Spence et al: Pd-Catalyzed Heterocyclic Aryne Annulations – S1

# $\pi$ -Extension of Heterocycles via a Pd-Catalyzed Heterocyclic Aryne

# **Annulation:** *π***-Extended Donors for TADF Emitters**

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#### **Materials and Methods**

Unless stated otherwise, reactions were conducted in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of nitrogen or argon and commercially obtained reagents were used as received. Anhydrous solvents were either freshly distilled or passed through activated alumina columns, unless otherwise stated. Reaction temperatures were controlled using an IKAmag temperature modulator and, unless stated otherwise, reactions were performed at room temperature (approximately 23 °C). Cesium Fluoride (CsF) and Bis(dibenzylidenacetone)palladium(0) (Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub>) were obtained from Strem Chemicals and stored in a desiccator. Tri(o-tolyl)phosphine (P(o-tolyl)<sub>3</sub>), 1,1,1,3,3,3hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS), tert-butyllithium (t-BuLi), sodium hydride (NaH), and sodium ter-butoxide (NaOt-Bu) were obtained from Sigma Aldrich. Methyl iodide (MeI) was acquired from Spectrum Chemical. Triflic anhydride was purchased from Oakwood Chemical and distilled over phosphorous pentoxide prior to use. Di-tert-butyl decarbonate and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) were obtained from Oakwood Chemical. Triethylamine was purchased from Fischer Scientific and passed through an activated alumina column prior to use. 2-Bromobiphenyl (23) was obtained from Combi-Blocks and purified by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes) prior to use. 3-Bromo-2-phenylpyridine (43) was obtained from Combi-Blocks. Bromobiaryls 39,<sup>1</sup> 41,<sup>2</sup> 45,<sup>3</sup> 47,<sup>4</sup> and 49,<sup>5</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. The silvl triflates 14,<sup>6</sup> 33,<sup>7</sup> and 24<sup>7</sup> were prepared following literature procedures. 3-Bromo-2-hydroxycarbazole (26) was prepared in one step from 2-hydroxycarbazole following a literature protocol.<sup>8</sup> NHC-Au-Cl complexes  $51^9$  and  $52^{10}$  were prepared following literature procedures. Regioisomeric ratios for indolyne annulation products were determined by analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of the crude reaction mixtures. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with EMD gel 60 F254 precoated plates (0.25 mm for analytical chromatography and 0.50 mm for preparative chromatography) and visualized using UV(254 nm). Celite<sup>®</sup> was purchased from Fischer Scientific and used as received. Silicycle Siliaflash P60 (particle size 0.040-0.063 mm) was used for flash column chromatography. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker spectrometers (at 400, 500 and 600 MHz) and are reported relative to residual solvent signals. Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$  ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration. Data for <sup>13</sup>C NMR are reported in terms of chemical shift (at 101 and 125 MHz). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer UATR Two FT-IR spectrometer and are reported in terms of frequency absorption (cm<sup>-1</sup>). DART-MS spectra were collected on a Thermo Exactive Plus MSD (Thermo

Scientific) equipped with an ID-CUBE ion source and a Vapur Interface (IonSense Inc.). Both the source and MSD were controlled by Excalibur software v. 3.0. The analyte was spotted onto OpenSpot sampling cards (IonSense Inc.) using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the solvent. Ionization was accomplished using UHP He plasma with no additional ionization agents. The mass calibration was carried out using Pierce LTQ Velos ESI (+) and (–) Ion calibration solutions (Thermo Fisher Scientific). UV-visible absorption spectra were recorded by using Hewlett-Packard 4853 diode array spectrometer. Steady state emission spectra were recorded on Quanta-Master Photon Technology International phosphorescence/fluorescence spectrofluorometer. Emission quantum yields were measured using Hamamatsu C9920 system equipped with a xenon lamp, integrating sphere and model C10027 photonic multichannel analyzer (PMA). Emission lifetimes were acquired on IBH Fluorocube instrument by using time-correlated single photon counting (TCSPC) method.

#### **Experimental Procedures**



#### A. Scope of Pd-Catalyzed Annulation with *N*-Me-4,5-Indolyne

Representative Procedure A for hetaryne annulations (Figure 3, annulation product 16 used as an example). A 1-dram vial was charged with Pd(dba)<sub>2</sub> (3.7 mg, 0.064 mmol, 5 mol%). Next, toluene (0.86 mL), P(o-tolyl)<sub>3</sub> (2.0 mg, 0.064 mmol, 5 mol%), 2-bromobiphenyl (23) (30.0 mg, 0.129 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silvl triflate 14 (90.5 mg, 0.257 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and acetonitrile (0.86 mL) were added, followed by an oven-dried magnetic stirbar and then CsF (195 mg, 1.29 mmol, 10 equiv). The vial was purged with nitrogen for 3 minutes, then sealed with a Teflon-lined screw cap and stirred at 110 °C for 24 h. Then, after cooling to 23 °C, the mixture was transferred with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) to a 150 mL separatory funnel containing brine (15 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude product was purified by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  200:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to afford annulation product 16 (90% yield, average of two experiments) as an off-white solid. Indole 16: mp: 139–144 °C;  $R_f 0.41$  (4:1 Hexanes: EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.24 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 8.78 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 8.72 (t, J = 7.0, 2H), 8.57 (d, J = 9.0, 1H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.4, 1H), 7.73– 7.62 (m, 4H), 7.53 (d, J = 2.8, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 3.0, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 8 136.4, 131.3, 131.2, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 127.17, 127.15, 126.7, 126.4, 125.9, 124.6, 124.1, 123.8, 123.6, 123.28, 123.25, 117.7, 110.5, 104.0, 33.3; IR (film): 3069, 2924, 2850, 1514, 1492, 1441, 1417, 1351, 1248, 754, 740, 718 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, 282.12773; found 282.12717.

