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Supporting Information

Palladium-Catalyzed Rearrangement Reaction to Access 1-Phenanthrol Derivatives

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1 General Information

General Procedures. Unless otherwise noted, reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere. Plastic syringes were used to transfer air- and moisture-sensitive reagents. Solvent was freshly distilled/degassed prior to use unless otherwise noted. Analytical TLC was performed with silica gel GF254 plates. For column chromatography, a 200-300 mesh silica gel was employed. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure using a rotary evaporator. Room temperature is 23-25 °C.

Materials. Commercial reagents were purchased from Acros, Accela, Adamas, Alfa, Ark, Aladdin, or TCI, and used as received with the following exceptions. Ethylene glycol dimethyl ether (DME) and toluene were dried over Na with benzophenone-ketyl intermediate as indicator. Acetonitrile (CH₃CN) was distilled over P_2O_5 . *N*,*N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) and *N*,*N*-Dimethylacetamide (DMA) was distilled under reduced pressure. Other commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification.

Instrumentation. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE III 400, Agilent Mercury plus 300 BB and INOVA instruments with 400, 300, and 600 MHz frequencies, and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 instrument with a ¹³C operating frequency of 100 MHz. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 instrument with a ¹³C operating frequency of 100 MHz. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 spectrometer with a ¹⁹F operating frequency of 376 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ) were reported in ppm relative to the residual solvent signal (CDCl₃ δ = 7.26 for ¹H NMR and δ = 77.0 for ¹³C NMR; DMSO-*d*₆ δ = 2.50 for ¹H NMR and δ = 40.0 for ¹³C NMR; CD₃OD δ = 3.31 for ¹H NMR and δ = 49.0 for ¹³C NMR). Chemical shifts (ppm) were recorded with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal reference standard. Multiplicities are given as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), dd (doublet of doublets), or m (multiplet). HRMS was obtained using a Q-TOF instrument equipped with an ESI source. Data collection for crystal structure was performed at room temperature using Mo Kα radiation on a Bruker APEXII diffractometer.

2 Structures



3 Experimental Section

3.1 Preparation of Allyloxy-tethered Aryl Iodides

The substrates $1a^1$, $1b^1$, $1e^1$, $1h^1$, $1i^1$, $1m^1$, $1r^2$, $1s^1$, $1t^3$, 4^4 , 5^5 , and 7^6 synthesized are reported in previous literature.



(1) Genernal procedure for the synthesis of substituted-2-iodophenols S1⁷

p-TsOH (10 mmol) was added to a stirred solution (solvent = 50 mL CH₃CN) containing the phenol (10 mmol) at r.t. After 5 min, 1.1 eq. of NIS (11 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction was monitored by GC-MS until completion and the product composition was determined by GC-MS. The major products were isolated by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether (PE)/ethyl acetate (EA), 20/1-10/1) and characterised by GC-MS.

(2) Genernal procedure for the synthesis of allylic alcohols S3⁸

Grignard reactions (S2) were performed with thoroughly dried glass apparatus. Under N_2 atmosphere, to a magnetically stirred mixture of Mg turnings (55 mmol, 1.1 eq.), a catalytic amount of iodine I_2 (~10 mg) was added and a solution of bromobenzene (50 mmol) in dry THF (120 mL) dropwise during 30 min and allowed to stir at r.t. for 3 h.

CuI (0.57 g, 3.0 mmol) was added to the solution of ArMgBr **S2** (50 mmol) in 120 mL of THF. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 0.5 h, and then a solution of propargyl alcohol (1.12g, 20 mmol) in 20 mL of THF was added slowly over 0.5 h. After the addition was complete, the reaction mixture was refluxed for 24 h. After cooling to r.t., an aqueous solution of saturated NH₄Cl was added slowly. The organic layer was separated, and aqueous layer was extracted with THF. The organic layer was combined, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removal of the volatiles, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, PE/EA, 10/1-5/1) to give allylic alcohol **S3**.

