

Electronic Supplementary Information

Intramolecular Redox Cyclization Reaction Access to Cinnolines from 2-Nitrobenzyl Alcohol and Benzylamine via Intermediate 2-Nitrosobenzaldehyde

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Experimental Section

1. General Methods

All substrates and reagents were commercial and used without further purification. TLC analysis was performed using precoated glass plates. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200-300 mesh). ^1H NMR spectra were determined at 25 °C on 500 or 600 MHz spectrometer. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra were determined at 25 °C on 125 or 150 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to the internal standard of tetramethylsilane (TMS). HRMS were obtained on an UPLC G2-XS Qtof MS equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI) source. Melting points were determined using XT-4 apparatus and not corrected.

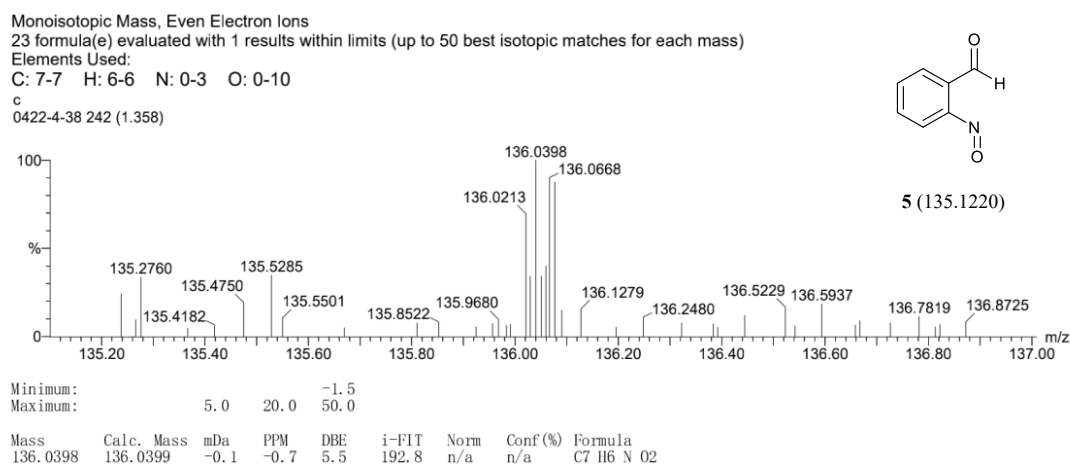
2. General Experimental Details

General procedure for the construction of **3aa-3aw**, and **3ba-3ia** (**3aa** as example).

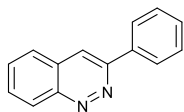
The mixture of 2-nitrobenzyl alcohol **1a** (153.1 mg, 1.0 mmol), benzylamine **2a** (321.5 mg, 3 mmol) and $\text{CsOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (503.8 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added in EtOH/ H_2O (4ml/2ml). Then, the resulting mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 3 h. After the reaction completed, added 200 mL water to the mixture, extracted with EtOAc three times (3×100 mL). Dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc =5/1) to afford the desired product **3aa** (167.1mg, 81%).

3. The MS Spectra of intermediate 5

A mixture of 2-nitrobenzyl alcohol **1a** (153.1 mg, 1.0 mmol) and $\text{CsOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (503.8 mg, 3.0 mmol) was added in EtOH/ H_2O (4ml/2ml) at 100 °C for 3 h. Then the mixture detected by HRMS. The following intermediate 2-Nitrosobenzaldehyde **5** (44.6mg, 33%) was captured.

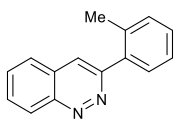


4. Spectroscopic Data



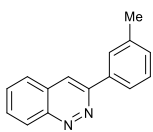
3-phenylcinnoline (3aa):^[1]

Yield 81%; 167.1mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 107–108 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.78 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 153.5, 149.9, 136.9, 131.3, 130.3, 129.8, 129.5, 129.1, 127.3, 127.0, 126.6, 118.9. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 208.10 (M+1, 23.87%), 207.14 (M, 100).



