Supporting Information

Extended Phenothiazines: Synthesis, Photophysical and Redox Properties, and Efficient Photocatalytic Oxidative Coupling of Amines

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1 General

All solvents were dried according to the standard procedures and all of them were degassed under N₂ for 30 minutes before use. All air-sensitive reactions were carried out under inert N₂ atmosphere. The ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, 2D NMR (NOESY, COSY) spectra were recorded on Bruker 300MHz, 400 MHz, 500 MHz spectrometer. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported relative to the residual solvent signals. Coupling constants (J) are denoted in Hz and chemical shifts (δ) are denoted in ppm. Multiplicities are denoted as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet and m = multiplet. UVvis-NIR spectra were recorded in a quartz cell (light path 10 mm) on a Shimadzu UV2700 UV-visible spectrophotometer. Fluorescence spectra and photoluminescence quantum yields (Φ_F) were recorded on HORIBA Duetta. Cyclic voltammetry was recorded on a Bio-Logic SAS SP-150 spectrometer in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ containing n- $BuNPF_6(0.1 \text{ M})$ as supporting electrolyte at a scan rate of 20 mV/s at room temperature. The CV cell has a glassy carbon electrode, a Pt wire counter electrode, and an Ag/Ag⁺ reference electrode. The potential was calibrated against the ferrocene/ferrocenium (Fc/Fc⁺) couple. $E^{\theta}_{Fc^+/Fc} = 0.46$ V vs. SCE in CH₂Cl₂. $E_{1/2}$ (PC^{+/}PC^{*}) = $E_{1/2}$ (PC^{+/}PC) - $E_{\rm hv}$ where $E_{\rm hv} = hc/\lambda_{\rm max} = 1240$ nm/ $\lambda_{\rm max}$. $E_{1/2}$ (PC^{.+}/PC) was obtained from CV as the half sum of anodic (E_{pa}) and cathodic (E_{pc}) peak potentials, $E_{1/2}$ (PC^{+/}/PC) = ($E_{pa}+E_{pc}$)/2. E_{g}^{opt} was calculated from the onset of the absorption band. E_{ox} is the first oxidation potential, versus ferrocene/ferricenium (Fc/Fc⁺). E_{HOMO} was calculated from the onset of the first oxidation wave and referenced against Fc/Fc⁺ at -4.8 eV vs. vacuum. E_{LUMO} was calculated with E_{HOMO} and $E_{g^{\text{opt}}}$. EPR spectra for radicals were obtained on Bruker EMX instrument EMXPLUS-10/12. EPR spectra simulation was conducted on the Bruker SpinFit software. The HR-ESI mass spectra were performed on Q Exactive Focus (Thermo Scientific, USA). The single crystals were measured on Bruker Apex duo equipment with Cu radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184$ Å). DFT computations were performed by Gaussian 16 program. During the optimization, all atoms were described by RM06-2X/def2-SVP and UM06-2X/def2-SVP computational level for neutral compounds and radical cations, respectively. Frequency calculations were conducted to ensure that these structures were indeed local minima without imaginary frequencies. The single point energy was performed at the level of M06-2X/def2-TZVP. Time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) calculations at the CAM-B3LYP/def2-SVP level. Electronic structure analyses were performed with the Multiwfn 3.8 (dev) code. The isosurface maps of various molecular orbitals, spin density and hole-electron distributions were rendered by Visual Molecular Dynamics (VMD 1.9.3) software based on the files exported from Multiwfn.^[1-4] The photocatalytic experiments were carried out under photoreactor which was purchased from Shanghai 3S Technology Co., Ltd. (item no. S-Light-AL1). Yields of imines were determined by in situ ¹H NMR using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. In order to increase the solubility of products, adding some DMSO to the mixture after reaction. Conversion was determined by gas chromatograph (GC-2014, SHIMADZU, equipped with an FID detector). Products were confirmed by ¹H NMR and GC-MS (GCMSQP2020, SHIMADZU).

2 Synthesis and characterization

Compound a-OMe

A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-bromo-3-methoxynaphthalene (3.54 g, 15.0 mmol), 2-methoxybenzenethiol (2.20 mL, 18.0 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (686 mg, 0.75 mmol), XPhos (715 mg, 1.50 mmol), *t*-BuONa (4.32 g, 45.0 mmol) and toluene (100 mL). The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 20:1) to obtain the compound **a-OMe** (2.49 g) as a white solid with yield of 56%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.39 (td, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.05-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 158.98, 155.65, 133.98, 133.83, 129.80, 129.49, 129.20, 127.12, 126.80, 126.54, 126.41, 124.37, 121.70, 121.64, 111.63, 105.83, 56.22, 56.19.

Compound a-OTf

Compound a-OMe (1.00 g, 3.40 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (20 mL). BBr₃ (2.30 mL, 23.60 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (5 mL) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain crude product without purification. Then the crude product was dissolved in DCM (20 mL), pyridine (655 µL, 8.10 mmol) was added. Then triflic anhydride (1.70 mL, 10.1 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After the reaction, the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with DCM (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:DCM = 5:1) to give the compound **a-OTf** (1.39 g) as a white solid in 77% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 148.49, 146.50, 135.72, 133.54, 133.28, 132.70, 129.67, 129.18, 128.97, 128.47, 128.11, 128.06, 127.81, 124.76, 122.38, 120.48.