(3) Genernal procedure for the synthesis of substrates 1¹

To a flame-dried flask were added PPh₃ (15 mmol, 1.5 eq.), aryl iodide (1.05 eq.), allylic alcohol (10 mmol, 1 eq.) and dry THF (40 mL) sequentially under N₂ atmosphere at r.t. A solution of DIAD (diisopropyl azodiformate, 15 mmol, 1.5 eq.) in 10 mL of dry THF was added dropwise via addition funnel at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. naturally with stirring. After the reaction was complete as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was concentrated on a rotary evaporator and the residue was purified by chromatography on silica gel (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to 50/1) to afford the desired product **1**.



1-iodo-3,5-dimethyl-2-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)benzene (1c)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 75 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.66 – 5.60 (m, 2H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 154.8 , 143.4 , 138.6 , 137.4 , 135.6 , 132.3 , 132.0 , 128.4 , 127.9 , 126.1 , 114.5 , 91.7 , 73.8 , 20.2 , 17.1 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈IO 365.0397; Found 365.0394.



4-ethyl-2-iodo-1-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)benzene (1d)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 70 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.61 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.62 – 5.57 (m, 2H), 4.87 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.1 , 142.4 , 138.8 , 138.7 , 138.3 , 128.6 , 128.4 , 127.9 , 126.0 , 114.5 , 112.4 , 86.5 , 70.5 , 27.5 , 15.6 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + Na]^+$ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₇IONa 387.0216; Found 387.0212.



1-iodo-4-methyl-2-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)benzene (1f)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 74 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.63 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.9 , 142.4 , 139.7 , 139.0 , 138.4 , 128.5 , 128.0 , 126.1 , 123.7 , 114.6 , 113.6 , 82.5 , 70.3 , 21.4 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆IO 351.0240; Found 351.0237.



methyl 4-iodo-3-((2-phenylallyl)oxy)benzoate (1g)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 68 % (eluent: PE/EA: 50/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.86 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 5.67 – 5.61 (m, 2H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 166.4 , 157.1 , 142.2 , 139.6 , 138.1 , 131.5 , 128.5 , 128.1 , 126.2 , 123.5 , 115.0 , 112.6 , 93.3 , 70.6 , 52.3 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}IO_3$ 395.0139; Found 395.0135.



1-iodo-2-((2-(4-propylphenyl)allyl)oxy)benzene (1j)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 80 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.78 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 5.58 (dd, J = 2.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.61 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 1.67 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.1 , 142.7 , 142.1 , 139.5 , 135.6 , 129.3 , 128.6 , 125.9 , 122.7 , 113.8 , 112.6 , 86.6 , 70.5 , 37.7 , 24.5 , 13.8 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀IO 379.0553; Found 379.0557.

1-iodo-2-((2-(4-pentylphenyl)allyl)oxy)benzene (1k)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 81 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.77 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73 – 6.68 (m, 1H), 5.58 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.62 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 1.65 – 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.29 (m, 4H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

 $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 157.1 , 142.9 , 142.1 , 139.5 , 135.6 , 129.3 , 128.5 , 125.9 , 122.7 , 113.7 , 112.5 , 86.6 , 70.5 , 35.6 , 31.5 , 31.1 , 22.5 , 14.0 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{20}H_{24}IO$ 407.0866; Found 407.0869.



1-((2-(4-decylphenyl)allyl)oxy)-2-iodobenzene (11)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 72 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 6.74 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 5.58 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.63 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.64 – 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.26 (s, 14H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.1 , 143.0 , 142.1 , 139.5 , 135.6 , 129.3 , 128.5 , 125.9 , 122.7 , 113.8 , 112.6 , 86.6 , 70.5 , 35.6 , 31.9 , 31.4 , 29.6 , 29.6 , 29.5 , 29.3 , 22.7 , 14.1 . HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₂₅H₃₄IO 477.1649; Found 477.1647.

1-iodo-2-((2-(4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)allyl)oxy)benzene (1n)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 77 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.82 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.86 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.67 – 5.57 (m, 2H), 4.90 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 2H).

 $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 157.2 , 149.2 , 141.6 , 139.9 , 137.2 , 129.6 , 127.9 , 123.2 ,

121.1 , 116.3 , 112.8 , 86.9 , 70.8 . ^{19}F NMR (282 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ -58.2 . HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{13}F_3IO_2$ 420.9907; Found 420.9914.

