Supplementary Information

Indazolin-3-ylidenes (Indy*): Easily Accessible, Sterically-Hindered Indazole-Derived N-Heterocyclic

Carbenes and Application in Gold Catalysis

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1. Additonal Information Referred to from the Main Manuscript

The %buried volume (%V_{bur}) and steric maps

Interestingly, the Indy* ligands are characterized by unsymmetrical quadrant distribution (**5a**: SE: 53.7%, NE: 36.9%, NW: 24.8%, SW, 34.8%; **5b**-mol1: SE: 49.3%, NE: 46.5%, NW: 24.6%, SW, 24.3%; **5b**-mol2: SE: 40.1%, NE: 47.8%, NW: 24.5%, SW, 25.2%) with 19.1-21.0% average difference between the SE/NE and NW/SW quadrants ($\Delta_{(SE+SE)/2-(NW+SW)/2}$). As expected, the N-2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)aryl wingtip extends beyond the metal coordination sphere (**5a**: mean: C29–Au–C11, C17: 0.854 Å; C19: 0.938 Å; **5b**-mol1: mean: C43–Au1–C36, C55: 1.054 Å; C77: 0.898 Å; **5b**-mol2: mean: C79–Au2–C82, C17: 0.809 Å; C81: 0.998 Å). It is well-recognized that this structural arrangement is important in substrate approach and coordination of intermediates during the catalysis, while ligands with the extended and flexible sterics are privileged in various catalytic cycles and mechanisms.



Chart S1. Topographical steric maps of Au(I) complexes **5a–5b**, Au[(N,N-Et₂–Indy)Cl] and [Au(IMes)Cl] showing %V_{bur} per quadrant.

Ion chromatography studies for the possibility of halogen scrambling

The identity of halogen anions of complexes **5a-5b** was ultrasonically extracted with deionized water, followed by a centrifugation procedure to ensure efficient separation. Subsequently, these species were ascertained via ion chromatography (model 940 Professional IC Vario, Metrohm) with column of MetrosepA Supp 5 (250 mmH×4.0 mm IC) and conductivity detector.

The peak corresponding to the chloride anion was conspicuously discernible in the ion chromatogram, while no such peak emerged for the iodide anion, indicating its absence within the analyzed sample (Chart S2-S5).



Chart S2. Ion chromatography of 5a, 5b and Cl⁻ standard.





Chart S3. Ion chromatography of 5a, 5b and I⁻ standard.

Chart S4. Ion chromatography of Cl⁻ standard.



Chart S5. Ion chromatography of I⁻ standard.

2. General Information

All starting materials reported in the manuscript have been previously described in literature or prepared by the method reported previously. All experiments were performed using standard Schlenk techniques under nitrogen or argon unless stated otherwise. All solvents were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received or after purification by passing through activated alumina columns or distillation from sodium/benzophenone under nitrogen. All other chemicals were purchased at the highest commercial grade and used as received. All products were identified using ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR analysis and comparison with authentic samples. Reaction glassware was oven-dried at 140 °C for at least 24 h or flame-dried prior to use, allowed to cool under vacuum and purged with argon (three cycles). All yields refer to yields determined by ¹H NMR using an internal standard (optimization) unless stated otherwise. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or DMSO d_6 on a Bruker Ascend spectrometers at 400 (¹H NMR) and 100 MHz (¹³C NMR) or 600 (¹H NMR) and 150 MHz (¹³C NMR). All shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual CHCl₃ peak (7.26 and 77.16 ppm, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR, respectively), DMSOd₆ peak (2.50 and 39.52 ppm, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR, respectively). All coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Abbreviations are: s = singlet, brs = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet. Dibromomethane was used as an internal standard to determine NMR yields. Infrared spectra (IR) data were recorded on a Bruker INVENIO spectrometer and recorded in wavenumbers (cm'). High resolution mass spectra were acquired on a Q-Exactive Focus Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer (Thermo Fisher). Single crystal diffraction data were recorded on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer with Mo Ka radiation. All flash chromatography was performed using silica gel, 60 Å, 300 mesh. TLC analysis was carried out on glass plates coated with silica gel 60 F254, 0.2 mm thickness. The plates were visualized using a 254 nm ultraviolet lamp. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and MS data are given for all compounds in the Supporting Experimental for characterization purposes.

3. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

3.1. General Procedure for Preparation of Indazolin-3-ylidene Precursors



2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylaniline (1a)

A 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with diphenylmethanol (18.42 g, 100 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) and *p*-toluidine (5.36 g, 50 mmol, 2.0 equiv.). The solid mixture was heated in an oil bath at 60 °C until a brown-black liquid was obtained. A colorless solution of anhydrous zinc chloride (3.41 g, 25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in concentrated hydrochloric acid (36% in H₂O, 4.3 mL, 50 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added dropwise to the eutectic melt. The temperature of the oil bath was then increased to 160 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 3 h in the open vessel. After cooling to room temperature, the glassy solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred into a separatory funnel. The organic solution was washed with water and dried over anhydrous K₂CO₃. Silica gel was added and the resulting suspension was filtered by gravity. The filtrate was of sufficient purity for the next step. (21.26 g, 97%).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 8H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 8H), 6.38 (s, 2H), 5.45 (s, 2H), 2.02 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 143.0, 139.8, 129.7, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 126.9, 126.7, 52.6, 21.1. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[1]

2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyaniline (1b)

A 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with diphenylmethanol (18.42 g, 100 mmol, 4 equiv.) and 4-methoxyaniline (6.16 g, 50 mmol, 2 equiv.). The solid mixture was heated in an oil bath at 60 °C until a brown-black liquid was obtained. A colorless solution of anhydrous zinc chloride (3.41 g, 25 mmol, 1equiv.) in concentrated hydrochloric acid (36% in H₂O, 4.3 mL, 50 mmol, 2equiv.) was added dropwise

to the eutectic melt. The temperature of the oil bath was then increased to 160 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 3 h in the open vessel. After cooling to room temperature, the glassy solid was dissolved in dichloromethane and transferred into a separatory funnel. The organic solution was washed with water and dried over anhydrous K_2CO_3 . Silica gel was added and the resulting suspension was filtered by gravity. The filtrate was concentrated using a rotary evaporator and washed with ether to obtain product **1b** that was of sufficient for the next step. (21.63 g, 95%).



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 7.30 - 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 8H), 6.20 (s, 2H), 5.48 (s, 2H), 3.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 151.9, 142.6, 135.9, 131.0, 129.6, 128.7, 126.8, 114.5, 55.2, 52.6. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[1]



(*E*)-*N*-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-1-(2-nitrophenyl)methanimine (2a) A mixture of *o*-nitrobenzaldehyde (6.04 g, 40 mmol, 1equiv.) and 1a (21.10 g, 48 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was stirred in anhydrous ethanol (80 mL) with dozens of drops of formic acid at 80 °C overnight. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed with anhydrous ethanol to obtain product 2a. (21.64 g, 94%)



2a

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 8.03 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.22 - 7.17 (m, 8H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 7.02 (s, 8H), 6.65 (s, 2H), 5.46 (s, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.9, 149.2, 148.1, 143.8, 133.1, 133.0, 132.9,

131.3, 129.8, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 126.4, 124.4, 52.1, 21.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{33}N_2O_2^+$: 573.2537; found : 573.2517.

(E)-N-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-nitrophenyl)methanimine (2b)

A mixture of *o*-nitrobenzaldehyde (6.04 g, 40 mmol, 1equiv.) and **1b** (21.87 g, 48 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was stirred in anhydrous ethanol (80 mL) with dozens of drops of formic acid at 80 °C overnight. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed with anhydrous ethanol to obtain product **2b**. (22.43 g, 95%)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.24 - 7.17 (m, 8H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 8H), 6.42 (s, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 3.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 160.4, 156.0, 149.2, 144.1, 143.5, 134.7, 132.9, 131.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 126.5, 124.4, 114.2, 55.3, 52.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₄₀H₃₃N₂O₃⁺ : 589.2486; found: 589.2466.



2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-2*H*-indazole (3a)

Compound **2a** (17.18 g, 30 mmol, 1 equiv.) and triethyl phosphite (24.92 g, 150 mmol, 5 equiv.) were loaded into a sealed tube and stirred at 160 °C under argon for 12 h. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford the product **3a**. (14.71 g, 91%)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 7.85 - 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.16 – 7.12 (m, 6H), 7.05 – 7.01 (m, 5H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 6.82 – 6.77 (m, 4H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 149.4, 143.3, 143.0, 141.7, 139.3, 137.1, 129.6, 129.5, 129.1, 128.3, 127.8, 126.5, 126.4,

121.6, 121.1, 120.7, 117.9, 51.1, 22.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{33}N_2^+$: 541.2638; found: 541.2629.

