Microwave-Assisted Intramolecular Aminopalladation-Triggered Domino Sequence: Atom Economical Route to 5,10-Dihydroindeno[1,2-*b*]indoles

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1. General Information

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers (Alfa Aesar, Sigma-Aldrich, Merck, SDFine, SRL, CDH) and used without further purification. All reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using Merck silica gel 60 F254 and visualized by UV detection or using molecular iodine or *p*-anisaldehyde stain. Silica gel (230-400 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography. Melting points were recorded on a melting point apparatus in capillaries and are uncorrected. 1H and 13C{1H} -NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ at room temperature on a Brucker AC-400 spectrometer operating at 400 MHz for ¹H and 101 MHz for 13C{1H}. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm using TMS as an internal standard and coupling constants (J) are given in Hz. Infrared (IR) spectra was recorded on Perkin-Elmer FTIR spectrophotometer using KBr. Elemental analyses were determined at the CAI de Microanalisis Elemental, Universidad Complutense, by using a Leco 932 CHNS combustion microanalyzer. Microwave-assisted synthesis was carried out in a CEM focused microwave synthesis system (Discover SP synthesizer) containing single-mode microwave cavity producing controlled irradiation at 2455 MHz. Reaction times refer to hold times at the temperatures indicated and not to total irradiation times. The temperature on the bottom of the reaction vessel was measured with an IR sensor located below the microwave cavity floor. The reactions were carried out under a pressure of 200 Pa and a power of 150 W in sealed reaction vessels.

2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Enones S3a-j



Compounds S3 were prepared using the literature procedure.¹

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(E)-3-(2-Iodophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (S3a)<sup>1</sup>
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Pale yellow viscous liquid (91%, 3.03 g). S3a (E)-3-(2-Iodophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3b)¹ Yellow viscous liquid (89%, 3.09 g).



¹M. Karuppasamy, B. S. Vachan, T. Jandial, S. B. Annes, N. Bhuvanesh, C. U. Maheswari, V. Sridharan, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2020, **362**, 2716–2724.





(E)-3-(2-Iodophenyl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3e)¹ Pale brown viscous liquid (81%, 2.75 g).



S3c

(E)-1-(Furan-2-yl)-3-(2-iodophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3f)¹

Pale brown viscous liquid (73%, 2.36 g).



(*E*)-3-(4-Chloro-2-iodophenyl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3g)



Colourless solid (3.41 g, 86%); mp: 114-116 °C; IR (KBr): 3052, 3002, 1860, 1682, 1611, 1442, 1326, 1281, 1169, 1052 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR $(CDCl_{3}, 400 \text{ MHz}) \delta 7.97 \text{ (d, } J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H}), 7.89 \text{ (d, } J = 15.5 \text{ Hz},$ 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, J =15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.3, 146.0, 144.2, 141.0, 140.2, 135.0, 134.9, 131.1, 129.5, 128.9, 127.3, 126.1, 98.5, 21.8. Anal Calcd for C₁₆H₁₂ClIO: C, 50.23; H, 3.16. Found: C, 50.03; H, 3.08.

(E)-3-(4-Chloro-2-iodophenyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3h)



Off-white solid (3.62 g, 82%); mp: 145-147 °C; IR (KBr): 3062, 1900, 1692, 1611, 1442, 1299, 1252, 1189, 1065 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ 400 MHz) δ 7.99 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) & 188.5, 146.9, 141.1, 139.8, 139.7, 135.9, 135.1, 131.4, 130.1,

129.1, 127.4, 125.5, 98.6. Anal Calcd for C₁₅H₉Cl₂IO: C, 44.70; H, 2.25. Found: C, 44.33; H, 2.22.