Compound 1

A round-bottom flask was charged with **a-OTf** (532 mg, 1.00 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (977 mg, 3.00 mmol), DPEPhos (53.8 mg, 0.10 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (45.8 mg, 0.05 mmol) and toluene (10 mL). 4-*tert*-butylaniline (175 μ L, 1.10 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to obtain the compound **1** (186 mg) as a pale yellow solid with the yield of 49%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.64, 137.71, 137.53, 137.49, 137.29, 135.12, 135.09, 134.65, 133.38, 130.69, 130.57, 130.53, 129.07, 128.75, 128.44, 126.65, 126.57, 126.33, 126.14, 125.89, 124.93, 102.41, 55.70, 21.41, 21.20, 20.14, 19.90. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₂₆H₂₄NS [M+H]⁺: 382.1551, found: 382.1616.

Compound b-OMe

A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-bromo-3-methoxynaphthalene (1.19g, 5.00 mmol), thiourea (247 mg, 3.25 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (2.28 g, 7.00 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (91.6 mg, 0.10 mmol), TriPhos (187 mg, 0.30 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (50 mL). The mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 10:1) to give the compound **b-OMe** (485 mg) as a white solid in 56% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (s, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 156.05, 134.38, 131.43, 131.39, 129.51, 127.37, 126.81, 125.15, 124.43, 106.12, 56.40. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₂₂H₁₉O₂S [M+H]⁺: 347.1028, found: 347.1091.

Compound b-OTf

Compound b-OMe (346 mg, 1.00 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). BBr₃ (674 µL, 7.00 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (5 mL) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain crude product without purification. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). Then pyridine (194 µL, 2.40 mmol) was added. Then triflic anhydride (505 µL, 3.00 mmol) was added at 0 °C. and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After the reaction, the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with DCM (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:DCM = 5:1) to give the compound **b-OTf** (483 mg) as a white solid with yield of 83%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 8.27 (s, 2H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (s, 2H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (dt, J = 14.8, 7.0 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 144.93, 133.96, 132.67, 132.40, 128.48, 128.36, 128.19, 127.72, 123.84, 120.83. HR-ESI-MS: m/z calculated for C₂₂H₁₃O₆F₆S₃ [M+H]⁺: 582.9700, found: 582.9761.

Compound 2

A round-bottom flask was charged with **b-OTf** (583 mg, 1.00 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (977 mg, 3.00 mmol), DPEPhos (53.8 mg, 0.10 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (45.8 mg, 0.0500 mmol) and toluene (10 mL). 4-*tert*-butylaniline (175 μ L, 1.10 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to give the compound **2** (155 mg) as a white solid in 36% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.16 (m, 4H), 6.50 (s, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 152.35, 141.60, 138.57, 133.50, 130.52, 130.05, 128.53, 127.12, 126.50, 126.36, 124.59, 124.57, 122.03, 111.82, 35.24, 31.62. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₃₀H₂₆NS [M+H]⁺: 432.1708, found: 432.1775.

Compound 2-Br

9,10-dimesityl-2-methoxyanthracene was synthesized by previous reported procedures. ^[4] 9,10-Dimesityl-2-methoxyanthracene (889 mg, 2.00 mmol) was dissolved in THF 20 mL. Then ethyl n-BuLi (0.96 mL, 2.40 mmol) was added at -78 °C under N₂ protection and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After that, 1,2-dibromoethane (190 µL, 2.20 mmol) was added to the mixture at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After that, the mixture was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl aqueous solution and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE) to obtain the compound 2-Br (846 mg) as a yellow solid in 81% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 13.4, 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.12 (s, 4H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 6H), 1.78 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ(ppm) 153.09, 137.61, 137.56, 137.45, 137.30, 134.84, 134.66, 134.36, 133.60, 130.93, 130.46, 129.81, 129.08, 128.57, 126.92, 126.62, 126.10, 125.92, 125.07, 115.22, 103.60, 56.18, 21.43, 21.41, 20.11, 19.98. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₃₃H₃₂OBr [M+H]⁺: 523.1558, found: 523.1634.

Compound c-OMe

A round-bottom flask was charged with **2-Br** (1.00 g, 2.00 mmol), 2methoxybenzenethiol (292 µL, 2.40 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (91.57 mg, 0.10 mmol), XPhos (95.34 mg, 0.2 mmol), *t*-BuONa (577 mg, 6.00 mmol) and toluene (20 mL). The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to give the compound **c-OMe** (699 mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 60%.¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.16 (s, 2H), 6.95-6.85 (m, 4H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 6.32 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 6H), 1.48 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 159.62, 153.75, 136.66, 136.61, 136.49, 136.24, 136.01, 134.14, 133.51, 132.98, 132.23, 131.42, 129.64, 128.84, 128.39, 127.95, 125.59, 125.54, 125.43, 125.20, 124.88, 121.97, 121.33, 116.46, 111.72, 100.77, 55.47, 55.31, 20.91, 20.89, 19.44, 19.25. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₄₀H₃₉O₂S [M+H]⁺: 583.2593, found: 583.2658.

Compound c-OTf

Compound c-OMe (582 mg, 1.00 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (10 mL). BBr₃ (674 µL, 7.00 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (3 mL) dropwise at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain crude product without purification. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (10 mL). Then pyridine (194 µL, 2.40 mmol) was added. Then triflic anhydride (505 µL, 3.00 mmol) was added at 0 °C. and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After that, the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with DCM (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 60:1) to give the compound c-OTf (622mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 76%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 7.00 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.76 (s, 6H), 1.64 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 149.65, 145.66, 138.44, 137.94, 137.70, 137.51, 136.93, 136.17, 135.47, 133.56, 133.51, 131.62, 131.27, 131.19, 130.80, 129.67, 128.84, 128.71, 128.66, 127.28, 127.09, 127.07, 126.95, 126.84, 125.92, 122.67, 118.93, 21.39, 21.35, 19.96, 19.93. HR-ESI-MS: m/z calculated for C₄₀H₃₃O₆F₆S₃ [M+H]⁺: 819.1265, found: 819.1315.