4-(4-(3-(2-iodophenoxy)prop-1-en-2-yl)phenyl)morpholine (10)

Brown solid; m.p. = 78-80 °C; yield: 66 % (eluent: PE/EA: 50/1)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 6.93 – 6.81 (m, 3H), 6.75 – 6.67 (m, 1H), 5.58 – 5.45 (m, 2H), 4.91 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 2H), 3.90 – 3.80 (m, 4H), 3.22 – 3.12 (m, 4H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.4 , 151.2 , 141.8 , 139.8 , 129.8 , 129.6 , 127.1 , 123.0 , 115.4 , 112.8 , 112.8 , 86.9 , 70.8 , 67.1 , 49.2 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}INO_2$ 422.0611; Found 422.0609.

1-iodo-2-((2-(4-vinylphenyl)allyl)oxy)benzene (1p)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 68 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.77 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (q, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.31 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.76 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 5.75 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.68 – 5.56 (m, 2H), 5.25 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.3 , 142.1 , 139.8 , 137.8 , 137.6 , 136.6 , 129.7 , 126.6 , 126.5 , 123.1 , 114.9 , 114.4 , 112.8 , 86.9 , 70.7 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}IO$ 363.0240; Found 363.0237.

1-iodo-2-((2-(m-tolyl)allyl)oxy)benzene (1q)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 81 % (eluent: PE/EA: 100/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 1H), 6.75 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 5.62 – 5.58 (m, 2H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.1 , 142.4 , 139.5 , 138.3 , 138.0 , 129.3 , 128.8 , 128.4 , 126.9 , 123.2 , 122.7 , 114.4 , 112.6 , 86.6 , 70.5 , 21.5 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₆IO 351.0240; Found 351.0237.

3.2 General Procedure for Synthesis of Products

3.2.1 Synthesis of phenanthrols 2



General procedure: An oven-dried Schlenk tube under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with aryl iodide **1** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5 mol%), SIMes•HCl (10 mol%) and KOAc (1.5 eq.) in DMF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at 110 °C in an oil bath for 24 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a thin pad of silica gel. The filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate and the combined filtrate was washed with water. Then the organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ before concentration. Then the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (PE/EA :20/1-10/1) to afford pure product.

9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2a)

White solid; m.p. = 112-114 °C; yield: 70 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.72 – 8.65 (m, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 – 8.03 (m, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 2.78 – 2.72 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 151.3, 132.1, 131.9, 131.2, 130.2, 126.7, 126.2, 125.7, 124.7, 123.5, 121.7, 119.5, 115.4, 110.6, 20.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₂O 209.0961; Found 209.0961.

4,9-dimethylphenanthren-1-ol (2b)

Orange solid; m.p. = 136-138 °C; yield: 39 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.91 – 8.84 (m, 1H), 8.10 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.62 – 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.68 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 151.4 , 133.3 , 131.7 , 130.2 , 130.2 , 127.4 , 125.4 , 125.2 , 124.3 , 123.9 , 123.1 , 120.8 , 109.5 , 25.7 , 19.0 .

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ 151.4 , 133.3 , 131.7 , 130.2 , 130.2 , 130.1 , 127.4 , 125.4 , 125.2 , 124.3 , 123.9 , 123.1 , 120.8 , 109.5 , 25.7 , 19.0 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{14}O$ 223.1117; Found 223.1118.

2,4,9-trimethylphenanthren-1-ol (2c)

Yellow solid; m.p. = 70-72 °C; yield: 41 % (eluent: PE/EA: 20/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.84 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 6.3, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 3.3 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 148.8 , 133.8 , 132.8 , 131.9 , 130.7 , 128.3 , 127.6 , 126.0 ,

125.7 , 125.6 , 124.7 , 124.3 , 121.8 , 120.6 , 26.8 , 20.5 , 16.8 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}O$ 237.1274; Found 237.1275.