2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2H-indazole (3b)

Compound **2b** (17.66 g, 30 mmol, 1 equiv.) and triethyl phosphite (24.92 g, 150 mmol, 5 equiv.) were loaded into a sealed tube and stirred at 160 °C under argon for 12 h. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography to afford the product **3b**. (14.92 g, 89%)



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 7.90 - 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.39 - 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.31 - 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.23 - 7.17 (m, 8H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.9 Hz, 4H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 159.6, 149.4, 143.6, 143.0, 142.8, 132.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.3, 128.3, 128.0, 126.5, 126.4, 121.6, 121.1, 120.7, 117.8, 55.3, 51.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₄₀H₃₃N₂O⁺ : 557.2587; found: 557.2571.



2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indazol-2-ium iodide (4a)

An excess of CH₃I (7.10 g, 50 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added to a solution of compound **3a** (5.41 g, 10 mmol, 1 equiv.) in CH₃CN (15 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The residue was subsequently washed with diethyl ether to give the product **4a**. (5.43 g, 80%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.86 (s, 1H), 7.97 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 - 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 12H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.92 - 6.87 (m, 4H), 5.04 (s, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 143.6, 143.4, 141.4, 140.5, 136.2, 130.6, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 129.0, 128.3, 127.7, 127.5,

123.6, 119.7, 112.4, 51.1, 33.1, 22.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z: $[M-I]^+$ Calcd for $C_{41}H_{35}N_2^+$:555.2795; Found: 555.2784.

2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indazol-2-ium iodide (4b)

An excess of CH₃I (7.10 g, 50 mmol, 5 equiv.) was added to a solution of compound **3b** (5.57 g, 10 mmol, 1 equiv.) in CH₃CN (15 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure. The residue was subsequently washed with diethyl ether to give the product **4b**. (5.51 g, 79%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 8.74 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 - 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 - 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 12H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 6.90 - 6.84 (m, 4H), 6.60 (s, 2H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 162.4, 145.6, 140.3, 140.0, 139.2, 136.1, 135.2, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 127.8, 127.5, 126.2, 123.8, 122.5, 119.4, 115.7, 111.5, 55.6, 52.1, 33.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M-I]⁺ Calcd for C₄₁H₃₅N₂O⁺:571.2744; Found : 571.2736.

3.2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of NHC-Gold(I) Complexes



(2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-1-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-3-yl)gold(I) chloride (5a)

Ag₂O (139 mg, 0.60 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added to a solution of salt **4a** (341 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred for 6 h at ambient temperature, shielded from light. The reaction mixture was then filtered through Celite directly into a solution of [AuCl(SC₄H₈)] (160 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 6 h at ambient temperature. The suspension was filtered through Celite and the solvent of the filtrate was removed under vacuum. The resulting residue was washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum, affording the product **5a**. (342 mg, 87%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 22.6, 7.4 Hz, 12H), 6.90 (s, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 143.1, 141.8, 141.7, 139.9, 138.6, 133.0, 132.7, 130.4, 129.9, 129.6, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.5, 127.1, 126.8, 122.9, 108.5, 51.1, 31.2, 22.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M-Cl]⁺ Calcd for C₄₁H₃₄AuN₂⁺ : 751.2382; Found : 751.2310. Elemental analysis: Calcd for C₄₁H₃₄AuN₂Cl: C 62.56%, H 4.354%, N 3.56%; Found: C 63.86%, H 4.363%, N 3.61%.

(2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indazol-3-yl)gold(I) chloride (5b)

Ag₂O (139 mg, 0.60 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) was added to a solution of salt **4b** (349 mg, 0.50 mmol, 1equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL). The resulting suspension was stirred for 6 h at ambient temperature, shielded from light. The reaction mixture was then filtered through Celite directly into a solution of [AuCl(SC₄H₈)] (160 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 6 h at ambient temperature. The suspension was filtered through Celite and the solvent of the filtrate was removed under vacuum. The resulting residue was washed with diethyl ether and dried under vacuum, affording the product **5b**. (353 mg, 88%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 3.8 Hz, 4H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 12H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 6.58 (s, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.4, 161.1, 145.1, 141.4, 139.7, 138.6, 133.0, 129.8, 129.5, 129.3, 128.6, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.1, 126.9, 122.8, 115.2, 108.5, 55.4, 51.4, 31.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M-Cl]⁺ Calcd for C₄₁H₃₄AuN₂O⁺ : 767.2331; Found : 767.2329. Elemental analysis: Calcd for C₄₁H₃₄AuN₂OCl: C 61.31%, H 4.267%, N 3.49%; Found: C 62.58%, H 4.335%, N 3.51%.