Any modifications of the conditions shown in the representative procedure above are specified in the following schemes, which depict all of the results shown in Figure 3.



Indoles 17 and 40. Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (50:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) afforded an inseparable mixture of indoles 17 and 40 (62% yield, average of two experiments, 1.1:1 ratio, unassigned) as a white solid. Indoles 17 and 40:  $R_f$  0.27 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, combined):  $\delta$  9.42 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3, 1H), 8.93 (d, *J* = 2.6, 1H), 8.69 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.3, 1H), 8.57–8.50 (m, 5H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 9.0, 1H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 2.5, 1H), 7.60–7.47 (m, 6H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.21 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.6, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 6.7, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 3.2, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.001 (s, 3H), 2.995 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, combined):  $\delta$  159.6, 159.3, 136.8, 136.6, 133.32, 133.31, 131.2, 131.0, 130.8, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 126.6, 126.4, 126.2, 126.0, 125.8, 125.4, 125.3, 125.2, 125.1, 125.0, 124.6, 124.5, 124.4, 124.0, 123.6, 123.27, 123.25, 118.1, 118.0, 115.5, 115.0, 110.8, 110.5, 110.1, 106.5, 104.5, 104.0, 55.0, 54.9, 32.31, 32.28; IR (film): 2934, 2834, 1614, 1510, 1414, 1246, 1227 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H<sup>+</sup>] calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>, 312.13829; found 312.13897.



Indoles 18 and 42. Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (50:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  20:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) afforded an inseparable mixture of indoles 18 and 42 (80% yield, average of two experiments, 1.4:1 ratio, unassigned) as a yellow solid. Indoles 18 and 42: R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, major):  $\delta$  10.10 (d, J = 2.4, 1H), 8.79 (d, J = 9.1, 1H), 8.71 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 8.66 (d, J = 8.2, 1H), 8.55 (d, J = 9.2, 1H), 8.41 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.3, 1H), 7.78–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.67 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.2, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 3.1, 1H),

7.39 (d, J = 3.2, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, minor):  $\delta$  9.54 (d, J = 2.3, 1H), 9.21 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 8.75 (d, J = 9.1, 1H), 8.70 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 8.55 (d, J = 8.9, 1H), 8.35 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.3, 1H), 7.82 (ddd, J = 8.1, 7.0, 1.3, 1H), 7.76–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 3.1, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 3.2, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, combined):  $\delta$  146.4, 146.0, 136.8, 136.4, 134.8, 133.3, 132.51, 132.48, 131.3, 131.0, 129.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 127.4, 127.3, 126.8, 126.4, 125.2, 124.6, 124.4, 124.21, 124.17, 124.1, 123.8, 123.60, 123.55, 123.5, 123.1, 122.8, 119.9, 119.53, 119.47, 117.5, 117.4, 111.7, 111.1, 104.0, 103.4, 33.4, 33.3; IR (film): 2919, 2852, 1597, 1515, 1346, 854, 747 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H<sup>+</sup>] calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 327.11280; found 327.11387.



**Indoles 19 and 44.** Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  50:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) afforded an inseparable mixture of indoles 19 and 44 (76% yield, 1.4:1 ratio, average of two experiments) as a pale yellow solid. Indole **19**:  $R_f 0.34$  (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.40 (ddd, J = 8.2, 4.7, 4.7) 1.4, 2H), 8.99 (dd, J = 4.3, 1.6, 1H), 8.66 (d, 8.2, 1H), 8.54 (d, 8.5, 1H), 7.76 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.6, 1H), 7.71 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.8, 1.2, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 9.0, 1H), 7.64–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 1.02.9, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 3.2, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). Indole 44: R<sub>f</sub> 0.34 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(500 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$ :  $\delta$  9.46 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3, 1H), 9.18 (d, J = 8.2, 1H), 8.95 (dd, J = 4.3, 1.6, 1H), 8.89 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3, 1H), 8.41 (d, J = 9.0, 1H), 7.83 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.7, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, J = 8.4, 1.3, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, J = 100, 1H), 7.83 (ddd, J = 100, 1H), 7.8 7.2, 5.6, 1.2, 1H), 7.64–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.55 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.3, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 3.1, 1H), 7.29 (d, J= 3.2, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, combined): 147.69, 147.66, 146.9, 145.6, 136.6, 136.3, 134.2, 132.8, 132.7, 131.4, 131.0, 130.1, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 128.4, 126.6, 126.4, 126.2, 126.1, 125.8, 125.4, 125.2, 124.6, 124.2, 124.0, 123.9, 123.2, 122.9, 122.8, 122.1, 121.5, 117.7, 117.3, 111.1, 110.6, 104.0, 103.2, 33.3 (2C); IR (film): 3059, 2920, 1739, 1609, 1579, 1513, 1477, 1444, 1418, 1399, 1349, 1290, 1241 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H<sup>+</sup>] calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>. 283.12297; found 283.11932.