(E/Z)-3-(2-Iodophenyl)-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (S3i)



Trans:cis = 1:0.62; Viscous liquid (2.70 g, 73%); IR (KBr): 3853, 2827, 1610, 1457, 1293, 1225, 1188, 1127, 1042 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.57 (s, *trans*, 1H), 8.42 (s, *cis*, 1H), 8.13 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.6 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 7.98-7.92 (m, *trans* & *cis*, 5H), 7.83-7.74 (m, *trans* & *cis*, 4H), 7.66-7.54 (m, *trans* & *cis*, 4H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J*

= 7.6 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 7.14-7.05 (m, *trans & cis*, 2H), 6.81-6.76 (m, *cis*, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ¹³C NMR (101 MZ, CDCl₃) δ ¹³C NMR (101 MZ, CDCl₃) δ ¹³C NMR (

(*E/Z*)-3-(4-Chloro-2-iodophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (S3j)



Trans:cis = 1:0.28; Viscous liquid (3.24 g, 81%); IR (KBr): 3051, 1896, 1670, 1603, 1446, 1307, 1262, 1186, 1091 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, *trans*, 2H), 7.99 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, *trans*, 1H), 7.86 (s, *cis*, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *trans* & *cis*, 2H), 7.70-7.62 (m, *trans* & *cis*, 3H), 7.56-7.52 (m, *trans*, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, *trans* & *cis*, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, *trans* 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, *cis*,

1H), 6.88 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.1 Hz, *cis*, 1H), 6.77 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, *cis*, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.2, 189.8, 146.5, 142.2, 141.0, 141.1, 140.0, 139.7, 137.6, 137.2, 135.0, 134.2, 133.3, 133.2, 131.3, 130.2, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 126.0, 98.6, 95.6. Anal Calcd for C₁₅H₁₀ClIO: C, 48.88; H, 2.73. Found: C, 48.75; H, 2.69.

3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Enones S3k-m



(E)-4-(2-Iodophenyl)but-3-en-2-one (S3k)¹

Colourless solid (81%, 2.20 g), mp: 54-56 °C. Me S3k Methyl (*E/Z*)-3-(2-iodophenyl)acrylate (S3l)¹



(E)-4-(4-Chloro-2-iodophenyl)but-3-en-2-one (S3m)



^{2.63.} Found: C, 39.04; H, 2.61.

4. General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2-Alkynylanilines S6



Compounds S6 were prepared using the literature procedure.²

2-Ethynylaniline (S6a)²



S6a

F₂C

4-Chloro-2-ethynylaniline (S6b)³

CI Brown solid (1.19 g, 79%), mp: 56-58 °C. S6b

2-Ethynyl-4-methylaniline (S6c)²



2-Ethynyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (S6d)⁴



²A. Isobe, J. Takagi, T. Katagiri, K. Uneyama, Org. Lett., 2008, 10, 2657–2659.

³B. M. Trost, A. Mc Clory, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2007, 46, 2074–2077.

⁴X. Zhao, X. Song, H. Jin, Z. Zeng, Q. Wang, M. Rudolph, F. Rominger, A. S. K. Hashmi, *Adv. Synth. Catal.*, 2018, **360**, 2720–2726.

5. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Compounds 1



To a stirred solution of compound S3 (1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in Et₃N (15 mL) were added 2ethynylaniline S6 (6 mmol, 1.2 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (0.1 mmol, 10 mol%) and CuI (0.05 mmol, 5 mol%) successively. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3-5 h. After the completion of the reaction, as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate (2×20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water and brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the crude mixture was chromatographed over silica using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate mixture (85:15 to 80:20, v/ v) as the eluent to access the desired compounds **1a-t**.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (1a)



Pale brown solid (0.271 g, 84%); mp: 136-138°C; IR (KBr): 3452, 3369, 2191, 1642, 1510, 1317, 1088 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.41 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.18 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76-6.72 (m, 2H), 4.39 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 101 MHz) δ 190.8, 148.2, 142.9, 138.1, 135.8, 132.7, 132.8, 132.4, 130.2, 130.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 126.7, 124.7, 123.9, 117.9, 114.6, 107.40, 92.9, 92.43. Anal Calcd for C₂₃H₁₇NO: C, 85.42; H, 5.30; N, 4.33. Found: C, 85.25; H, 5.23; N, 4.29.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1b)



