Electronic Supplementary Information for

Photocatalytic Traceless C-N Bond Formation/ Cleavage Strategy Enabling (α-Chiral)

Alkyl Aldehydes as Deoxygenative (Chiral) Alkyl Radical Equivalents

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1. General Information

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in flame-dried reaction vessels with Teflon screw caps under nitrogen. Solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. Unless otherwise stated, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) with the indicated solvent mixtures. TLC analysis was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates and visualized with UV light, KMnO₄ indicator or phosphomolybdic acid indicator.

Melting points are uncorrected. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a spectrometer at 25 °C in CDCl₃ at 400, 500 or 600 MHz, with TMS as internal standard. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a spectrometer at 25 °C in CDCl₃ at 101, 125 or 150 MHz. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm and coupling constants *J* are given in Hz. The following abbreviations were used to identify the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, dq = doublet of quartets, br = broad and all combinations thereof can be explained by their integral parts. High resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were obtained on a TOF-MS instrument with EI or ESI source. Optical rotations were determined using a Rudolph Autopol IV polarimeter. HPLC analyses were performed using Agilent 1200 chromatography or Agilent 1260 chromatography.

2. Preparation of Substrates and Photosensitizers.

2-isocyanobiphenyls 1 were synthesized according to the previously reported procedure.¹ All of these compounds are known compounds and their NMR spectra are consistent with the documented data ($1a^2$, $1b^1$, $1c^2$, $1d^2$, $1e^2$, $1f^2$, $1g^2$, $1h^3$, $1i^4$, $1j^5$, $1k^6$, $1l^2$, $1m^2$, $1n^7$, $1o^2$).



Aldehydes 2a-2g, 2j are commercial available.

2h, **2i**, **2k** was prepared via reduction of corresponding Weinreb amide according to the literature⁸ and their analytical data are consistent with the documented data (**2h**⁸, **2i**⁹, **2k**¹⁰).

N-Boc-L-prolinal (21), *N*-Boc-L-valinal (2m), *N*-Boc-L-alaninal (2n), *N*-Boc-L-phenylalaninal (20), *tert*-butyl (S)-1-formyl-3-methylbutylcarbamate (2p), (S)-*tert*-butyl 3-formylpiperidine-1-carboxylate (2q) are commercial available.



4CzIPN was prepared according to the literature and its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹¹

3. General procedures for deoxygenative alkylation/cyclization of 2-

biphenylisonitriles with (α-chiral) alkyl aldehydes

3.1 Optimization of reaction conditions for achiral alkyl aldehydes^[a]

N	с` + н	PS (x mol%) amine (3) Hantzsch ester Solvent, 15 W blue LED 25 °C, 14 h	() (
1a	2a		4:	a	5	
Entry	PS (x mol%)	Amine (3)	1a/2a/3	Solvent	Yield (4a/5) ^[b]	
1	PS1 (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	36/12 (5a)	
2	PS2 (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	53/15 (5a)	
3	PS3 (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	65/21 (5a)	

4	Ru(bpy) ₃ Cl ₂ (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	23/12 (5a)
5	<i>fac</i> -Ir(ppy) ₃ (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	20/trace (5a)
6	PS4 (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	0/0 (5a)
7	PS5 (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	53/16 (5a)
8	Rose begal (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	0/0 (5a)
9	4CzIPN (7.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	75/trace (5a)
10	4CzIPN (5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	75/trace (5a)
11	4CZIPN (2.5)	diethylamine (3a)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	61/trace (5a)
12	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	82/trace (5b)
13	4CzIPN (5)	pyrrolidine (3c)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	48/trace (5c)
14	4CzIPN (5)	piperidine (3d)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	81/trace (5d)
		methyl 2-			
15	4CzIPN (5)	piperidinecarboxylate	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	81/trace (5e)
		(3e)			
16	4CzIPN (5)	hexamethyleneimine (3f)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	59/trace (5f)
20	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/3/3	1,4-dioxane	72/trace (5a)
21	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/1.5/1.5	1,4-dioxane	44/trace (5a)
22	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	THF	70/trace (5a)
23	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	EA	74/trace (5a)
24 ^[c]	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	0/0 (5b)
24		dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	0/0 (5b)
25	4CzIPN (5)		1/4.5/	1,4-dioxane	0/0 (5b)
26 ^[d]	4CzIPN (5)	dipropylamine (3b)	1/4.5/4.5	1,4-dioxane	61/ trace (5b)

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[a] Reaction condition: **1a** (0.2 mmol), *PS* (x mol %), Hantzsch ester (0.24 mmol), propionaldehyde **2a** (0.9 mmol), amine **3** (0.9 mmol) in solvent (5.0 mL), irradiated with 15 W blue LED at 25 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 14 h unless otherwise noted. [b] Isolated yield. [c] The reaction was carried out in the dark condition. [d] Hantzsch ester (0.5 equiv. based on **1a**) was used.



الب 1a	N C [·] + ↓ [√] , [∞] / ₇ CHO 2m (ee >99%)	Amine (3 , 4.5 equiv) 4CzIPN (10 mol%) Hantsch ester (1.2 equiv 1,4-dioxane, 15 W blue L T, 14 h	V) ED 4zd	H N Boc
Entry	Amine (3)	Temperature (°C)	Yield (%) ^b	<i>ee</i> (%) ^[c]
1	pyrrolidine (3c)	35	30	12
2	piperidine (3d)	35	72	46
3	methyl piperidine-2- carboxylate (3e)	35	71	72
4	hexamethyleneimine (3f)	35	63	<10
5	methyl <i>L</i> -prolinate (3g)	35	85	74
6	dicyclohexylamine (3h)	35	63	<10
7	dibenzylamine (3i)	35	27	29
8	methyl L-prolinate (3g)	25	83	90
9	methyl <i>L</i> -prolinate (3g)	15	83	96
10		15	0	
11 ^[d]	methyl L-prolinate (3g)	15	73	96

3.2 Optimization of reaction conditions for acyclic a-chiral amino aldehyde.^[a]

[a] Reaction condition: **1a** (0.2 mmol), 4CzIPN (10 mmol%), amine **3** (0.9 mmol), *tert*-butyl (*S*)-(3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)carbamate **2m** (0.9 mmol), Hantzsch ester (0.24 mmol) in 1, 4-dioxane (5.0 mL), irradiated with 15 W blue LED under nitrogen atmosphere for 14 h unless otherwise noted. [b] Isolated yield. [c] The *ee* value was determined by HPLC analysis. [d] Without Hantzsch ester.