The structure of **19** was verified by 2D-NOESY and 2D-COSY of the mixture, as the following interactions were observed:



**Pyrroles 20 and 46**. Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (20:1 Hexanes:Benzene) afforded an inseparable mixture of pyrroles **20** and **46** (86% yield, 1.4:1 ratio, average of two experiments, unassigned) as a yellow solid. Pyrroles **20** and **46**:  $R_f 0.56$  (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ , combined):  $\delta$  9.01 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5, 1H), 8.33–8.28 (m, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.9, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.7, 1H), 7.65 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.4, 1H), 7.58 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.4, 1H), 7.4 (m, 3H), 7.28 (dd, J = 3.2, 0.7, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, J = 0.9, 1H), 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.92 (dd, J = 4.0, 2.9, 1H), 6.84 (dd, J = 3.9, 2.8, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 3.0, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 3.3, 1H), 2.96 (s, 3H), 2.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, combined):  $\delta$  136.7, 136.2, 134.0, 132.9, 131.5, 129.6, 128.9, 128.8, 127.60, 127.58, 127.0, 124.3, 124.2, 124.0, 123.7, 123.5, 123.4, 122.9, 121.5, 120.4, 118.9, 118.6, 117.9, 117.0, 115.3, 115.2, 113.0, 112.9, 112.7, 112.2, 111.5, 108.8, 105.6, 102.94, 102.88, 101.0, 32.22, 32.19; IR (film): 3102, 2923, 1500, 1441, 1355 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H<sup>+</sup>] calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 271.12297; found 271.12191.



**Indoles 21 and 48.** Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  100:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  25:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc, followed by a second column of 9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) afforded an inseparable mixture of indoles 21 and 48 (78% yield, 1.3:1 ratio, average of two experiments, unassigned) as a bright yellow solid. Indoles **21** and **48**: R<sub>f</sub>0.32 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, major): δ 8.43 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.1, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 9.0, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.6, 1H), 7.79(s, 1H), 7.41 (ddd, J = 7.8, 6.8, 0.9, 1H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.17 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.9, 0.6, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 3.2, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, minor):  $\delta$  8.95 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6, 1H), 8.41 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.1, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.4, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.6, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 7.91 (d 1H), 7.41 (ddd, J = 7.5, 6.9, 0.9, 1H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.17 (m, 4H), 7.04 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.7, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 3.2, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, combined; 44 of 46 signals observed):  $\delta$  137.6, 137.2, 136.7, 136.5, 135.6, 135.5, 134.1, 133.9, 131.7, 131.6, 129.3, 129.2, 127.6, 127.3, 124.6, 124.3, 124.0, 123.8, 123.7, 123.04, 122.95, 122.3, 122.11, 122.06, 121.6, 121.5, 121.4, 121.1, 121.0, 120.7, 119.9, 118.7, 116.8, 116.7, 116.6, 114.8, 111.3, 110.5, 103.2, 102.9, 99.8, 95.2, 32.21, 32.18; IR (film): 3040, 2923, 1738, 1601, 1550, 1509, 1490, 1447, 1419, 1355; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 321.13862; found 321.13951.



Indoles 22 and 50. Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  200:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  100:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) afforded an inseparable mixture of indoles 22 and 50 (57% yield, 1.4:1 ratio, average of two experiments) as a yellow

amorphous solid. Indole **22**:  $R_f 0.40$  (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  9.74 (d, J = 8.5, 1H), 9.09 (d, J = 8.8, 1H), 8.92–8.88 (m, 1H), 8.48 (dd, J = 8.3, 0.9, 1H) 7.70–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.43 (m, 4H), 7.29 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 3.1, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.11 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>; 22 of 24 signals observed): 141.8, 134.8, 134.2, 132.7, 125.7, 125.3, 125.2, 124.4, 123.9, 123.8, 123.6, 123.3, 122.6, 122.1, 120.3, 118.8, 115.7, 111.4, 109.9, 103.9, 34.0, 32.4. Indole **50**:  $R_f 0.40$  (3:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  9.37 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 8.92–8.88 (m, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 9.1, 1H), 8.38 (dd, J = 8.4, 0.9, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 3.1, 1H), 7.59–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 7.9, 7.1, 1.1, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 9.1, 0.6, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 3.1, 1H), 3.54 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>; 23 of 24 signals observed): 141.5, 136.5, 136.2, 132.8, 126.3, 125.8, 125.1, 124.8, 124.54, 124.51, 124.46, 123.7, 123.6, 123.1, 121.7, 119.2, 118.3, 115.3, 109.7, 108.1, 105.8, 34.0, 32.4; IR (film, entire mixture): 3055, 2923, 2854, 1737, 1509, 1472, 1374, 1342, 1245, 1102 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, 335.15428; found 335.15396.