3.3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of [(NHC)RhCl(CO)2] Complexes



[(NHC)Rh(CO)₂Cl] (6a). A 25 mL round-bottomed flask was equipped with a septum and a stir bar and flame-dried under a stream of argon. The flask was charged with *t*-BuOK (45 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and THF (2 mL) and cooled with an ice bath. [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (99 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was introduced, and the resulting orange solution was stirred for 15 min in the ice bath and then for 45 min at room temperature. The salt **4a** (246 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.8 equiv.) was added, and the reaction mixture evolved progressively from orange to yellow. After 8 h, the homogeneous solution was filtered through Celite with DCM as eluent and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow solid. Then the yellow solid was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and exposed to an atmosphere of CO (flask was equipped with a CO balloon connected via a syringe and a septum). After bubbling CO through the solution for 1 h the solvent was removed and the pure product **6a** as a yellowish-brown solid was obtained by column chromatography. (240 mg, 89%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.55 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 8H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 6.66 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.24 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.0, 185.7, 184.0, 183.6, 183.5, 183.3, 143.6, 142.1, 141.2, 140.8, 139.0, 133.6, 132.6, 131.6, 130.7, 130.5, 130.0, 129.9, 128.5, 128.0, 127.0, 126.6, 122.5, 51.2, 31.5, 22.1. FT-IR (CH₂Cl₂): v~ (CO_{sym}) 2070 cm⁻¹ (s) and v~ (CO_{asym}) 1990 cm⁻¹ (s).

[(NHC)Rh(CO)₂Cl] (6b). A 25 mL round-bottomed flask was equipped with a septum and a stir bar and flame-dried under a stream of argon. The flask was charged with *t*-BuOK (45 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and THF (2 mL) and cooled with an ice bath. [Rh(COD)Cl]₂ (99 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was introduced, and the resulting orange solution was stirred for 15 min in the ice bath and then for 45 min at room temperature. The salt **4b** (252 mg, 0.36 mmol, 1.8 equiv.) was added, and the reaction mixture evolved progressively from orange to yellow. After 8 h, the homogeneous solution was filtered through Celite with DCM as eluent and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow solid. Then the yellow solid was dissolved in DCM (5 mL). The solution was cooled to 0 °C and exposed to an atmosphere of CO (flask was equipped with a CO balloon connected via a syringe and a septum). After bubbling CO through the solution for 1 h the solvent was removed and the pure product **6b** as a yellowish-brown solid was obtained by column chromatography. (242 mg, 88%)



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 8H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.09 (q, J = 5.7 Hz, 6H), 6.82 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 6.74 (s, 2H), 6.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.0, 185.7, 184.0, 184.0, 183.8, 183.5, 160.8, 145.6, 141.9, 140.6, 138.9, 132.6, 131.6, 130.7, 130.0, 129.9, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 127.0, 126.7, 122.5, 115.3, 108.8, 55.5, 51.5, 31.4. FT-IR (CH₂Cl₂): v~ (CO_{sym}) 2070 cm⁻¹ (s) and v~ (CO_{asym}) 1989 cm⁻¹ (s).

3.4. General Procedure for the Synthesis of NHC - Selenium Complexes



2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-1-methyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-indazole-3-selenone (7a)

An oven-dried vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with salt 4a (341 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Se (59 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and *t*-BuOK (67 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was placed under argon and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under vacuum. Dry THF was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The suspension was filtered through Celite and the solvent of the filtrate was removed under vacuum. The product **7a** was obtained by column chromatography. (269 mg, 85%).



¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 7.17 - 7.07 (m, 8H), 6.91 (s, 2H), 6.88 - 6.79 (m, 4H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.1, 144.3, 142.6, 140.9, 140.8, 140.3, 132.6, 130.5, 129.7, 128.4, 128.1, 126.9, 126.7, 126.4, 122.0, 108.4, 52.0, 31.3, 22.0. ⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.40. HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₄₁H₃₅N₂Se⁺:635.1960; Found: 635.1951.

2-(2,6-Dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-indazole-3-selenone (7b)

An oven-dried vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with salt **4b** (349 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Se (59 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and *t*-BuOK (67 mg, 0.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was placed under argon and subjected to three evacuation/backfilling cycles under vacuum. Dry THF was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The suspension was filtered through Celite and the solvent of the filtrate was removed under vacuum. The product **7b** was obtained by column chromatography. (279 mg, 86%).



¹H NMR (600 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.29 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.13 (dd, J = 10.3, 5.3 Hz, 8H), 6.88 - 6.83 (m, 4H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 2H), 5.23 (s, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃)) δ 163.4, 160.9, 146.4, 142.5, 140.6, 140.3, 132.7, 129.7, 129.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.0, 126.9, 126.6, 125.7, 122.1, 115.4, 108.5, 55.4, 52.3, 31.3. ⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 152.88. HRMS (ESI) m/z : [M+H]⁺ Calcd for C₄₁H₃₅N₂OSe⁺ : 651.1909; Found : 651.1902.