3.3 Experimental details and characterization of products 4

General procedure for the synthesis of 6-alkyl phenanthridine derivatives 4.

To a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube was added 1 (0.3 mmol), 4CzIPN (0.015 mmol for achiral alkyl aldehydes or 0.03 mmol for chiral alkyl aldehydes) and Hantzsch ester (91.2 mg, 0.36 mmol). The tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times. A solution of aldehyde **2** (1.35 mmol), amine **3** (1.35 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (7.5 mL) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was irradiated at a distance of 3 cm from 15 W blue LED and stirred at 25 °C (for **4zd-4zg**, at 15 °C) 14 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with the indicated

mixture of ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether (PE) or DCM to give pure 6-alkyl phenanthridine 4. **Reaction Setup**:



15 W blue LED strips come with an adhesive back, so they may be easily adhered to the inside of a meshy cask. The Schlenk tube was placed in the center. Two fans were used to control the reaction temperature at room temperature. Meanwhile a thermometer was equipped to monitor the reaction temperature.

Characterization of products 4

6-propylphenanthridine (4a)



4a was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as a colorless liquid (55.8 mg, 84%). ¹H NMR (500 M, CDCl₃): δ 8.67 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (ddd, J = 8.3, 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dddd, J = 9.2, 8.2, 7.0, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (ddd, J = 8.2, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.40-3.31 (m, 2H),

1.99 (dq, J = 15.0, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.3, 143.7, 132.9, 130.2, 129.6, 128.6, 127.2, 126.34, 126.25, 125.3, 123.6, 122.5, 121.9, 38.3, 22.9, 14.4. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹²

2-methyl-6-propylphenanthridine (4b)



4b was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as a colorless liquid (50.8 mg, 72%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.44-3.24 (m, 2H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 1.98 (dq, *J* = 14.9, 7.3 Hz,

2H), 1.15 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 161.3, 142.1, 136.0, 132.7, 130.2, 130.0,

129.3, 127.0, 126.3, 125.3, 123.5, 122.4, 121.6, 38.3, 23.0, 21.9, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₇H₁₈N [M+H]⁺: calcd 236.1434, found 236.1486.

3-methyl-6-propylphenanthridine (4c):



4c was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as a colorless liquid (45.0 mg, 64%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.36-3.33 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2H),

1.15 (t, J = 7.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.2, 143.8, 138.6, 133.0, 130.1, 129.2, 127.9, 126.7, 126.3, 125.0, 122.2, 121.7, 121.3, 38.3, 22.9, 21.5, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₇H₁₈N [M+H]⁺: calcd 236.1434, found 236.1495.

3-chloro-6-propylphenanthridine (4d)



4d was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as a colorless liquid (48.3 mg, 63%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.41-3.24 (m, 2H), 2.05-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.3

Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 163.6, 144.5, 134.1, 132.5, 130.6, 128.9, 127.5, 126.8, 126.4, 125.2, 123.3, 122.4, 122.1, 38.2, 22.6, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₆H₁₅ClN [M+H]⁺: calcd 256.0888, found 256.0916.

8-methoxy-6-propylphenanthridine (4e)



4e was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as a white solid (53.5 mg, 71%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.57 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 14.0, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.20 (m, 2H), 2.29-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H);

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 161.3, 158.6, 142.9, 129.6, 127.6, 127.3, 126.6, 126.3, 124.2, 123.7, 121.4, 120.3, 107.0, 55.5, 38.4, 22.5, 14.5. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹³ **6-propyl-8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridine (4f)**

CF₃

4f was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as yellow liquid (43.4 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.12-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR

(CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 161.9, 144.5, 135.2, 129.9, 129.8, 129.0 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz), 126.9, 126.1 (q, *J* =

3.0 Hz), 124.7, 124.1 (q, J = 270.0 Hz), 123.7 (q, J = 4.2 Hz), 123.6, 122.7, 122.3, 38.0, 22.6, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₇H₁₅F₃N [M+H]⁺: calcd 290.1151, found 290.1218.

8-fluoro-6-propylphenanthridine (4g)



4g was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (41.6 mg, 58%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.64 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.15-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.56 (m, 3H), 3.32-3.28 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 161.4

(d, J = 246.6 Hz), 161.3 (d, J = 3.5 Hz), 143.4, 129.7, 129.6, 128.5, 126.7, 126.6, 125.0 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 123.2, 121.7, 119.4 (d, J = 23.7 Hz), 110.9 (d, J = 21.0 Hz), 38.3, 22.6, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₆H₁₅FN [M+H]⁺: calcd 240.1183, found 240.1252.

