bromoethynyl)-4-nitrobenzene (3f)<sup>1</sup>

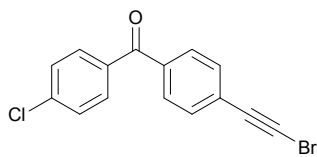
Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a yellow solid (215 mg, 95%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 147.3, 132.8, 129.4, 123.5, 78.4, 56.3.



### 1-(Bromoethynyl)-3-nitrobenzene (3g)<sup>1</sup>

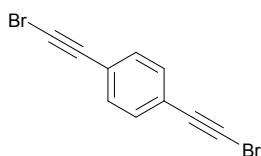
Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a yellow solid (192 mg, 85%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.31 – 8.28 (m, 1H), 8.19 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ

137.6, 129.4, 126.8, 124.4, 123.4, 77.7, 53.5.



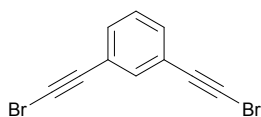
### **(4-(Bromoethynyl)phenyl)(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (3h)**

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (253 mg, 79%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.74 – 7.72 (m, 4H), 7.61 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.46 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.6, 139.1, 137.0, 135.4, 132.1, 131.3, 129.7, 128.7, 126.5, 82.6, 58.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{BrClO}$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  318.9534, found 318.9520.



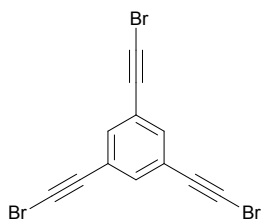
### **1,4-Bis(bromoethynyl)benzene (3i)<sup>3</sup>**

$t\text{BuOK}$  (0.46 g, 4.1 mmol, 4.1 equiv) and  $t\text{BuOH}$  (6 mL) were used. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 3 h to give the product as a white solid (247 mg, 87%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.38 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  131.8, 122.9, 79.5, 52.1.



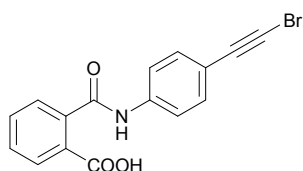
### **1,3-Bis(bromoethynyl)benzene (3j)<sup>4</sup>**

$t\text{BuOK}$  (0.46 g, 4.1 mmol, 4.1 equiv) and  $t\text{BuOH}$  (6 mL) were used. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 3 h to give the product as a white solid as colorless oil (244 mg, 86%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.54 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.3, 132.1, 128.4, 123.1, 78.9, 50.9.



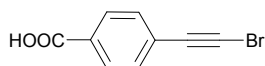
### 1,3,5-Tris(bromoethynyl)benzene (3k)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.46 g, 4.1 mmol, 4.1 equiv) and <sup>t</sup>BuOH (6 mL) were used. The reaction mixture was stirred at 55 °C for 3 h to give the product as a white solid (317 mg, 82%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.46 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 135.2, 123.5, 78.1, 52.1.



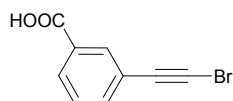
### 2-((4-(Bromoethynyl)phenyl)carbamoyl)benzoic acid (3l)

2-(4-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)phenyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione **2k** (0.49 g, 1.0 mmol) were used as the starting material to give the product as a white solid (292 mg, 85%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 13.09 (s, 1H), 10.54 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 168.0, 167.7, 140.6, 139.1, 132.8, 132.2, 130.2, 129.9, 128.1, 119.6, 116.6, 80.2, 51.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrNNaO<sub>3</sub> (M+Na)<sup>+</sup> 365.9737, found 365.9736.



### 4-(Bromoethynyl)benzoic acid (3m)<sup>6</sup>

1-(Dibromomethyl)-4-(1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene **2r** (0.52 g, 1 mmol), <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.39 g, 3.5 mmol, 3.5 equiv) and <sup>t</sup>BuOH (4 mL) were used. The reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 5 h to give the product as a white solid (170 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 13.16 (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 167.1, 132.4, 131.4, 129.9, 126.6, 79.5, 56.6.



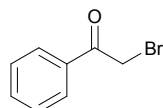
### 3-(Bromoethynyl)benzoic acid (3n)<sup>7</sup>

1-(1,1,2-Tribromoethyl)-3-(tribromomethyl)benzene **2p** (0.52 g, 1 mmol), <sup>t</sup>BuOK (0.45 g, 4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) and <sup>t</sup>BuOH (4 mL) were used. The reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 15 h to give the product as a white solid (144 mg, 64%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR

(600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  13.25 (s, 1H), 7.97 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  166.8, 136.2, 132.7, 131.8, 130.1, 129.6, 122.7, 79.2, 54.5.

