S-1

Supplementary Information

Hydride-Free Reduction of Propargyl Electrophiles: A Nickel-Catalyzed Photoredox Strategy for Allene Synthesis.

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1. General remarks

Methods: All reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of argon. Reaction glassware was oven-dried prior to use. ¹H, and ¹³C spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 or 400 spectrometers at 298 K. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in parts per million. ¹H and ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ ($\delta_{\rm H}$ with reference to the solvent resonance at 7.26 ppm). NMR yields were determined by adding fluorobenzene (¹⁹F NMR) as an internal standard to the crude reaction mixtures and by integration of crude NMR spectra. The following abbreviations and their combinations are used: br, broad; s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; quint, quintet; m, multiplet. GC-MS analyses were performed using Shimadzu GC-2010 Gas Chromatograph coupled to a GCMS-QP2010S mass spectrometer using helium as the carrier gas at a flow rate of 1.19 mL/min and an initial oven temperature of 70 °C. The column used was a Zebron 5ms (30 m length, 0.25 mm diameter and 0.25 µm thickness). The injector temperature was 250 °C. The detector temperature was 250 °C. For runs with the initial oven temperature of 70 °C, temperature was increased with a 9 °C/min ramp after 70 °C hold for 1 min to a final temperature of 240 °C, then hold at 240 °C for 8 min (split mode of injection, total run time of 27.89 min). Enantiomeric ratios (e.r.) were obtained by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) on a Shimadzu system with a chiral stationary phase (Lux-cell-1 or Lux-cell-2) and *n*-heptane/*i*PrOH as mobile phase (flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹). Flash chromatographies were performed using normal phase 40–63 µm silica gel columns. TLC analyses were carried out on pre-coated TLC-sheets ALUGRAM Xtra SIL G/UV₂₅₄. The plates were visualized using a 254 nm ultraviolet lamp.

2. Reagents, catalysts, and starting materials.

Reagents:

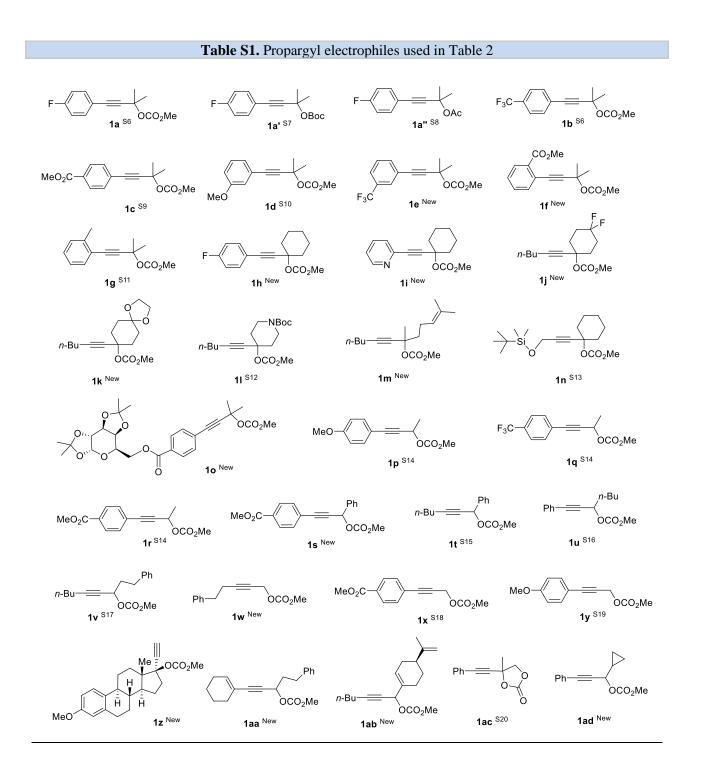
Commercially available chemicals, including nickel salts and ligands, were purchased and used without additional purification. Anhydrous solvents (on molecular sieves except for acetone) were purchased at the highest grade and used as received unless noted otherwise.

Photocatalysts:

[Ir(dF(CF₃)ppy)₂(dtbbpy)]PF₆^{S1} and 4-CzIPN ^{S2} were prepared according to reported procedures.
9,10-Diphenylanthracene (DPA, **3a**) has been purchased from TCI and used as received.
Other functionalized DPA derivatives (**3b-d**) were prepared by (modified) literature protocols: ^{S3,S4}

9-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-10-phenylanthracene (DPA-OMe, **3b**): In a 8 mL Biotage microwave vial were successively added 9-bromo-10-phenylanthracene (333.2 mg, 1 mmol, 1 equiv), 4-(methoxy)-phenylboronic acid (227.9 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), PdCl₂(dppf) (14.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and potassium carbonate (415 mg, 3 mmol, 3 equiv). Deionized water (1 mL) and dioxane (3 mL) were then added, and the vial was flushed with argon and capped. The reaction mixture was heated via microwave irradiation on a Biotage system at 120 °C for 8 h, after which time control TLC analysis showed full consumption of the bromide. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL), washed with water (30 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. Purification by flash chromatography (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) provided DPA-OMe as a yellow solid (272.7 mg, 76%). The analytical data were consistent with the literature. ^{S3}

9-(4-Methoxycarbonylphenyl)-10-phenylanthracene (DPA-CO₂Me, **3c**): In a 8 mL Biotage microwave vial were successively added 9-bromo-10-phenylanthracene (333.2 mg 1 mmol, 1 equiv), 4- (methoxycarbonyl)-phenylboronic acid (270 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv), PdCl₂(dppf) (14.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and potassium carbonate (415 mg, 3 mmol, 3 equiv). Deionized water (1 mL) and dioxane (3 mL) were then added, and the vial was flushed with argon and capped. The reaction mixture was heated via microwave irradiation on a Biotage system at 120 °C for 20 minutes, after which time control TLC analysis showed full consumption of the bromide. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL), washed with water (30 mL), and dried over MgSO₄. Purification by flash chromatography (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) provided DPA-CO₂Me as a yellow solid (373 mg, 96%). The analytical data were consistent with the literature. ^{S4}



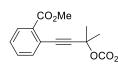
Propargyl electrophiles: Propargyl electrophiles used in this study (Table S1) were prepared using literature methods. ^{85-S20}

Preparation of unpublished propargyl carbonates: ^{S5} Preparation of propargyl carbonates **1e** and **1f**

OCO₂Me F₃C

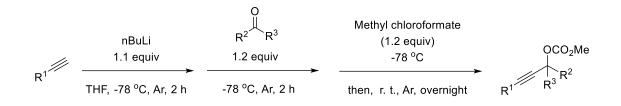
Methyl (2-methyl-4-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-yn-2-yl) carbonate (1e):

To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of the propargyl alcohol precursor, 2-methyl-4-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-3-yn-2-ol ^{S21} (1.0 g, 4.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), in dry THF (15 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (1.94 mL, 4.84 mmol, 1.1 equiv, 2.5 M in hexane) dropwise under argon, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h while maintaining the cooling. Then, methyl chloroformate (0.41 mL, 5.28 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirred overnight. The reaction medium was then quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 4), washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (20:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.2 g (95% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 – 7.69 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.0. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.49, 134.9 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz), 130.9 (q, *J* = 32.3 Hz), 128.71, 128.6 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 125.0 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J* = 270.8 Hz), 123.3, 91.0, 82.9, 74.3, 54.3, 28.7. GC-MS = 286 m/z.



Methyl 2-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methylbut-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (1f):

To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of the propargyl alcohol precursor, methyl 2-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbut-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate ^{S22} (1.0 g, 4.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv), in dry THF (15 mL) was added LDA (2.53 mL, 5.06 mmol, 1.1 equiv, 2 M in THF/heptane/ethyl benzene) dropwise under argon, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h while maintaining the cooling. Then, methyl chloroformate (0.43 mL, 5.52 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirred overnight. The reaction medium was then quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 10 mL), washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 0.5 g (40% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.57 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.45 (td, *J* = 6.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, *J* = 9.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 153.4, 134.1, 132.1, 131.5, 130.3, 128.1, 122.6, 94.1, 83.2, 74.7, 54.2, 52.0, 28.7. GC-MS = 276 *m/z*.



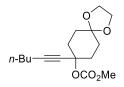
Preparation of propargyl carbonates 1h, 1i, 1j, 1k, and 1m according to the following reaction sequence:

General conditions: To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of the selected alkyne (1.0 equiv) in dry THF (0.3 M) was added *n*-BuLi (1.1 equiv, 2.5 M in hexane) dropwise under argon, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h while maintaining the cooling. Then, the selected ketone (1.2 equiv) was added, and the resulting solution was stirred for an additional 2 h at -78 °C. Then, methyl chloroformate (1.2 equiv) was added; the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight, after which time it was quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 4), washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford the corresponding propargyl carbonate.