6-butylphenanthridine (4h)



4h was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (56.5 mg, 80%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (q, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.45-3.22 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.66-

1.53 (m, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.5, 143.8, 133.0, 130.3, 129.5, 128.6, 127.2, 126.4, 126.3, 125.3, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 36.2, 31.8, 23.1, 14.0. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁴

6-pentylphenanthridine (4i)



4i was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (57.6 mg, 77%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.46-3.25 (m,

2H), 1.96 (dt, J = 15.7, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (dt, J = 15.1, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.49-1.39 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 162.5, 143.8, 133.0, 130.2, 129.6, 128.6, 127.2, 126.3, 126.2, 125.3, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 36.5, 32.2, 29.4, 22.6, 14.1. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁵

6-hexylphenanthridine (4j)



4j was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (67.2 mg, 85%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.68 (m,

2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.99-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.31 (m, 4H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 162.5, 143.8, 133.0, 130.2, 129.6, 128.6, 127.2, 126.4, 126.2, 125.3, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 36.5, 31.8, 29.7, 29.6, 22.7, 14.1. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁶

6-(5-chloropentyl)phenanthridine (4k)



4k was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as Colorless liquid (67.3 mg, 79%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.46-3.33 (m, 2H),

2.05-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.75-1.64 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 161.8, 143.7, 133.0, 130.3, 129.6, 128.6, 127.3, 126.4, 126.1, 125.2, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 45.0, 36.0, 32.6, 28.5, 27.2. HRMS (ESI) for C₁₈H₁₉ClN [M+H]⁺: calcd 284.1201, found 284.1240.

6-(3-phenylpropyl)phenanthridine (4l)



4I was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (62.5 mg, 70%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.89-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 1H), 7.70-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.49-3.35 (m, 2H), 2.89 (t, *J* = 7.7

Hz, 2H), 2.38-2.26 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ161.8, 143.7, 142.1, 132.9, 130.3, 129.6, 128.6, 128.4, 127.2, 126.3, 126.2, 125.9, 125.2, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 36.0, 35.6, 30.8. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁷

6-(3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl)phenanthridine (4m)



4m was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (53.3 mg, 56%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (qd, *J* = 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.1, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.25-5.02 (m, 1H), 3.53-

3.25 (m, 2H), 2.15-1.89 (m, 3H), 1.81-1.67 (m, 5H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.57-1.46 (m, 1H), 1.37-1.22 (m, 1H), 1.09 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): δ 162.8, 143.8, 133.0, 131.2, 130.3, 129.6, 128.6, 127.2, 126.33, 126.25, 125.2, 124.9, 123.7, 122.5, 121.9, 37.1, 36.7, 34.3, 33.1, 25.7, 25.6, 19.6, 17.7. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₈N [M+H]⁺: calcd 318.2216, found 318.2259.

tert-butyl (1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)pentan-2-yl)carbamate (4n)



4n was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as white solid (92.8 mg, 85%). Mp:125-127°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.64 (d, J = 8,5 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.14-8.12 (d, 1H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.74-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.46 (m, 1H), 1.67-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.54-1.47 (s,

2H), 1.34 (m, 9H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.2, 155.7, 143.4, 132.8, 130.4, 129.7, 128.5, 127.5, 126.5, 126.3, 125.7, 123.7, 122.4, 121.9, 78.8, 50.4, 40.9, 37.0, 28.3, 19.5, 14.0. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 365.2224, found 365.2227.

tert-butyl (4-(methylthio)-1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)butan-2-yl)carbamate (40)



4o was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as white solid (73.7 mg, 62%). Mp:117-119 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.65 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 1H), 5.46 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 4.42-4.35 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.53 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.55 (m, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.02-1.97 (m, 2), 1.35 (s,

9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.7, 155.6, 143.3, 132.9, 130.6, 129.7, 128.6, 127.62, 127.61, 126.6, 126.2, 125.7, 123.7, 122.5, 122.0, 79.1, 49.8, 40.2, 34.2, 31.0, 28.3, 15.5. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₉N₂O₂S [M+H]⁺: calcd 397.1944, found 397.1946.

6-(cyclohexylmethyl)phenanthridine (4p)



4p was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 100/1 to PE/EA = 20/1) as colorless liquid (56.2 mg, 68%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz): δ 8.67 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (s, 1H), 1.72 (m, 5H),

1.22 (s, 5H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 150 MHz): δ 161.5, 143.7, 132.9, 130.2, 129.6, 128.6, 127.1, 126.7, 126.3, 125.8, 123.6, 122.4, 121.9, 43.7, 38.8, 33.7, 26.5, 26.3. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁸

tert-butyl 2-(phenanthridin-6-ylmethyl)morpholine-4-carboxylate (4q)



4q was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (61.2 mg, 54%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.8-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.67-

7.64 (m, 1H), 4.23-4.17 (m, 2H), 3.87 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 3.71-3.67 (m, 1H), 3.55-3.42 (m, 2H),

3.03-2.87 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.7, 143.6, 132.9, 131.4, 130.4, 129.8, 128.6, 127.3, 126.6, 126.4, 125.8, 123.7, 122.4, 121.9, 79.9, 75.2, 66.7, 28.4. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₇N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: calcd 379.2016, found .379.2020.

tert-butyl (S)-2-(phenanthridin-6-ylmethyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4r)



4r was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (85.4 mg, 79%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, *ee* = 97% (HPLC: 254 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 10.69 min, t_r (min) = 8.97 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +77.1 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ {8.80 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz) + 8.50 (d,

J = 7.8 Hz, 8.67-8.62 (m, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.63 (m, 4H), 4.49-4.45 (m, 1H), {4.19 (d, J = 11.0 Hz, 0.5H) + 3.99 (dd, J = 12.8 Hz, $J_2 = 3.6 \text{ Hz}$, 0.5 H)}, 3.51-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.18-3.09 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.67 (m, 4H), {1.54 (s, 4.5H) + 1.50 (s, 4.5 H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9 & 159.4 (due to rotamer), 154.8 & 154.5 (due to rotamer), 143.8 & 143.7 (due to rotamer), 132.9 & 132.7 (due to rotamer), 130.4 , 129.8 & 129.7 (due to rotamer), 128.6 & 128.4 (due to rotamer), 127.84 & 127.82 (due to rotamer), 127.5 & 127.4 (due to rotamer), 127.2 & 127.1 (due to rotamer), 126.6 (due to rotamer), 126.6 (due to rotamer), 125.8 & 125.6 (due to rotamer), 122.4 & 122.0 (due to rotamer), 121.9, 79.8 & 79.1 (due to rotamer), 57.1 & 56.9 (due to rotamer), 46.9 & 46.5 (due to rotamer), 41.2 & 40.4 (due to rotamer), 30.0 & 28.9 (due to rotamer), 28.7, 23.5 & 22.7 (due to rotamer). HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₆N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 363.2067, found 363.2069. Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.¹⁹