3.5 General Procedure for the Cyclisation of Propargylic Amides.



An oven-dried vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with propargylic amides (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), Au catalyst **5b** (1.0 mol%), NaBAr^F₄ (1.0 mol%) in 0.5 M DCM. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 8 h. The volatiles were removed in vacuo and the products were purified by column chromatography.

5-Methylene-2-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9a)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9a** was isolated as a colorless oil in 97% yield (30.9 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (q, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 158.9, 132.0, 128.6, 128.2, 126.8, 84.0, 57.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[2] **5-Methylene-2-(***o***-tolyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9b)**



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9b** was isolated as a yellow oil in 94% yield (32.5 mg).¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 4.81 – 4.76 (m, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H).¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.1, 158.5, 139.3, 131.5, 131.1, 129.9, 126.1, 125.8, 83.4, 22.0. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[3]

5-Methylene-2-(*m*-tolyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9c)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9c** was isolated as a yellow oil in 94% yield (32.5 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.79 – 7.74 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.1, 159.0, 138.4, 132.8, 128.7, 128.6, 126.7, 125.3, 83.9, 57.8, 21.4. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[4]

5-Methylene-2-(*p*-tolyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9d)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9d** was isolated as a yellow solid in 95% yield (32.9 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 159.1, 142.4, 129.4, 128.1, 124.1, 83.7, 57.9, 21.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[5]

2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9e)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9e** was isolated as a yellow solid in 71% yield (30.5 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9, 159.1, 155.5, 128.0, 125.6, 124.1, 83.7, 57.9, 35.2, 31.3.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9f)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9f** was isolated as a white solid in 96% yield (34.0 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.79 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.34 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.6, 162.6, 159.1, 129.9, 119.3, 114.0, 83.6, 57.8, 55.5. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[6] **5-Methylene-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9g)**



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9g** was isolated as a white solid in 70% yield (34.9 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22 (s, 2H), 4.83 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 6H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR

(151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.7, 153.3, 141.3, 122.0, 84.0, 61.1, 57.9, 56.4. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[4]

4-(5-Methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)benzonitrile (9h)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9h** was isolated as a white solid in 54% yield (19.9 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (q, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.4, 158.4, 132.4, 130.9, 128.7, 118.2, 115.4, 84.9, 58.1. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[7]

5-Methylene-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9i)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9i** was isolated as a white solid in 80% yield (36.3 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.8, 158.6, 133.4 (q, *J*= 19.7 Hz), 128.5 (q, *J* = 272.6 Hz), 125.7 (q, *J*= 3.8 Hz), 124.7, 123.0, 84.6, 58.0. ¹⁹F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.03. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[2]

2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9j)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **91** was isolated as a yellow solid in 89% yield (34,4 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (q, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.0, 158.8, 138.2, 129.5, 129.0, 125.4, 84.2, 57.9. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[5]

2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole(9k)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9k** was isolated as a white solid in 98% yield (46.4 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.82 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃ δ 163.1, 158.8, 132.0, 129.6, 126.7, 125.8, 84.3, 57.9. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[8]

2-(4-iodophenyl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (91)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **91** was isolated as a white solid in 66% yield (37.6 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (q, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (q, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.3, 158.8, 137.9, 129.6, 126.4, 99.1, 84.3, 57.93.

5-Methylene-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9m)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9m** was isolated as a colorless oil in 80% yield (33.5 mg) ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 4.87 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.0, 159.0, 135.1, 132.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.0, 126.8, 124.4, 124.1, 84.0, 58.0. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[4]

5-Methylene-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9n)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9n** was isolated as a yellow oil in 89% yield (29.4 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 4.81 (q, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (t, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.7, 158.8, 130.9, 130.5, 129.4, 127.9, 84.2, 57.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[9].

