

Supporting Information

Catalytic divergent synthesis of imidazoles via reaction condition-dependent [3 + 2] cyclization of TosMIC

Cheng Zhao,^{a†} Man-Zhen Gu,^{a†} Yi-Yuan Chen,^a Xiao-Wei Hu,^a Yi-Bing Xu,^a Xiao-Min Lin,^a
Xin-Ni Liu,^a Long Chen,^d Guo-Shu Chen,^a and Yun-Lin Liu^{*a,b,c}

Email: ylliu@gzhu.edu.cn

Table of Contents

1) General Information	S2
2) General procedure and spectral data of products 2 and 6	S3
3) General procedure and spectral data of product 3	S8
4) Further transformations of product 2a	S9
5) X-Ray crystallographic data for compounds 2a and 3	S10
6) Copies of ¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR spectra of compounds 2-6	S12

1. General Information

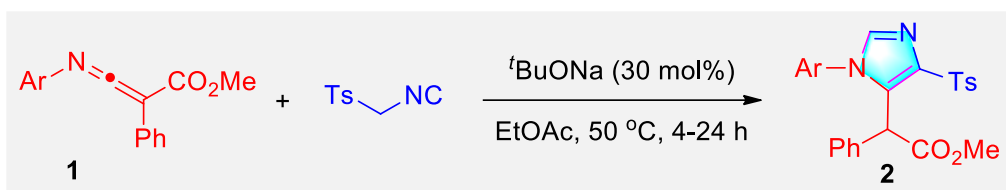
Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using UV light to visualize the course of reaction. Purification of reaction products was carried out by flash chromatography on silica gel. Chemical yields refer to pure isolated substances. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained using a Bruker DPX-400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm from CDCl_3 with the solvent resonance as the internal standard. The following abbreviations were used to designate chemical shift multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, h = heptet, m = multiplet, br = broad.

Anhydrous solvents such as CH_2Cl_2 , CH_3CN , THF, toluene, and EtOAc, and the catalysts such as Et_3N , DABCO, DBU, Ag_2CO_3 , $^t\text{BuOLi}$, $^t\text{BuONa}$, and $^t\text{BuOK}$ were purchased from Energy Chemical. Unless otherwise stated, all purchased reagents were used without further purification. The; All reactions involving air- or moisture-sensitive compounds were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere in dried Schlenk tube. The ketenimines **1**^[1] was prepared using the literature procedures.

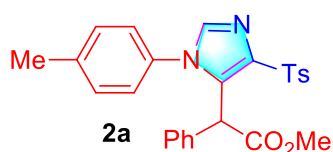
References

- [1] (a) P. Lu and Y. Wang, *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, 2012, **41**, 5687; (b) Y. Cheng, Y.-G. Ma, X.-R. Wang and J.-M. Mo, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2009, **74**, 850.

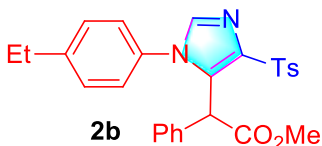
2. General procedure and spectral data of products 2.



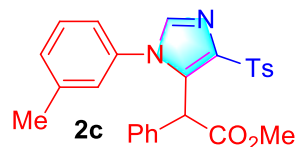
General Procedure: Under nitrogen atmosphere, ketenimines **1** (0.1 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonylmethyl isocyanide (TosMIC) (0.12 mmol), ^tBuONa (30 mol%), and EtOAc (1.0 mL) were successively added to a oven-dried 10 mL schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 50 °C for 4-24 h, and monitored by TLC. After completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether/EtOAc (5:1 to 1:1) as the eluent to afford the 1,4,5-trisubstituted imidazoles **2**.



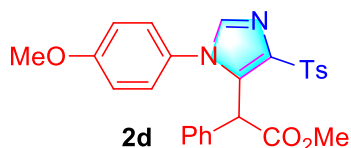
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2a** in 97% yield as a yellow solid (44.6 mg, m.p. 176-178 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 6.78 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (ABd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.94 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.00, 144.16, 140.02, 139.27, 138.25, 134.62, 133.41, 131.99, 129.66, 129.62, 128.94, 128.14, 128.00, 127.22, 52.58, 46.24, 21.63, 21.13; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₅N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 461.1530, Found: 461.1530.



