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Supporting Information for

Merging strain-release and copper catalysis: the selective ring-opening cross-coupling of 1,2-oxazetidines with boronic acids

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Table of Contents

1. General Information	3
2. Optimization of the reaction conditions	4
3. Preparation of substrates	5
3.1 General procedure for preparation of 1,2-oxazetidines	5
3.2 Unsuccessful Substrates	6
4. General Procedure and Spectral Data of the Products	6
4.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 3aa-ra, 3ab-3an.	6
4.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10	6
4.3 Spectral data of the products 3aa-ra, 3ab-3an, 5, 6,7,9 and 10	8
5. Mechanistic studies	.17
6. X-Ray structure of 3fa	.20
7. NMR Spectra of products 3aa-3ra, 3ab-3an, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10	.21

1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, materials were purchased from commercial suppliers (Alfa, TCI and Sigma-Aldrich etc.), and used without further purification. All the solvents were treated according to general methods. All reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) on silica gel plates using UV light as visualizing agent (if applicable). Flash column chromatography was performed using 200-300 mesh silica gel. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz spectrophotometers. Chemical shifts are reported in delta (δ (ppm)) units in parts per million (ppm) relative to the singlet (0 ppm) for tetramethylsilane (TMS). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury 100 MHz) with complete proton decoupling spectrophotometers (CDCl₃: 77.0 ppm). The high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured on a Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF mass spectrometer or DIONEX UltiMate 3000 & Bruker Compact TOF mass spectrometer by ESI. Measured values are reported to 4 decimal places of the calculated value. The calculated values are based on the most abundant isotope.

2. Optimization of the reaction conditions

	B(OH) ₂ Ts + L	-O [Cu] (10 mol%)/L (20 mol%) base (0.8 equiv) solvent, T °C 2a	NHTs 3aa	
	$ \begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & $			ΉBu
	L1 L2, L3.	$R^1 = R^2 = Me$ L4 $R^1 = H, R^2 = CI$	L5	
	,			
entry	catalyst	base	solvent	yield ^b (%)
1	Cu(OAc) ₂ /L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	39
2	CuBr ₂ /L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	55
4	CuCl/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	62
5	CuBr/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	33
6	Cul/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	75
7	Cul/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	toluene	17
8	Cul/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DMF	44
9	Cul/L ₁	K ₂ CO ₃	DCE	82
10	Cul/L ₁	Cs ₂ CO ₃	DCE	59
11	Cul/L ₁	CsF	DCE	69
12	Cul/L ₁	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	84(80) ^c
13 ^d	Cul/L ₁	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	81
14 ^e	Cul/L ₁	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	33
15	Cul/L ₂	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	82
16	Cul/L₃	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	76
17	Cul/L ₄	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	trace
18	Cul/L₅	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	77
19 ^{<i>f</i>}	Cul/L ₁	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	56
20 ^{<i>g</i>}	/L1	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	<5
21 ^{<i>h</i>}	Cul/	K ₃ PO ₄	DCE	18

^{*a*}Reaction Conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.3 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), ligand (20 mol%), base (80 mol%), solvent (2.0 mL), 140 °C for 10 h. ^{*b*}GC yield using *n*-tetradecane as the internal standard. ^{*c*}Isolated yield. ^{*d*}K₃PO₄ (1.0 equiv). ^{*e*}K₃PO₄ (0.5 equiv). ^{*f*}At 100 °C. ^{*g*}Without copper catalyst. ^{*h*}Without ligand.

3. Preparation of substrates

3.1 General procedure for preparation of 1,2-oxazetidines



1) To a solution of *N*-hydroxyphthalimide (9.7 g, 60 mmol) in *N*, *N*-dimethyl formamide (80 mL) was added 1, 2-dibromoethane (120 mmol) and triethylamine (120 mmol). The solution was allowed to stand at room temperature with stirring, until the red color of the mixture turned colorless. The precipitate of triethylammonium bromide was filtered at suction. The filtrate was diluted with ice cold water (500 mL) and the solid precipitate was filtered off. The precipitate was recrystallized by ethanol to afford the desired product **S1** (30.4 mmol, 51% yield).