 OCO_2Me *1-((4-Fluorophenyl)ethynyl)cyclohexyl methyl carbonate (1h)*: Obtained according to general conditions (6 mmol scale). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (30:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.0 g (60% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.32 – 2.18 (m, 2H), 2.01 – 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.77 – 1.51 (m, 5H), 1.42 – 1.27 (m, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -110.8. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.6 (d, *J* = 250.5 Hz), 153.33, 133.8 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 118.6 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 115.4 (d, *J* = 22.2 Hz), 88.1, 85.6, 78.1, 54.3, 37.0, 25.0, 22.8. GC-MS = 276 m/z.

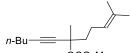
 2H), 1.75 – 1.66 (m, 4H), 1.62 – 1.49 (m, 1H), 1.45 – 1.32 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.3, 149.9, 142.9, 136.0, 127.5, 123.0, 88.4, 85.9, 54.3, 36.8, 25.0, 22.6. GC-MS = 259 *m*/*z*.

OCO₂Me *4,4-Difluoro-1-(hex-1-yn-1-yl)cyclohexyl methyl carbonate (1j)*: Obtained according to general conditions (6 mmol scale). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (30:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.12 g (68% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.28 – 2.18 (m, 6H), 2.11 – 1.96 (m, 4H), 1.56 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -98.3 (d, $J_{F-F} = 253.8$ Hz, 1F), -99.3 (d, $J_{F-F} = 253.8$ Hz, 1F). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.3, 122.1 (t, J = 240 Hz), 88.2, 75.5, 54.4, 33.5 (t, J = 4.5 Hz), 30.5, 30.3 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 21.9, 21.9, 18.4, 13.5. GC-MS = 274 *m/z*.

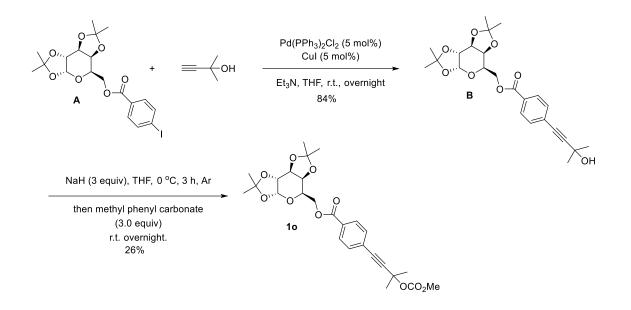


8-(Hex-1-yn-1-yl)-1,4-dioxaspiro[4.5]decan-8-yl methyl carbonate (1k):

Obtained according to general conditions (6 mmol scale). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (20:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.54 g (86% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.93 (s, 4H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.26 – 2.13 (m, 6H), 1.86 – 1.68 (m, 4H), 1.55 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.4, 107.5, 87.3, 78.5, 64.3, 64.2, 54.2, 34.5, 31.1, 30.5, 21.8, 18.3, 13.5. GC-MS = 296 *m/z*.



 OCO_2Me **2,6-Dimethyldodec-2-en-7-yn-6-yl methyl carbonate** (*Im*): Obtained according to general conditions (7.2 mmol scale). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (30:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 0.96 g (60% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.16 – 5.06 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.26 – 2.12 (m, 4H), 2.03 – 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 6H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.53 – 1.35 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.5, 132.1, 123.3, 86.4, 79.6, 77.9, 54.1, 41.6, 30.6, 26.6, 25.6, 23.1, 21.8, 18.3, 17.5, 13.5. GC-MS = 266 *m/z*.



Preparation of propargyl carbonate **10** according to the following reaction sequence:

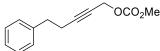
((3aR, 5R, 5aS, 8aS, 8bR) - 2, 2, 7, 7-tetramethyltetrahydro-5H-bis([1,3]dioxolo)[4, 5-b:4', 5'-d]pyran-5-

yl)methyl 4-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-methylbut-1-yn-1-yl)-benzoate (10). Iodoaryl compound A ^{S23} (2.37g, 4.8 mmol, 1 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (168.5 mg, 0.24 mmol, 0.05 equiv), CuI (45.7 mg, 0.24 mmol, 0.05 equiv), THF (10 mL), triethylamine (15 mL), and 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (0.51 mL, 5.28 mmol, 1.1 equiv) were added to a 50 mL Schlenk flask with a stir bar under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, then filtered through celite® and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (5:1 of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford 1.88 g (84% yield) of pure propargyl alcohol (**B**) as a solid [¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 8.02 - 7.94 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 7.49 - 7.43 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 5.57 \text{ (d, } J = 3.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 4.66 \text{ (dd, } J = 6.0, 100 \text{ Hz}, 100 \text{ Hz})$ 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 – 4.29 (m, 2H), 4.21 – 4.14 (m, 1H), 1.63 (s, 6H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H)]. To a cooled (0 °C) suspension of NaH (64 mg of sodium hydride dry 90%, 2.67 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in dry THF (5 mL) was added a solution of propargyl alcohol B (397.4 mg, 0.89 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) dropwise under argon. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 3 h at room temperature. Then, the reaction medium was cooled again to 0 °C, and methyl phenyl carbonate (0.27 mL, 2.67 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction medium was quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 4), washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (10:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 117 mg (26% yield) of pure carbonate **1o** as an oil. ¹H NMR (**300** MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 5.56 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.42 (dd, J = 12.12.0, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.36 – 4.29 (m, 2H), 4.20 – 4.13 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.79 (s, 6H), 1.50 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 153.5, 131.7, 129.7, 129.5, 127.2, 109.7, 108.8, 96.0, 92.3, 83.8, 74.5, 71.1, 70.7, 70.5, 66.1, 64.1, 54.4, 28.8, 25.99, 25.95, 25.0, 24.5, 23.8. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for $C_{26}H_{32}NaO_{10} m/z$: 527.1888 [M+Na], Found: 527.1883.

Preparation of propargyl carbonate 1s:

MeO₂C . OCO₂Me Methyl 4-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)-3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (1s). Preparation of the propargyl alcohol precursor: Methyl 4-iodobenzoate (3.42 g, 13.0 mmol, 11.15 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (220 mg, 0.3 mmol, 0.03 equiv), CuI (60 mg, 0.3 mmol, 0.03 equiv), disopropylamine (50 mL), and 1-phenyl-2-propyn-1-ol (1.4 mL, 11.35 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to a 100 mL Schlenk flask with a stir bar under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, then filtered through celite® and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (5:1 of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford 3.0 g (99% yield) of pure methyl 4-(3-hydroxy-3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate as a solid. The analytical data were consistent with the literature. ^{\$24} Propargyl carbonate: To a solution of the propargyl alcohol precursor (1.1 g, 4.13 mmol, 1 equiv) in dichloromethane (20 mL) were successively added DMAP (50.5 mg, 0.13 mmol, 0.1 equiv), pyridine (1.67 mL, 20.6 mmol, 5.0 equiv), and methyl chloroformate (1.0 mL, 12.9 mmol, 3.0 equiv) under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, then concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (20:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.2 g (90% yield) of pure carbonate as a solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.64 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.47 – 7.3 (m, 3H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, **CDCl**₃) δ 166.3, 154.8, 136.1, 131.8, 130.1, 129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 127.7, 126.5, 87.6, 87.0, 70.0, 55.1, 52.2. **GC-MS** = 324 m/z.

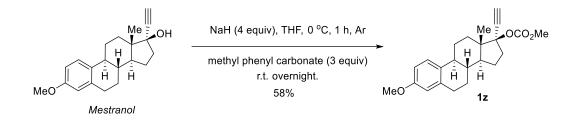
Preparation of propargyl carbonate 1w:



Methyl (5-phenylpent-2-yn-1-yl) carbonate (1w): To a solution of the propargyl alcohol precursor, 5-phenylpent-2-yn-1-ol ^{S25} (1.15 g, 7.16 mmol, 1 equiv), in dichloromethane (20 mL) were successively added DMAP (52.2 mg, 0.43 mmol, 0.06 equiv), pyridine (5.8 mL, 71.6 mmol, 10.0 equiv), and methyl chloroformate (1.22 mL, 15.8 mmol, 2.2 equiv) under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature overnight, then concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (30:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.41 g (90% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 –

7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 4.71 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.83 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.57 – 2.47 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.3, 140.4, 128.4, 126.3, 87.6, 74.1, 56.1, 55.0, 34.7, 20.9. GC-MS = 218 *m*/*z*.