The structure of **22** was verified by 2D-NOESY of the mixture, as the following interaction was observed:



Indole 25. Followed representative Procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  1:1 Hexanes:Benzene) afforded indole 25 (81% yield, average of two experiments) as an offwhite solid. Indole 25: mp 169.6–172.0 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.25 (9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.92 (s, 1H), 8.73 (d, J = 8.3, 2H), 8.62 (t, J = 7.7, 2H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.56 (m, 4H),

7.27 (d, J = 2.6, 1H), 6.70 (dd, J = 0.8, 3.1, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 27 of 28 signals observed):  $\delta$  137.4, 132.0, 131.4, 131.2, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 127.3, 127.1, 126.6, 126.1, 125.7, 123.56, 123.55, 123.4, 123.22, 123.15, 115.1, 102.3, 101.1, 33.2; IR (film): 3081, 2928, 2811, 1628, 1601, 1520, 1446, 1218, 1085, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS–APCI (m/z) [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, 281.11990; found 281.12065.

#### B. Synthesis of Silyl Triflate Precursor to 2,3-Carbazolyne



**Silyl alcohol 28**. A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 3-bromo-2-hydroxycarbazole (**26**, 4.3 g, 16 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and THF (5.6 mL, 1.3 M). HMDS (6.9 mL, 2.0 equiv, 33 mmol) was added in one portion. The vial was sealed with a Teflon cap, and subsequently placed in an aluminum block preheated to 70 °C, where it was allowed to stir for 1.5 h. After stirring for 1.5 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to 23 °C and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the intermediate silyl enol ether **27** as a pink solid. This was carried forward without further purification.

The crude solid was dissolved in THF (8.5 mL, 0.25 M) and purged with nitrogen for 3 minutes, before being cooled to -78 °C. *tert*-Butyllithium (1.70 M, 4.17 mL, 7.09 mmol, 3.1 equiv) was then added dropwise over 10 min. The solution was allowed to stir for 1 hour at -78 °C. After the allotted time, deionized H<sub>2</sub>O (408 µL, 22.5 mmol, 10 equiv) was added dropwise over 2 min. The solution was then allowed to warm to 23 °C over 10 min and the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL). The layers were then separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was then purified by flash chromatography (100% Benzene) to afford silyl alcohol **28** as a white solid (3.1 g, 73% yield over two steps). Silyl alcohol **28**: mp: >200 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.15 (100% Benzene); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.03 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.7, 1H), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.21 (dd, J = 6.6, 2.2, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 2.4, 1H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 0.39 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 

159.4, 141.8, 139.2, 126.9, 124.4, 123.4, 119.6, 119.3, 117.5, 117.2, 110.2, 96.0, -0.7; IR (film): 3416, 3016, 2970, 2926, 2854, 1738, 1366 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NOSi<sup>+</sup>, 256.1152; found 256.1171.



Silyl triflate 29. Silyl alcohol 28 (403 mg, 1.58 mmol, 1.00 equiv) was suspended in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL). The solution was purged with nitrogen for 3 minutes, then cooled to -78 °C. Triethylamine (0.66 mL, 4.7 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was then added in one portion followed by trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (400 µL, 2.37 mmol, 1.5 equiv), which was added dropwise over 5 min. The solution was allowed to stir for 1.5 h at -78 °C. After the allotted time, saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) was added over 1 minute. The solution was then allowed to warm to 23 °C over 10 min and the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL). The layers were then separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was then purified by flash chromatography (100% Benzene) to afford silvl triflate 29 as a clear oil (375 mg, 69% yield). Silvl triflate 29:  $R_f = 0.59$ (100% Benzene); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 7.46 - 7.44 (m, 3H), 7.28 (ddd, J = 7.8, 5.0, 3.1, 1H), 0.44 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 153.3, 140.4, 140.2, 127.5, 126.6, 122.7, 122.3, 121.9, 120.43, 120.41, 110.9, 102.0, 0.40; IR (film): 3443, 3016, 2970, 2948, 1739, 1217 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SSi<sup>+</sup>, 388.0645; found 388.0659.



*N*-Me-Carbazole Silyl Triflate 30. To a 2-dram vial was added carbazole silyl triflate 29 (196 mg, 0.506 mmol, 1.00 equiv) and DME (1.7 mL, 0.3 M). The resulting mixture was stirred under positive nitrogen pressure. The mixture was cooled to –20 °C in a dry ice and water/methanol (7:3)

bath for 5 min. To the cooled solution was added iodomethane (48 µL, 0.76 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in a single portion. Next, the septum was removed and NaH (60% dispersion in mineral oil, 40.5 mg, 1.01 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added in a single portion, then the septum was quickly replaced. The reaction continued to stir under nitrogen at -20 °C for 2 h, at which point the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL) and allowed to stir at 23 °C for 5 min. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel containing water (10 mL) and EtOAc (10 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow solid. The crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (16:1 Hexanes:Benzene) to afford N-Me-carbazole silvl triflate 30 (156 mg, 77% yield) as a white solid. N-Me-carbazole silvl triflate 30: mp 128.2-130.3 °C;  $R_f 0.79$  (9:1 Hexanes: EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.18 (s, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.5, 0.9, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.5, 0.9, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.5, 0.9, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.5, 0.9, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.53-3H), 0.44 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 14 of 15 signals observed): δ 153.5, 142.1, 141.9, 127.4, 126.4, 122.1, 121.9, 121.0, 120.4, 119.9, 108.8, 100.0, 29.3, -0.4; IR (film): 3017, 2955, 1739, 1596, 1414, 1206 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>SSi<sup>+</sup>, 402.0802; found 402.0690.