2-(furan-2-yl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (90)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **90** was isolated as a colourless liquid in 78% yield (23.2 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 3.4

Hz, 1H), 6.53 (dd, J = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.83 – 4.80 (m, 1H), 4.64 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.38 (q, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.3, 158.8, 137.9, 129.6, 126.4, 99.1, 84.3, 57.9. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[10]

2-Cyclohexyl-4,4-dimethyl-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9p)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9p** was isolated as a colorless liquid in 80% yield (30.9 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.56 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (tt, J = 11.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.00 – 1.92 (m, 2H), 1.83 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 1.49 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.33 (s, 6H), 1.27 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.4, 166.9, 81.4, 68.3, 37.4, 29.8, 29.6, 25.9, 25.7. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[7]

4,4-Dimethyl-5-methylene-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9q)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9q** was isolated as a white solid in 92% yield (42.7 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.80 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.5, 158.3, 149.8, 132.9, 129.3, 123.8, 83.6, 69.8, 29.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[12]

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-4,4-dimethyl-2-(p-tolyl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9r)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9r** was isolated as a white solid in 95% yield (52.7 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 160.0, 142.5, 135.2, 129.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 126.2, 124.2, 99.3, 70.9, 29.8, 21.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[7]

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-4,4-dimethyl-2-phenyl-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9s)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9s** was isolated as a yellow solid in 86% yield (53.0 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 1.56 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0, 158.2, 149.8, 134.6, 132.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.0, 126.6, 123.8, 100.4, 71.5, 29.6. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[11]

(Z)-5-Benzylidene-4,4-dimethyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9t)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9t** was isolated as a white solid in 84% yield (45.2 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (dd, J = 3.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (dd, J = 5.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.4Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 4.9, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 1.53 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 155.7, 135.0, 131.1, 130.6, 129.5, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 126.4, 99.6, 71.2, 29.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report^[7]. **2-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-5-methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazole (9u)**



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9u** was isolated as a white solid in 80% yield (32.5 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 2H), 4.77 (q, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 4.33 (q, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.4, 159.1, 150.8, 148.0, 123.3, 120.9, 108.3, 101.8, 83.6, 57.8. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[7]

4-(5-Methylene-4,5-dihydrooxazol-2-yl)-*N*,*N*-dipropylbenzenesulfonamide (9v)



After purification (Silica Gel, n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) **9v** was isolated as a white solid in 63% yield (40.6 mg). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.85 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 – 3.07 (m, 4H), 1.54 (h, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.5, 158.5, 143.3, 130.0, 128.6, 127.1, 84.6, 57.9, 49.9, 21.9, 11.2. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[7]

2.6. General Procedure for the Hydroamination and Hydrohydrazination of <u>Alkynes</u>



In air, a vial was charged with [NHC–Au] catalyst **5b** (0.5 mol%), NaBAr^F₄ (1 mol%) and the phenylacetylene (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). After stirring for five minutes, aniline (0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added as a solution and the reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at 80 °C.

(E)-N,1-Diphenylethan-1-imine (10)



After purification using Florisil eluting with a gradient mixture of n-hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1. **10** was isolated as a yellow oil in 98% yield (38.2 mg).¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 3H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 – 6.74 (m, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 151.8, 139.6, 130.6, 129.1, 128.5, 127.3, 123.4, 119, 17.5. The spectroscopic data were consistent with the data reported in previous report.^[13]

	\sim	[Au(NHC)CI] NaBAr ^F 4	N	
		CH ₂ Cl ₂ , 25 °C, 8 h	9	
ontru	optolyct	[Au–NHC]	additiva	yield
entry catalyst	(mol%)	additive	(%)	
1	[Au(Indy*)Cl]	1.0	NaBAr ^F 4	95
2	[Au(Indy*MeO)Cl]	1.0	NaBAr ^F ₄	97
3	[Au(IMes)Cl]	1.0	NaBAr ^F ₄	52
4	[Au(IPr)Cl]	1.0	NaBAr ^F ₄	76

 Table S1. Catalyst Effect on Au–NHC-Catalyzed Amide Cycloisomerization^a

^aConditions: **8** (1.0 equiv), Au–NHC (1.0 mol%), NaBAr^F₄ (1.0 mol%), CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 8

h.

4. Crystallographic Studies



Figure S1. Crystal structure of **5a** (50% ellipsoids). Hydrogen atoms and counterion have been omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Au–C1, 1.981(3); Au–Cl, 2.284(1); N1–C1, 1.337(4); N1–C18, 1.444(4); C1–C22, 1.420(4);C1–Au–Cl, 175.42(9); C1–N1–C18, 128.2(3); N1–C1–C22, 105.0(3). (Crystallographic data has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center as supplementary publication no. CCDC 2158126).

Table S2. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement Summary for 5a.