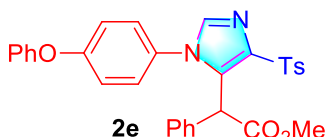
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2b** in 84% yield as a yellow solid (39.8 mg, m.p. 180-183 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.65 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.94 (ABd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.04, 146.27, 144.16, 139.25, 138.24, 134.55, 133.40, 132.15, 129.62, 128.89, 128.49, 128.12, 127.97, 127.29, 127.16, 52.58, 46.27, 28.47, 21.63, 15.53; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₇H₂₇N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 475.1686, Found: 475.1674.



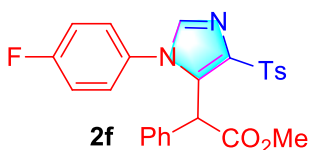
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2c** in 90% yield as a yellow solid (41.4 mg, m.p. 81-84 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.99, 144.20, 139.28, 139.10, 138.20, 134.50, 134.41, 133.31, 130.44, 129.64, 128.93, 128.83, 128.09, 128.07, 127.97, 127.16, 124.49, 52.58, 46.29, 21.63, 20.99; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₅N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 461.1530, Found: 461.1517.



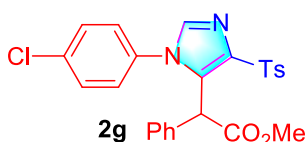
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 8 h, affording product **2d** in 58% yield as a yellow solid (27.6 mg, m.p. 191-193 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 6.73 (ABd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (ABd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (ABd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.94 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.04, 160.29, 144.19, 139.51, 138.17, 138.13, 134.59, 133.58, 129.64, 128.86, 128.74, 128.17, 127.95, 127.23, 127.10, 114.08, 55.56, 52.61, 46.21, 21.64; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₅N₂O₅S [M+H]⁺: 477.1479, Found: 477.1431.



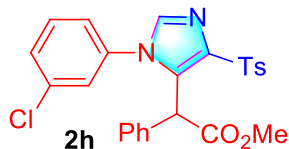
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 14 h, affording product **2e** in 45% yield as a yellow solid (24.2 mg, m.p. 114-116 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.24 (s, 1H), 6.78-6.84 (m, 4H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.09, 158.67, 155.79, 144.26, 139.48, 138.47, 138.23, 134.55, 133.50, 130.04, 129.69, 129.11, 129.05, 128.79, 128.25, 127.98, 127.28, 124.43, 119.64, 118.13, 52.65, 46.26, 21.64; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₃₁H₂₇N₂O₅S [M+H]⁺: 539.1635, Found: 539.1623.



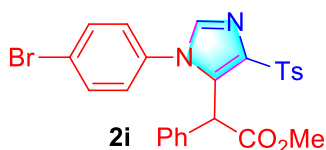
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2f** in 87% yield as a brown solid (40.4 mg, m.p. 189-191 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.80 (ABd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.83-6.91 (m, 4H), 7.07-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.96 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.08, 162.83 (d, *J* = 249.1 Hz), 144.33, 139.45, 138.75, 138.19, 134.40, 133.37, 130.70 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 129.72, 129.69, 129.60, 128.57, 128.30, 127.95, 127.32, 115.86 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 52.65, 46.25, 21.64; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂FN₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 465.1279, Found: 465.1272.



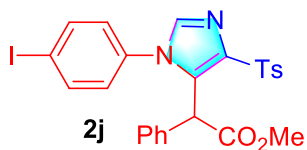
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2g** in 84% yield as a yellow solid (40.3 mg, m.p. 191-193 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.79-6.82 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.34 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.08, 144.36, 139.26, 138.90, 138.16, 135.84, 134.36, 133.28, 133.23, 129.73, 129.07, 128.99, 128.60, 128.33, 127.97, 127.37, 52.68, 46.28, 21.65; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂ClN₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 481.0983, Found: 481.0972.



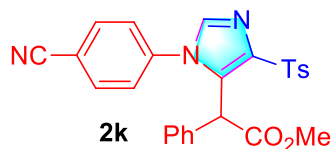
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2h** in 93% yield as a yellow solid (44.6 mg, m.p. 142-144 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.98, 144.38, 139.10, 138.76, 138.06, 135.63, 134.49, 134.04, 133.19, 129.90, 129.83, 129.72, 128.52, 128.26, 128.00, 127.89, 127.45, 125.97, 52.69, 46.25, 21.63; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂ClN₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 481.0983, Found: 481.0972.