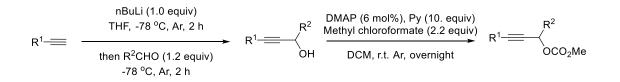
Preparation of propargyl carbonate 1z:



(8R,9S,13S,14S,17R)-17-Ethynyl-3-methoxy-13-methyl-7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-decahydro-6H-

cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-17-yl-methyl carbonate (1z). (N.B.: Methyl phenyl carbonate proved more effective than methyl chloroformate in the conversion of Mestranol to carbonate 1z. Procedure adapted from the literature ^{\$26}): To a cooled (0 °C) suspension of NaH (76.8 mg of sodium hydride dry 90%, 3.2 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in dry THF (5 mL) was added a solution of commercially available mestranol (248.4 mg, 0.8 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) dropwise under argon, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. Then, methyl phenyl carbonate (0.24 mL, 2.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction medium was then quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL \times 4), washed with NaOH (1 M) and brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (100:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 170.3 mg (58% yield) of pure carbonate 1z as a solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (d, J = 8.7Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 6H), 2.90 - 2.71 (m, 3H), 2.68 (s, 1H), 2.42 – 1.97 (m, 4H), 1.93 – 1.70 (m, 4H), 1.53 – 1.33 (m, 4H), 0.94 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (**75 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 157.5, 154.4, 137.8, 132.3, 126.4, 113.8, 111.5, 86.7, 83.0, 75.6, 55.2, 54.5, 48.1 (d, J = 6.8 Hz), 43.4, 39.1, 37.4, 33.1, 29.8, 27.3, 26.3, 23.1, 13.3. **HRMS** (ESI) calcd for C₂₃H₂₈NaO₄ m/z: 391.1880 [M+Na], Found 391.1882.

Preparation of propargyl carbonates **1aa**, **1ab**, and **1ad** according to the following reaction sequence:

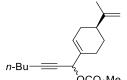


Preparation of propargyl alcohols: To a cooled (-78 °C) solution of the selected alkyne (1.0 equiv) in dry THF (0.3 M) was added *n*-BuLi (1.0 equiv, 2.5 M in hexane) dropwise under argon. The solution was then stirred for 2 h while maintaining the cooling, after which time the selected aldehyde (1.2 equiv) was added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 2 h at -78 °C. The reaction medium was then quenched with an aqueous NH₄Cl solution, extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL × 4), washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford the corresponding propargyl alcohol.

Preparation of propargyl carbonates: To a solution of the propargyl alcohol (1 equiv) in dichloromethane (0.3 M) were added DMAP (0.06 equiv), pyridine (10.0 equiv), and methyl chloroformate (2.2 equiv) under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford the propargyl carbonates.

^{CCO₂Me 1-(Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)-5-phenylpent-1-yn-3-yl methyl carbonate (1aa):}

The propargyl alcohol precursor was prepared on 6 mmol scale from 1-ethynylcyclohexene and 3-phenyl propyl aldehyde. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (10:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.33 g (92% yield) of pure propargyl alcohol as an oil. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S27} The propargyl carbonate was prepared on 5.53 mmol scale. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.32 g (80% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 3H), 6.19 – 6.11 (m, 1H), 5.35 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.84 – 2.76 (m, 2H), 2.20 – 2.06 (m, 6H), 1.67 – 1.54 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.0, 140.7, 136.2, 128.5, 128.4, 126.1, 119.8, 88.5, 82.7, 68.3, 54.8, 36.6, 31.2, 29.0, 25.6, 22.2, 21.4. GC-MS = 298 *m/z*.



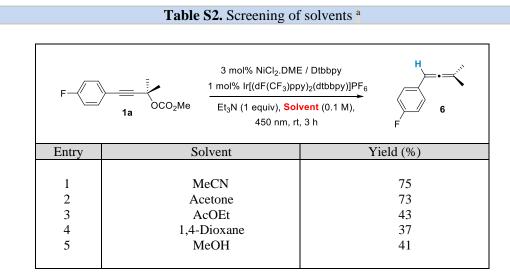
 OCO_2Me *Methyl* (1-((S)-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)hept-2-yn-1-yl) carbonate (1ab): The propargyl alcohol precursor was prepared on 15 mmol scale from 1-hexyne and (S)perillaldehyde. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (10:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 2.86 g (82% yield) of pure propargylic alcohol as an oil [¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.95 – 5.84 (m, 1H), 4.78 – 4.68 (m, 3H), 2.38 – 2.11 (m, 6H), 2.06 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.74 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.55 - 1.36 (m, 5H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H)]. The propargyl carbonate was prepared on 11.96 mmol scale. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 725.3 mg (42% yield, d.r. = 2:1) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.58 (br. s, 0.66H, CH _{major isomer}), 5.45 (br. s, 0.33H, CH _{minor isomer}), 5.22 – 5.09 (m, 1H), 4.74 – 4.67 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 1H, CH_{3 minor isomer}), 3.76 (s, 2H, CH_{3 major isomer}), 3.19 – 3.08 (m, 0.33H, CH _{minor isomer}), 2.94 – 2.83 (m, 0.66H, CH _{major isomer}), 2.57 – 1.81 (m, 5H), 2.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.70 (t, J = 0.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.62 – 1.20 (m, 7H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.9, 148.6, 148.2, 147.8, 146.8, 109.6, 109.3, 108.7, 100.6, 95.8, 94.4, 78.6, 54.8, 54.6, 43.6, 38.9, 38.5, 37.0, 31.6, 31.5, 31.0, 30.9, 30.8, 29.7, 26.9, 22.0, 20.8, 20.6, 19.2, 13.6. GC-MS = 290 *m/z*.

Ph \longrightarrow OCO_2Me *1-Cyclopropyl-3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl methyl carbonate (1ad)*: The propargyl alcohol precursor was prepared on 6 mmol scale from phenylacetylene and cyclopropanecarbaldehyde. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (10:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.01 g (98% yield) of pure propargyl alcohol as an oil. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature.^{S28} The propargyl carbonate was prepared on 5.85 mmol scale. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (100:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 1.24 g (98% yield) of pure carbonate as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 5.34 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 1.48 – 1.35 (m, 1H), 0.70 – 0.56 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 131.9, 128.7, 128.2, 122.0, 86.3, 83.7, 72.3, 54.9, 14.5, 3.7, 2.3. GC-MS = 230 *m/z*.

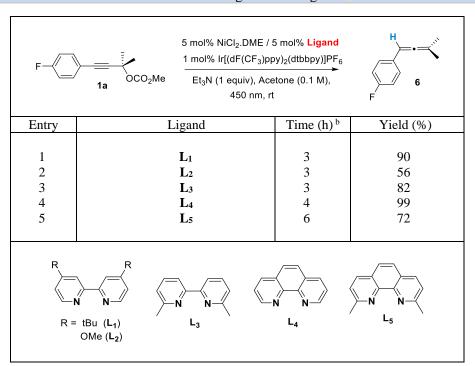
3. Selected optimization experiments.

Lighting set-up: The reactions were run using the EvoluChemTM photobox device (on a stirrer plate), under the irradiation of a 405 nm purple LED lamp (18 W, Hepatochem HCK1012-01-010) or a 450 nm blue LED lamp (30 W, Hepatochem HCK1012-01-008) with the built-in fan switched ON.

General screening (benchtop) procedure: A 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the selected nickel catalyst, ligand and photocatalyst, the vial was flushed under argon for 1 min. Then solvent (2.5 mL), Et₃N (34.8 μ l, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-yl methyl carbonate (**1a**) (59.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added under argon. The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under purple or blue light irradiation. The crude mixture was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR (internal standard: fluorobenzene, 23.5 μ l, 0.25 mmol) to determine the crude yield.



^a Reactions were performed on a 0.25 mmol scale. Yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard.



^a Reactions were performed on a 0.25 mmol scale. Yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard. ^b Time refers to completed conversion of starting material.

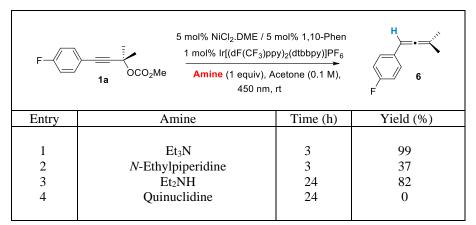
Table S4. Screening of nickel sources ^a

F	1 mol% lr[(dF(CF ₃)p) 0CO ₂ Me Et ₃ N (1 equiv), Ac	Ir[(dF(CF ₃)ppy) ₂ (dtbbpy)]PF ₆ 1 equiv), Acetone (0.1 M), 450 nm, rt			
Entry	Ni Catalyst	Time (h) ^b	Yield (%)		
$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 2\\ 3\\ 4 \end{array} $	NiCl ₂ .DME Ni(OAc) ₂ .4H ₂ O Ni(NO ₃) ₂ .6H ₂ O Ni(acac) ₂	4 5 3 24	99 95 90 68		

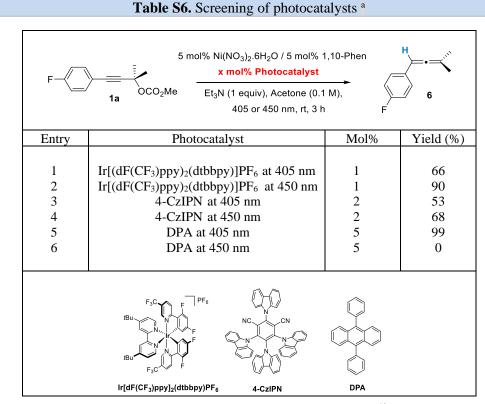
^a Reactions were performed on a 0.25 mmol scale. Yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard. ^b Time refers to completed conversion of starting material.