2) A suspension of phthalimidoxyethyl bromide **S1** (3.8 g, 0.012 mol) in glacial acetic acid (10 mL) and 48% hydrobromic acid (15 mL) was stirred at 130 °C for 5 min. After cooling down, 1,2-phthalic acid was filtered off. Removal of the solvent afforded the crude product **S2** as a yellow solid.

A suspension of **S2** (8.70 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in pyridine (15 mL) was stirred for 5 min at room temperature. 3) Then arylsulfonyl chloride (20.87 mmol, 2.4 equiv) was added in portions. The resulting brown suspension was stirred for 5 h. The reaction mixture was poured into 1.0 M HCl solution and extracted with EtOAc. Purification by flash column chromatography (EtOAc/PE 1:3) afforded the product **S3**.

4) To a solution of **S3** (0.166 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4 mL) under argon was added NaH (60% in mineral oil, 0.374 mmol, 2.25 equiv). After stirring for 1.5 h, the reaction mixture was carefully poured into 1.0 M HCl solution and extracted with EtOAc. Purification by flash column chromatography (EtOAc/PE 1:2) afforded the final product **2** as a white solid.

3.2 Unsuccessful Substrates



It should be noted that N-tert-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc) and N-carbobenzyloxy (Cbz) substituted 1,2-oxazetidines were not compatible in current reaction system.

4. General Procedure and Spectral Data of the Products

4.1 General procedure for the synthesis of 3aa-ra, 3ab-3an.



1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (63.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1, 10-Phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol) and K_3PO_4 (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) were dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h, as monitored by TLC analysis. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5:1) directly to give the desired product **3aa** in 80 % isolated yield as a white solid. Other products **3ba-ra**, **3ab-3an** were prepared according to the above procedure. (Note: a heating module was used as the heating source.)

4.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10



To an ice-cooled solution of **3aa** (109.6 mg, 0.418 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL) is added TCCA (107 mg, 0.460 mmol). Then the mixture is stirred for about 3 h at 0 °C before quenched by water (5 mL). The

organic layer is separated and the aqueous layer is extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic phase is washed with brine and then dried over Na₂SO₄. After filtrated, the solvent is concentrated in vacuo. The crude product is purified by flash chromatography afforded the product **4** in 67 % isolated yield as a white solid.



A dried reflux tube equipped with a magenetic stir bar charged with **3aa** (130.5 mg, 0.5 mmol), NHPI (40.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), and DCM (1 mL), then PhI(OAc)₂ (193.3 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added in one portion, The mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h under air. Then, the mixture was directly purified by flash column chromatography eluting with ethyl acetate and hexane to afford the product **5** in 90% isolated yield as a white solid.



The powered NaNO₂ (73.5 mg, 10.6 mmol) was added cautiously in five portions over a period of 6 h to a solution of **3aa** (130.5 mg, 0.5 mmol) in the mixture of AcOH and Ac₂O (1:4, 3.5 mL) at 0 °C. After the addition was completed, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for overnight. The mixture was then quenched with ice water (5 mL) with vigorous stirring and cooled for 1 h. The pale yellow precipitate was filtered and washed several times with water and then recrystallized from ethanol to yield white tiny crystals in 70% isolated yield.



3aa (130.4 mg, 0.50 mmol) was dissolved in dry DCM (3 mL). Then, the reaction mixture was added successively formic acid (46.0 mg, 1 mmol) and DCC (257.5 mg, 1.25 mmol). The reaction was heated to 40 °C for 24 h. The product was purified by flash column chromatography (PE/EA=8:2) to afford the product **7** as a white solid in 76% yield.



To a solution of **8** (21.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), Isoxepac (44.8 mg, 0.17 mmol), EDCl (41.4 mg, 0.22 mmol), DMAP (28.6 mg, 0.23 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 12 h. The crude product was purified by chromatography to give the product **9** as a white solid in 95% yield. The product **10** was prepared according to the same procedure as a white solid in 96% yield.

4.3 Spectral data of the products 3aa-ra, 3ab-3an, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10

Product 3aa (Known compound, CAS: 1576-37-0)

Yield of **3aa**: 44 mg, 80% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.21 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.6, 136.8, 136.2, 129.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.9, 127.2, 47.3, 21.6.