Compound 3

A round-bottom flask was charged with c-OTf (982 mg, 1.20 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (55.0 mg, 0.06 mmol), DPEPhos (64.6 mg, 0.12 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (1.20 g, 3.60 mmol) and toluene (20 mL). 4-tert-butylaniline (214 µL, 1.30 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After that, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:DCM = 10:1) to give the compound 3 (480 mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 60%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ (ppm) 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.07 (m, 8H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 6.81 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.77 (s, 6H), 1.60 (s, 61.39 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.64, 137.71, 137.53, 137.49, 137.29, 135.12, 135.09, 134.65, 133.38, 130.69, 130.57, 130.53, 129.07, 128.75, 128.44, 126.65, 126.57, 126.33, 126.14, 125.89, 124.93, 102.41, 55.70, 21.41, 21.20, 20.14, 19.90. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₄₈H₄₆NS [M+H]⁺: 668.3273, found: 668.3343.

Compound 3-methoxynaphthalene-2-thiol

2-Methoxynaphthalene (5.00 g, 31.6 mmol) was dissolved in THF (100 mL). Then ethyl *n*-BuLi (18.2 mL, 45.5 mmol) was added at -78 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After that, elemental sulfur (1.21 g, 37.9 mmol) was added to the mixture at -78 °C. Then the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature overnight. After the reaction, the mixture was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl aqueous solution and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE) to give the compound **3-methoxynaphthalene-2-thiol** (2.90 g) as a white solid in 49% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.27 (m, 3H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm) 153.31, 132.19, 128.61, 126.56, 126.52, 125.98, 125.40, 124.14, 123.50, 105.58, 55.95.

Compound d-OMe

A round-bottom flask was charged with 2-Br (2.1 g, 4.0 mmol), 3methoxynaphthalene-2-thiol (912 mg, 4.80 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (183 mg, 0.20 mmol), XPhos (191 mg, 0.40 mmol), t-BuONa (1.15 g, 12.0 mmol) and toluene (30 mL). The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N2 protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to obtain the compound **d-OMe** (1.24 g) as a yellow solid with yield of 49%. ¹H NMR $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{DMSO-}d_6) \delta (\text{ppm}) 7.95 (\text{s}, 1\text{H}), 7.90 (\text{d}, J = 8.3 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.76 (\text{d}, J = 8.1 \text{Hz})$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.16 (s, 2H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.54 (s, 2H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 6H), 1.38 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ (ppm) 156.20, 153.75, 136.68, 136.60, 136.39, 136.34, 135.76, 135.07, 134.10, 133.26, 133.05, 132.25, 130.20, 128.89, 128.51, 128.40, 127.93, 127.54, 127.28, 127.25, 126.68, 125.56, 125.50, 125.46, 125.17, 124.87, 124.03, 122.66, 119.51, 106.61, 100.82, 55.53, 26.35, 20.90, 20.85, 19.43, 19.17. HR-ESI-MS: m/z calculated for C₄₄H₄₁O₂S [M+H]⁺: 633.2749, found: 633.2812.

Compound d-OTf

Compound d-OMe (1.07 g, 1.70 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (20 mL). BBr₃ (1.16 mL, 12.0 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (10 mL) dropwise at 0 °C and evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain crude product without purification. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (20 mL). Then pyridine (330 μL, 4.08 mmol) was added. Triflic anhydride (858 μL, 5.10 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After that, the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to give the compound **d-OTf** (900 mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 61%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.71 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.34 (dqd, *J* = 7.8, 6.4, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (s, 2H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 6H), 1.53 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.64, 137.71, 137.53, 137.49, 137.29, 135.12, 135.09, 134.65, 133.38, 130.69, 130.57, 130.53, 129.07, 128.75, 128.44, 126.65, 126.57, 126.33, 126.14, 125.89, 124.93, 102.41, 55.70, 21.41, 21.20, 20.14, 19.90. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₄₄H₃₅F₆O₆S₃ [M+H]⁺: 869.1422, found: 869.1484.

Compound 4

A round-bottom flask was charged with **d-OTf** (521 mg, 0.60 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (27.5 mg, 0.03 mmol), DPEPhos (32.3 mg, 0.06 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (587 mg, 1.80 mmol) and toluene (10 mL). 4-*tert*-butylaniline (105 μ L, 0.66 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:DCM = 10:1) to give the compound **4** (211 mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 49%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.57-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.10 (m, 10H), 6.89 (s, 2H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 6H), 1.61 (s, 6H), 1.43 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.64, 137.71, 137.53, 137.49, 137.29, 135.12, 135.09, 134.65, 133.38, 130.69, 130.57, 130.53, 129.07, 128.75, 128.44, 126.65, 126.57, 126.33, 126.14, 125.89, 124.93, 102.41, 55.70, 21.41, 21.20, 20.14, 19.90. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₅₂H₄₈NS [M+H]⁺: 718.3429, found: 718.3474.