Table S3. Screening of nickel ligands ^a

Table S5. Screening of amines ^a



^a Reactions were performed on a 0.25 mmol scale. Yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard.



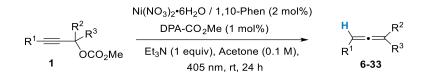
^a Reactions were performed on a 0.25 mmol scale. Yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using fluorobenzene as internal standard.

Note: 4-CzIPN and $Ir[(dF(CF_3)ppy)_2(dtbbpy)]PF_6$ showed remarkable photocatalytic activity in this reaction, especially when irradiated at 450 nm. However, their observed propensity to photo-degrade the allenyl compound, possibly due to their higher triplet energy with respect to DPA, precluded their use when prolonged reaction times proved necessary. For instance, ¹⁹F NMR monitoring of the reaction from entry 2 showed a dramatic decrease of the yield overtime, dropping from 90% after 3h to 6% after 24 h. This trend was not observed with DPA, even at a higher loading (5 mol%) of photocatalyst and higher energy (405 nm) wavelenght.

4. Synthesis and characterization of allenes.

Synthetic procedure:

The reactions were run using the EvoluChem[™] photobox device (on a stirrer plate), under the irradiation of a 405 nm purple LED lamp (18 W, Hepatochem HCK1012-01-010) with the built-in fan switched ON.



Stock solutions of the nickel catalyst, ligand, and photocatalyst were prepared and kept under argon:

Stock solution A: 10 mL vial charged with Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (100 mg, 0.344 mmol) dissolved in 5 mL of dry acetone under argon (0.0688 M).

Stock solution B: 10 mL vial charged with 1,10-phen (100 mg, 0.55 mmol) dissolved in 5 mL of dry acetone under argon (0.11 M).

Stock solution C: 10 mL vial charged with DPA-CO₂Me (42 mg, 0.11 mmol) dissolved in 8 mL of dry acetone under argon (0.01375 M).

<u>*General (benchtop) procedure:*</u> A 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the selected propargyl carbonate **1** (0.4 mmol, 1 equiv) and flushed with argon for 1 min. Then, acetone (2 mL), Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (116 μ L of stock solution A, 0.008 mmol, 0.02 equiv), 1,10-phen (73 μ L of stock solution B, 0.008 mmol, 0.02 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (291 μ L of stock solution C, 0.004 mmol, 0.01 equiv), and Et₃N (56 μ L, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added under argon. Another portion of acetone (2 mL) was finally added, and the vial was capped. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under purple light irradiation for 24 h, after which time it was concentrated under vacuum and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (appropriate mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford the corresponding allene.

Characterization of pure allenes:



F 1-Fluoro-4-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzene (6): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (100:0 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 54.5 mg (84% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.00 – 5.92 (m, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.4. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 202.9 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 161.6 (d, J = 243.5 Hz), 131.9 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 127.9 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 115.3 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 99.4, 91.6, 20.2. GC-MS = 162 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S29}



 F_3C *1-(3-Methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene* (7): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 64.2 mg (78% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.11-5.98 (m, 1H), 1.87 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ - 62.32. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.2, 140.0, 128.2 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 126.7, 125.4 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.4 (q, J = 270 Hz), 99.9, 91.8, 20.0. GC-MS = 212 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{\$30}



^{MeO₂C' *Methyl 4-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzoate (8)*: Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 70.6 mg (87% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 6.06 – 5.97 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.5, 167.1, 141.2, 129.9, 127.9, 126.4, 99.7, 92.2, 52.0, 20.1. GC-MS = 202 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S31}}

MeO

1-Methoxy-3-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzene (9): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 40.9 mg (59% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.93 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.69 (m, 1H), 6.02 – 5.91 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.2, 159.8, 137.6, 129.4, 119.3, 112.1, 111.9, 99.2, 92.5, 55.2, 20.2. GC-MS = 174 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S31}

1-(3-Methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (10): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 50.9 mg (60% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.46 – 7.34 (m, 3H), 6.06 – 5.97 (m, 1H), 1.85 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.7. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.6, 137.1, 130.9 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 129.7 (d, J = 0.75 Hz), 128.8, 124.2 (q, J = 270.8 Hz), 123.2 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 122.9 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 100.1, 91.8, 20.1. HRMS (APCI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₂F₃ m/z 213.0890 [M+H], Found 213.0886.

Methyl 2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzoate (11): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 58.2 mg (72% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.45 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.99 – 6.92 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.6, 168.0, 137.1, 131.6, 130.5, 128.4, 127.7, 125.9, 98.6, 90.3, 51.9, 20.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₃H₁₄NaO₂ *m/z* 225.0886 [M+Na], Found 225.0884.



1-Methyl-2-(3-methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzene (12): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 51.3 mg (81% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 1H), 7.19 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 6.21 – 6.13 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.0, 134.8, 134.0, 130.4, 127.3, 126.3, 125.9, 97.9, 90.0, 20.4, 19.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₅ *m/z* 159.1174 [M+H], Found 159.1168.

F 1-(2-Cyclohexylidenevinyl)-4-fluorobenzene (13): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions, The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 68.8 mg (85% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 2H), 6.95 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 5.92 – 5.84 (m, 1H), 2.25 – 2.05 (m, 4H), 1.70 – 1.48 (m, 6H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.5. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.4 (d, J = 2.3 Hz), 161.4 (d, J = 247.5 Hz), 132.1 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 127.8 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 115.3 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 106.7, 91.4, 31.3, 27.7, 26.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₁₅F m/z 202.1152 [M⁺], Found 202.1151.

2-(2-Cyclohexylidenevinyl)pyridine (14): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (20:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 43.7 mg (59% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.52 – 8.45 (m, 1H), 7.57 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.25 – 6.13 (m, 1H), 2.34 – 2.17 (m, 4H), 1.74 – 1.54 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.7, 156.3, 149.3, 136.0, 120.9, 120.8, 106.9, 94.2, 31.0, 27.5, 26.0. GC-MS = 185 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S32}

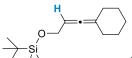
n-Bu **1**,*1*-Difluoro-4-(hex-1-en-1-ylidene)cyclohexane (15): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 46.5 mg (58% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.11 – 5.00 (m, 1H), 2.29 (td, J = 6.3, 2.4 Hz, 4H), 2.07 – 1.90 (m, 6H), 1.45 – 1.29 (m, 4H), 0.97 – 0.83 (m, 3H). ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -96.8 (d, $J_{F,F} = 236.9$ Hz, 1F), -97.6 (d, $J_{F,F} = 236.9$ Hz, 1F). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.0 (t, J = 0.8 Hz), 123.1 (t, J = 240.0 Hz), 97.7 (t, J = 1.5 Hz), 90.0, 34.5 (t, J = 23.3 Hz), 31.2, 28.7, 27.6 (t, J = 5.3 Hz), 22.0, 13.9. HRMS (APCI) calcd for C₁₂H₁₉F₂ m/z 201.1449 [M+H], Found 201.1449.

n-Bu 8-(*Hex-1-en-1-ylidene*)-1,4-dioxaspiro[4.5]decane (16): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 66.7 mg (75% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.05 – 4.92 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 4H), 2.33 – 2.19 (m, 4H), 2.02 – 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.79 – 1.67 (m, 4H), 1.44 – 1.22 (m, 4H), 0.94 – 0.82 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.5, 108.4, 99.7, 89.2, 64.3, 35.4, 31.1, 28.8, 28.7, 22.0, 13.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₃O₂ *m/z* 223.1698 [M+H], Found 223.1693.