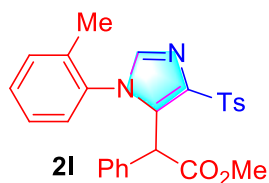
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2i** in 92% yield as a yellow solid (48.2 mg, m.p. 178-180 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.31 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.06, 144.36, 139.18, 138.89, 138.14, 134.33, 133.74, 133.22, 132.07, 129.73, 129.24, 128.59, 128.33, 127.95, 127.37, 123.88, 52.68, 46.27, 21.65; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂BrN₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 525.0478, Found: 525.0477.



The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2j** in 88% yield as a yellow solid (50.3 mg, m.p. 152-154 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 6.60 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (ABd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.05, 144.36, 139.09, 138.80, 138.07, 134.38, 134.26, 133.15, 129.71, 129.31, 128.58, 128.31, 127.91, 127.34, 95.47, 52.70, 46.26, 21.64; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂I₂N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 573.0340, Found: 573.0330.

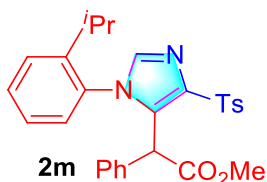


The reaction was run at 50 °C for 4 h, affording product **2k** in 91% yield as a brown solid (42.8 mg, m.p. 218-220 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.13, 144.60, 139.49, 138.98, 138.63, 137.90, 134.09, 133.05, 132.57, 129.83, 128.73, 128.46, 128.31, 127.91, 127.55, 117.36, 113.48, 52.82, 46.26, 21.67; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₂N₃O₄S [M+H]⁺: 472.1326, Found: 472.1308.



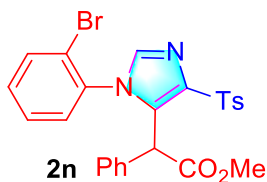
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2l** as an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (2.4:1 ratio) in 67% yield (30.8 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 62-64 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 1.3H), 2.44 (s, 4.1H), 3.70 (s, 1.25H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 5.39 (s, 0.36H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.37H), 6.98-7.04 (m, 3.7H), 7.11-7.23

(m, 4.85H), 7.33-7.45 (m, 6H), 7.97-8.01 (m, 2.7H), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.26, 169.87, 144.21, 138.93, 138.61, 138.35, 138.04, 137.97, 136.82, 134.64, 133.57, 133.20, 131.33, 130.89, 130.38, 129.70, 129.57, 129.40, 129.35, 128.63, 128.39, 128.25, 128.20, 128.19, 128.03, 127.96, 127.61, 127.31, 126.88, 126.51, 99.88, 91.57, 52.63, 46.20, 21.67, 16.66; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₆H₂₅N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 461.1530, Found: 461.1536.



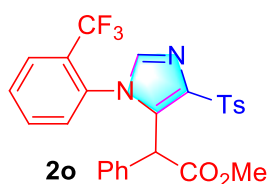
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2m** as an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (1.4:1 ratio) in 57% yield (27.8 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 189-191 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.49 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 0.82 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 2.07 (sep, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 0.8H), 2.24 (sep, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 5H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 3.76 (s,

3H), 5.20 (s, 0.64H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 6.92-6.95 (m, 3H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 0.8H), 7.02-7.05 (m, 1.4H), 7.11-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.38 (m, 5.5H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 3.7H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.12, 170.02, 147.08, 146.73, 144.16, 144.15, 138.92, 138.83, 138.25, 138.22, 138.04, 137.97, 134.10, 134.05, 133.61, 133.40, 131.75, 131.48, 130.93, 130.75, 129.59, 129.54, 129.52, 129.34, 128.50, 128.40, 128.38, 128.21, 128.16, 127.56, 127.48, 127.26, 126.99, 126.68, 126.43, 52.86, 52.70, 47.32, 46.84, 27.71, 27.49, 25.80, 25.51, 22.25, 21.66, 21.64, 21.39; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₈H₂₉N₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 489.1843, Found: 489.1836.