Product 3ba

Yield of **3ba**: 48 mg, 70% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (s, 4H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.58 – 2.52 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.60 – 1.52 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.24 (m, 4H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.4, 142.8, 136.9, 133.4, 129.7, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 47.1, 35.5, 31.4, 31.1, 22.5, 21.5, 14.0. M.P.: 58.0 – 58.5 °C. HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₅NO₂SNa: 354.1498; found: 354.1495.

Product 3ca

Yield of **3ca**: 38 mg, 61% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.75$ (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (s, 4H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.58 – 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.37 – 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 143.5$, 142.8, 136.9, 133.4, 129.7, 128.7, 127.9, 127.2, 47.1, 35.3, 33.6, 22.3, 21.6, 14.0. M.P.: 64.0 – 64.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₂SNa: 340.1342; found: 340.1340.

Product 3da (Known compound, CAS: 1392847-62-9)

Yield of 3da: 40 mg, 69% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.03 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.5, 137.0, 136.9, 136.3, 133.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 127.2, 125.3, 47.1, 21.6, 19.7, 19.4.

Product 3ea (Known compound, CAS: 191085-60-6)

Yield of **3ea**: 32 mg, 59% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.76 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.14 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 4.54 (s, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.6, 136.8, 136.6, 133.9, 130.6, 129.8, 128.9, 128.3, 127.2, 126.2, 45.4, 21.6, 18.8.

Product 3fa (Known compound, CAS: 1310996-52-1)

Yield of **3fa**: 26 mg, 40% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.75$ (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = f 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.53 – 4.47 (m, 1H), 4.04 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 3H), 1.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 157.6$, 143.5, 136.9, 129.7, 129.3, 128.0, 127.2, 116.0, 69.9, 46.8, 22.0, 21.6.

Product 3ga

MeO

Photo NHTs Yield of **3ga**: 48 mg, 66% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.74$ (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 4H), 7.35 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.75 (m, 3H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 159.0$, 143.6, 137.9, 136.9, 136.8, 129.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.5, 127.2, 120.3, 114.5, 114.1, 69.9, 47.2, 21.6. M.P.: 98.0 – 98.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₃SNa: 390.1134; found: .390.1128.

Product 3ha (Known compound, CAS: 191085-63-9)

∧_{NHTs} Yield of **3ha**: 38 mg, 65% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.78 - 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.32 - 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.83 - 6.68 (m, 3H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 159.8$, 143.5, 137.9, 136.8, 129.7, 129.7, 127.2, 120.0, 113.6, 113.1, 55.2, 47.2, 21.6.

Product 3ia (Known compound, CAS: 10504-98-0)

Yield of **3ia**: 47 mg, 80% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.97 (s, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.7, 136.7, 134.9, 133.7, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 127.1, 46.6, 21.6.

Product 3ja (Known compound, CAS: 10504-96-8)

Yield of **3ja**: 46 mg, 68% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.98 (s, 1H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.7, 136.7, 135.4, 131.8, 129.8, 129.5, 127.1, 121.8, 46.6, 21.6.

Product 3ka (Known compound, CAS: 1377577-60-0)

Yield of **3ka**: 48 mg, 62% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.70 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 1H), 4.05 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.7, 137.7, 136.7, 136.1, 129.8, 127.1, 93.4, 46.7, 21.6.

Product 3la (Known compound, CAS: 570417-42-4)

Yield of **3la**: 33 mg, 59% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.74 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 162.3 (d, J = 245.0 Hz), 143.7, 136.8, 132.1 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 129.8, 129.7 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 127.2, 115.6 (d, J = 21.5 Hz), 46.6, 21.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -114.25 (s, 1F).

Product 3ma

Yield of **3ma**: 28 mg, 48% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.74 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.95 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.05 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

= 160.9 (d, J = 243.8 Hz), 143.6, 136.9, 131.7 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 131.1 (d, J = 5.4 Hz), 129.7, 127.2, 126.9 (d, J = 8.2 Hz), 125.2 (d, J = 5.4 Hz), 115.1 (d, J = 17.5 Hz), 77.4, 77.2, 77.0, 76.7, 46.6, 21.6, 14.4. M.P.: 96.0 – 96.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₆FNO₂SNa: 316.0078; found:316.0794. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -118.72 (s, 1F).