Compound e-OMe

A round-bottom flask was charged with **2-Br** (2.60 g, 5.00 mmol), thiourea (251 mg, 3.30 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (91.6 mg, 0.10 mmol), TriPhos (187 mg, 0.30 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (2.30 g, 7.00 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (40 mL). The mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 80 : 1) to give the compound **e-OMe** (1.35 g) as a yellow solid with yield of 59%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 4H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 6H), 2.46 (s, 6H), 2.20 (s, 6H), 1.82 (s, 12H), 1.60 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.23, 137.30, 137.12, 137.08, 136.88, 134.71, 134.68, 134.24, 132.96, 130.28, 130.16, 130.12, 128.66, 128.34, 128.03, 126.24, 126.15, 125.92, 125.73, 125.48, 124.52, 102.00, 55.28, 21.00, 20.79, 19.73, 19.49. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₆₆H₆₃O₂S [M+H]⁺: 919.4471, found: 919.4523.

Compound e-OTf

Compound e-OMe (1.45 g, 1.58 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (20 mL). BBr₃ (1.07 mL, 11.0 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (5 mL) dropwise at 0 °C and evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain crude product without purification. The crude product was dissolved in DCM (20 mL). Then pyridine (307 µL, 3.80 mmol) was added. Triflic anhydride (791 µL, 4.70 mmol) was added at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After that, the mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO₃ aqueous solution and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:EA = 100:1) to give the compound **d-OTf** (1.28 g) as a yellow solid with yield of 70%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.65 (s, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.15 (s, 4H), 6.93 (s, 4H), 2.46 (s, 6H), 2.22 (s, 6H), 1.77 (s, 12H), 1.59 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 155.64, 137.71, 137.53, 137.49, 137.29, 135.12, 135.09, 134.65, 133.38, 130.69, 130.57, 130.53, 129.07, 128.75, 128.44, 126.65, 126.57, 126.33, 126.14, 125.89, 124.93, 102.41, 55.70, 21.41, 21.20, 20.14, 19.90. HR-ESI-MS: m/z calculated for C₆₆H₅₇F₆O₆S₃ [M+H]⁺: 1155.3143, found: 1155.3214.

Compound 5

A round-bottom flask was charged with **e-OTf** (1.00 g, 0.87 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (40.0 mg, 0.04 mmol), DPEPhos (48.5 mg, 0.09 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (847 mg, 2.60 mmol), and toluene (20 mL). 4-*tert*-butylaniline (152 μ L, 0.95 mmol) was added to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h under N₂ protection. After reaction, the resulting mixture was diluted with H₂O and extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtrated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (PE:DCM = 10:1) to give the compound **5** (210 mg) as a yellow solid with yield of 48%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 7.34-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 4H), 7.10 (s, 4H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (s, 4H), 6.20 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 6H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 1.74 (s, 12H), 1.57 (s, 12H), 1.38 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ (ppm) 140.30, 137.78, 137.64, 137.28, 136.76, 134.72, 134.45, 133.87, 133.69, 130.53, 129.87, 129.19, 129.13, 128.65, 128.23, 127.32, 126.92, 126.53, 126.15, 125.55, 124.90, 123.35, 122.55, 109.41, 34.84, 31.62, 21.52, 21.38, 20.03, 19.74. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calculated for C₇₄H₇₀NS [M+H]⁺: 1004.5151, found: 1004.5208.

3 Theoretical calculation



3.1 HOMO and LUMO energies

Figure S1. HOMO and LUMO energies of PTZ, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.

3.2 Spin density and spin population



Figure S2. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of PTZ⁺⁺ at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.



Figure S3. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of 1⁺⁺ at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.



Figure S4. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of 2^{+} at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.



Figure S5. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of 3^{++} at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.



Figure S6. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of 4^{•+} at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.



Figure S7. Spin density and Mulliken atomic spin density values of 5^{++} at the M06-2X/def2-TZVP level of theory.

3.3 The dihedral angle and bond length analysis



Figure S8. The dihedral angle and the bond length of DFT-optimized structure of PTZ, PTZ⁺, 1, 1⁺, 2, 2⁺, 3, 3⁺, 4, 4⁺, 5 and 5⁺ at the M06-2X/def2-SVP level of theory (a) and the dihedral angle and the bond length of single crystal structure of 1, 1⁺, 2 and 2⁺ (b).

Table S1. Dihedral angle and selected bond length of DFT-optimized structure of PTZ, PTZ⁺⁺, 1, 1⁺⁺, 2, 2⁺⁺, 3, 3⁺⁺, 4, 4⁺⁺, 5 and 5⁺⁺ and dihedral angle and selected bond length of crystal structure of 1, 1⁺⁺, 2 and 2⁺⁺.

	PTZ	PTZ ^{*+}	1	1"+	2	2'+	3	3'+	4	4'+	5	5'+	1 (crystal)	1'+ (crystal)	2 (crystal)	2'+ (crystal)
C(1)-N (Å)	1.412	1.388	1.412	1.383	1.409	1.388	1.408	1.410	1.407	1.364	1.404	1.384	1.410	1.386	1.413	1.398
C(2)-N (Å)	1.412	1.388	1.411	1.394	1.409	1.389	1.407	1.365	1.406	1.414	1.404	1.387	1.409	1.398	1.411	1.403
C(3)-S (Å)	1.770	1.727	1.766	1.723	1.763	1.733	1.765	1.749	1.762	1.757	1.759	1.759	1.764	1.696	1.754	1.744
C(4)-S (Å)	1.770	1.727	1.765	1.734	1.764	1.733	1.763	1.757	1.763	1.760	1.758	1.758	1.738	1.738	1.753	1.718
Dihedral angle (°)	150.36	179.79	154.43	179.85	155.47	179.78	156.24	165.75	156.90	162.12	163.99	165.22	158.82	180.00	164.87	174.13



3.4 Real space representation of hole and electron distributions

Figure S9. Calculated molecular orbitals of 3, 4, and 5 and their real space representations of hole and electron distributions for S0 \rightarrow S1 excitation. Blue and green regions denote the hole and electron distributions, respectively (isovalue = 0.003). S0 \rightarrow S1 was mainly attributed to electrons transition from HOMO \rightarrow LUMO (isovalue = 0.03).