Pale yellow solid (0.302 g, 87%); mp: 96-98 °C; IR (KBr): 3431, 3342, 3045, 2216, 1681, 1470, 1301, 1193, 1052 cm^{-1.1}H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.40 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.61 (m, 5H), 7.40-7.18 (m, 6H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.42 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.3, 148.2, 143.7, 142.5, 135.9, 135.5, 132.7, 132.4, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.4, 126.6, 124.7, 123.9, 117.9, 114.6, 107.4, 92.8, 92.5, 21.7. Anal Calcd for C₂₄H₁₉NO: C, 85.43; H, 5.68; N, 4.15. Found: C, 85.29; H, 5.57; N,

4.06.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1c)



Pale yellow solid (0.289 g, 81%); mp: 112-114 °C; IR (KBr): 3469, 3370, 2198, 1639, 1505, 1312, 1097 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.38 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.37 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (td, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.77-6.73 (m, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.6, 148.1, 143.5, 139.2, 136.4, 135.5, 132.8, 132.4, 130.3, 130.2, 130.0, 128.9, 128.5, 126.8, 124.7, 123.4, 118.0, 114.6, 107.3, 92.9,

92.4. Anal Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆ClNO: C, 77.20; H, 4.51; N, 3.91. Found: C, 76.89, H; 4.54, N, 3.97.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (1d)



Yellow viscous liquid (0.314 g, 82%); IR (KBr): 3420, 3325, 3065, 2105, 1656, 1476, 1315, 1178, 1005 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.83 (m, 5H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.6, 148.2, 142.9, 135.7, 135.6, 135.4, 132.9, 132.6, 132.4, 130.2, 130.7, 130.3, 129.2, 128.4, 128.5,

127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.4, 124.6, 124.5, 123.8, 117.9, 114.6, 107.4, 92.9, 92.5. Anal Calcd for $C_{27}H_{19}NO$: C, 86.84; H, 5.13; N, 3.75. Found: C, 86.66; H, 5.07; N, 3.69.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (1e)



Pale yellow solid (0.240 g, 73%); mp: 128-130 °C; IR (KBr): 3371, 2911, 1665, 1564, 1477, 1413, 1304, 1221, 1072 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.47 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.76-6.71 (m, 2H), 4.43 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.2, 148.2, 145.4, 142.1, 135.6, 134.0, 132.7, 132.4, 132.1, 130.2, 130.1, 128.4, 128.3, 126.6, 124.8, 123.3, 117.9, 114.6, 107.4, 93.0, 92.4. Anal Calcd for 7.14 4.50 N 4.25 Found C 76.41 H 4.48 N 4.17

 $C_{21}H_{15}NOS: C,\, 76.57;\, H,\, 4.59;\, N,\, 4.25.\, Found:\, C,\, 76.41;\, H,\, 4.48;\, N,\, 4.17.$

(E)-4-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)but-3-en-2-one (1f)



Pale yellow solid (0.211 g, 81%); mp: 94-96 °C; IR (KBr): 3450, 2188, 1656, 1487, 1369, 1331, 1223, 1174, 1102 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.17 (d, J = 16.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.81-6.75 (m, 3H), 4.35 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.7, 148.1, 141.5, 135.4, 132.7, 132.2, 130.3, 130.1, 128.6, 128.6, 126.1, 124.5, 118.1, 114.6, 107.4, 92.6, 92.2, 27.4. Anal Calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO C, 82.73; H, 5.79; N, 5.36. Found: C, 82.02, H; 5.65; N, 5.41.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (1g)