4-ethyl-9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2d)

Orange solid; m.p. = 92-94 ℃; yield: 22 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.77 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.40 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.48 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 149.4 , 133.7 , 133.4 , 131.4 , 131.0 , 130.3 , 128.4 , 127.7 , 126.0 , 125.0 , 124.4 , 122.9 , 120.4 , 110.5 , 30.6 , 20.2 , 15.7 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₆O 237.1274; Found 237.1275.

4-fluoro-9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2e)

Orange solid; m.p. = 124-126 °C; yield: 68 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.17 (s, 1H), 9.05 – 8.96 (m, 1H), 8.14 – 8.07 (m, 1H), 8.04 – 7.96 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dd, J = 6.5, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 8.6, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 154.2 (d, J = 241.2 Hz), 149.8 (d, J = 2.2 Hz), 132.5 (d, J = 24.9 Hz), 128.3 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), 127.8 , 127.5 , 127.5 , 127.2 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 125.0 , 123.3 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 120.9 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 118.8 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 113.0 (d, J = 26.4 Hz), 110.5 (d, J = 9.4 Hz), 20.5 .

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ -121.7.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₁FO 227.0867; Found 227.0870.

3,9-dimethylphenanthren-1-ol (2f)

Yellow solid; m.p. = 118-120 °C; yield: 62 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.92 (s, 1H), 8.66 – 8.58 (m, 1H), 7.94 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.56 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.6 , 136.2 , 132.2 , 131.0 , 130.1 , 129.7 , 127.0 , 126.5 ,

125.0 , 124.0 , 120.8 , 120.1 , 113.7 , 112.4 , 22.4 , 20.3 . HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{14}O$ 223.1117; Found 223.1119.

MeO₂C

methyl 1-hydroxy-9-methylphenanthrene-3-carboxylate (2g)

Yellow solid; m.p. = 138-140 °C; yield: 38 % (eluent: PE/EA: 10/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.57 (s, 1H), 8.83 – 8.76 (m, 2H), 8.12 – 8.07 (m, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.72 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 167.1 , 153.9 , 134.3 , 132.2 , 130.4 , 130.2 , 127.8 , 127.6 , 127.6 , 125.3 , 125.1 , 123.9 , 120.4 , 115.6 , 109.9 , 52.7 , 20.5 . HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₇H₁₅O₃ 267.1016; Found 267.1015.



6,9-dimethylphenanthren-1-ol (2h)

Light yellow solid; m.p. = 106-108 °C; yield: 66 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.47 – 8.43 (m, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 2.71 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 2.60 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 151.2 , 135.8 , 131.8 , 130.9 , 130.1 , 130.0 , 128.3 , 125.4 , 124.5 , 123.2 , 121.8 , 118.6 , 115.2 , 110.5 , 21.9 , 20.3 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{14}O$ 223.1117; Found 223.1118.

6-(tert-butyl)-9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2i)

Orange liquid; yield: 68 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.66 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.65 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 1H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 153.2 , 148.4 , 131.2 , 130.2 , 129.9 , 129.9 , 125.5 , 124.3 , 124.0 , 122.3 , 119.3 , 118.6 , 113.2 , 109.5 , 34.5 , 30.6 , 18.9 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₉H₂₀O 265.1587; Found 265.1588.



9-methyl-6-propylphenanthren-1-ol (2j)

Orange solid; m.p. = 118-120 °C; yield: 63 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.50 – 8.43 (m, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 – 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.42 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (h, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ 153.1, 140.2, 130.9, 130.4, 130.3, 130.2, 127.1, 125.5, 124.1, 122.3, 122.2, 119.2, 113.3, 109.6, 38.0, 24.6, 19.0, 12.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₈H₁₈O 251.1430; Found 251.1432.



9-methyl-6-pentylphenanthren-1-ol (2k)

Orange solid; m.p. = 68-70 °C; yield: 62 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.42 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 2.76 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.68 – 2.62 (m, 3H), 1.73 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.38 – 1.28 (m, 4H), 0.91 – 0.83 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 153.1 , 140.4 , 130.9 , 130.4 , 130.3 , 130.2 , 127.0 , 125.5 , 124.1 , 122.2 , 122.2 , 119.2 , 113.3 , 109.6 , 35.9 , 31.3 , 31.2 , 22.3 , 19.0 , 13.1 . HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₂₀H₂₂O 279.1743; Found 279.1745.