4 UV-vis-NIR titrations



Figure S10. UV-vis-NIR titrations of 3 (a), 4 (b) and 5 (c) (15 μ M in DCM) using AgSbF₆ as oxidant.

5 EPR studies



Figure S11. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of PTZ^{+} in CH_2Cl_2 (data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.00529, $A_N = 6.99874$ G.



Figure S12. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of 1^{++} in CH₂Cl₂(data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.00463, $A_N = 6.8498$ G.



Figure S13. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of 2^{++} in CH₂Cl₂(data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.00407, $A_N = 7.28938$ G.



Figure S14. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of 3^{++} in CH₂Cl₂ (data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.0041, $A_{\rm N} = 5.93397$ G, $A_{\rm Ha} = 4.4158$ G, $A_{\rm Hb} = 2.10443$ G, $A_{\rm Hc} = 2.10402$ G.



Figure S15. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of 4^{++} in CH₂Cl₂ (data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.0041, $A_{\rm N} = 4.50023$ G, $A_{\rm Ha} = 5.49945$ G, $A_{\rm Hb} = 3.61345$ G, $A_{\rm Hc} = 2.17639$ G, $A_{\rm Hd} = 1.0399$ G.



Figure S16. Experimental and simulated EPR spectra of **5**⁺⁺ in CH₂Cl₂ (data processing (left) and screenshot (right) from the Bruker SpinFit software). The fitting parameters for the spectral simulation are: g = 2.00281, $A_N = 5.47755$ G, $A_H = 4.59686$ G.

Table S2. The g and A_N , A_H value analysis of PTZ⁺⁺, 1⁺⁺, 2⁺⁺, 3⁺⁺, 4⁺⁺ and 5⁺⁺.

	PTZ ^{·+}	1.+	2.+	3.+	4.+	5.+
g	2.00529	2.00463	2.00407	2.0041	2.0041	2.00281
$A_{\rm N}$ (G)	6.99874	6.8498	7.28938	5.93397	4.50023	5.47755
$A_{\mathrm{H}}(\mathrm{G})$	-	-	-	4.4158 2.10443 2.10402	5.49945 2.17639 1.0399 3.61345	4.59686

6 Single crystal data

6.1 Single crystals growth of 1-5

(1) Neutral crystals

Crystals of compounds 1-5 were grown via a vapor diffusion method: compounds 1-5 (5.0 μ mol) were dissolved in dichloromethane (1.0 mL) solution and placed it in a 4.0 mL bottle. The small bottle was then placed in a 20 mL glass bottle containing *n*-hexane (5.0 mL) for several days, after that the transparently white or yellow crystals 1-5 were obtained.

(2) Radical crystals

The radical crystals of compounds 1, 2 was grown via a vapor diffusion method: Compound 1 or 2 (5.0 μ mol) was dissolved in dichloromethane, and oxidized by AgSbF₆ (5.0 μ mol) and placed it in a 4.0 mL bottle. The liquid turns from light yellow to green. The small bottle was then placed in a 20 mL glass bottle containing *n*-hexane (5 mL) for several days, after that the transparently purple or green crystal 1^{•+} or 2^{•+} was obtained.



Figure S17. Packing structure of **1** at 201 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S18. Packing structure of **2** at 172.99 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S19. Packing structure of 3 at 170 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S20. Packing structure of 4 at 170 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S21. Packing structure of 5 at 173 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S22. Packing structure of **1**⁺⁺ at 296.15 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S23. Packing structure of **2**⁺⁺ at 169.99 K in the crystalline state. Other hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

6.2 Single crystals data

Table S3. X-ray single crystal data of metallacycles 1 and 1⁺⁺.

Compound	1	1 *+
Empirical formula	$C_{26}H_{23}NS$	$C_{13}H_{11.5}F_3N_{0.5}S_{0.5}Sb_{0.5}$
Formula weight	381.51	308.63
Temperature/K	201(40)	296.15
Crystal system	orthorhombic	monoclinic
Space group	Pccn	C2/m
a / Å	23.8497(9)	27.184(5)
b / Å	21.8615(7)	6.8384(13)
c / Å	7.9142(3)	19.415(4)
α/°	90	90
β/°	90	133.036(3)
γ / °	90	90
	S22	