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4r:

DAD1A Sig=254.4 Ref=off

Signal



				g 201,1 100 01	0, 10 1, 1,0	orginali
Name	Area%	Height	Area	Width [min]	Туре	RT [min]
	49.5273	420.19	6530.703	1.39	BB	8.972
	50.4727	364.26	6655.374	1.60	VBA	10.709

Figure S1. The HPLC chart of rac-4r



000 10,01	g-204,4 1061-011				
Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
BB	1.18	623.450	40.57	1.4824	
VB	1.62	41432.673	2161.85	98.5176	
	Type BB VB	Type Width [min] BB 1.18 VB 1.62	Type Width [min] Area BB 1.18 623.450 VB 1.62 41432.673	Type Width [min] Area Height BB 1.18 623.450 40.57 VB 1.62 41432.673 2161.85	Type Width [min] Area Height Area% BB 1.18 623.450 40.57 1.4824 VB 1.62 41432.673 2161.85 98.5176

Figure S2. The HPLC chart of 4r

Note: at RT, this compound appears as a mixture of rotamers. This phenomenon was widely observed in the *N*-Boc pyrrolidine derivatives.^{19,20} And this phenomenon was disappeared when the protecting group (Boc) was removed. The NMR spectra of *de-Boc-4r* was listed as blow.

(S)-6-(pyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)phenanthridine (*de-Boc*-4r)



¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 7.60 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.42 (m, 1H), 4.31-4.23 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.57-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.34-3.29 (m, 2H), 2.21-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.86 (m, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 145.6, 132.4, 130.7, 129.6, 128.6, 127.5, 126.8, 125.2, 124.7, 123.4, 122.2, 121.6, 58.2,

44.9, 35.1, 30.1, 23.4.

tert-butyl (S)-2-((2-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4s)



4s was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (78.9 mg, 70%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, ee > 99% (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 11.90 min, t_r (min) = 9.09 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +48.2 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ {8.78 (d, *J* = 7.9

Hz, 0.5H) + 8.49 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 0.5H)}, 8.63 (dd, $J_1 = 14.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 4.47-4.43 (m, 1H), {4.18 (dd, $J_1 = 12.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.3$ Hz, 0.5H) + 3.98 (dd, J = 12.9, 4.1 Hz, 0.5 H)}, 3.52-3.48 (m, 1H), 3.43-3.29 (m, 1H), 3.14-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.63 (s, 3H), 2.11-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.69 (m, 2H), {1.54 (s, 4H) + 1.52 (s. 5H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.9 & 158.4, 154.8 & 154.5, 142.1 & 142.0, 136.4

&136.1, 132.6 & 132.5, 130.3 &130.1, 130.2, 129.5 &129.4, 127.7 & 127.4, 126.9 & 126.6, 125.8 & 125.7, 123.6 & 123.5, 122.4 & 122.0, 121.5, 79.7 & 79.0, 57.1 & 56.9, 46.8 & 46.5, 41.1 &40.4, 29.9 & 28.8, 28.7, 23.5 & 22.6, 21.9. HRMS (ESI) for $C_{24}H_{29}N_2O_2$ [M+H]⁺: calcd 377.2224, found 377.2222.



Chiral HPLC Charts for **4s**:



tert-butyl (S)-2-((2-bromophenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4t)



4t was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (101.7 mg, 77%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, ee = 94% (HPLC: 254 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 12.58 min, t_r (min) = 10.16 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +92.4 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ {8.78 (d, *J* =

7.7 Hz, 0.5H)+ 8.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 0.5H)}, 8.66 (s, 1H), 8.54 (dd, $J_1 = 14.6$, $J_2 = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.99-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.88-7.70 (m, 3H), 4.46-4.43 (m, 1H), 4.15 (dd, $J_1 = 12.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.8$ Hz, 1H) + 3.94 (dd, $J_1 = 13.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.3$ Hz, 0.5H)}, 3.54-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.15-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.08-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.70 (m, 2H), {1.53 (s, 4.5H) + 1.48 (s, 4.5H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.4 & 159.9, 154.8 & 154.5, 142.44 & 142.36, 131.9 & 131.7, 131.6, 131.44 & 131.35, 130.7, 128.5 & 127.8, 127.5 & 126.6, 125.9 & 125.7, 125.4 & 125.2, 124.8, 122.4 & 122.0, 120.5 & 120.3, 79.8 & 79.1, 57.0 & 56.8, 46.8 & 46.5, 41.1 & 40.4, 30.0 & 29.0, 28.6, 23.5 & 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₆BrN₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 441.1172, found 441.1175.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4t:



RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
10.274	BV	1.35	17690.281	880.02	49.3363	
12.677	VBA	1.94	18166.265	790.46	50.6637	

Figure *S5*. The HPLC chart of rac-4t



Figure *S6*. The HPLC chart of 4t

methyl (S)-6-((1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl)phenanthridine-2-carboxylate (4u)



4u was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (85.7 mg, 68%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column, *ee* = 96% (HPLC: 254 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 19.19 min, t_r (min) = 20.56 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +115$ (c 1.0,