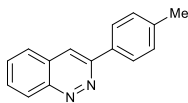
3-(o-tolyl)cinnoline (3ab):^[1a]

Yield 62%; 137.0mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 54–57 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.59 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 156.2, 149.3, 137.6, 136.6, 131.2, 130.9, 130.4, 130.3, 129.8, 128.9, 126.8, 126.1, 126.0, 122.2, 20.5. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 222.19 (M+1, 14.34%), 221.09 (M, 100).



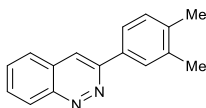
3-(m-tolyl)cinnoline (3ac):^[1a, 1d, 2]

Yield 66%; 145.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 58–60 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 153.7, 149.8, 138.8, 136.9, 131.2, 130.2, 130.2, 129.8, 129.0, 128.1, 126.9, 126.6, 124.4, 118.8, 21.6. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 222.21 (M+1, 21.70%), 221.08 (M, 100).



3-(p-tolyl)cinnoline (3ad):^[1a, 1c, 2]

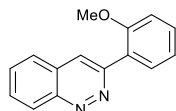
Yield 67%; 147.6mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 124–126 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 153.5, 149.8, 139.6, 134.1, 131.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.8, 127.1, 126.9, 126.6, 118.3, 21.3. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 222.19 (M+1, 14.11%), 221.08 (M, 100).



3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)cinnoline (3ae):

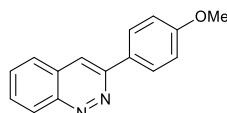
Yield 60%; 140.6mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow

solid; m.p. 105–107 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 153.6, 149.8, 138.2, 137.3, 134.4, 131.1, 130.3, 129.9, 129.8, 128.4, 126.9, 126.6, 124.6, 118.2, 20.0, 19.7. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2$: 235.1235; found: 235.1237.



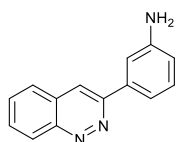
3-(2-methoxyphenyl) cinnoline (**3af**):

Yield 79%; 186.6mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 85–86 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 157.2, 152.0, 149.2, 131.6, 130.8, 130.5, 130.0, 129.5, 127.0, 126.1, 125.9, 123.4, 121.2, 111.3, 55.6. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$: 237.1028; found: 237.1029.



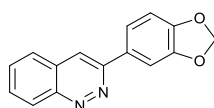
3-(4-methoxyphenyl) cinnoline (**3ag**):^[1a, 1c, 2]

Yield 80%; 189.0mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 93–98 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.52 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 160.8, 153.1, 149.5, 131.1, 129.8, 129.7, 129.3, 128.5, 126.8, 126.6, 117.6, 114.4, 55.3. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 238.20 ($\text{M}+1$, 18.73%), 237.14 (M , 100).



3-(cinnolin-3-yl) aniline (**3ah**):

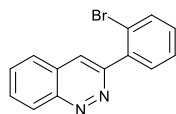
Yield 53%; 117.3mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 80–81 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ (ppm) 8.59 (s, 1H), 8.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ (ppm) 153.2, 149.4, 149.4, 137.1, 131.4, 130.7, 129.6, 128.8, 127.6, 126.1, 118.6, 115.1, 114.485, 112.3. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_3$: 222.1031; found: 222.1033.



3-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl) cinnoline (**3ai**):

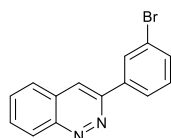
Yield 59%; 147.5mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 118–120 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.73 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 153.1, 149.7, 148.9, 148.6, 131.2, 131.1,

130.0, 129.8, 126.8, 126.6, 121.4 118.0, 108.8, 107.6, 101.4. **HRMS** (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}N_2O_2$: 251.0821; found: 251.0826.



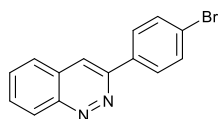
3-(2-bromophenyl) cinnoline (3aj):

Yield 51%; 145.4mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 83–86 °C; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 8.59 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.90 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 154.4, 149.5, 138.5, 133.4, 132.2, 131.3, 130.8, 130.3, 129.7, 127.7, 126.9, 125.4, 123.5, 122.4. **HRMS** (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2Br$: 285.0027; found: 285.0028.