Pale yellow solid (0.275 g, 77%); mp: 129-131 °C; IR (KBr): 3452, 3351, 2169, 1642, 1571, 1305, 1087 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.18 (td, *J* = 8.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.2, 148.3, 141.4, 137.8, 137.3, 134.3, 133.7, 133.1, 132.4, 130.4, 130.0, 128.7, 128.6, 126.4, 124.6, 123.2, 117.9, 114.6, 107.1, 93.8, 91.4. Anal Calcd for C₂₃H₁₆ClNO: C, 77.20; H, 4.51; N, 3.91. Found: C, 76.92; H, 4.42; N, 3.85.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1h)



Pale yellow solid (0.308 g, 83%); mp: 121-123 °C; IR (KBr): 3439, 3346, 3055, 2204, 1656, 1499, 1318, 1173, 1027 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.31 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (td, J = 8.3, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.76-6.71 (m, 2H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.7, 148.3, 144.0, 140.9,

137.4, 135.3, 134.3, 133.7, 132.4, 130.4, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 126.4, 124.7, 123.1, 117.9, 114.6, 107.1, 93.8, 91.5, 21.7. Anal Calcd for $C_{24}H_{18}CINO$: C, 77.52; H, 4.88; N, 3.77. Found: C, 77.33; H, 4.81; N, 3.83.

(E)-4-(2-((2-Aminophenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)but-3-en-2-one (1i)



Pale brown solid (0.256 g, 87%); mp: 82-84 °C; IR (KBr): 3451, 2198, 1662, 1493, 1359, 1301, 1254, 1184, 1103 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.08 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79-6.75 (m, 3H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1, 148.1, 139.9, 136.9, 134.5, 133.7, 132.2, 130.5, 130.1, 129.3, 126.1, 122.1, 118.2, 114.7, 107.1, 93.5, 91.3, 27.8. Anal Calcd for C₁₈H₁₄CINO: C, 73.10; H, 4.77; N, 4.74. Found: C, 72.89; H, 4.72; N, 4.83.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (1j)



Pale yellow solid (0.279 g, 78%); mp: 146-148 °C; IR (KBr): 3462, 3372, 2167, 1672, 1536, 1319, 1068 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.35 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (brs, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 190.9, 146.8, 142.7, 138.0, 135.9, 132.9, 132.8, 131.4, 130.1, 130.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.6, 124.2, 124.1, 122.2, 115.7, 108.7, 93.3, 91.4. Anal Calcd for

C₂₃H₁₆ClNO: C, 77.20; H, 4.51; N, 3.91. Found: C, 77.02; H, 4.56; N, 3.85.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1k)



Pale yellow solid (0.372 g, 76%); mp: 130-131 °C; IR (KBr): 3352, 2967, 1681, 1611, 1451, 1322, 1251, 1163, 1042 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.34 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (brs, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ * 190.3, 146.9, 143.9, 142.2, 136.0, 135.4, 132.8, 131.4, 130.1, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 126.6, 124.1, 124.0, 122.1, 115.7, 108.7, 93.3, 91.4, 21.7.Anal Calcd for C₂₄H₁₈ClNO: C, 77.52;

H, 4.88; N, 3.77. Found: C, 77.32; H, 4.81; N, 3.78.*One aromatic carbon merged with others.

(*E*)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1one (1)



Pale brown solid (0.313 g, 81%); mp: 110-112 °C; IR (KBr): 3370, 3055, 1656, 1604, 1487, 1307, 1260, 1173, 1035 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.33 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.78-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (brs, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 188.9, 163.6, 146.9, 141.8, 136.1, 132.8, 132.0, 131.4, 130.9, 130.1, 129.8,

128.8, 126.7, 123.9, 122.1, 115.7, 115.6, 113.9, 108.7, 93.4, 91.3, 55.5. Anal Calcd for C₂₄H₁₈ClNO₂: C, 74.32; H, 4.68; N, 3.61. Found: C, 74.11; H, 4.57; N, 3.54.