Product 3na (Known compound, CAS: 894156-93-5)

^{Br} Yield of **3na**: 28 mg, 42% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.73 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.8, 138.6, 136.7, 130.9, 130.8, 130.2, 129.8, 127.1, 126.4, 122.6, 46.6, 21.6.

Product 3oa

Yield of **3oa**: 18 mg, 30% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.7, 139.2, 137.0, 136.7, 129.8, 129.1, 127.2, 125.8, 125.5, 124.4, 47.1, 21.6, 15.5. M.P.: 69.0 – 69.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₇NO₂S₂Na: 330.0593; found: 330.0595.

Product 3pa (Known compound, CAS: 86328-84-9)

Yield of **3pa**: 28 mg, 45% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.92 – 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.86 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.6, 136.5, 133.8, 131.3, 131.2, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 127.3, 127.0, 126.7, 126.1, 125.2, 123.3, 45.5, 21.6.

Product 3qa (Known compound, CAS: 125640-81-5)

Yield of **3qa**: 30 mg, 49% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.81 - 7.76$ (m, 2H), 7.75 - 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.48 - 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.34 - 7.31 - 7.25 (m, 3H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.27 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 143.6, 136.9, 133.6, 129.7, 128.6, 127.8, 127.7, 127.2, 126.7, 126.4, 126.2, 125.7, 47.5, 21.5.$

Product 3ra



Yield of **3ra**: 44 mg, 51% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.09 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.47 (mf, 3H), 7.43 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.09 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 6.1 Hz,

2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.5, 141.3, 141.0, 137.3, 136.8, 134.1, 130.0, 129.7, 127.7, 127.2, 127.1, 126.1, 123.1, 122.9, 120.6, 120.3, 120.1, 119.8, 109.9, 109.1, 48.0, 21.5. M.P.: 168.0 – 168.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₂N₂O₂SNa:449.1294; found: 449.1289.

Product 3ab (Known compound, CAS: 85045-43-8)



Yield of **3ab**: 43 mg, 74% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.26 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.18 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 6.96 (s, 2H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.64 (s, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.3,

139.2, 136.4, 133.5, 132.0, 128.7, 127.9, 127.9, 46.8, 23.0, 21.0.

Product 3ac (Known compound, CAS: 321704-15-8)



Yield of **3ac**: 37 mg, 61% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 156.5, 136.8, 136.3, 128.7, 127.9, 127.0, 126.1, 47.3, 35.2, 31.1.

Product 3ad



Yield of **3ad**: 57 mg, 84% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.72$ (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 4.11 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 156.6$, 136.7, 134.9, 133.5, 129.3, 128.7,

126.9, 126.1, 46.5, 35.2, 31.1. M.P.: 163.0 – 163.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{17}H_{20}CINO_2SNa$:360.0795; found: 360.0787.

Product 3ae



Yield of **3ae**: 57 mg, 75% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.73$ (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 156.7$, 136.7, 135.4, 131.7, 129.6, 126.9,

126.1, 121.7, 46.6, 35.2, 31.1. M.P.: 173.0 – 173.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₂₀BrNO₂SNa:404.0290; found: 404.0297.

Product 3af



Yield of **3af**: 59 mg, 88% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.77$ (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 159.7$, 156.4, 137.9, 136.8,

129.6, 127.0, 126.1, 120.0, 113.6, 113.0, 55.2, 47.2, 35.2, 31.1. M.P.: 88.0 – 88.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₃NO₃SNa:356.1291; found: 356.1285.

Product 3ag (Known compound, CAS: 727-36-6)



Yield of **3ag**: 38 mg, 72% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.99 - 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.43 - 7.03 (m, 7H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.0 (d, *J* = 243.8 Hz), 136.1 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz),

136.0, 129.9 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 128.7, 128.0, 127.9, 116.4 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 47.3. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -105.32$ (s, 1F).

Product 3ah



Yield of **3ah**: 40 mg, 66% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.86 - 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃) δ = 165.1 (d, *J* = 253.6 Hz), 135.9 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 134.6, 133.8, 129.9 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 129.2, 128.8, 116.4 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 46.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -104.84 (s, 1F). M.P.: 96.0 – 96.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁ClFNO₂SNa:322.0075; found: 322.0076.

Product 3ai



Yield of **3ai**: 32 mg, 46% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.38 (s, 1H), 4.06 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 165.1 (d, *J* = 253.4 Hz), 135.8 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 135.2, 131.8, 129.8 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 129.6, 121.9, 116.4 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 46.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -104.81 (s, 1F). M.P.: 87.0 – 87.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₁BrFNO₂SNa:365.9570; found: 365.9565.

Product 3aj



Yield of **3aj**: 36 mg, 61% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.86 - 7.82$ (m, 2H), 7.15 (q, J = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 6.77 - 6.70 (m, 3H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 4.10 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ = 165.0 (d, *J* = 253.1 Hz), 159.8, 137.6, 136.0 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 129.9, 129.80, 129.75, 120.0, 116.4 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 113.4 (d, *J* = 25.8 Hz), 55.2, 47.2. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -105.29 (s, 1F). M.P.: 62.0 – 62.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₄FNO₃SNa:318.0571; found: 318.0571.

Product 3ak (Known compound, CAS: 3609-87-8)



Yield of **3ak**: 37 mg, 57% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.81 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.16 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ =

135.9, 132.4, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 47.3.

Product 3al (Known compound, CAS: 321704-24-9)



Yield of **3al**: 42 mg, 67% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.33 (m, 5H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.7, 135.7, 134.3 (q, *J* =

32.7 Hz), 134.2, 128.8, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 126.3 (q, J = 271.1 Hz), 124.6, 121.9, 47.4. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -63.14$ (s, 3F).

Product 3am (Known compound, CAS: 568566-59-6)



Yield of **3am**: 32 mg, 60% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta =$ 7.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (q, J = 7.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 3.9 Hz, 4H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 5.20 (s, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta =$ 160.0 (d, J = 252.3 Hz), 135.9, 135.1 (d, J = 8.5 Hz), 130.3, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 124.5 (d, J = 3.7

Hz), 116.8 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 47.4. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = -110.56$ (s, 1F).

Product 3an (Known compound, CAS: 625470-36-2)

Yield of **3an**: 23 mg, 35% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta =$ 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.79 - 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 4.18 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 141.9, 135.8,

135.7, 130.6, 130.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.9, 125.6, 123.1, 47.4.

Product 4 (Known compound, CAS: 14070-53-2)

Yield of 4: 83 mg, 67% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.89 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36 – 7.31 (m, 5H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 145.7, 133.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 60.6, 21.8.$

Product 5 (Known compound, CAS: 13707-41-0)

Yield of 5: 117 mg, 90% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 9.03$ (s, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 170.2, 144.7, 135.1,$ 135.0, 132.3, 131.3, 129.8, 129.2, 128.1, 21.7.

Product 6 (Known compound, CAS: 33528-13-1)

Yield of 6: 102 mg, 70% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.72 (d, J `Ņ^{___}Ts NO = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 - 7.18 (m, 5H), 7.14 - 7.08 (m, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.0, 134.9, 133.5, 130.1, 129.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.1, 46.0, 21.7.

Product 7 (Known compound, CAS: 312329-77-4)

Yield of 7: 110 mg, 76% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 9.19 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.19 (m, 7H), 4.72 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 161.5, 145.3, 135.4, 134.6, 130.0, 128.4, 128.4, 127.8, 127.3, 45.7, 21.6.

Product 9



Yield of **9**: 71 mg, 95% yield as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.09 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.4

Hz, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 4.39 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.58 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 190.9, 170.7, 160.6, 140.4, 138.1, 136.5, 135.5, 132.9, 132.4, 129.4, 129.3, 128.7, 128.7, 127.9, 127.6, 127.5, 125.2, 121.5, 73.6, 43.7, 42.6$. M.P.: 136.0 –136.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₁₉NO₃Na: 380.1257; found: 380.1253.