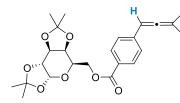
^{*n*-Bu} *tert-Butyl 4-(hex-1-en-1-ylidene)piperidine-1-carboxylate (17)*: Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (20:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 79.6 mg (75% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.09 – 4.98 (m, 1H), 3.54 – 3.34 (m, 4H), 2.20 – 2.07 (m, 4H), 2.01 – 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 1.40 – 1.29 (m, 4H), 0.93 – 0.84 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.9, 154.7, 98.3, 90.1, 79.5, 45.1, 31.1, 31.0, 28.8, 28.4, 22.0, 13.9. GC-MS = 265 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S18}

n-Bu 2,6-Dimethyldodeca-2,6,7-triene (18): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 56.2 mg (73% yield) of pure allenes as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.18 – 5.09 (m, 1H),

5.06 – 4.95 (m, 1H), 2.16 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 2.03 – 1.87 (m, 4H), 1.73 – 1.65 (m, 6H), 1.61 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.43 – 1.29 (m, 4H), 0.95 – 0.84 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.2, 131.4, 124.4, 99.0, 90.4, 34.3, 31.5, 29.1, 26.3, 25.7, 22.2, 19.3, 17.7, 13.9. HRMS (APCI) calcd for C₁₄H₂₅ *m/z* 193.1949 [M+H], Found 193.1951.



tert-Butyl((3-cyclohexylideneallyl)oxy)dimethylsilane (19): Obtained according to general conditions (0.2 mmol scale, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.025 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 37.0 mg (73% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.16 – 5.01 (m, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.16 – 2.05 (m, 4H), 1.64 – 1.46 (m, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.08 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 103.6, 89.6, 62.7, 31.3, 27.3, 26.1, 26.0, 18.4, -5.0. GC-MS = 252 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S33}



((3aR,5R,5aS,8aS,8bR)-2,2,7,7-Tetramethyltetrahydro-5H-

bis([1,3]*dioxolo*)[4,5-*b*:4',5'-*d*]*pyran-5-yl*)*methyl* 4-(3-*methylbuta-1,2-dien-1-yl*)*benzoate* (20): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions (0.1 mmol scale, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.025 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (30:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 17.0 mg (39% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.05 – 5.97 (m, 1H), 5.57 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.45 – 4.29 (m, 3H), 4.22 – 4.13 (m, 1H), 1.84 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 6H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.5, 166.3, 141.2, 130.0, 127.8, 126.4, 109.7, 108.8, 99.7, 96.3, 92.3, 71.2, 70.8, 70.6, 66.2, 63.7, 29.7, 26.02, 25.97, 25.0, 24.5, 20.0. HRMS (APCI) calcd for C₂₄H₃₁O₇ *m/z* 431.2064 [M+H], Found 431.2064.



MeO 1-(Buta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-4-methoxybenzene (21): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 41.0 mg (64% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.81 (m, 2H), 6.10 – 6.01 (m, 1H), 5.57 – 5.44 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.78 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.3, 158.5, 127.7, 127.3, 114.0, 93.3, 89.5, 55.3, 14.3. GC-MS = 160 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature.⁸³⁴

S-21

1-(Buta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (22): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 56.4 mg (71% yield) of pure allenes as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.19 - 6.04 (m, 1H), 5.70 - 5.53 (m, 1H), 1.81 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 3H). ¹⁹F **NMR** (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.4. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.9, 139.0, 128.5 (q, J = 32.3 Hz), 126.71, 125.4 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 124.3 (q, J = 270 Hz), 93.2, 90.2, 13.8. GC-MS = 198 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S34}

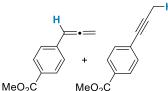


Methyl 4-(buta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzoate (23): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 45.2 mg (60% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 6.18 - 6.06 (m, 1H), 5.65 - 5.51 (m, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 1.81 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.1, 166.9, 140.1, 129.8, 128.1, 126.4, 93.6, 90.0, 52.0, 13.8. GC-MS = 188 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S34}

Hepta-1,2-dien-1-ylbenzene (25): Obtained according to general conditions from propargyl carbonates 1t or 1u. The crude products were purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 23.5 mg (34% yield) or 52.4 mg (76% yield) of the pure allene, respectively, as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33- 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.23 - 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.16 - 6.10 (m, 1H), 5.58 (q, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.21 – 2.08 (m, 2H), 1.55 – 1.32 (m, 4H), 0.92 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, **CDCl**₃) δ 205.2, 135.2, 128.5, 126.58, 126.56, 95.1, 94.5, 31.3, 28.4, 22.3, 13.9. **GC-MS** = 172 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature.^{\$35}

Nona-3,4-dien-1-ylbenzene (26): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 58.5 mg (73% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 5.12 - 4.94 (m, 2H), 2.64 (t, J = 9.0, 2H), 2.29 - 2.17 (m, 2H), 1.94 - 1.80 (m, 2H), 1.32 - 1.19 (m, 4H), 0.87 - 0.75 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.0, 141.9, 128.5, 128.2, 125.8, 91.5, 90.2, 35.5, 31.3, 30.7, 28.6, 22.1, 13.9. GC-MS = 200 m/z. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S18}

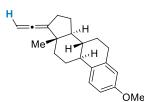
Penta-3,4-dien-1-ylbenzene (27): Obtained according to general conditions (Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O Ph (0.03 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.03 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.015 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (100:0 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 34.3 mg (59% yield) of pure allenes as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.06 (m, 3H), 5.16 – 4.99 (m, 1H), 4.66 – 4.51 (m, 2H), 2.65 (dd, J = 12.0, 9.0 Hz, 2H), 2.30 – 2.17 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.6, 141.8, 128.5, 128.3, 125.9, 89.5, 75.2, 35.4, 30.0. GC-MS = 144 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{\$36}



MeO₂C MeO₂C Methyl 4-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzoate (28a): Obtained according to general conditions. The crude product (4:1 mixture of inseparable allene 28a and alkyne 28b) was purified by flash chromatography (50:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 48.0 mg (69% yield) of the mixture of isomers as an oil. 28a: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.20 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.6, 166.9, 139.0, 130.0, 126.5, 93.6, 79.2, 52.0. GC-MS = 174 *m/z*. 28b: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H). Spectral data for 28a ^{S36} and 28b ^{S37} are in accordance with the literature.



MeÓ *1-Methoxy-4-(propa-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzene (29a)*: Obtained according to general conditions (Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.03 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.03 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.015 equiv), 72 h). The crude product (13:1 mixture of allene **29a** and alkyne **29b**) was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 30.7 mg (53% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (**300** MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 6.14 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (**75** MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.4, 158.7, 127.7, 126.1, 114.2, 93.3, 78.7, 55.3. GC-MS = 146 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S36}



(8S,9S,13S,14S)-3-Methoxy-13-methyl-17-vinylidene-

7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-decahydro-6H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthrene (30): Obtained according to general conditions (0.1 mmol scale, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.025 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (100:1 of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate as eluent) to give 17.4 mg (59% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.83 – 4.64 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.94 – 2.81 (m, 2H), 2.69 – 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.52 – 2.20 (m, 3H), 2.00 – 1.82 (m, 3H), 1.58 – 1.34 (m, 6H), 0.91 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.5, 157.5, 137.9, 132.7, 126.3, 113.8, 112.0, 111.5, 55.2, 54.5, 44.4, 44.0, 38.8, 36.1, 29.9, 27.8, 27.3, 26.7, 24.6, 18.4. GC-MS = 294 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{\$38}

(5-(Cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)penta-3,4-dien-1-yl)benzene (31): Obtained according to general conditions (0.2 mmol scale, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.025 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 27.5 mg (61% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.05 (m, 3H), 5.82 – 5.68 (m, 1H), 5.61 – 5.51 (m, 1H), 5.40 – 5.24 (m, 1H), 2.74 – 2.57 (m, 2H), 2.35 – 2.19 (m, 2H), 2.07 – 1.96 (m, 2H), 1.94 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.58 – 1.45 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.3, 141.8, 132.4, 128.5, 128.3, 125.8, 125.6, 98.2, 93.4, 35.4, 30.9, 25.8, 25.61, 22.59, 22.5. GC-MS = 224 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S39}

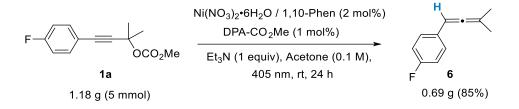


^{*n*-Bu'} (4S)-1-(Hepta-1,2-dien-1-yl)-4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-1-ene (32): Unknown compound, obtained according to general conditions (0.2 mmol scale, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.025 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 26.2 mg (61% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.87 – 5.79 (m, 1H), 5.70 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.43 – 5.29 (m, 1H), 4.78 – 4.67 (m, 2H), 2.27 – 1.97 (m, 7H), 1.90 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.74 (t, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 3H), 1.52 – 1.29 (m, 5H), 0.94 – 0.86 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.4, 204.3, 149.91, 149.88, 132.3, 124.6, 108.6, 97.22, 97.19, 94.14, 94.12, 41.3, 41.2, 31.4, 31.33, 31.30, 28.9, 28.8, 27.6, 26.3, 26.1, 22.3, 22.2, 20.8, 13.9. HRMS (APCI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₅ *m/z* 217.1950 [M+H], Found 217.1951.