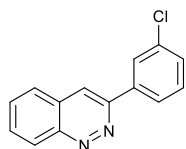
3-(3-bromophenyl) cinnoline (3ak):

Yield 54%; 153.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 88–89 °C; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 8.59 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 152.0, 150.0, 138.9, 132.3, 131.6, 130.7, 130.6, 130.2, 129.8, 127.0, 126.3, 125.8, 123.3, 119.1. **HRMS** (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2Br$: 285.0027; found: 285.0026.



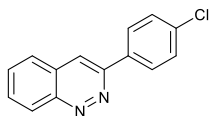
3-(4-bromophenyl) cinnoline (3al):^[1a, 1c, 1d]

Yield 49%; 139.6mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 93–102 °C; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 8.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 152.4, 150.0, 135.9, 132.3, 131.5, 130.5, 129.9, 128.8, 127.0, 126.4, 124.1, 118.6. **ITMS** (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 287.11 ($M+1$, 52.73%), 285.03 (M , 100).



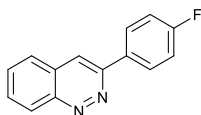
3-(3-chlorophenyl) cinnoline (3am):^[1c, 2]

Yield 48%; 115.5mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 125–128 °C; 1H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 8.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (s, 1H), 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 2H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (150 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 152.1, 150.0, 138.6, 135.2, 131.6, 130.8, 130.3, 129.8, 129.5, 127.4, 127.0, 126.5, 125.4, 119.3. **HRMS** (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{14}H_{10}N_2Cl$: 241.0533; found: 241.0537.



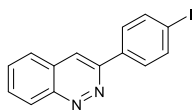
3-(4-chlorophenyl) cinnoline (**3an**):^[1a, 1c, 1d, 2]

Yield 45%; 108.3mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 110–112 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.58 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 152.4, 150.0, 135.8, 135.4, 131.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.3, 128.5, 126.9, 126.4, 118.7. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 243.15 (M+2, 50.66%), 242.06 (M+1, 23.46), 241.10 (M, 100).



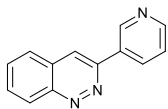
3-(4-fluorophenyl) cinnoline (**3ao**):^[1a, 1c, 1d, 2]

Yield 60%; 134.5mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 95–105 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.52 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.22 – 8.20 (m, 2H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 163.7 (d, *J*_{C-F}=248.0 Hz), 152.4, 149.8, 133.0 (d, *J*_{C-F}=3.2 Hz), 131.3, 130.2, 129.7, 129.0 (d, *J*_{C-F}=8.3 Hz), 126.8, 126.3, 118.3, 115.9, (d, *J*_{C-F}=21.5 Hz). ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 226.19 (M+1, 9.26%), 225.12 (M, 100).



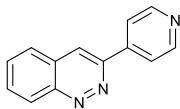
3-(4-iodophenyl) cinnoline (**3ap**):

Yield 52%; 172.7mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=3/1); yellow solid; m.p. 106–110 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.90 – 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 152.4, 149.9, 138.2, 136.3, 131.5, 130.5, 129.8, 128.8, 126.9, 126.3, 118.6, 96.0. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₂I: 332.9889; found: 332.9893.



3-(pyridin-3-yl) cinnoline (**3aq**):

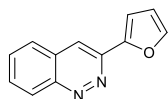
Yield 55%; 113.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=1/1); yellow solid; m.p. 152–156 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 9.42 (s, 1H), 8.77 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.55 (m, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 150.8, 150.2, 150.0, 148.0, 135.1, 131.8, 131.0, 130.0, 127.0, 126.2, 124.1, 119.2, 117.2. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N₃: 208.0875; found: 208.0883.