Product 10

^{Ph} (-) ^{Ph} (-) ^{Ph} Yield of **10**: 73 mg, 96% yield as a white solid. ¹¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 7.60 - 7.49$ (m, 4H), 7.35 - 7.33 (m, 6H), 7.25 - 7.24 (m, 5H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.82 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 171.2$, 164.2, 145.5, 138.1, 135.0, 132.4, 128.9, 128.67. 128.66, 128.56, 128.51, 128.07, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 126.5, 43.8, 33.0, 24.1. M.P.: 118.0 - 118.5 °C HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₂₂N₂O₂: 383.1754; found: 383.1752.

5. Mechanistic studies



a) Control experiments: Examining the involvement of formaldimine intermediate

1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **11** (55.0 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol) and K_3PO_4 (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) were dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. Product **3aa** can be obtained in 9% yield (GC).

1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **12** (106.3 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol) and K_3PO_4 (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) were dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. Product **3aa** can be obtained in 39% yield (GC).

These two experiments indicated the intermediacy of a formaldimine species in this reaction, which should be generated in a slow fashion due to its inherent instability in the reaction system.

b) Radical trapping experiments:



1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (63.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol), K_3PO_4 (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) and TEMPO (62.5 mg, 0.04 mmol) were dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. Product **3aa** can be obtained in 83% yield (GC).

1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (63.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol), K₃PO₄ (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) and 1,1-diphenylenthylene (62.5 mg, 0.04 mmol) were

dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h. Product **3aa** can be obtained in 80% yield (GC).

These two experiments suggest that radical mechanism might not be involved in this transformation.

c) Investigation of crude reaction mixture : Detection of formaldehyde by-product



1a (24.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), **2a** (63.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol) and K_3PO_4 (34.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) were dissolved in dichloroethane (2.0 mL). Then, the mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 10 h.

The by-product formaldehyde 13 can be detected by GC-MS analysis of the crude reaction mixture

File :D:\2021DATA\20211227\GHM-1.D Operator : Acquired : 28 Dec 2021 8:24 using AcqMethod 20210716.M Instrument : GCMSD Sample Name: Misc Info : Vial Number: 8



6. X-Ray structure of 3fa



CCDC number: 2131523

7. NMR Spectra of products 3aa-3ra, 3ab-3an, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 3aa

 $\frac{1}{20}$ $\dot{70}$ fl (ppm)



f1 (ppm)

лц*)*

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of product 3da

 $\frac{1}{70}$ $\frac{1}{40}$ fl (ppm)

f1 (ppm) $\frac{1}{70}$

1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) spectrum of 3ga

 $\dot{70}$ i f1 (ppm)

 $\dot{70}$ f1 (ppm)

i

 $\dot{70}$. 60 $\dot{40}$ $\frac{1}{20}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ f1 (ppm)

 $\dot{70}$. 60 $\dot{40}$. 30 $\dot{20}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ f1 (ppm)

f1 (ppm)

 $\dot{70}$ $\dot{40}$ fl (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm)

f1 (ppm) $\dot{70}$ $\dot{40}$

f1 (ppm)

i $\dot{70}$ $\dot{40}$ fl (ppm)

i fl (ppm)

i $\dot{70}$ fl (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of product 3ah

 $\dot{70}$. 60 $\dot{40}$ $\dot{20}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ f1 (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of product 3ai

 $\dot{70}$ i fl (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of product 3aj

f1 (ppm) $\dot{70}$

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 3ak

240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 fl (ppm)

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2 fl (ppm) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of product 3am

20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -2: f1 (ppm)

0

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Br

- 0.00

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 4

ł f1 (ppm) $\frac{1}{70}$

H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 5

— 2.44

- 0.00

 f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 6

N ^{Ts}	7.73 7.71 7.26 7.24 7.23 7.23 7.23 7.23 7.12 7.12 7.11	4.91	2.40	-0.00
NO		I.	I	

	al construction of the second s	

100 90 f1 (ppm)

 $\dot{70}$ $\dot{40}$ fl (ppm)

H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 9

 $\dot{70}$ i f1 (ppm)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) spectra of product 10