^{HO} 2-Methyl-4-phenylbuta-2,3-dien-1-ol (33): Obtained according to general conditions (Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (0.03 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.03 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (0.015 equiv)). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (1.5:1 of petroleum ether/dichloromethane as eluent) to give 53.8 mg (84% yield) of pure allene as an oil. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.32 – 6.24 (m, 1H), 4.24 – 4.07 (m, 2H), 1.86 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.9, 134.8, 128.6, 127.1, 126.8, 104.7, 97.1, 63.9, 15.4. GC-MS = 160 *m/z*. Spectral data are in accordance with the literature. ^{S40}

Scale-up experiment (Non-optimized)

The reaction was performed on 1.18 g (5 mmol) of **1a** using a 100 mL Schlenk tube exposed to LED lighting from a single 405 nm EvoluChemTM 18 W purple LED lamp (P206-18-1 405 nm) placed 5 cm away, and an external cooling fan that maintained the temperature below 35 °C (Fig S1).



A 100 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (29.1 mg, 0.1 mmol, 0.02 equiv), 1,10-phen (18.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 0.02 equiv), and DPA-CO₂Me (19.4 mg, 0.05 mmol, 0.01 equiv). The vessel was evacuated and backfilled three times with argon. Acetone (40 mL), propargyl carbonate **1a** (1.18 g, 5 mmol, 1 equiv, dissolved in acetone (10 mL)), and Et₃N (0.7 mL, 5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added under argon. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under 405 nm purple LED irradiation for 24 h, after which time the reaction medium was concentrated under vacuum and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford 0.69 g (85%) of pure allene **6**.



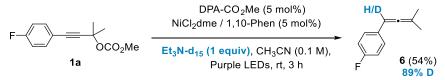
Figure S1. Reaction set-up for scale-up experiment.

5. Mechanistic experiments

5.1. Deuterium labelling studies

In order to avoid the presence of undesired water in these experiments, the nickel catalyst NiCl₂.glyme was preferred to the hydrated complex Ni(NO₃)₂.6H₂O. Acetonitrile was also preferred as the solvent. Fully deuterated triethylamine and methanol were purchased and used as received without further drying.

- Deuteration with Et_3N-d_{15} :



In a glove-box, a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with NiCl₂•dme (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (3.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), CH₃CN (2 mL), Et₃N- d_{15} (23.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and propargyl carbonate **1a** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature outside the glove-box under purple light irradiation for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford deuterated allene **6** (17.5 mg, 54% yield, 89% of deuterium incorporation) (Fig S2).

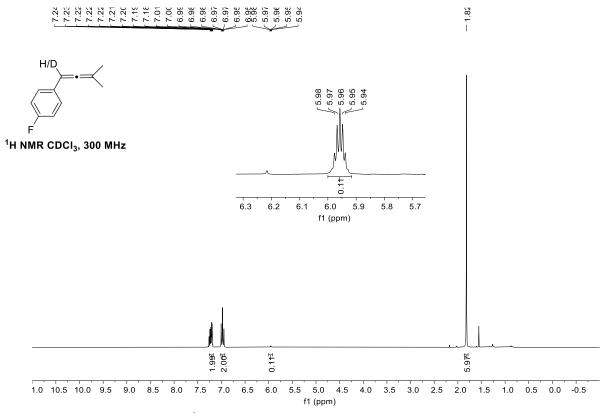


Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum of allene 6 obtained with Et_3N-d_{15} .

- Deuteration with MeOH-*d*₄:



In a glove-box, a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with NiCl₂•dme (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (3.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), CH₃CN (2 mL), Et₃N (28 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CD₃OD (81.2 μ L, 2.0 mmol, 10.0 equiv), and propargyl carbonates **1** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature outside the glove-box under purple light irradiation for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford deuterated allene **6** (23.8 mg, 73% yield, 68% of deuterium incorporation) (Fig S3).

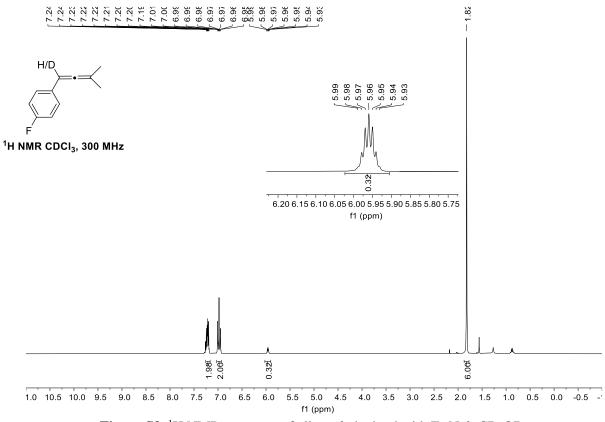
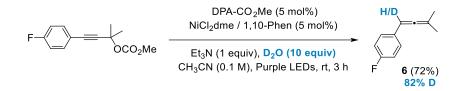


Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of allene 6 obtained with Et₃N & CD₃OD.



In a glove-box, A 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the NiCl₂•dme (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (3.9 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), CH₃CN (2 mL), Et₃N (28 μ L, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and propargyl carbonates **1** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The vial was then capped and transferred out of the glovebox. D₂O (36.2 μ l, 2.0 mmol, 10.0 equiv) was added under argon atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under purple light irradiation for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford the deuterated allene **2** (23.5 mg, 72% yield, 82% of deuterium incorporation) (Fig S4).

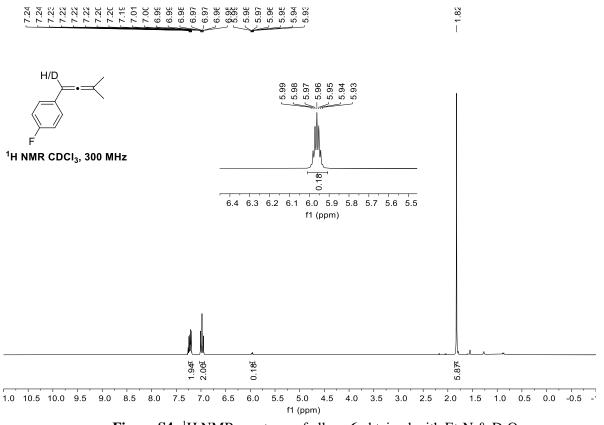
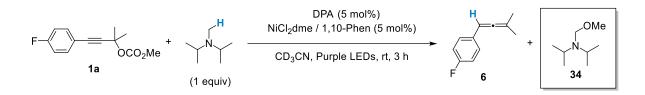


Figure S4: ¹H NMR spectrum of allene **6** obtained with Et₃N & D₂O.

5.2. Trialkylamine reaction outcome.

In order to probe the formation of an hemiaminal ether co-product, the reduction of propargyl carbonate **1a** was performed using diisopropylmethylamine as both reductive quencher and proton source, which was expected to produce the relatively stable, known N-methoxymethylamine **34**: ^{S41}



In a glove-box, a J-Young NMR tube was charged with NiCl₂•dme (0.66 mg, 0.003 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (0.54 mg, 0.003 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA (0.99 mg, 0.003 mmol, 0.05 equiv), propargyl carbonate **1a** (11.8 mg, 0.06 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *N*,*N*-diisopropylmethylamine (9.2 μ L, 0.06 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and CD₃CN (0.5 mL). The tube was then sealed and irradiated with purple light outside the glove-box at room temperature until full conversion of **1a** was observed (3 h, ¹⁹F NMR). Direct spectroscopic analysis of the crude reaction mixture by ¹H NMR confirmed the presence of hemiaminal ether **34** (Fig S5). Data from crude spectrum: ¹H NMR (CD₃CN, **300** MHz) δ 4.15 (s, 2H, CH₂OMe), 3.16 – 3.08 (m, 2H, CHCH₃), 3.10 (s, 3H, OMe), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 12H, CHCH₃). The product was also detected by mass spectroscopy: LRMS (ESI+): *m/z* Calcd for [(C₈H₁₉NO) + H⁺]: 146.1539, found: 146.2 (Fig S6).

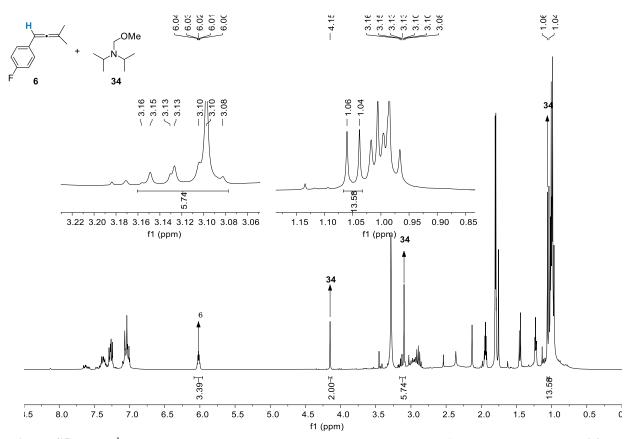


Figure S5. Crude ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₃CN, 300 MHz) showing allene 6 and hemiaminal ether 34.