The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2n** in 54% yield as an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (3:1 ratio) (28.3 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 68-70 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 5.73 (s, 0.3H), 6.27 (s, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.4H), 6.99-7.05 (m, 3H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.25 (m, 2H),

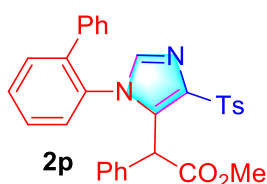
7.31-7.40 (m, 6H), 7.43-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.51 (s, 0.3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.3H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.58, 144.26, 139.36, 138.34, 136.22, 134.63, 134.08, 133.25, 132.94, 132.66, 131.60, 131.43, 131.41, 130.50, 130.16, 129.79, 129.73, 129.58, 129.15, 129.05, 128.45, 128.37, 128.19, 128.14, 127.89, 127.81, 127.58, 127.26, 123.25, 52.71, 46.54, 46.30, 21.67; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₂BrN₂O₄S [M+H]⁺: 525.0478, Found: 525.0472.



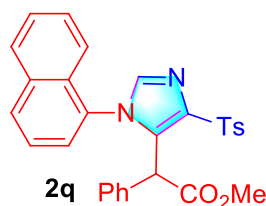
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2o** as an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (3.3:1 ratio) in 68% yield (35.0 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 149-151 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.44 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 5.73 (s, 0.3H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.3H), 7.01-7.05 (m, 2.7H), 7.09-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.16-7.22 (m, 1H),

7.33-7.38 (m, 3.8H), 7.44-7.63 (m, 5H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 0.3H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 0.6H), 7.99 (d, *J*

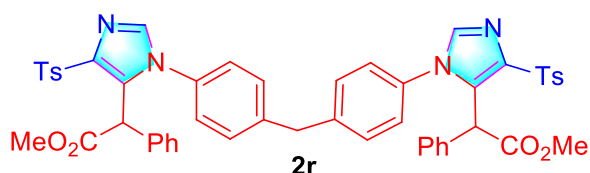
= 8.4 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.45, 169.30, 144.30, 139.48, 139.29, 139.27, 139.01, 138.89, 138.59, 138.18, 137.90, 134.31, 133.47, 133.15, 132.95, 132.71, 132.47, 131.82, 131.26, 130.65, 130.59, 130.57, 129.69, 129.58, 129.22, 128.91, 128.32, 128.19, 128.07, 127.92, 127.70, 127.59, 127.39, 127.33, 127.28, 121.98 (q, J = 272.6 Hz), 52.79, 52.66, 47.06, 46.17, 21.66; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{F}_3\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 515.1247, Found: 515.1237.



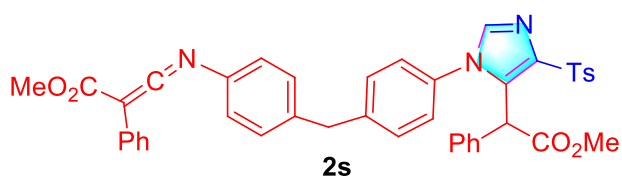
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2p** an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (2.7:1 ratio) in 66% yield (34.5 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 158-160 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.40 (s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 5.64 (s, 0.36H), 6.56 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.06 (m, 4H), 7.11-7.21 (m, 10H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.08, 143.95, 140.06, 139.31, 139.03, 138.41, 138.39, 137.55, 137.54, 136.37, 134.47, 133.81, 131.79, 131.40, 130.72, 129.69, 129.42, 128.58, 128.53, 128.38, 128.29, 128.29, 128.16, 128.09, 128.03, 127.96, 127.89, 127.73, 127.64, 52.74, 52.70, 47.20, 47.09, 21.64, 21.59; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 523.1686, Found: 523.1673.



The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2q** an inseparable mixture of two diastereoisomers (2.6:1 ratio) in 51% yield (25.3 mg, yellow solid, m.p. 68-70 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.45 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 3.35 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 5.82 (s, 0.36H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 6.62-6.72 (m, 6H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.98-7.05 (m, 1.6H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.45H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.35 (m, 1.6H), 7.38-7.49 (m, 5.5H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 0.43H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 0.43H), 7.92-7.97 (m, 2H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.25, 169.39, 144.27, 144.23, 139.86, 139.82, 138.33, 138.12, 138.05, 134.74, 134.41, 134.17, 133.76, 133.51, 133.20, 130.82, 130.77, 130.65, 130.41, 130.21, 130.14, 129.73, 129.61, 129.10, 128.79, 128.20, 128.10, 128.04, 128.00, 127.73, 127.65, 127.56, 127.32, 127.04, 126.79, 126.69, 126.63, 126.24, 124.79, 124.52, 122.29, 121.66, 52.64, 52.35, 46.53, 46.51, 22.66, 21.68; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 497.1530, Found: 497.1522.