Crystal data

$C_{41}H_{34}AuClN_2$	F(000) = 1560
$M_r = 787.12$	$D_{\rm x} = 1.547 {\rm ~Mg} {\rm ~m}^{-3}$
Monoclinic, $P2_1/n$	Mo K α radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å
a = 9.6522 (15) Å	Cell parameters from 9967 reflections
<i>b</i> = 17.489 (3) Å	$\theta = 2.3 - 27.4^{\circ}$
c = 20.153 (3) Å	$\mu = 4.46 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 96.606 \ (5)^{\circ}$	T = 273 K
$V = 3379.4 (10) \text{ Å}^3$	Block, colourless
Z = 4	

Data collection

Bruker APEX-II CCD	6468 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
diffractometer	
ϕ and ω scans	$R_{\rm int} = 0.051$
Absorption correction: multi-scan	$\theta_{max} = 27.5^{\circ}, \theta_{min} = 2.3^{\circ}$
SADABS2016/2 (Bruker,2016/2) was used for	
absorption correction. wR2(int) was 0.1548	
before and 0.0626 after correction. The Ratio	
of minimum to maximum transmission is	
0.4749. The $\lambda/2$ correction factor is Not	
present.	
$T_{\min} = 0.354, T_{\max} = 0.746$	$h = -12 \rightarrow 12$
118513 measured reflections	$k = -22 \rightarrow 22$
7768 independent reflections	<i>l</i> = -26→26

Refinement

Refinement on F^2	Primary atom site location: dual
Least-squares matrix: full	Hydrogen site location: inferred from neighbouring sites
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.028$	H-atom parameters constrained
$wR(F^2) = 0.059$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0147P)^2 + 4.3527P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
<i>S</i> = 1.13	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.001$
7768 reflections	$\Delta \rangle_{\rm max} = 0.76 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
408 parameters	$\Delta \rangle_{\rm min} = -1.23 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$
0 restraints	



Figure S2. Crystal structure of **5b** (50% ellipsoids). Hydrogen atoms and counterion have been omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Au1–C24, 1.983(7); Au1–C1, 2.296(2); N1-C24, 1.348(8); N1–C8, 1.444(4); C1–C24, 1.450(7); C24–Au1–C1, 177.0(2); C24–N1–C8, 128.7(5); N1–C24–C1, 105.4(5). (Crystallographic data has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center as supplementary publication no. CCDC 2158125.)

Table S3.	Crystal Data	and Structure	Refinement	Summary for	5b.
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Crystal data

$2(C_{41}H_{34}AuClN_2O)$	F(000) = 3184
$M_r = 1606.23$	$D_{\rm x} = 1.551 {\rm ~Mg} {\rm ~m}^{-3}$
Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$	Mo K α radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å
a = 26.499 (4) Å	Cell parameters from 9915 reflections
<i>b</i> = 11.4792 (15) Å	$\theta = 2.4 - 27.3^{\circ}$
c = 22.902 (3) Å	$\mu = 4.39 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 99.026 \ (4)^{\circ}$	T = 273 K
$V = 6880.1 (15) Å^3$	Block, colourless
Z = 4	

Data collection

Bruker APEX-II CCD	7737 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
diffractometer	
ϕ and ω scans	$R_{\rm int}=0.175$
Absorption correction: multi-scan	$\theta_{max}=25.0^\circ,\theta_{min}=2.1^\circ$
SADABS2016/2 (Bruker,2016/2) was used for	
absorption correction. wR2(int) was 0.1103	
before and 0.0871 after correction. The Ratio	
of minimum to maximum transmission is	
0.8262. The $\lambda/2$ correction factor is Not	
present.	
$T_{\min} = 0.616, \ T_{\max} = 0.746$	$h = -31 \rightarrow 31$
179149 measured reflections	$k = -13 \rightarrow 13$
12126 independent reflections	$l = -27 \rightarrow 27$

Refinement

Refinement on F^2	Primary atom site location: dual
Least-squares matrix: full	Hydrogen site location: inferred from neighbouring sites
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.042$	H-atom parameters constrained
$wR(F^2) = 0.088$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0183P)^2 + 13.3639P]$ where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
<i>S</i> = 1.04	$(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} = 0.002$
12126 reflections	$\Delta \rangle_{\rm max} = 0.87 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
833 parameters	$\Delta \rangle_{\rm min} = -0.86 \ {\rm e} \ {\rm \AA}^{-3}$
0 restraints	

5. Computational Details

Computational Methods. For frontier orbital calculations, all of the calculations were performed using Gaussian 09 suite of programs. All of the geometry optimizations were performed at the B3LYP level of theory in the gas phase and the 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. For geometry optimizations, we employed the X-ray structures of gold(I) chloride complexes of 2-(2,6-dibenzhydryl-4-methylphenyl)-1-methyl-1*H*-indazol-2-ium and 2 - (2, 6 dibenzhydryl-4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methyl-1H-indazol-2-ium as the starting geometry and performed full optimization. The absence of imaginary frequencies was used to characterize the structures as minima on the potential energy surface. All of the optimized geometries were verified as minima (no imaginary frequencies). Energetic parameters were calculated under standard conditions (298.15 K and 1 atm). Structural representations were generated using CYLview software (Legault, C. Y. CYLview version 1.0 BETA, University of Sherbrooke). All other representations were generated using GaussView (GaussView, version 5, Dennington, R.; Keith, T.; Millam, J. Semichem Inc., Shawnee Mission, KS, 2009) ChemCraft (Andrienko, G. L. ChemCraft version b562a, or software https://www.chemcraftprog.com).