(*E*)-3-(2-((3-Aminonaphthalen-2-yl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1m)



Pale yellow solid (0.318 g, 78%); mp: 127-129 °C; IR (KBr): 3428, 3340, 3055, 2192, 1668, 1476, 1324, 1178, 1021 cm^{-1.1}H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.86-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (brs, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ * 190.4, 146.9, 142.6, 135.9, 135.5, 135.3, 132.9, 132.6, 131.4, 130.2, 130.1, 130.0, 129.6,

128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.8, 126.9, 124.5, 124.2, 123.9, 122.2, 115.8, 108.7, 93.3, 91.5. Anal Calcd for $C_{27}H_{18}CINO$: C, 79.50; H, 4.45; N, 3.43. Found: C, 79.41; H, 4.32; N, 3.48. * One aromatic carbon merged with others.

(*E*)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(thiophen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (1n)



Pale brown solid (0.232 g, 64%); mp: 149-151 °C; IR (KBr): 3381, 2921, 1650, 1575, 1487, 1423, 1324, 1231, 1062 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.42 (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.2, 146.9, 145.3, 141.9, 135.7, 134.2, 132.8, 132.1, 131.4, 130.2, 130.1, 128.7, 128.4, 126.6, 124.3, 123.3, 122.1,

115.7, 108.7, 93.2, 91.6. Anal Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄ClNOS: C, 69.32; H, 3.88; N, 3.85. Found: C, 69.08; H, 3.80; N, 3.77.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-methylphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(furan-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (10)



Pale brown solid (0.288 g, 88%); mp: 166-168 °C; IR (KBr): 3371, 3065, 2903, 1642, 1561, 1479, 1402, 1314, 1222, 1058 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.49 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60-6.59 (m, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 178.1, 153.6, 146.7, 146.0, 142.1, 135.5, 132.7, 132.4, 131.1, 130.1, 128.3, 127.1, 126.7, 124.9, 122.83 117.8, 114.8, 112.6, 107.5, 93.3, 92.2, 20.3. Anal Calcd for C₂₂H₁₇NO₂: C, 80.71; H, 5.23; N, 4.28.

Found: C, 80.42; H, 5.12; N, 4.27.

(*E*)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)prop-2-en-1-one (1p)



Pale brown solid (0.313 g, 71%); mp: 153-155 °C; IR (KBr): 3480, 3364, 1656, 1615, 1586, 1342, 1173, 1143, 1085 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.95-7.89 (m, 3H), 7.86-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.61 (m, 3H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ * 190.2, 150.7, 142.5, 135.9, 135.6, 135.3, 132.9, 132.5, 130.2, 130.1, 129.6 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6.

^{1p} 130.2, 130.1, 129.6 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 129.5, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 127.8, 126.9 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 126.9, 126.7, 124.4, 124.1, 123.9, 119.7 (q, J = 33.3 Hz), 113.9, 106.9, 93.3, 91.2. Anal Calcd for C₂₈H₁₈F₃NO: C, 76.18; H, 4.11; N, 3.17. Found: C, 75.96, H, 4.16, N, 3.21. *One aromatic carbon merged with others.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)-1-phenylprop-2-en-1-one (1q)



Pale yellow solid (0.293 g, 69%); mp: 131-133 °C; IR (KBr): 3055, 2373, 2315, 1843, 1720, 1493, 1423, 1377, 1190 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.29 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 8* 190.1, 150.7, 141.0, 137.7, 137.4, 134.9, 133.8, 133.2, 130.1, 129.7 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 128.8, 128.6, 127.1 (q, J = 3.0 Hz), 126.4, 124.8, 122.5, 119.7 (q, J = 33.3 Hz), 114.1, 106.5, 92.2, 92.1. Anal Calcd for C₂₄H₁₅ClF₃NO: C, 67.69; H, 3.55; N, 3.29. Found: C, 67.61; H, 3.48; N,

3.29. *One aromatic carbon merged with others.