*N*-Boc-Carbazole Silyl Triflate 31. To a 50 mL round bottom flask was added carbazole silyl triflate 29 (1.00 g, 2.58 mmol, 1.0 equiv), THF (13 mL, 0.2 M), 4-dimethylaminopyridine (63 mg, 0.51 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (839 mg, 3.84 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The resulting mixture was purged with nitrogen for 3 minutes, then allowed to stir under positive nitrogen pressure at 23 °C for 2 h. The mixture was then quenched with deionized water (10 mL). The solution was transferred to a separatory funnel and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was subsequently extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a crude, yellow solid. The crude material was purified by flash chromatography (100:1 Hexanes:EtOAc) to yield *N*-Boccarbazole silyl triflate 31 (1.17 g, 93% yield) as a white solid. *N*-Boc-carbazole silyl triflate 31: mp: 170.5–172.3 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.57 (9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.36 (d, *J* =

8.6, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 7.51 (td, J = 7.6, 1.0, 1H), 7.39 (td, J = 7.5, 1.0, 1H), 1.76 (s, 9H), 0.44 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 16 of 17 signals observed):  $\delta$  153.9, 150.6, 139.6, 127.8, 126.6, 126.4, 124.9, 124.5, 123.6, 119.9, 119.8, 116.5, 108.3, 85.1, 28.4, -0.5; IR (film): 2983, 1728, 1393, 1355, 1212, 1155, 1140 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>SSi<sup>+</sup>, 488.1169; found 488.1198.

## C. Annulation of N-Me-Carbazolyne



**Carbazole 32**. Followed representative procedure A. Purification by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes → 1:1 Hexanes:Benzene) afforded carbazole **32** (86% yield) as an off-white solid. Carbazole **32**: mp >200 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.74 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.38 (s, 1H), 8.86 (d, *J* = 8.2, 1H), 8.81 (d, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 8.68 (td, *J* = 8.6, 1.5, 2H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.31 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 0.9, 1H), 7.72–7.60 (m, 4H), 7.63 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.1, 1H), 7.58 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.1, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.8, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 27 of 28 signals observed):  $\delta$  142.9, 141.3, 131.1, 130.6, 130.0, 128.85, 128.78, 127.4, 127.1, 127.0, 126.8, 126.1, 123.9, 123.6, 123.5, 123.4, 123.1, 123.0, 122.9, 120.8, 119.2, 114.8, 108.5, 101.1, 29.3; IR (film): 3049, 2923, 2854, 1638, 1603, 1500, 1443, 1258, 754 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (m/z) [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, 331.13555; found 331.13609.



#### D. Synthesis of N-H Annulation Products for Metal Coordination



The crude material was dissolved in 10:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:TFA (24.2 mL, 0.01 M) and stirred at 23 °C for 5 h. The reaction was then slowly transferred to a separatory funnel containing sat. aq. sodium bicarbonate (30 mL). The mixture was further diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the layers were separated. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. To the filtrate was added silica (500 mg). The resulting mixture was dried under reduced pressure until a free-flowing solid was obtained. The crude material purified by flash chromatography (2:3 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  3:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Hexanes) to afford indole **34** (22.0 mg, 34% yield) as a yellow solid. Indole **34**. mp: >200 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.22 (2:3 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:Hexanes); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  9.23 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.4, 1H), 8.77 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7, 1H), 8.74–8.79 (m, 2H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.9, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 7.76–7.60 (m, 6H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 3.6, 2.8, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  135.5, 131.1, 131.0, 130.3, 128.9, 127.1, 127.0, 126.7, 126.3, 125.9, 124.5, 124.4, 124.1, 123.5, 123.19, 123.18, 123.13, 118.1, 112.3, 105.6; IR (film): 3416, 3026, 3073, 2956, 1725, 1350 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, 268.1121; found 267.6527.



**Carbazole 35.** A 2-dram vial was charged with  $Pd(dba)_2$  (7.1 mg, 0.012 mmol, 5 mol%). Next, toluene (1.3 mL),  $P(o-tolyl)_3$  (3.8 mg, 0.012 mmol, 5 mol%), 2-bromobiphenyl (**23**) (58.0 mg, 0.248 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silyl triflate **31** (241 mg, 0.495 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and acetonitrile (1.6 mL) were added, followed by an oven-dried magnetic stirbar and then CsF (376 mg, 2.48 mmol, 10 equiv). The vial was purged with nitrogen for 3 minutes, then sealed with a Teflon-lined screw cap and stirred at 110 °C for 24 h. After allowing to cool to 23 °C, the mixture was transferred with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) to a separatory funnel containing brine (15 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a brown residue that was carried forward without further purification.