CH₂Cl₂). ¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.29 (s, 1H), {8.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H) + 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H)}, 8.73 (dd, *J*₁ = 15.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.33 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.8 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.71 (m, 1H), 4.49 (dd, *J*₁ = 14.3 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.1 Hz, 3H), {4.19 (dd, *J*₁ = 12.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.7 Hz, 0.5H) +3.97 (dd, *J*₁ = 13.0Hz, *J*₂ = 4.3 Hz, 0.5H)}, 3.54-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.19-3.09 (m, 1H), 2.16-2.07 (m, 3H), 1.90-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.49 (dd, *J*₁ = 24.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 10 Hz, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.52 & 166.49, 162.4 & 161.9, 154.7 & 154.4, 146.10 & 146.05, 132.9 & 132.7, 130.9, 129.8 & 129.7, 128.6 & 128.3, 128.0 & 127.9, 127.7 & 127.5, 126.7, 125.9 & 125.7, 124.6, 123.3 & 123.1, 122.6 & 122.2, 79.7 & 79.1, 61.3 & 61.2, 57.0 & 56.8, 46.8 & 46.4, 41.3 & 40.6, 30.1 & 28.9, 28.6, 23.5 & 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₅H₂₉N₂O₄ [M+H]⁺: calcd 421.2122, found 421.2126.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4u:



Figure S7. The HPLC chart of rac-4u



Signal:	DAD1 254	.0;4 Ref off				
RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
19.190	BV	2.21	5288.271	139.08	97.8654	
20.559	VB	1.71	115.345	2.70	2.1346	

Figure S8. The HPLC chart of 4u

tert-butyl (S)-2-((2-cyanophenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4v)



4v was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (89.4 mg, 77%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column, *ee* = 97% (HPLC: 254 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 80/20, flow rate 0.6 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 8.56 min, t_r (min) = 8.97 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +16.0$ (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

8.87 (s, 1H), {8.81 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 0.5H) + 8.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H)}, 8.59 (dd, $J_1 = 18.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.19-8.16 (m, 1H), 7.96-7.75 (m, 3H), 4.46 (s, 1H), {4.17 (dd, $J_1 = 12.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.9$ Hz, 0.5H) + 3.96 (dd, $J_1 = 13.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.1$ Hz, 0.5H) 3.51-3.32 (m, 2H), 3.21-3.10 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.74 (m, 2H), {1.51 (s, 5H) + 1.45 (s, 4H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.5 & 163.0, 154.8 & 154.4, 145.44 & 145.38, 131.7 & 131.53, 131.47, 131.0 & 130.9, 130.2 & 130.0, 129.1 & 128.5, 127.7, 126.9, 126.1 & 126.0, 124.02 & 2123.9, 122.4 & 122.0,109.9 & 109.6, 79.8 & 79.2, 57.0 & 56.8, 53.4, 46.8 & 46.4, 41.3 & 40.6, 30.2 & 29.1, 28.6, 23.5 & 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₆N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 388.2020, found 388.2022.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4v:



Signal:	DAD1 254	.0;4 Ref off				
RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
8.564	BV	0.62	2130.112	179.42	49.6671	
9.013	VB	0.91	2158.664	175.15	50.3329	

Figure *S9*. The HPLC chart of rac-4v



Figure *S10*. The HPLC chart of 4v

tert-butyl (S)-2-((3-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4w)



4w was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (100.6 mg, 78%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, *ee* > 99% (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 7.95 min, t_r (min) = 6.80 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +24.4 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ

{8.85 (s, 1.5H), 8.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 0.5H)}, 8.65 (dd, $J_1 = 14.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.23-8.21 (m, 1H), 7.93-7.89 (m, 2H), {7.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.5H) + 7.75 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 0.5H)}, 4.47 (s, 1H), {4.19 (dd, $J_1 = 12.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.1$ Hz, 0.5H) + 3.94 (dd, $J_1 = 12.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.7$ Hz, 0.5H)}, 3.52-3.49 (m, 1H), 3.47-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.21-3.11(m, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 3H), 1.89-1.73 (m, 2H), {1.53 (s, 5H) + 1.48 (s, 5H) + 1.48 (s, 5H)}

4H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 162.4 & 161.9, 154.7 & 154.4, 145.1, 132.4 & 132.3, 131.0 & 130.6, 130.5, 128.6, 128.0, 127.6, 126.8, 126.0 & 125.9, 125.5, 124.5 & 124.3, 124.4 (q, *J* = 260 Hz) 123.4 & 123.3, 122.4 & 122.0, 119.8 (q, *J* = 3.75 Hz), 79.8 & 79.1, 57.0 & 56.8, 46.9 & 46.4, 41.1 & 40.5, 30.0 & 29.0, 28.6, 23.5 & 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₆F₃N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 431.1941, found 431.1944.



Chiral HPLC Charts for 4w:







4x was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (83.6 mg, 71%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, ee > 99% (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 7.00 min, t_r (min) = 6.40 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +65.9 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.52-8.45 (m, 3H), 8.11

(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 1H), 4.41-4.21 (m, 1H), {4.16 (s, 2.5 H) + 4.00 (s, 0.5H)}, 3.53-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.34-3.31 (m, 1H), 2.99-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.24-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.67 (m, 1H), {1.53 (s, 7H) + 1.30 (s, 2H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.3 & 159.2, 154.7, 142.9, 129.6, 127.3, 127.2, 127.0, 126.4, 124.1, 123.5, 121.9, 121.4, 107.4, 79.1, 57.1 & 56.2, 46.8, 41.3, 28.9, 28.6, 26.9, 23.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₉N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 393.2173, found 393.2175.