6-decyl-9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2l)

Orange solid; m.p. = 64-66 °C; yield: 60 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.43 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.95 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 2.77 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.71 – 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.17 (m, 15H), 0.86 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ 153.1 , 140.3 , 131.0 , 130.3 , 130.3 , 130.2 , 127.0 , 125.5 , 124.1 , 122.2 , 119.2 , 113.4 , 109.6 , 35.9 , 31.7 , 31.5 , 29.4 , 29.4 , 29.3 , 29.1 , 29.0 , 22.4 , 19.1 , 13.1 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₂₅H₃₂O 349.2526; Found 349.2527.



6-chloro-9-methylphenanthren-1-ol (2m)

Yellow solid; m.p. = 140-142 °C; yield: 71 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.03 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.7 , 131.8 , 131.8 , 130.5 , 130.5 , 130.1 , 127.2 , 127.2 , 127.1 , 123.3 , 122.5 , 121.3 , 114.1 , 111.5 , 20.2 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₅H₁₁ClO 243.0571; Found 243.0572.

9-methyl-6-(trifluoromethoxy)phenanthren-1-ol (2n)

Orange solid; m.p. = 132-134 °C; yield: 70 % (eluent: PE/EA: 10/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.43 (dd, J = 2.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.02 – 7.95 (m, 3H), 7.46 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 2.62 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 154.7, 148.5, 132.8, 131.9, 131.7, 131.3, 127.7, 127.6, 123.9, 122.2, 120.4, 116.1, 114.6, 111.8, 20.2.

 13 C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 154.7 , 148.5 , 132.8 , 131.9 , 131.7 , 131.3 , 127.7 , 127.6 , 123.9 , 123.4 , 122.2 , 120.9 , 120.4 , 116.1 , 114.6 , 111.8 , 20.2 .

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ -59.09.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{11}F_3O_2$ 293.0784; Found 293.0786.

9-methyl-6-morpholinophenanthren-1-ol (20)

Orange solid; m.p. > 150 °C; yield: 65 % (eluent: PE/EA: 5/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.99 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.84 – 3.79 (m, 4H), 3.35 – 3.28 (m, 4H), 2.63 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.6 , 149.8 , 131.5 , 130.7 , 130.7 , 126.1 , 125.9 , 125.7 , 122.6 , 117.8 , 117.4 , 114.1 , 110.6 , 107.2 , 66.6 , 49.1 , 20.3 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{19}H_{19}NO_2$ 294.1489; Found 294.1491.



9-methyl-6-vinylphenanthren-1-ol (2p)

White solid; m.p. = 146-148 °C; yield: 36 %(eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.14 (s, 1H), 8.77 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.83 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 6.97 (m, 2H), 6.08 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.7 , 137.4 , 135.4 , 131.7 , 131.1 , 130.7 , 130.5 , 126.9 , 125.4 , 124.2 , 122.6 , 122.3 , 120.9 , 115.3 , 114.0 , 110.9 , 20.3 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{17}H_{14}O$ 235.1117; Found 235.1119.

7,9-dimethylphenanthren-1-ol (2q)

White solid; m.p. = 136-138 °C; yield: 59 %(eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4) δ 8.46 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.00 – 7.94 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 6.92 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (s, 1H), 2.63 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol-*d*₄) δ 153.1 , 135.8 , 132.1 , 131.1 , 130.2 , 128.1 , 127.3 , 125.6 , 123.7 , 123.0 , 121.7 , 120.0 , 113.2 , 109.3 , 20.4 , 19.1 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for $C_{16}H_{14}O$ 223.1117; Found 2223.1118.



6-methyltetraphen-4-ol (2r)

White solid; m.p. > 150 °C; yield: 61 % (eluent: PE/EA: 16/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 10.06 (s, 1H), 9.28 (s, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.15 – 8.05 (m, 2H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 153.9 , 131.9 , 131.7 , 131.4 , 130.9 , 130.9 , 129.1 , 128.6 , 128.4 , 127.2 , 126.4 , 126.2 , 123.5 , 122.9 , 121.4 , 120.8 , 114.3 , 112.1 , 20.6 .