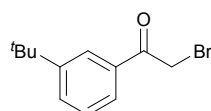
## VI. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-bromoacetophenones

A 10-mL round-bottom flask with a magnetic stir bar was charged with (1,1,2-tribromoethyl)benzene **2b** (1.0 mmol) and 40% HBr (4 mL). The mixture was stirred at 105 °C for 10 h and monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to rt, diluted with 10 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with EtOAc (3x). The combined organic phase was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the product **4a**.



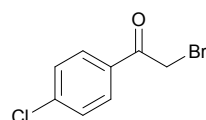
### 2-Bromoacetophenone (**4a**)<sup>8</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (175 mg, 88%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.98 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.2, 133.8, 128.8, 30.9.



### 2-Bromo-3'-tert-butylacetophenone (**4b**)<sup>9</sup>

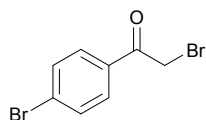
Following the general procedure, product was obtained as colorless oil (173 mg, 68%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 1.36 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.6, 152.0, 133.7, 131.1, 128.5, 126.2, 125.7, 34.8, 31.1



### 2-Bromo-4'-chloroacetophenone (**4c**)<sup>8</sup>

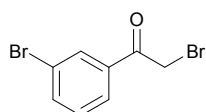
Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (173 mg, 74%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.94 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 4.41

(s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  190.1, 140.5, 132.2, 130.3, 129.2, 30.3.



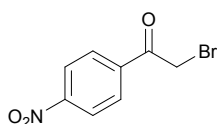
#### 2,4'-Dibromoacetophenone (4d)<sup>8</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (209 mg, 75%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 (t,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 1.8, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  189.9, 136.7, 135.6, 131.8, 130.3, 127.4, 123.1, 30.3.



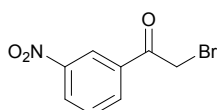
#### 2,3'-Dibromoacetophenone (4e)<sup>8</sup>

Following the general procedure, product was obtained as a white solid (195 mg, 70%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.11 (t,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 1.8, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  189.9, 136.7, 135.6, 131.8, 130.3, 127.4, 123.1, 30.3.



#### 2-Bromo-4'-nitroacetophenone (4f)<sup>8</sup>

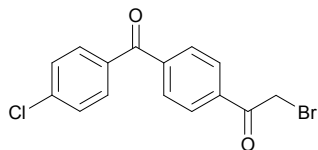
40% HBr (5 mL) was used. The mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 3 h to afford a yellow solid (180 mg, 74%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.36 – 8.33 (m, 2H), 8.17 – 8.14 (m, 2H), 4.46 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  189.8, 150.6, 138.3, 130.0, 124.0, 30.1.



#### 2-Bromo-3'-nitroacetophenone (4g)<sup>8</sup>

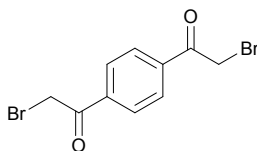
40% HBr (5 mL) was used. The mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 3 h to afford a white solid (168 mg, 69%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.80 (t,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.46 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 2.2, 1.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.34 – 8.31 (m, 1H), 7.73 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H),

4.48 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  189.3, 148.4, 135.1, 134.4, 130.1, 128.1, 123.7, 29.9.



#### **2-Bromo-1-(4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)phenyl)ethan-1-one (4h)**

40% HBr (5 mL) was used. The mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 3 h to afford a white solid (250 mg, 74%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.10 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  194.4, 190.7, 141.6, 139.7, 136.5, 134.9, 131.4, 130.0, 128.9, 30.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrClO}_2$  ( $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ) $^+$  336.96.15, found 336.96.25.



#### **1,1'-(1,4-Phenylene)bis(2-bromoethan-1-one) (4i)<sup>10</sup>**

40% HBr (5 mL) was used. The mixture was stirred at reflux temperature for 3 h to afford a yellow solid (269 mg, 84%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.13 (s, 4H), 5.01 (s, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  191.9, 138.0, 129.4, 34.8.

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## **VIII. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra**