The crude material was dissolved in 10:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:TFA (24.2 mL, 0.01 M) and stirred at 23 °C for 5 h. The reaction was then slowly transferred to a separatory funnel containing sat. aq. sodium bicarbonate (30 mL). The mixture was further diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the layers were separated. The organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. To the filtrate was added silica (500 mg). The resulting mixture was dried under reduced pressure until a free-flowing solid was obtained. The crude material purified by flash chromatography (100% Hexanes  $\rightarrow$  9:1 Hexanes:EtOAc  $\rightarrow$  1:1 Hexanes:Benzene) to yield carbazole **35** (51 mg, 65% yield) as an off-white solid. Carbazole **35**. mp >200 °C; R<sub>f</sub> 0.63 (4:1 Hexanes:EtOAc); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  11.35 (s, 1H), 9.62 (s, 1H), 9.0 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 8.82 (d, *J* = 8.3, 1H), 8.76 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 8.3, 2H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 7.73–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 6.9, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.0, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.5, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.5, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>; 22 of 24 signals observed):  $\delta$  141.3, 139.8, 131.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.0, 128.8, 127.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 126.2, 124.4, 123.5, 123.43, 123.36, 123.0, 120.8, 119.8, 114.8, 110.6, 103.4; IR (film): 3413, 2923, 2852, 1611, 1435, 751 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-APCI (*m*/*z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, 318.12773; found 318.12843.



## E. Synthesis of Two-Coordinate Metal Complexes

Representative Procedure B for metal coordination (Figure 7, complex  $36+\pi$  used as an example). Sodium tert-butoxide (6.4 mg, 67 µmol, 1.1 equiv) was added to a solution of ligand 35 (20 mg, 63 µmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL). 51 (44.4 mg, 66.2 µmol, 1.1 equiv) was added to the reaction flask in one portion and the mixture was left stirring under inert gas at 23 °C for 12 hours. The solution was filtered through a plug of celite (2 cm in a 15 mL fritted funnel), washed with THF (10 mL), and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting product was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and hexanes to afford an off-white precipitate (47 mg, 68% yield). Carbazole–Au–BZI **36**+ $\pi$ : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.25 (s, 1H), 8.77 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.3, 1H), 8.60 (ddd, J = 16.7, 8.4, 1.4, 2H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.4, 1H), 8.17 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.0, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 7.8, 2H), 7.72 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3, 1H), 7.65–7.56 (m, 6H), 7.52–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.0, 1.3, 1H), 7.01 (ddd, J = 7.9, 7.0, 1.0, 1H), 6.67 (dd, J= 8.1, 0.9, 1H, 2.60 (hept, J = 6.9, 4H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.9, 12H), 1.19 (d, J = 6.8, 12H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): § 207.21, 206.89, 185.66, 151.68, 149.68, 147.17, 146.43, 134.96, 132.19, 131.63, 131.44, 131.04, 129.51, 128.02, 127.23, 126.88, 126.05, 125.74, 125.54, 125.33, 124.75, 124.64, 123.80, 123.73, 123.17, 123.07, 122.78, 120.55, 119.85, 116.11, 113.50, 111.90, 105.58, 30.89, 29.19, 24.64, 24.08. Anal. Calcd for C55H52AuN3: C, 69.39; N, 4.41; H, 5.51. Found: C, 68.05; N, 4.27; H, 5.30. MALDI-TOF (*m/z*) [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>52</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>, 951.38; found, 951.22.



Annulated Carbazole–Au–MAC 37+π. Representative procedure B was followed to yield 37+π (42 mg, 78% yield) as a yellow solid. Annulated Carbazole–Au–MAC 37+π: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.17 (s, 1H), 8.73 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (ddd, J = 18.5, 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 8.38 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.65 – 7.44 (m, 8H), 7.04 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 5.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.36 (hept, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (hept, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (s, 6H), 1.45 – 1.33 (m, 18H), 1.26 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 204.87, 171.43, 151.72, 149.54, 146.05, 144.95, 140.12, 135.57, 132.07, 131.35, 130.60, 130.44, 129.45, 127.98, 127.33, 126.87, 125.86, 125.79, 125.65, 125.63, 124.82, 124.73, 124.54, 124.16, 123.54, 123.14, 123.02, 122.80, 120.63, 119.41, 116.24, 114.06, 113.35, 105.48, 77.19, 62.27, 37.95, 29.35, 28.98, 24.70, 24.61, 24.58, 24.13, 23.93. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>56</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, 959.41; found, 959.16.



**2-Methyl Indole–Au–MAC 38.** Representative procedure B was followed to yield **38** (110 mg, 60% yield) as an off-white solid. 2-Methylindole–Au–MAC **38**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.64 (dt, J = 17.7, 7.7, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.8, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.7, 2H), 7.09 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2, 1H), 6.62–6.53 (m, 1H), 6.49 (td, J = 7.5, 1.3, 1H), 5.84 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 5.74 (d, J = 1.0, 1H), 4.25 (s, 2H), 3.50 (hept, J = 6.8, 2H), 3.24 (hept, J = 6.8, 2H), 1.69 (s, 6H), 1.48–1.43 (m, 8H), 1.42 (d, J = 3.2, 7H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.8, 6H), 1.25 (d, J = 6.8, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, acetone-D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  205.18, 171.91, 146.16, 145.94, 144.96, 144.43, 140.69, 136.56, 130.54, 130.07, 129.77, 125.29, 124.30, 117.03, 116.77, 116.13, 113.55, 98.29, 61.12, 37.98, 28.49, 23.94, 23.70, 23.65, 23.25, 15.60. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>50</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>O: C, 60.54; N, 5.43; H, 6.51. Found: C, 60.49; N, 5.32; H, 6.67. MALDI-TOF (*m*/*z*) [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>50</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, 773.36; found, 773.45.