Chiral HPLC Charts for 4x:

Figure *S13*. The HPLC chart of rac-4x



Signal:	VWD1A,W	avelength=210 nm				
RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
6.403	BB	0.37	13.371	1.41	0.3848	
6.997	BB	1.23	3461.589	269.89	99.6152	

Figure *S14*. The HPLC chart of 4x

tert-butyl (S)-2-((8-methylphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4y)



4y was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (83.4 mg, 74%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, ee = 97 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 8.42 min, t_r (min) = 7.22 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +59.3 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H),

8.74-8.43 (m, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.57(m, 4H), 4.47-4.46 (m, 1H), 4.22-4.00 (m, 1H), 3.55-3.34 (m, 3H), 3.14 (s, 1H), 3.13-3.07 (m, 1H), 2.12-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.2 & 159.7, 154.8 & 154.5, 144.94 & 144.87, 135.6, 135.2, 134.7 & 134.6, 132.4, 130.1 & 129.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.3 & 127.1, 126.5, 125.9 & 125.7, 125.5 & 125.1, 79.7 & 79.1, 57.1 & 56.9, 46.8 & 46.5, 41.6 & 40.9, 29.9 & 28.9, 28.7, 26.9, 23.5 & 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₉N₃O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 377.2224, found 377.2226. Chiral HPLC Charts for **4y**:



				avelength=210 nm	VWD1A,W	Signal:	
Name	Area%	Height	Area	Width [min]	Туре	RT [min]	
	49.0777	1385.36	17427.808	0.64	BB	7.320	
	50.9223	1215.56	18082.862	0.78	BB	8.370	

Figure *S15*. The HPLC chart of rac-4y



Figure S16. The HPLC chart of 4y

tert-butyl (S)-2-((8-(trifluoromethyl)phenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4z)



4z was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (69.4 mg, 54%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, ee > 99 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 6.845 min, t_r (min) = 6.064 min). [α]_D²⁵ = +18.9 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ {9.16 (s, 0.6H) +

8.53-8.52 (m, 1.4 H)}, 8.73-8.68 (m, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.67 (m, 1H), 4.51 (d, *J* = 39.1 Hz, 1H), {4.17-4.06 (m, 0.6H) + 3.97-394 (m, 0.4H)}, 3.52-3.34 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.12 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.86 (m, 4H), {1.48 (s, 5H), 1.28(s, 4H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.8 & 159.2, 154.8 & 154.4, 144.4, 135.0 & 134.9, 130.0, 129.8, 129.5, 127.09, 126.8,

 $126.2 \& 126.2, 125.2 \& 125.0, 123.7 \& 123.5, 123.1, 122.8 \& 122.6, 122.3, 79.4 \& 79.2, 57.1 \& 56.7, 46.7 \& 46.3, 40.8 \& 40.6, 31.0 \& 29.6, 28.5 \& 28.3, 22.9 \& 22.6. HRMS (ESI) for C_{24}H_{29}N_2O_3 [M+H]^+: calcd 431.1941, found 431.1944.$

Chiral HPLC Charts for **4z**:



Name	Area%	Height	Area	Width [min]	Туре	RT [min]
	48.9653	1998.47	24200.173	0.63	BB	6.064
	51.0347	2011.21	25222.906	0.82	BBA	6.811

Figure <i>S17</i> .	The	HPLC	chart	of rac-	4z
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Figure *S18*. The HPLC chart of rac-4z

tert-butyl (S)-2-((8-(trifluoromethoxy)phenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate

(4za)



4za was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (95.0 mg, 71%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, *ee* > 99% (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 95/5, flow rate 0.4 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 12.32 min, t_r (min) = 9.19 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +70.3 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ {8.71-8.65 (m,

1.45H) + 8.22 (s, 0.5H)}, 8.54-8.52 (m, 1H), 8.16-8.14 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.64 (m, 3H), 4.45 (s, 1H), {4.06 (dd, $J_1 = 12.7 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 2.1 \text{ Hz}, 0.5\text{H})$, 3.94 (dd, $J_1 = 13.2 \text{ Hz}, J_2 = 4.7 \text{ Hz}, 0.5\text{H})$ }, 3.54-3.51 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.31 (m, 1H), 3.19-3.12 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.83 (m, 4H), {1.49 (s, 4H), 1.44 (s, 5H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.24 & 159.21, 158.61 & 158.58, 154.7 & 154.5, 148.1 & 147.9, 143.8, 131.5 & 131.3, 130.02 & 130.01, 129.1 & 128.9, 127.1 & 126.8, 124.7 & 124.3, 123.8, 123.0 & 122.8, 121.9, 120.6 (q, J = 264.2 Hz), 118.8 & 118.2, 79.8 & 79.2, 57.0 & 56.6, 46.7 & 46.5, 41.0 & 40.5, 30.3 & 29.4, 28.5, 23.7 & 22.7. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₆F₃N₃O₃ [M+H]⁺: calcd 447.1890, found 447.1893. Chiral HPLC Charts for **4za**:



RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
9.176	VBA	1.22	1023.107	65.10	49.3407	
12.317	BB	0.97	1050.451	52.20	50.6593	



Figure *S19*. The HPLC chart of rac-4za



tert-butyl (S)-2-((7,9-dimethylphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4zb)



4zb was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (78.5 mg, 67%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, *ee* = 97% (HPLC: 210 nm, n-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 9.40 min, t_r (min) = 8.57 min). $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ = +85.5 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H

NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.50 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), {4.22 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 0.5H), 4.05 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 0.5H)}, 3.51-3.34 (m, 3H) 3.01 (d, J = 35.2 Hz, 3H), 2.57(s, 3H), 2.12-1.68 (m, 4H), {1.47 (s, 4H), 1.32 (s, 5H)}; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 154.7, 143.0, 139.5, 134.6, 133.5, 129.4, 128.2, 126.1, 124.4, 123.4, 122.1, 120.6, 120.4, 79.1 & 78.9, 56.9, 46.8 & 46.4, 44.9 & 44.3, 31.8 & 30.2, 28.5, 26.3 & 26.0, 23.5 & 22.9, 21.7. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₅H₃₁N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: calcd 391.2380, found 391.2184.