3-(pyridin-4-yl) cinnoline (**3ar**):

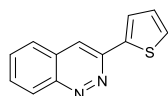
Yield 56%; 116.0mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=1/1); yellow solid; m.p. 177–180 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.83 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz,

1H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 150.6, 150.6, 150.4, 144.1, 131.8, 131.3, 129.9, 127.1, 126.0, 121.2, 119.7. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_3$: 208.0875; found: 208.0879.



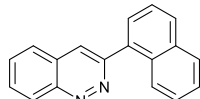
3-(furan-2-yl) cinnoline (**3as**):^[1a]

Yield 45%; 88.3mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 93–95 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.52 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.64 – 6.63 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 151.8, 149.6, 146.6, 144.0, 131.5, 130.0, 126.9, 126.3, 116.0, 112.5, 110.0. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}$: 197.0715; found: 197.0719.



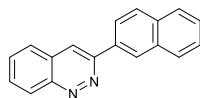
3-(thiophen-2-yl) cinnoline (**3at**):^[1a]

Yield 48%; 101.2mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=4/1); yellow solid; m.p. 111–113 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.52 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.80 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.73 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 – 7.20 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 149.9, 149.5, 141.4, 131.6, 130.1, 130.0, 128.4, 128.2, 126.7, 126.4, 125.4, 116.5. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 216.42 ($\text{M}+2$, 14.52%), 214.04 ($\text{M}+1$, 19.28%), 212.91 (M , 100).



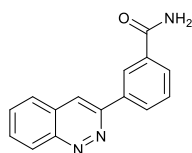
3-(naphthalen-1-yl) cinnoline (**3au**):

Yield 46%; 117.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 105–107 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.67 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.48 (m, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 155.4, 149.7, 135.7, 134.0, 131.4, 130.6, 129.9, 129.6, 128.7, 128.5, 126.9, 126.8, 126.2, 126.1, 125.4, 125.4, 123.5. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2$: 257.1079; found: 257.1077.



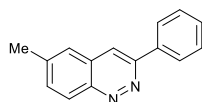
3-(naphthalen-2-yl) cinnoline (**3av**):^[1c, 1d]

Yield 50%; 128.2mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 96–98 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.39 – 8.37 (m, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 8.04 – 8.01 (m, 1H), 7.94 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.78 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 153.4, 149.8, 134.1, 133.8, 133.6, 131.4, 130.4, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 127.8, 127.0, 127.0, 126.9, 126.7, 126.6, 124.5, 119.1, 77.23. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 258.06 ($\text{M}+1$, 16.48%), 257.12 (M , 100).



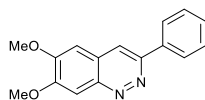
3-(cinnolin-3-yl) benzamide (**3aw**):

Yield 52%; 129.6mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 206–207 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 8.83 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 8.55 – 8.51 (m, 2H), 8.22 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ (ppm) 168.1, 152.5, 150.0, 137.16, 135.7, 132.3, 131.6, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 128.9, 128.1, 126.6, 126.6, 119.9. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): *m/z* [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₂N₃O: 250.0980; found: 250.0980.



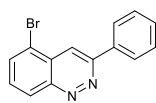
6-methyl-3-phenylcinnoline (**3ba**):^[1d, 2]

Yield 63%; 69.4mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 119–123 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 – 8.22 (m, 3H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.61 – 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 153.4, 149.0, 141.9, 137.1, 132.8, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 127.2, 126.7, 125.3, 118.2, 22.09. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 222.15 (M+1, 17.82%), 221.07 (M, 100).



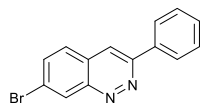
6,7-dimethoxy-3-phenylcinnoline (**3ca**):^[1c]

Yield 51%; 67.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 117–118 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 4.08 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 153.9, 153.3, 152.9, 147.9, 137.4, 129.1, 129.0, 127.1, 124.1, 117.9, 106.8, 103.0, 56.5. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 268.11 (M+1, 15.48%), 267.13 (M, 100).