Annulated Indole–Au–MAC 38+π. Representative procedure B was followed to yield 38 (120 mg, 45% yield) as an off-white solid. Annulated Indole–Au–MAC 38+π: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-D<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.18 – 9.11 (m, 1H), 8.77 – 8.62 (m, 3H), 8.05 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dt, J = 20.8, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 – 7.45 (m, 8H), 7.16 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (dd, J = 8.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (s, 2H), 3.48 (h, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (hept, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (s, 6H), 1.50 – 1.31 (m, 18H), 1.22 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, acetone-D<sub>6</sub>): δ 205.19, 203.69, 171.81, 146.27, 145.07, 145.00, 140.59, 136.57, 135.92, 132.09, 131.87, 130.31, 129.95, 129.45, 128.12, 126.78, 126.61, 126.17, 125.36, 125.10, 124.71, 124.37, 124.18, 124.05, 123.32, 123.20, 122.94, 122.74, 122.49, 117.26, 113.45, 103.02, 60.96, 38.13, 28.85, 28.35, 24.04, 23.97, 23.92, 23.86, 23.79, 23.72, 23.53, 23.21, 23.07. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>54</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>O: C, 66.00; N, 4.62; H,

5.98. Found: C, 65.50; N, 4.49; H, 6.09. MALDI-TOF (*m/z*) [M]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>54</sub>AuN<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, 909.39; found, 909.27.

#### F. General Procedure for Photophysical Property Analyses

General Procedure for 1% Polystyrene Films. A mixture of polystyrene pellets (99 mg) and toluene (2 mL) was sonicated for 1 h, until all pellets are dissolved. Two-coordinate metal complex (1 mg) was dissolved in the solution. Using a pipet,  $\sim$ 0.5 mL of the solution was drop-casted onto a glass substrate (2 cm x 2 cm) to achieve an even surface. The film was left to air-dry for 30 min and then placed in the vacuum chamber for further drying overnight. The resulting film was used to acquire the photophysical data.

#### **G. Absorption Spectra of Donor Ligands**

The extinction coefficient for the donor ligands was measured in 2-MeTHF. The molar absorptivity values for the donor ligands are comparable in magnitude to the molar absorptivity values for the transitions localized on the donor ligands in the metal complexes.



Supplementary Figure 1. Extinction coefficients for the donor ligands in 2-MeTHF.

#### H. Emission Spectra of Deprotonated Donor Ligands

A few milligrams of donor ligand (1-3 mg) were dissolved in THF (10 mL). The solution was cooled in an ice bath. Once completely dissolved, a solution containing 1.2 equivalents of *n*-BuLi diluted in THF was added. Although a color change was immediately observable, the reaction was

allowed to stir for 1 h. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure, and the solid obtained was dissolved in 2-MeTHF.



Supplementary Figure 2. Emission spectra of 2-methylindol-1-ide in 2-MeTHF.



Supplementary Figure 3. Emission spectra of ligand 34<sup>-</sup> in 2-MeTHF.



Supplementary Figure 4. Emission spectra of ligand 35<sup>-</sup> in 2-MeTHF.

## **Computational Methods**

## A. Complete Citation of Q-Chem 5.1

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were executed using Q-Chem 5.1 program<sup>11</sup> at the B3LYP/6-31G\*\* level for ground state geometry optimization of the organic ligands and at the B3LYP/LACVP level for the metal complexes. Time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) calculations were performed on the ground state optimized geometries at the CAM-B3LYP/LACVP\*\* level for a balanced description of both charge-transfer and locally excited (LE) states (Supplementary Table 1).

# **B.** Calculated Frontier Molecular Orbital Energies

**Supplementary Table 1**. Calculated frontier molecular orbital, singlet  $(S_1)$ , and triplet  $(T_1)$  energies. CT = Charge Transfer state, LE = Locally Excited state.

	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	ΔΕ <sub>ΗΟΜΟ-LUMO</sub> (eV)	S <sub>1</sub> (eV)	Nature of S <sub>1</sub> transition	T1 (eV)	Nature of T <sub>1</sub> transition
2-methylindole	-5.28	0.00	5.28	5.21	-	3.16	-
34	-5.28	-0.90	4.38	4.24	-	2.55	-
carbazole	-5.47	-0.65	4.82	4.58	-	3.09	-
35	-5.28	-1.20	4.08	4.04	-	2.53	-
36	-4.22	-1.44	2.78	3.50	СТ	3.07	LE
36+π	-4.27	-1.52	2.75	3.46	СТ	2.48	LE
37	-4.30	-1.96	2.34	3.10	СТ	2.85	СТ
37+π	-4.35	-2.07	2.29	3.07	СТ	2.48	LE
38	-4.16	-1.96	2.20	3.11	СТ	2.87	СТ
38+π	-4.38	-2.10	2.29	3.27	СТ	2.51	LE

# Photoluminescence (PL) Decay Lifetime Data

A. Lifetime Plots



Supplementary Figure 5. Emission lifetime decay for  $36+\pi$  in (a-b) PS film, (c-d) MeCy, and (e-f) MeTHF at 298 K (left side) and 77 K (right side).



**Supplementary Figure 6.** Emission lifetime decay for  $37+\pi$  in (a-b) PS film, (c-d) MeCy, and (e-f) MeTHF at 298 K (left side) and 77 K (right side).



**Supplementary Figure 7.** Emission lifetime decay for **38** in (a-b) PS film, (c-d) MeCy, and (e-f) MeTHF at 298 K (left side) and 77 K (right side).



**Supplementary Figure 8.** Emission lifetime decay for  $38+\pi$  in (a-b) PS film, (c-d) MeCy, and (e-f) MeTHF at 298 K (left side) and 77 K (right side). In  $37+\pi$ , in both MeCy and MeTHF at 298 K

a biexponential decay is observed. The slow lifetime is in the range of tens of microseconds. It is assigned to p-type delayed fluorescence caused by a bimolecular triplet-triplet annihilation.

# <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra



F2 - Acquisition Parameters Date 20180923 Time 17:34 h NSTRUM av500 PULPROG 2119248\_0002 ( PULPROG 65536 SOLVENT 26D6 NS SOLVENT 65536 SOLVENT 0.5576 Hz AQ 3.2767999 sec 12:14 0 SWH 10000.000 Hz AQ 3.2767999 sec 12:14 50:00 usec 12:14 10:00 usec 11:11 10:00 usec 11:11 10:00 usec 11:11 F2 - Processing parameters SI 65536 65536 65536 65536 0.129957 MHz WDW EM SSB 0 LB 0.30 Hz GB 0 1.00 500.1330008 MHz 1H Current Data Parameters NAME KAS-2018-052 EXPNO 1 PROCNO 1 bpm 2.995 100.5 3.548 3.609 0 889.3 **\$**69.3 6.720 727.8 661'Z· 7.205 712.7 7.222 7.264 7.266 N 892.7 · 772.7 · 672.7 · - 7.282 +82.7 ო 982.7 -7.295 962.7 · 864.7 · 202.7 4 909.7 · 609<sup>.</sup>7 - 7.523 983.7 -683.7 ß 646.7 -١Me 999.7 · 178.7 -282.7 -885.7 -ശ £65.7 · 40 OMe 665.7 · 109.7 8.220 8.225 8.472 8.493 802.8 913.8 · 122.8 ω 8.525 17 9.535 OMe 142.8 Purified Product, 1H NMR 44<u>8</u>.8 თ 946.8 742.8 655.8 £9<u>5</u>.8 8.928 10 \$.934 9.412 \$L\$.6 9.430 9.430

<u>3.053</u>

3.000

5.449

158.0

\<u>590.</u>1

2.694

229.2

(950.1

<u>1.062</u>

0.858

1.041







Purified Product, 1H NMR












= CHANNEL f1 =====: 400.1324008 MHz 1H 
 F2 - Acquisition Parameters

 Date
 20181023

 Time
 20.40

 INSTRUM
 av400

 INSTRUM
 av400

 PULPROG
 520.40

 PULPROG
 52882

 SOLVENT
 20.40

 NS
 24

 NS
 24

 NS
 24

 NS
 24

 NS
 0

 SOLVENT
 24

 NS
 24

 D
 0.151520 Hz

 RG
 189.85

 DW
 62.400 usec

 TE
 298369 sec

 DW
 6.50 usec

 TE
 298.35
 F2 - Processing parameters SI 65536 SF 400.1300177 MHz WDW EM SSB 0 0.30 Hz GB 0 0.30 Hz GB 0 1.00 Current Data Parameters NAME RBS-2018-171 EXPNO 3 PROCNO 1 15.00 usec 13.00000000 W bpm SF01 4 SF01 4 NUC1 P1 P1 1 0 N ო 4.038 4 = 976.5 805.7 -015.7 826.7 7.34S 7.347 ß 294.7 £84.7 £73.7 97ð.7 ശ 878.Y 229.7 7.625 243.7 · G49.7 -£99.7 <u>1.042 (</u> 767. 7 77ð.7 120.1 £70.4 189.7 œ £89.7 000.1 788.7 · 768.7 · 107.7 -*1* 050.1 407.7 J თ 1.015 7.722 ₹766.0 8.309 8.548 8.548 Purified Product, 1H NMR 32 9 655.8 8.673 269.8 867.8 718.8 Ξ 128.8 8.866 9.382







Purified Product, 1H NMR







## <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra

















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mdd

- 2

. 4



Purified Product, 13C NMR



mdd





Purified Product, 13C NMR

mdd

20

ဗ္ဂ

4

50

60

80

6











## NOESY Spectra



NOESY



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NOESY

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