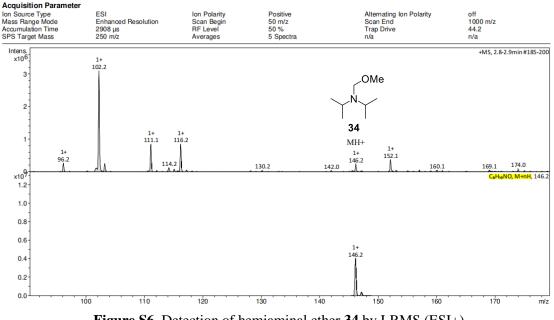
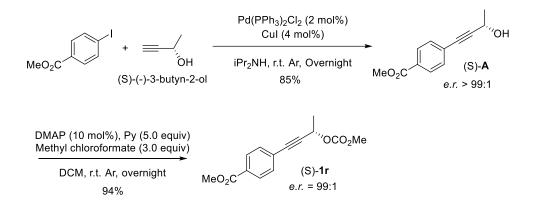


Figure S6. Detection of hemiaminal ether 34 by LRMS (ESI+)

5.3 Stereospecificity

Preparation of enantiopure propargyl carbonate (S)-1r from commercially available (S)-(-)-3-butyn-2-ol:



Methyl 4-iodobenzoate (2.13 g, 8.13 mmol, 1.15 equiv), $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ (120 mg, 0.17 mmol, 0.024 equiv), CuI (30 mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.022 equiv), diisopropylamine (30 mL), and (*S*)-(-)-3-butyn-2-ol (500 mg, 7.13 mmol, 1 equiv) were added to a 50 mL Schlenk flask with a stir bar under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature overnight, after which time it was filtered through

celite® and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (5:1 petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford 1.25 g (85%, *e.r.* > 99:1) of propargyl alcohol (S)-A (Fig S7-8).

To a solution of propargyl alcohol (S)-A (1 g, 5 mmol, 1 equiv) in dichloromethane (15 mL) were added DMAP (60 mg, 0.5 mmol, 0.1 equiv), pyridine (2 mL), and methyl chloroformate (1.2 mL, 15 mmol, 3.0 equiv) under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature overnight, concentrated under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (20:1 mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as eluent) to afford 1.2 g (94%, *e.r.* = 99:1) of propargyl carbonate (S)-1r (Fig S9-10).

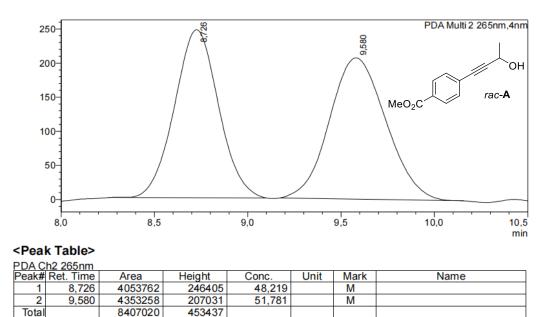


Figure S7. HPLC spectrum for racemic methyl 4-(3-hydroxybut-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (*rac*-**A**) [Lux-cell-3 column, Hept/iPrOH = 95:5, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 265 nm]

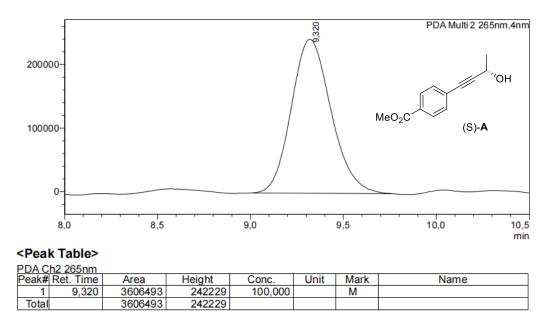
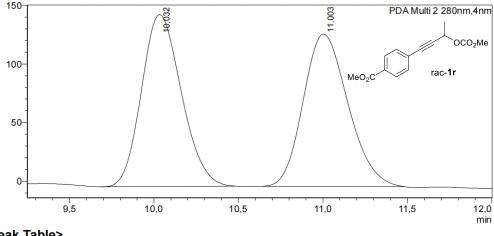


Figure S8. HPLC spectrum for enantiopure methyl 4-(3-hydroxybut-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate ((S)-A) [Lux-cell-3 column, Hept/iPrOH = 95:5, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 265 nm]





PDAC	nz zðunm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Conc.	Unit	Mark	Name
1	10,032	2401306	146285	50,075		Μ	
2	11,003	2394121	129817	49,925		М	
Total		4795427	276102				

Figure S9. HPLC spectrum for racemic methyl 4-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)but-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (*rac*-1r) [Lux-cell-3 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99:1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 280 nm]

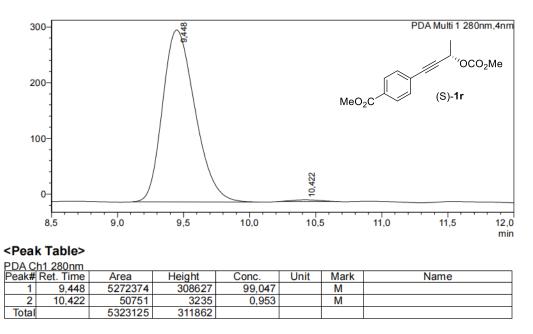
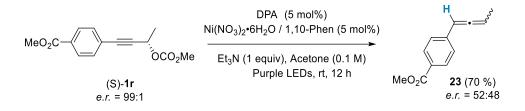


Figure S10. HPLC spectrum for enantiopure methyl 4-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)but-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate ((S)-1r) [Lux-cell-3 column, Hept/iPrOH = 95:5, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 280 nm]

Reduction of enantiopure methyl 4-(3-((methoxycarbonyl)oxy)but-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate ((S)-1r):



In a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar, Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (7.26 mg, 0.025 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (4.5 mg, 0.025 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA (8.2 mg, 0.025 mmol, 0.05 equiv), and Et₃N (69 μ l, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to a solution of propargyl carbonate (S)-**1r** (131 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) in acetone (5 mL). The vial was flushed with argon for 1 min and capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under 405 nm purple light irradiation for 12 h. When the reaction was completed, the reaction medium was concentrated under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford 0.13 g (70%, *e.r.* = 52:48) of allene **23** (Fig S11-12).

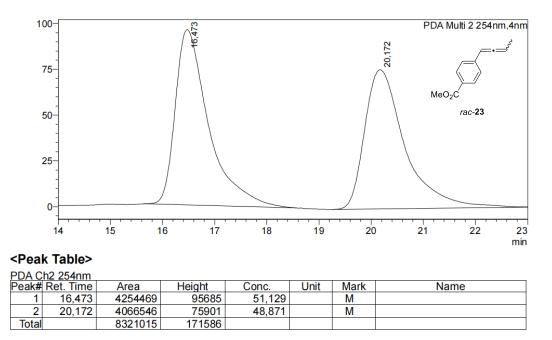
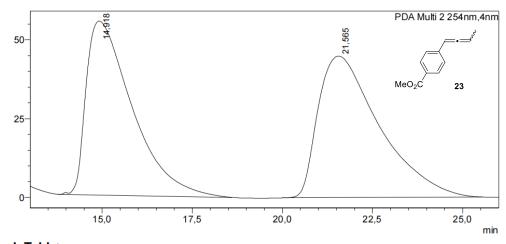


Figure S11. HPLC spectrum for racemic methyl 4-(buta-1,2-dien-1-yl)benzoate (*rac*-23) [Lux-cell-2 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99.9:0.1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 254 nm]



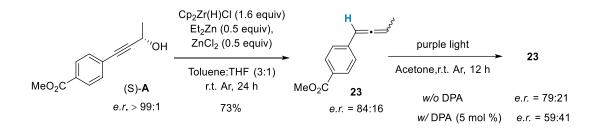
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PDAC	202 254nm						
Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Conc.	Unit	Mark	Name
1	14,918	4926364	55207	48,141		M	
2	21,565	5306813	44890	51,859		M	
Tota	I	10233178	100097				

Figure S12. HPLC spectrum for allene **23** obtained from reduction of propargyl carbonate (S)-**1r** [Lux-cell-2 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99.9:0.1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 254 nm]

Influence of light and photocatalyst on stereospecificity:

In order to probe a possible photo-induced post-reaction erosion of allene chirality as documented by Morrison, ^{S42} a sample of enantioenriched allene 23 was prepared by reduction of propargyl alcohol (S)-A with Schwartz reagent according to the procedure described by Ready. ^{S43} Solutions of this sample in acetone were subjected to standard reaction conditions in the absence of both nickel catalyst and triethylamine. The experiments showed a slight erosion of chirality when only light irradiation was applied, whereas significant erosion was observed in the presence of the photocatalyst (Fig S13-15).