5-bromo-3-phenylcinnoline (**3da**):^[1a, 1d]

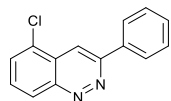
Yield 48%; 68.4mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 66–68 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.54 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.30 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 154.7, 150.2, 136.5, 134.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 127.5, 126.5, 121.3, 117.8. ITMS (ESI, LCQ-fleet): *m/z* 286.99 (M+2, 57.84%), 286.08 (M+1, 11.55), 285.11 (M, 100).



7-bromo-3-phenylcinnoline (**3ea**):^[1a, 1d]

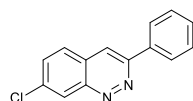
Yield 50%; 71.3mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 34–35 °C; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.83 – 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.2

Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 153.8, 150.0, 136.5, 135.1, 132.0, 129.8, 129.2, 128.4, 127.3, 125.2, 124.2, 118.6. **ITMS** (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 285.03 ($M+1$, 79.50%), 286.96 (M , 100).



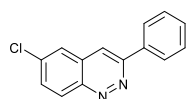
5-chloro-3-phenylcinnoline (3fa):^[1a, 1d]

Yield 48%; 57.8mg; 58mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 102–106 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.53 – 8.51 (m, 2H), 8.31 – 8.30 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 154.4, 150.0, 136.5, 130.9, 130.8, 129.9, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 127.5, 125.3, 115.4. **ITMS** (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 243.13 ($M+2$, 40.05%), 242.10 ($M+1$, 13.79), 241.07 (M , 100).



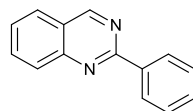
7-chloro-3-phenylcinnoline (3ga):^[1a, 1d]

Yield 49%; 58.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 30–32 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 153.9, 149.8, 136.5, 136.0, 132.6, 129.7, 129.2, 128.5, 128.5, 127.3, 125.0, 118.5. **ITMS** (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 243.09 ($M+1$, 20.79%), 241.14 (M , 100).



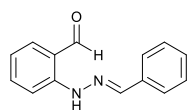
6-chloro-3-phenylcinnoline (3ha):^[1a, 1d]

Yield 45%; 54.2mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=5/1); yellow solid; m.p. 120–122 °C; ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 8.50 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 154.0, 148.2, 137.6, 136.4, 131.6, 131.5, 129.8, 129.1, 127.4, 127.2, 125.5, 117.6. **ITMS** (ESI, LCQ-fleet): m/z 242.98 ($M+2$, 30.90%), 242.17 ($M+1$, 12.58), 241.02 (M , 100).



2-phenylquinazoline (4):

yellow solid; m.p. 78–80 °C; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=10/1); ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.62 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (q, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 3H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 161.1, 160.5, 150.8, 138.0, 134.1, 130.6, 128.6, 128.6, 128.6, 127.3, 127.1, 123.6. **HRMS** (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_2$: 207.0922; found: 207.0925.



(E)-2-(2-benzylidenehydrazineyl) benzaldehyde (6):

Yield 16%; 35.9mg; purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc=20/1); yellow solid; m.p. 112–113 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 11.53 (s, 1H), 9.90 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 8.5 Hz,

1H), 7.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ (ppm) 194.3, 147.2, 141.7, 136.0, 135.5, 134.8, 129.2, 128.7, 126.7, 118.0, 117.4, 113.3. HRMS (ESI, UPLC G2-XS Qtof): m/z $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}$: 225.1028; found: 225.1024.

References and notes:

- [1] (a) G. Zhang, J. Miao, Y. Zhao and H. Ge, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2012, **51**, 8318-8321. (b) D. Zhao, Q. Wu, X. Huang, F. Song, T. Lv and J. You, *Chem-Eur. J.*, 2013, **19**, 6239-6244. (c) W. M. Shu, J. R. Ma, K. L. Zheng and A. X. Wu, *Org. Lett.*, 2016, **18**, 196-199. (d) C. Lan, Z. Tian, X. Liang, M. Gao, W. Liu, Y. An, W. Fu, G. Jiao, J. Xiao and B. Xu, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2017, **359**, 3735-3740.
- [2] C. J. Ball, J. Gilmore and M. C. Willis, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2012, **51**, 5718-5722.

6. Appendix: spectral copies of ^1H NMR, and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR