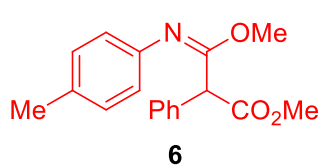


The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2r** in 40% yield as a red solid (36.2 mg, m.p. 108-110 °C). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.42 (s, 6H), 3.69 (s, 6H), 3.95 (s, 2H), 6.18 (s, 2H), 6.83-6.87 (m, 8H), 7.02-7.06 (m, 8H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.45 (s, 2H), 7.93 (ABd, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.01, 146.27, 144.31, 141.95, 141.91, 139.22, 138.56, 138.08, 134.50, 133.20, 133.09, 129.67, 129.44, 129.43, 128.78, 128.77, 128.14, 127.96, 127.68, 127.21, 52.63, 46.18, 40.82, 21.64; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for $\text{C}_{51}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8\text{S}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 905.2673, Found: 905.2680.



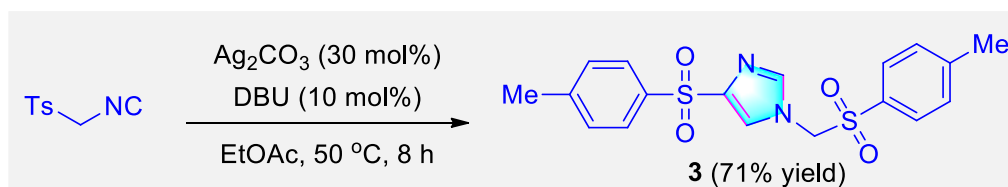
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 24 h, affording product **2s** in 10% yield as a dark-blue oil (7.1 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.99 (s, 2H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 6.78-6.85 (m, 4H), 7.01-7.06 (m, 4H), 7.08-7.13 (m, 1H),

7.18-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.80, 170.01, 168.04, 144.22, 142.31, 141.06, 139.23, 138.57, 138.24, 134.99, 134.53, 133.28, 133.03, 130.20, 129.94, 129.65, 129.39, 129.34, 129.21, 128.80, 128.62, 128.14, 127.99, 127.70, 127.50, 127.34, 127.19, 126.46, 125.04, 52.60, 51.83, 46.25, 41.04, 21.63; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₄₂H₃₆N₃O₆S [M+H]⁺: 710.2319, Found: 710.2312.

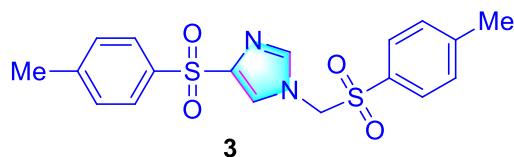


The reaction was run at 80 °C for 1.5 h by using K₂CO₃ (30 mol%) as the catalyst and MeOH/DME (2:1) as the solvent, affording product **6** in 81% yield as a yellow oil (24.1 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.34 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.62, 158.18, 145.10, 133.94, 132.73, 129.65, 129.43, 128.37, 127.76, 121.01, 54.01, 52.66, 51.76, 20.80; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₂₀NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 298.1438, Found: 298.1433.

3. General procedure and spectral data of product 3.



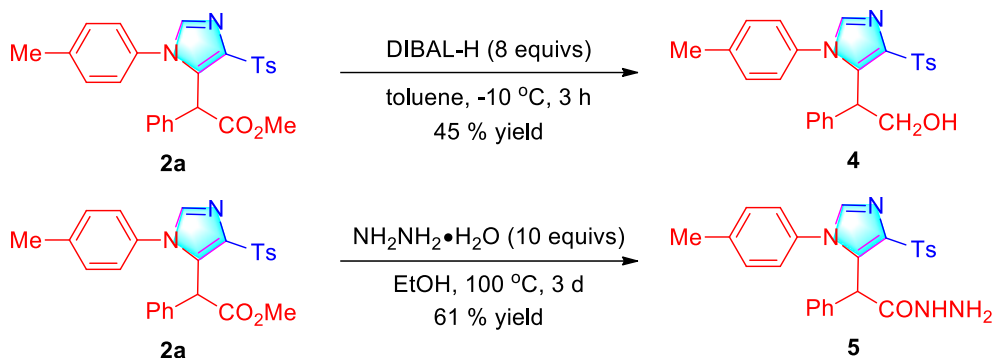
General Procedure: Under nitrogen atmosphere, *p*-toluenesulfonylmethyl isocyanide (TosMIC) (0.10 mmol), Ag₂CO₃ (30 mol%), DBU (10 mol%), and EtOAc (1.0 mL) were successively added to a oven-dried 10 mL schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 50 °C for 8 h, and monitored by TLC. After completion, the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) as the eluent to afford the 1,4-disubstituted imidazole **3**.



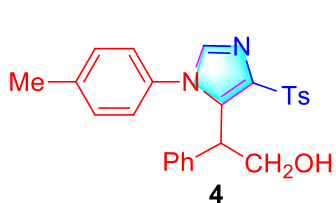
The reaction was run at 50 °C for 8 h, affording product **3** in 71% yield as a white solid (27.7 mg, m.p. 184-186 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.43 (s, 6H), 5.14 (s, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.44 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H);

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.90, 144.50, 143.21, 139.46, 137.30, 131.20, 130.49, 129.77, 128.64, 127.90, 123.72, 66.34, 21.80, 21.63.

4. Further transformations of product 2a.

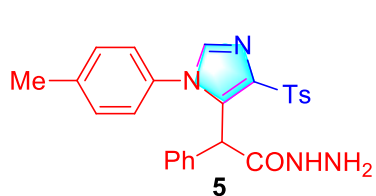


The preparation of 4: Under nitrogen atmosphere, **2a** (46.0 mg, 0.10 mmol) and toluene (3.0 mL) were added to an oven-dried 10 mL Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was then cooled down to -10 °C followed by the drop wise addition of DIBAL-H (0.8 mmol). After the full consumption of **2a** (ca. 3 h), 1 mol/L of sodium hydroxide solution (5 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate for three times (8 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:2) as the eluent to afford the desired product **4** in 45 % yield as a yellow solid (19.4 mg, m.p. 82-84 °C).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.70 (s, 1H), 4.18-4.22 (m, 1H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08-7.15 (m, 5H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.82 (ABd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.24, 140.10, 138.93, 138.53, 137.96, 137.80, 136.38, 132.18, 129.77, 129.65, 128.31, 128.10, 127.88, 127.29, 126.81, 63.32, 43.20, 21.64, 21.15; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₅N₂O₃S [M+H]⁺: 433.1580, Found: 433.1572.

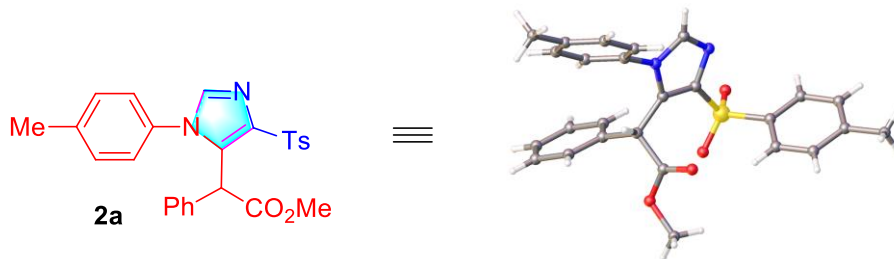
The preparation of 5: **2a** (46.0 mg, 0.10 mmol), MeOH (3.0 mL), and hydrazine hydrate were added to a 25 mL sealed tube. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 100 °C for 3 d. After completion, the sealed tube was cooled down to room temperature, and the solution was extracted with ethyl acetate for three times (10 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography using MeOH/EtOAc (1:3) as the eluent to afford the desired product **5** in 61 % yield as a yellow solid (28.1 mg, m.p. 82-84 °C).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.77 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 1H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 6.86 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.06-7.10 (m, 4H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.98 (ABd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.02, 144.25, 140.13, 139.12, 138.19, 137.90, 134.13, 133.40, 131.71, 129.70, 129.62, 129.20, 128.89, 128.19, 127.98, 127.36, 47.51, 21.65, 21.14; HRMS (ESI): Exact mass calcd for C₂₅H₂₅N₄O₃S [M+H]⁺: 461.1642, Found: 461.1647.