Additional Discussion. It is now established that computation of HOMO and LUMO provides the most accurate estimation of nucleophilicity (higher HOMO) and electrophilicity (lower LUMO) of NHC ligands. The HOMO of Indy^{*} (-5.68 eV) and Indy^{*MeO} (-5.64 eV) indicate significantly stronger σ -donation than IPr (-6.01 eV), which is a standard electronic model for σ donating NHCs. Furthermore, the LUMO of Indy^{*} (-1.24 eV) and Indy^{*MeO} (-1.20 eV) are also lower than the corresponding π -accepting orbital of IPr (-0.48 eV). Moreover, the HOMO–1 orbital (π -donor) of Indy^{*} (-6.07 eV) and Indy^{*MeO} (-6.03 eV) can be compared with the corresponding orbital for IPr (-6.55 eV). Thus, it is evident that Indy^{*} ligands combine the steric properties of 2,6bis(diphenylmethyl)aryl N-wingtip substitution with σ -donating and π -electronic character of non-classical N-heterocyclic carbenes.



Chart S6. (A) Graphical representation of HOMO and LUMO energy levels (eV). B3LYP 6-311++g(d,p) level. (B) HOMO and LUMO of Indy*.

6. NMR Spectra







Figure S6. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 1b



Figure S8. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 2a



Figure S10. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 2b



Figure S12. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound **3a**



Figure S14. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound **3b**



Figure S16. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) Spectrum of Compound 4a



Figure S18. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 4b


Figure S20. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 5a



Figure S22. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 5b



Figure S24. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 6a



Figure S26. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 6b



Figure S28. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 7a











Figure S32. ⁷⁷Se NMR (114 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 7b



Figure S34. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9a



Figure S36. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9b



Figure S38. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9c



Figure S40. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9d



Figure S41. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9e



Figure S42. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9e



Figure S44. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9f



Figure S46. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9g



Figure S48. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9h



Figure S50. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9i



Figure S52. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9j



Figure S54. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9k



Figure S56. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 91



Figure S57. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 91



Figure S58. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9m



Figure S60. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound **9n**



Figure S62. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 90



Figure S63. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 90



Figure S64. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9p



Figure S65. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound **9p**



Figure S71. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9q



Figure S72. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9q



Figure S69. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9r



Figure S70. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9r



Figure S67. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9s



Figure S68. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9s



Figure S73. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9t



Figure S74. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9t



Figure S75. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9u



Figure S77. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 9v





Figure S79. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 10



Figure S80. ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) Spectrum of Compound 10

7. References

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8. Cartesian Coordinates with Zero-Point Energies and Thermal Corrections Indy*

Energy: -1692.687986 au

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies: -1692.021386 au

Geometry:

Ν	0.38641700	2.00653700	0.13644500
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Н	-2.32409400	-2.65450000	-1.18211000
С	-4.80292000	-1.65681500	-0.14102200
Н	-4.97153700	-1.18100800	-1.09990000
С	0.11770400	2.28006200	-1.26551300
Н	0.30055300	1.38122200	-1.85053200
Н	0.81737600	3.04609200	-1.60304700
Н	-0.91066200	2.61743200	-1.42677000
С	0.14744500	2.27105100	2.36315200
С	-3.15994400	0.70452600	-0.86641800
С	-3.68332300	-1.31266400	0.61983400
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С	3.01782200	0.05998800	-2.37767500
Н	2.37079000	-0.74302900	-2.70988500
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С	5.25122700	-3.15620500	0.54077100
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С	0.42609900	2.93183400	1.13896800
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Н	4.12104000	1.59216300	0.43263700
С	0.43850900	4.35898600	3.51685500
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Н	-6.24857600	-3.93571200	1.93117100
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Н	-2.37649300	0.27812000	1.04840300
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S71

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Indy*^{Me0}

Energy: -1767.917310 au

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies: -1767.244882 au Geometry:

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S73

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S74

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