Volume / Å ³	4126.4(3)	2638.1(9)
Z	8	8
$ ho_{calc}g / cm^3$	1.228	1.554
μ / mm^{-1}	1.453	1.182
F (000)	1616.0	1228.0
Crystal size / mm ³	0.36 imes 0.14 imes 0.12	0.06 imes 0.06 imes 0.05
Radiation	CuKa ($\lambda = 1.54184$)	MoKa ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
2θ range for data collection/ °	7.414 to 134.16	6.712 to 55.276
	$-28 \le h \le 28$,	$-35 \le h \le 35$,
Index ranges	$-26 \le k \le 25$,	$-8 \le k \le 8,$
	$-9 \le l \le 6$	$-25 \le 1 \le 25$
Reflections collected	16520	10582
	3670	3204
Independent reflections	$R_{int} = 0.0673,$	$R_{int} = 0.0331$,
	$R_{sigma} = 0.0620$	$R_{sigma} = 0.0342$
Data / restraints / parameters	3670/14/256	3204/52/222
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.068	1.015
Final P indexes $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0834,$	$R_1 = 0.0590,$
Thial K matches $[1 \ge 20 (1)]$	$wR_2 = 0.2097$	$wR_2 = 0.1625$
Final P indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0987,$	$R_1 = 0.0864,$
Final K indexes [an data]	$wR_2 = 0.2207$	$wR_2 = 0.1914$
Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å ⁻	1.77/-0.47	1.58/-0.63
CCDC	2145133	2145124

 Table S4. X-ray single crystal data of metallacycles 2 and 2**.

Compound	2	2 *+
Empirical formula	C ₃₁ H ₂₇ Cl ₂ NS	C ₃₀ H ₂₅ F ₆ NSSb
Formula weight	516.49	667.32
Temperature/K	172.99(10)	169.99(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$	C2/c
a / Å	11.18030(10)	15.8665(18)
b / Å	7.73940(10)	24.950(2)
c / Å	30.7513(3)	16.2233(13)
α / °	90	90
β/°	99.9610(10)	99.104(9)
γ/°	90	90
Volume / Å ³	2620.76(5)	6341.4(10)
Z	4	8
$\rho_{calc}g / cm^3$	1.309	1.398
μ / mm ⁻¹	3.118	7.991
F (000)	1080.0	2664.0
Crystal size / mm ³	0.36 imes 0.34 imes 0.28	0.28 imes 0.13 imes 0.08
Radiation	$CuK\alpha$ ($\lambda = 1.54184$)	$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54184)$
2θ range for data collection / °	8.054 to 134.15	6.662 to 134.156
	$-13 \le h \le 13$,	$-18 \le h \le 18$,
Index ranges	$-9 \le k \le 9,$	$-29 \le k \le 29$,
	$-36 \le 1 \le 36$	$-19 \le l \le 13$
Reflections collected	56983	30155
	4679	5659
Independent reflections	$R_{int} = 0.0599,$	$R_{int} = 0.1462,$
	$R_{sigma} = 0.0260$	$R_{sigma} = 0.1091$
Data / restraints / parameters	4679/48/349	5659/0/355
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.032	1.017
Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0534,$ $wR_2 = 0.1357$	$R_1 = 0.0653,$ $wR_2 = 0.1592$

Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å ⁻³	0.49/-0.65	0.68/-1.72
CCDC	2143328	2143327

Table S5 X-ray singl	le crystal d	lata of 3 and 4 .
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Compound	3	4
Empirical formula	$C_{48}H_{45}NS$	$C_{52}H_{47}NS$
Formula weight	667.91	717.96
Temperature/K	170.00(10)	170.00(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic	trigonal
Space group	$P2_1/n$	R-3
a / Å	16.8923(2)	36.5917(5)
b / Å	13.29240(10)	36.5917(5)
c / Å	17.9856(3)	17.7385(3)
α/°	90	90
β / °	113.172(2)	90
γ / °	90	120
Volume / Å ³	3712.68(10)	20569.0(7)
Z	4	18
$\rho_{calc}g / cm^3$	1.195	1.043
μ / mm^{-1}	1.022	0.862
F (000)	1424.0	6876.0
Crystal size / mm ³	0.26 imes 0.22 imes 0.18	$0.32 \times 0.24 \times 0.12$
Radiation	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$
2θ range for data collection / °	6.084 to 134.142	5.71 to 134.152
-	$-20 \le h \le 12$,	$-43 \le h \le 26$,
Index ranges	$-15 \le k \le 15$,	$-43 \le k \le 29,$
-	$-21 \le l \le 21$	$-21 \le 1 \le 21$
Reflections collected	40600	67250
	6597	8171
Independent reflections	$R_{int} = 0.0396$,	$R_{int} = 0.0367,$
	$R_{sigma} = 0.0275$	$R_{sigma} = 0.0188$
Data / restraints / parameters	6597/0/460	8171/0/496
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.030	1.057
$E_{1}^{i} = 1 D_{1}^{i} = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1$	$R_1 = 0.0410,$	$R_1 = 0.0404,$
Final R indexes $[1 \ge 2\sigma(1)]$	$wR_2 = 0.1094$	$wR_2 = 0.1079$
	$R_1 = 0.0460,$	$R_1 = 0.0443,$
rinai k indexes [all data]	$wR_2 = 0.1128$	$wR_2 = 0.1099$
Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å ⁻³	0.51/-0.36	0.45/-0.29
CCDC	2143332	2143331

 Table S6 X-ray single crystal data of 5 and a-OMe.