5. X-Ray crystallographic data for compounds 2a and 3.

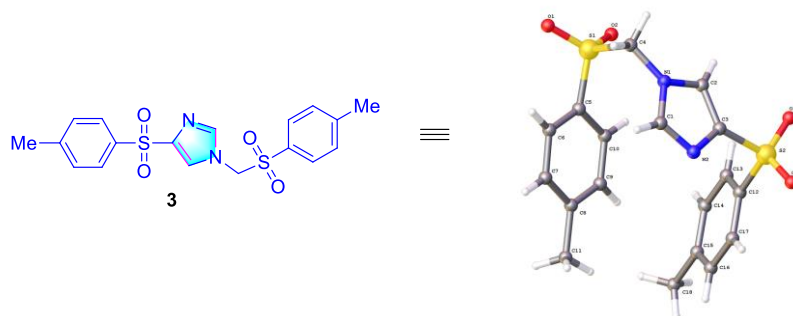
Data intensity of compound **2a** was collected using a Bruker 'Bruker APEX-II CCD' diffractometer at 179.99 (10) K. Data collection and reduction were done by using Olex2 and the structure was solved with the ShelXS structure solution program using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 with anisotropic displacement parameters for non-H atoms using SHELX-97. Hydrogen atoms were added at their geometrically ideal positions and refined isotropically. CCDC 2209195.



X-ray structure of product **2a**
CCDC 2209195

Empirical formula	C ₂₆ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄ S
Formula weight	460.53
Temperature/K	179.99(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n
a/Å	9.4115(7)
b/Å	17.4920(18)
c/Å	13.8909(10)
α /°	90
β /°	94.077(7)
γ /°	90
Volume/Å ³	2281.0(3)
Z	4
ρ_{calc} /cm ³	1.341
μ /mm ⁻¹	0.178
F(000)	968.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.14 × 0.12 × 0.11
Radiation	Mo K α (λ = 0.71073)
2 θ range for data collection/°	4.658 to 59.292
Index ranges	-12 ≤ h ≤ 11, -24 ≤ k ≤ 15, -18 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected	11730
Independent reflections	5383 [R _{int} = 0.0395, R _{sigma} = 0.0733]
Data/restraints/parameters	5383/0/301
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.020
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	R ₁ = 0.0878, wR ₂ = 0.1989
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.1321, wR ₂ = 0.2275
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	1.53/-0.68

Data intensity of compound **3** was collected using a Bruker 'Bruker APEX-II CCD' diffractometer at 180.00 (10) K. Data collection and reduction were done by using Olex2 and the structure was solved with the ShelXS structure solution program using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 with anisotropic displacement parameters for non-H atoms using SHELX-97. Hydrogen atoms were added at their geometrically ideal positions and refined isotropically. CCDC 2209196.



X-ray structure of product **3**
CCDC 2209196

Empirical formula	$C_{18}H_{18}N_2O_4S_2$
Formula weight	390.46
Temperature/K	180.00(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
$a/\text{\AA}$	5.9384(2)
$b/\text{\AA}$	19.6239(8)
$c/\text{\AA}$	15.6970(7)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	99.037(4)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ \AA^3	1806.54(13)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g/cm}^3$	1.436
μ/mm^{-1}	2.908
$F(000)$	816.0
Crystal size/ mm^3	0.14 × 0.1 × 0.08
Radiation	Cu $K\alpha$ ($\lambda = 1.54184$)
2θ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	7.268 to 147.738
Index ranges	$-6 \leq h \leq 7, -24 \leq k \leq 17, -16 \leq l \leq 19$
Reflections collected	6926
Independent reflections	3569 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0553, R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0761$]
Data/restraints/parameters	3569/0/237
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.092
Final R indexes [$ I > 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0806, wR_2 = 0.2106$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0971, wR_2 = 0.2253$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.98/-0.63

6. Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds 2-6.