(E)-3-(2-((2-Amino-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-5-chlorophenyl)-1-(4chlorophenyl)prop-2-en-1-one (1r)



Pale yellow solid (0.193 g, 70%); mp: 175-177 °C; IR (KBr): 3358, 2204, 1750, 1598, 1476, 1318, 1155, 1091, 1009 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR $(CDCl_{3}, 400 \text{ MHz}) \delta 8.31 \text{ (d, } J = 15.7 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.99 \text{ (d, } J = 8.5 \text{ Hz},$ 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ* 188.6, 150.6, 141.5, 139.8, 137.2, 135.9, 134.9, 133.9, 130.3, 129.9, 129.7 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 129.1, 127.2 (q, J = 4.0 Hz), 126.4, 124.0, 122.6, 119.8 (q, J = 33.3 Hz), 114.1, 106.5, 92.2, 92.1. Anal Calcd for C₂₄H₁₄Cl₂F₃NO: C, 62.63; H,

3.07; N, 3.04. Found: C, 62.44; H, 3.01; N, 2.98. *One aromatic carbon merged with others.

Methyl (E/Z)-3-(2-((2-aminophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)acrylate (1s)



H₂N

Trans:cis = 1:0.31; Yellow oil (0.199 g, 64%); IR (KBr): 3362, 3079, 1681, 1662, 1479, 1322, 1239, 1181, 1049 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.33 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, trans, 1H); 7.67-7.56 (m, trans & cis, 5H), 7.45-7.33 (m, trans & cis, 6H), 7.20-7.15 (m, trans & cis, 2H); 6.77-6.74 (m, trans & cis, 4H), 6,56 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, trans, 1H), 6.11 (d, J = 12.4Hz, *cis*, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ* 167.4, 166.4, 148.1, 147.9, 142.8, 142.4, 136.8, 135.2, 132.6, 132.4, 132.2, 131.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.9, 129.3, 128.6, 128.4, 127.7, 126.2, 124.3, 122.9, 114.6, 114.4,

107.7, 107.5, 92.9, 92.6, 92.2, 91.4, 51.8, 51.5. Anal Calcd for C₁₈H₁₅NO₂: C, 77.96; H, 5.45; N, 5.05. Found: C, 77.61; H, 5.34; N, 4.98. *Four aromatic carbons merged with others.

Methyl (E)-3-(2-((2-amino-5-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)acrylate (1t)

Pale yellow solid (0.237 g, 76%); mp: 124-126 °C; IR (KBr): 3352, 3061, 1671, 1642, 1467, 1310, 1228, 1161, 1029 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.28 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.59-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.12 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 16.1OMe Hz, 1H), 4.25 (brs, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 146.7, 142.6, 135.4, 132.6, 131.5, 130.1, 129.9, 128.8, 126.2, 123.8, 122.2, 119.6, 115.7, 108.8, 93.1, 91.2, 51.9. Anal Calcd for C₁₈H₁₄ClNO₂: C, 69.35; H, 4.53; N, 4.49. Found: C, 69.03; H, 4.43; N, 1t 4.52.

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Temp.	Time	Yield of	Yield of
	(10 mol%)		(°C)	(min)	2a (%) ^b	3a (%) ^c
1	PdCl ₂	THF	25	24 h	27	33
2	PdCl ₂	Dioxane	25	36 h	39	32
3	PdCl ₂	DCM	25	48 h	trace	41
4	PdCl ₂	DCE	25	24 h	29	21
5	PdCl ₂	Toluene	25	48 h	-	-
6	PdCl ₂	DMSO	25	24 h	49	22
7	PdCl ₂	MeCN	25	36 h	51	25

6. Optimization Table (Additional Entries) Table S1. Optimization of the reaction conditions to access indene-fused indole 2a

7. Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR Spectra ¹H NMR spectrum of compound S3g (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



¹H NMR spectrum of compound **S3h** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)

















































































¹H NMR spectrum of compound **2h** (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



























¹H NMR spectrum of compound **3a** (DMSO-d₆, 400 MHz)





NOESY spectrum of compound 3s (CDCl₃, 400 MHz)