Compound	5	a-OMe
Empirical formula	$C_{74}H_{69}NS$	$C_{18}H_{16}O_2S$
Formula weight	1004.36	296.37
Temperature/K	173.00(10)	173.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic	orthorhombic
Space group	P-1	Pbcn
a / Å	7.16900(10)	19.5758(2)
o / Å	17.2492(3)	8.45120(10)
2 / Å	25.1684(5)	18.7056(2)
α/°	106.660(2)	90
β / °	90.552(2)	90
y/°	96.116(2)	90

Volume / Å ³	2962.06(9)	3094.64(6)
Z	2	8
$\rho_{calc}g / cm^3$	1.126	1.272
μ / mm ⁻¹	0.799	1.863
F (000)	1072.0	1248.0
Crystal size / mm ³	$0.36 \times 0.24 \times 0.22$	$0.32 \times 0.26 \times 0.22$
Radiation	CuKa ($\lambda = 1.54184$)	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$
2θ range for data collection / °	7.34 to 134.154	9.034 to 134.13
	$-8 \le h \le 8,$	$-23 \le h \le 23$,
Index ranges	$-20 \le k \le 20$,	$-10 \le k \le 10$,
	$-30 \le 1 \le 30$	$-22 \le 1 \le 22$
Reflections collected	74173	69070
	10555	2759
Independent reflections	$R_{int} = 0.0607,$	$R_{int} = 0.0679,$
	$R_{sigma} = 0.0388$	$R_{sigma} = 0.0236$
Data / restraints / parameters	10555/0/700	2759/0/192
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.010	1.087
Einel D indexes $[I > 2-(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0547,$	$R_1 = 0.0382,$
Final K indexes $[1 \ge 26 (1)]$	$wR_2 = 0.1406$	$wR_2 = 0.0898$
Final D indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0610,$	$R_1 = 0.0416$,
Final K indexes [all data]	$wR_2 = 0.1453$	$wR_2 = 0.0919$
Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å ⁻³	1.25/-0.89	0.17/-0.19
CCDC	2143509	2143510

Table S7 X-ray single crystal data of a-OTf and 3-methoxynaphthalene-2-thiol.

		3-
Compound	a-OTf	methoxynaphthalene-
-		2-thiol
Empirical formula	$C_{18}H_{10}F_6O_6S_3$	C ₁₁ H ₁₀ OS
Formula weight	532.44	190.25
Temperature/K	230(80)	229(80)
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P-1	P1
a / Å	8.4229(2)	7.0221(4)
b / Å	10.6178(2)	7.9102(7)
c / Å	12.2594(2)	9.5017(5)
α / °	100.265(2)	106.659(7)
β / °	102.985(2)	105.234(5)
γ/°	94.205(2)	101.170(6)
Volume / Å ³	1043.88(4)	466.74(6)
Z	2	2
$\rho_{calc}g / cm^3$	1.694	1.354
μ / mm^{-1}	4.090	2.686
F (000)	536.0	200.0
Crystal size / mm ³	0.32 imes 0.24 imes 0.18	$0.26 \times 0.24 \times 0.12$
Radiation	CuK α ($\lambda = 1.54184$)	$CuK\alpha (\lambda = 1.54184)$
20 range for data collection/ $^{\circ}$	7.554 to 134.15	10.328 to 134.16
	$-10 \le h \le 10$,	$-8 \le h \le 8,$
Index ranges	$-12 \le k \le 12$,	$-9 \le k \le 9,$
-	$-14 \le l \le 14$	$-11 \le l \le 11$
Reflections collected	22837	6866
	3692	2954
Independent reflections	$R_{int} = 0.0448,$	$R_{int} = 0.0618$,
-	$R_{sigma} = 0.0244$	$R_{sigma} = 0.0652$
Data / restraints / parameters	3692/0/298	2954/3/239
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.046	1.054
	S25	

Final R indexes [all data] $R_1 = 0.0355, R_1 = 0.0854, WR_2 = 0.0905$ $R_2 = 0.0854, WR_2 = 0.2523$	Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0331,$ $wR_2 = 0.0888$	$R_1 = 0.0822,$ w $R_2 = 0.2480$
	Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0355,$ $wR_2 = 0.0905$	$R_1 = 0.0854,$ w $R_2 = 0.2523$
Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å ⁻ 0.39/-0.27 1.04/-0.48	Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å-	0.39/-0.27	1.04/-0.48
CCDC 2150682 2150683	CCDC	2150682	2150683

7 Photostability study



Figure S24. Changes of absorbance of 3 (a), 4 (b) and 5 (c) (30 μ M in toluene) in absorption spectra upon irradiation by 6 W white LED light every ten minutes. Details of photostability test: A solution of extended phenothiazine (30 μ M in toluene) in quartz cell was subjected to 6 W white LED irradiation in the photoreactor, during which the UV-Vis spectra of the solution were measured every ten minutes over a period of one hour to record the absorbance changes. The photostability experiments were repeated 3 times under the same testing condition.



Figure S25. The photostability data of 3-5 from three repeated photostability experiments.

8 Comparison of catalytic performance of different catalysts



Figure S26. Comparison of catalytic performance of different catalysts for oxidative coupling of amines to imines.^[5-28]

9 Sunlight-driven oxidative coupling of amines to imines



Figure S27. Efficient conversion of amines to imines under sunlight in an air atmosphere.

10 NMR spectra



10.1 ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of new compounds

Figure S28. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound a-OMe in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S30. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound a-OTf in CDCl₃.



Figure S32. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1 in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S34. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound **b-OMe** in CD_2Cl_2 .



Figure S36. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound **b-OTf** in DMSO- d_6 .



Figure S38. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 2 in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S40. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 2-Br in CDCl₃.



Figure S42. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 3-methoxynaphthalene-2-thiol in DMSO- d_6 .



9.5 9.0 8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0 6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 **Figure S44**. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound **c-OMe** in DMSO d_6 .



Figure S46. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound c-OTf in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S48. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 3 in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S50. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound d-OMe in DMSO- d_6 .