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₉H₁₄O 259.1117; Found 259.1119.

3.2.2 Synthesis of fused polycycle 5



An oven-dried Schlenk tube under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with aryl iodide **5** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5 mol%), SIMes•HCl (10 mol%) and KOAc (1.5 eq.) in DMF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at 110 °C in an oil bath for 24 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a thin pad of silica gel. The filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate and the combined filtrate was washed with water. Then the organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ before concentration. Then the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford pure product.



2,9b-dimethyl-2,9b-dihydro-*1H*-indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]indol-1-one (6)

Light yellow liquid; yield: 41 % (eluent: PE/EA: 20/1).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.60 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 181.8, 150.3, 146.7, 145.0, 142.7, 142.7, 131.5, 128.0,

126.9, 125.0, 122.1, 115.7, 106.9, 57.2, 26.9, 26.8.

HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₃NO 236.1070; Found 236.1070.

3.2.3 Synthesis of fused polycycle 7



An oven-dried Schlenk tube under a nitrogen atmosphere was charged with aryl iodide 7 (0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq.), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5 mol%), SIMes•HCl (10 mol%) and KOAc (1.5 eq.) in DMF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at 110 °C in an oil bath for 24 h. The resulting mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a thin pad of silica gel. The filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate and the combined filtrate was washed with water. Then the organic layer was dried with Na₂SO₄ before concentration. Then the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford pure product.



10b-methyl-1,10b-dihydro-2*H*-indeno[1,2,3-*de*]chromene (8)

White solid; m.p. = 50-52 °C; yield: 79 % (eluent: PE/EA: 50/1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 6.72 (t, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.70 – 4.58 (m, 1H), 4.58 – 4.49 (m, 1H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.64 (td, *J* = 13.1, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.7, 152.8, 140.5, 140.2, 134.7, 129.4, 127.4, 127.0, 123.0, 121.1, 113.6, 112.4, 65.5, 42.5, 30.9, 25.5. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ Calcd for C₁₆H₁₄O 223.1117; Found 223.1118.

4 NMR Spectra



¹H NMR (400 MHz, Methanol- d_4)









-3.431 -3.431 -2.679 -2.501 -2.374





¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)





¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6)







¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)





~22.379 ~20.300

S22





¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4)



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4)



¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- d_4)





S28

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆)



S29





¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6)



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¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6)







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¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6)



5 X-ray Crystallographic Data of 2q



Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability level.

Sample preparation: A solution of compound **2q** (50 mg) in ethyl acetate was placed in a vial (5 mL). Petroleum ether was added to the vial with a dropper until a small amount of solid precipitation, then, added the ethyl acetate until the solution clarification. The single crystal **2q** was obtained by slowly evaporating mixed solvent at room temperature under the air conditions.

Crystal measurement: X-ray crystal structures were determined at 295 K. The crystal was measured on a SuperNova, Dual, Cu at zero, Eos diffractometer.

Bond precision:		C-C = 0.0019 A		Wavelength=1.54184				
Cell:	a=16.9314(1	10)	b=5.219	94(3)	c=13.7603	(8)		
	alpha=90		beta=10	5.149(6)	gamma=90)		
Temperature	293 K							
		Calculate	ed			Reported		
Volume		1173.76(12)			1173.76(12)			
Space group		P 21/c			P 1 21/c 1			
Hall group		-P 2ybc			-P 2ybc			
Moiety formula		C16 H14 O			C16 H14 O			
Sum formula		C16 H14	0			C16 H14 O		
Mr		222.27				222.27		
Dx,g cm-3		1.258				1.258		
Z		4				4		
Mu (mm-1)		0.597				0.597		
F000		472.0				472.0		
F000'		473.30						
h,k,lmax		20,6,16				20,6,16		
Nref		2088				2086		
Tmin,Tmax		0.898,0.9	931			0.750,1.000		
Tmin'		0.898						
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.750 Tmax=1.000								
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN								
Data completeness= 0.999				Theta(max)=	66.599			
R(reflections	703) wF		wR2(refl	R2(reflections)= 0.1244(2086)				
S = 1.046		Npa	r= 158					

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