Chiral HPLC Charts for 4zb:

9.284

VBA

Figure S21. The HPLC chart of rac-4zb

26975.270

1699.03

50.9843

0.79



Figure S22. The HPLC chart of 4zb

tert-butyl (S)-2-((10-methoxyphenanthridin-6-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (4zc)



4zc was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (61.1 mg, 53%). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak IG-3 column, *ee* > 99% (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 10.73 min, t_r (min) = 11.70 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +112.0$ (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂).

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.49 (dd, $J_1 = 8.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.46-8.14 (m, 2H), 7.77-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.49-4.46 (m, 1H), 4.20-3.98 (m, 2H), 4.16 (s, 3H), 3.55-3.31 (m, 2H), 3.15-3.06 (m, 1H), 2.14-2.02 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.9 & 158.5, 154.8 & 154.5, 144.3, 129.5 & 129.4, 127.9, 127.7, 127.3, 126.4, 126.2, 123.6 & 123.5, 123.4 & 123.2, 119.7, 118.9, 111.6 & 111.5, 79.7 & 79.0, 57.0 & 56.8, 55.8, 46.8 & 46.5, 41.6 & 40.9, 29.9 & 28.9, 28.7, 23.5 & 22.7. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₉N₂O₃ [M+H]⁺: calcd 393.2173, found 393.2175.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4zc:



Signal:	VWD1A,W	/WD1A,Wavelength=210 nm				
RT [min]	Туре	Width [min]	Area	Height	Area%	Name
10.697	VV	1.08	24083.689	1265.03	50.3764	
11.668	VBA	1.91	23723.777	1034.18	49.6236	





Figure *S24*. The HPLC chart of 4zc

tert-butyl (R)-(3-methyl-1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)butan-2-yl)carbamate (4zd):



4zd was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (86.25 mg, 83%, 96% *ee*). Mp: 144-146 °C Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak AD column, *ee* = 96 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 10.856 min, t_r (min) = 7.494 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ =

+8.2 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.66 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (dd, J_1 = 8.1 Hz, J_2 = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, J_1 = 8.1, J_2 = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.62 (m, 1H), 5.24 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.12-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.65 (dd, J_1 = 14.2, J_2 = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, J = 14.1, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.20 (s, 9H), 1.10 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.4, 155.8, 143.4, 132.9, 130.5, 129.6,

128.5, 127.5, 126.5, 126.1, 125.6, 123.8, 122.5, 121.9, 78.7, 55.6, 38.1, 31.7, 28.1, 19.4, 18.1. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 365.2224, found 365.2226. Chiral HPLC Charts for **4zd**:



Figure S26. The HPLC chart of 4zd

tert-butyl (S)-(1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)propan-2-yl)carbamate (4ze)



4ze was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as white solid (89.6 mg, 89%, 93% *ee*). Mp:155-157 °C. Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak ID column, *ee* = 93 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 14.398 min, t_r (min) = 12.758 min).

[α]_D²⁵ = +22.4 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.65 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, J_1 = 8.1 Hz, J_2 = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 1H), 5.29 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.69 (m, 1H), 3.40 (dd, J_1 = 13.9 Hz, J_2 = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 1.37 (s, 9H), 1.29 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.1, 155.4, 143.4, 132.9, 130.5, 129.7, 128.6, 127.6, 126.6, 126.4, 125.7, 123.7,

122.4, 121.9, 79.0, 46.5, 42.4, 28.3, 20.7. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₃H₂₈N [M+H]⁺: calcd 337.1911, found 337.1907.







tert-butyl (S)-(1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)-3-phenylpropan-2-yl)carbamate (4zf)



4zf was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as white solid (93.5 mg, 76%). Mp:139-141°C. Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak ID column, *ee* = 93 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 13.998 min, t_r (min) = 12.732 min). $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +19.5$ (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.63 (d,

J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 7Hz, 1H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 5H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 4.52 (s, 1H), 3.58-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.45 (m, 1H), 3.18-3.16 (m, 1H), 3.03-2.99 (m, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.0, 155.5, 143.4, 138.6, 132.8, 130.5, 129.7, 129.6, 128.6, 128.4, 127.5, 126.6, 126.4, 126.1, 125.6, 123.7, 122.4, 122.0, 79.0, 51.7, 40.7, 38.7, 28.3. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₇H₂₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 413.2224, found 413.2223.









Peak	RetTime	Туре	Width	Area	Height	Area
#	[min]		[min]	[mAU*s]	[mAU]	%
1	12.732	BV E	0.4365	142.64622	5.03466	3.4138
2	13.998	VB R	0.5297	4035.92822	117.80275	96.5862

Figure *S30*. The HPLC chart of 4zf

tert-butyl (S)-(4-methyl-1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)pentan-2-yl)carbamate (4zg):



4zg was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as white solid (86.3 mg, 76%). Mp:122-124 °C. Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak ID column, *ee* = 94 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 9.076 min, t_r (min) = 6.309 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +41.0$ (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.65 (d, *J*

= 8 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, J_1 = 8.1 Hz, J_2 = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.83 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 1H), 5.18 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1H), 3.61-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.51-3.47 (m, 1H), 1.75 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 1.62-1.57 (m, 1H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H), 0.93 (d, J = 7Hz, 3H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.2, 155.6, 143.5, 132.8, 130.4, 129.8, 128.5, 127.5, 126.5, 126.3, 125.8, 123.7, 122.4, 121.9, 78.8, 48.7, 44.1, 41.3, 28.3, 25.1, 23.2, 22.1. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₃₁N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 379.2380, found 379.2383.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4zg:



Figure S31. The HPLC chart of rac-4zg



Figure *S32*. The HPLC chart of 4zg

tert-butyl (*R*)-3-(phenanthridin-6-ylmethyl)piperidine-1-carboxylate (4zh)



4zh was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: DCM to PE/EA = 5/1) as colorless liquid (80.0 mg, 71%, 91% *ee*). Enantiomeric excess was established by HPLC analysis by using a Daicel Chiralpak ID column, *ee* = 91 % (HPLC: 210 nm, *n*-Hexane/isopropanol = 90/10, flow rate 0.5 mL/min, 30 °C, t_r (major) = 17.14 min, t_r (min) = 10.82 min). $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +34.6$

(c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂). ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J* = 8.1Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.19-3.94 (m, 2H), 3.35-2.23 (m, 2H), 2.84-2.79 (m, 2H), 2.28 (s, 1H), 2.04 (s, 1H), 1.84 (s, 1H), 1.65 (s, 1H), 1.47-1.34 (m, 10H); ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.9, 154.9, 143.6, 132.9, 130.3, 129.7, 128.6, 127.3, 126.4, 126.2, 125.5, 123.6, 122.5, 121.9, 79.2, 50.1, 44.4, 39.5, 36.1, 31.1, 28.3, 24.9. HRMS (ESI) for C₂₄H₂₉N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: calcd 377.2224, found 377.2225.

Chiral HPLC Charts for 4zh:





Figure S34. The HPLC chart of 4zh

3.4 3 mmol-scale synthesis of 4a



Procedure: To a flame-dried Schlenk tube was added **1a** (3 mmol, 538 mg), 4CzIPN (0.15 mmol, 118 mg) and Hantzsch ester (912 mg, 3.6 mmol). The tube was evacuated and refilled with N_2 for three times. A solution of aldehyde **2a** (13.5 mmol, 784 mg), amine **3b** (13.5 mmol, 1.37 g) in 1,4-dioxane (75.0 mL) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was irradiated at a distance of 3 cm from 15 W blue LED and stirred at 25 °C for 14 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with the indicated mixture of ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether (PE) to give pure **4a** (484.7 mg, 73%).

4. Mechanistic Studies

4.1 Radical scavenging experiment.



The procedure is similar as the one described in the model reaction of **1a** and **2a** under the standard reaction conditions except the addition of 2.0 equivalents of TEMPO. Radical-scavenging experiment indicated the reaction was completely suppressed when 2.0 equiv. TEMPO was added into the reaction mixture.

4.2 Formation and detection of intermediate 6 when the reaction time was shorten to 4 h.



Characterization of **6**:

N,N-diethyl-1-(phenanthridin-6-yl)propan-1-amine (6)



6 was isolated via column chromatography (eluent: PE/EA = 10/1) as a colorless liquid (12.8 mg, 20%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.79 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dd, *J*₁ = 8.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.72 (m, 1H), 7.70-7.64 (m, 2H), 4.56 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.72-2.61 (m, 4H),

2.56-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.12-2.01 (m, 1H), 1.53-1.39 (m, 4H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 0.74 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.8, 143.3, 133.0, 130.4, 129.8, 128.2, 127.3, 126.6, 126.4, 126.4, 123.8, 122.1, 121.8, 66.5, 53.4, 21.6, 20.1, 12.0, 11.8.

4.3 Probing experiment on possible reaction intermediate.



Procedure for the conversion of **6** to **4a**: To a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube was added **6** (0.3 mmol), 4CzIPN (0.015 mmol). The tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times. 1,4-dioxane (7.5 mL) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was irradiated at a distance of 3 cm from 15 W blue LED and stirred at 25 °C for 14 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with the indicated mixture of ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether (PE) to give **4a** (90%).



Procedure for the conversion of 7 to 8: To a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube was added 7 (0.3 mmol), 4CzIPN (0.015 mmol). The tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times. 1,4-dioxane (7.5 mL) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was irradiated at a distance of 3 cm from 15 W blue LED and stirred at 25 °C for 14 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with the indicated mixture of ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether (PE) to give 8 (67%).

Characterization of 8:

2-propylquinoline (8):



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.92-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

162.9, 147.8, 136.3, 129.4, 128.8, 127.5, 126.7, 125.7, 121.4, 41.2, 23.3, 14.0. Its analytical data are
consistent with the documented data.²¹

4.4 Detection of byproduct 4a'



Characterization of 4a':

6-ethylphenanthridine (4a')



¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.68 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, $J_1 = 8.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.60 (m, 1H), 3.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). Its analytical data are consistent with the documented data.²²

4.5 KIE experiment.



Procedure: To a 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk tube was added **1a** (26.9 mg, 0.15 mmol), **1a**-*d5* (27.6 mg, 0.15 mmol) 4CzIPN (11.8 mg, 0.015 mmol) and Hantzsch ester (91.2 mg, 0.36 mmol). The tube was evacuated and refilled with N₂ for three times. A solution of aldehyde **2a** (78.3 mg,1.35 mmol), amine **3b** (136.0 mg, 1.35 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (7.5 mL) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was irradiated at a distance of 3 cm from 15 W blue LED and stirred at 25 °C for 14 h. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (200-300 mesh), eluting with the indicated mixture of ethyl acetate (EA)/petroleum ether (PE) to give pure **4a** and **4a**-*d4* (31.4 mg, 47%). The $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D}$ was calculated to be 1.0 according to the analysis of ¹H NMR spectrum of **4a** and **4a**-*d4*.



Figure *S35.* ¹H NMR spectrum of **4a** and **4a**-*d4* for KIE experiments.

4.6 Deuterium-labeling experiments





Figure S36. ¹H NMR spectrum for Deuterium-labeling experiments.

5. References

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6. Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra













































































































