Figure S52. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound d-OTf in CD₂Cl₂.

6.5 6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 ppm

8.5 8.0 7.5 7.0

9.5 9.0

3.11-<u>∓</u> 3.03-≖

2.5 2.0

6.24-I 6.01--

1.5 1.0 0.5

-0.

0.0







Figure S56. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound e-OMe in CD₂Cl₂.



170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 ppm

Figure S57. The ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound e-OMe in $CD_2Cl_2.$



Figure S58. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound e-OTf in CD₂Cl₂.



 $\frac{1}{210} \frac{1}{200} \frac{1}{190} \frac{1}{180} \frac{1}{170} \frac{1}{160} \frac{1}{150} \frac{1}{140} \frac{1}{130} \frac{1}{120} \frac{1}{110} \frac{1}{ppm} \frac{1}{100} \frac{90}{90} \frac{80}{80} \frac{70}{70} \frac{60}{60} \frac{50}{50} \frac{40}{40} \frac{30}{30} \frac{20}{20} \frac{10}{10} \frac{1}{100} \frac{1}$



Figure S60. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 5 in CD₂Cl₂.



Figure S61. The 13 C NMR (125 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 5 in CD₂Cl₂.

10.2 2D NMR spectra of new compounds



Figure S62. The 2D COSY NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K) spectrum of 1.



Figure S65. The 2D COSY NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K) spectrum of **3**.



Figure S68. The 2D NOESY NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K) spectrum of 4.



Figure S70. The 2D NOESY NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 298 K) spectrum of 5.

10.3 In situ ¹H NMR spectra of imines

10.3.1 In situ ¹H NMR spectra in Table 2.

(1a) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm) 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 4H), 4.60 (s, 2H).

(**1b**) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm) 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H).

= 8.3 Hz, 2H, 7.337.22 (m, 6H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 1.18 (s, 9H), 1.13 (s, 9H).

^{Meo} (1d)¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm) 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H). Some product peaks overlap with solvent peak.

 $\int_{OMe} \int_{OMe} (1e)^{1}H NMR (500 \text{ MHz}, C_6D_6) \delta (ppm) 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.5 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 7.18-7.09 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 6.89-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.70 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.3 \text{ Hz}, 1H), 4.62 (s, 2H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 3.45 (s, 3H).$

(1f) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6) δ (ppm) 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.02 (m, 5H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (s, 2H). Some product peaks overlap with solvent peak.

(1g) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ (ppm) 8.81 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (s, 1H), 8.50 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (dd, J = 7.8, 4.8 Hz,

1H), 6.69 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 2H).

 c_1 c_1 (1h) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ (ppm) 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.14 (m, 4H), 4.53 (s, 2H).

F (1i) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ (ppm) 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.89-6.83 (m, 2H), 6.78-6.73 (m, 2H), 4.41 (s, 2H).



Figure S71. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1a in C₆D₆.



Figure S73. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1c in C₆D₆.



Figure S75. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1e in C₆D₆.



Figure S76. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1f in C_6D_6 .



Figure S77. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1g in C₆D₆.



Figure S79. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1i in C_6D_6 .



Figure S80. The ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1j in C₆D₆

10.3.2 In situ ¹H NMR spectra in Table 3.

(1a) ¹H NMR (300 MHz, toluene- d_8) δ (ppm) 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.72-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 4H), 4.57 (s, 2H).

(**1b**) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, toluene- d_8) δ (ppm) 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.96 (m, 4H), 4.60 (s, 2H), 2.10 (s, 3H). Some product peaks overlap with solvent peak.

(**1c**) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, toluene- d_8) δ (ppm) 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (s, 4H), 4.64 (s, 2H), 1.19 (s, 9H), 1.16 (s, 9H).

^{Meo} (1d) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, toluene- d_8) δ (ppm) 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 3.45 (s, 3H). Some product peaks overlap with solvent peak.

F (1i) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, toluene- d_8) δ (ppm) 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.69 (dd, J = 8.2, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dd, J = 7.8, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02-6.90 (m, 4H), 4.55 (s, 2H).



Figure S81. The ¹H NMR (300 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1a in toluene-d₈.



Figure S83. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K) spectrum of compound 1c in toluene- d_8 .





11 GC-MS data of imines



Figure S86. GC-MS result of product 1a.



Figure S87. GC-MS result of product 1b.



Figure S88. GC-MS result of product 1c.



Figure S89. GC-MS result of product 1d.



Figure S90. GC-MS result of product 1e.



Figure S91. GC-MS result of product 1f.



Figure S92. GC-MS result of product 1g.



Figure S93. GC-MS result of product 1h.



Figure S94. GC-MS result of product 1i.



Figure S95. GC-MS result of product 1j.

12 Mass spectra of new compounds



Figure S96. The mass spectrum of compound 1.









Figure S98. The mass spectrum of compound 2-Br.



Figure S99. The mass spectrum of compound b-OTf.



Figure S100. The mass spectrum of compound 2.



Figure S101. The mass spectrum of compound c-OMe.



Figure S102. The mass spectrum of compound c-OTf.



Figure S103. The mass spectrum of compound 3.



Figure S104. The mass spectrum of compound d-OMe.



Figure S105. The mass spectrum of compound d-OTf.



Figure S106. The mass spectrum of compound 4.



Figure S107. The mass spectrum of compound e-OMe.



Figure S108. The mass spectrum of compound e-OTf.



Figure S109. The mass spectrum of compound 5.

13 Reference

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