Procedure for the preparation of enantioenriched 23: In a glove-box, a 5 mL microwave vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with enantiopure 4-(3-hydroxybut-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (S)-A (40.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), ZnCl₂ (13.6 mg, 0.1 mmol, 0.5 equiv), Cp₂Zr(H)Cl (82.5 mg, 0.32 mmol, 1.6 equiv), toluene (0.96 mL) and THF (30 μ L). The vial was then capped and transferred outside the glovebox. Then, Et₂Zn (0.1 mL, 0.1 mmol, 0.5 equiv, 1 M in hexane) was added under argon, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction medium was then concentrated under vacuum and the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to afford 27.6 mg (73 %, *e.r.* = 84:16) of pure allene **23**.

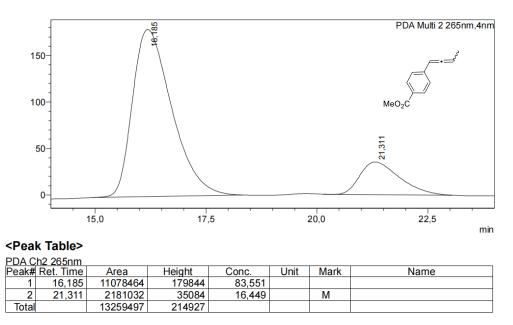


Figure S13. HPLC spectrum for prepared enantioenriched allene **23** [Lux-cell-2 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99.9:0.1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 265 nm]

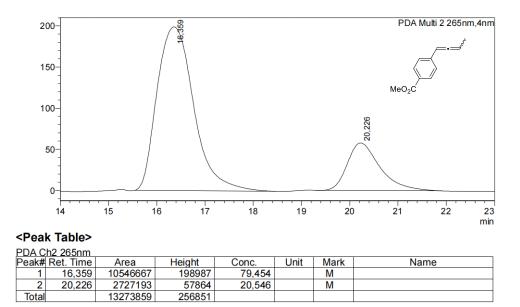


Figure S14. HPLC spectrum after light irradiation of enantioenriched allene **23** [Lux-cell-2 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99.9:0.1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 265 nm]

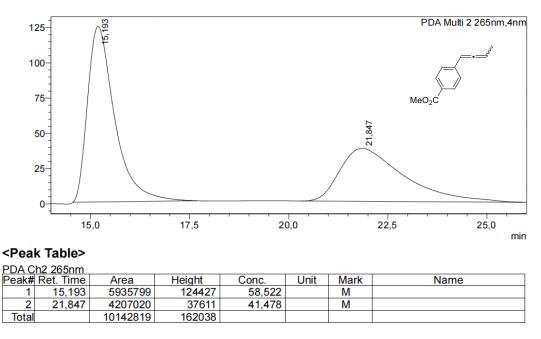
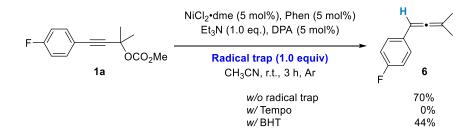


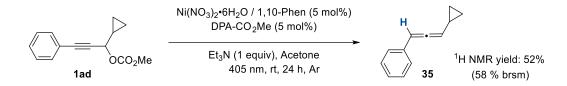
Figure S15. HPLC spectrum after irradiation of enantioenriched allene **23** in the presence of DPA [Lux-cell-2 column, Hept/iPrOH = 99.9:0.1, Flow rate: 1 mL.min⁻¹, Detection: UV at 265 nm]

5.4. Influence of radical trapping agents

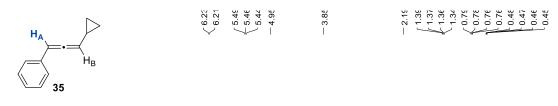
To probe the eventual involvement of free radical in the mechanism, the reaction was performed in the presence of two different radical trapping agents: TEMPO and BHT.



In a glove-box, a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the NiCl₂•dme (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), phen (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA (3.3 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), the radical trap 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxy (31.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) or butylated hydroxytoluene (44.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), CH₃CN (2 mL), Et₃N (28 μ l, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and propargyl carbonates **1a** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature outside the glove-box under purple light irradiation for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, The crude mixture was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR (internal standard: Fluorobenzene) and GC/MS.



A 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O (5.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.05 equiv), 1,10-phen (3.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.05 equiv), DPA-CO₂Me (3.9 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.05 equiv), and propargyl carbonates **1ad** (92.1 mg, 0.4 mmol, 1 equiv), the vial was flushed under argon for 1 min. Then acetone (2 mL), Et₃N (56 µl, 0.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and acetone (2 mL) were added under argon. The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under purple light irradiation for 24 h. When the reaction was completed, the crude mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR (Fig S16, CH₂Br₂ (0.5 equiv) as internal standard), showing the formation of allene **35** as major product (52 % yield; 58% based on unreacted starting material). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, **300** MHz, selected data from crude spectrum in accordance with the literature ^{S44}): δ 6.22 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 1.42 – 1.32 (m, 1H), 0.82 – 0.73 (m, 2H), 0.52 – 0.42 (m, 2H). **GC-MS** = 156 *m/z*.



¹H NMR, CDCl₃, 300 MHz

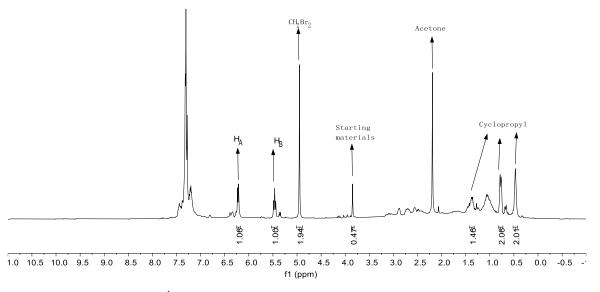


Figure S16: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) crude spectrum of allene 35.

Despite the fact that the reaction also yielded minor side-products that proved inseparable from **35** by conventional column chromatography and could not be identified, this result argues against the formation of free allenyl radical intermediate as a main pathway.

5.6. Cyclic voltammetry

Electrochemical measurements were performed using an OrigaFlex - OGF500 all-in-one potentiostat, using a standard three-electrode setup with a glassy carbon electrode (working electrode, diameter = 3 mm), platinum wire auxiliary electrode and a non-aqueous Ag/Ag⁺ (0.01 M AgNO₃ + 0.1 M ⁿBu₄NClO₄) system in acetonitrile as the reference electrode (Fig. 17). The Origasoft software was used for cyclic voltammetry experiments. All solutions under the study were 0.1 M in the supporting electrolyte ⁿBu₄NPF₆ (Fluka puriss electrochemical grade) with the voltage scan rate of 0.1 V s⁻¹. MeCN was obtained from Fisher Scientific. Solutions (10 mL) were thoroughly bubbled with dry argon for 15 minutes to remove oxygen before any experiment and kept under positive pressure of argon. Under these experimental conditions the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple, used as external reference for potential measurements, was located at $E_{1/2} = + 0.07$ V (+ 0.39 V *vs* SCE) in MeCN. E (V *vs* SCE) = E (Ag/Ag⁺ 0.01 M) + 0.32. ^{S45}



Figure S17. Gas-tight cell (20 mL) used for cyclic voltammetry.

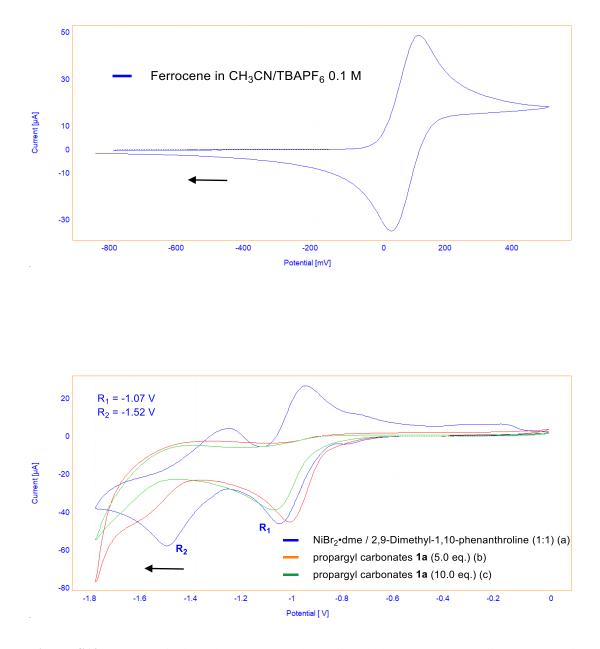


Figure S18. (a) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1). (b) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1) in the presence of propargyl carbonate **1a** 10 mM. (c) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1) in the presence of propargyl carbonate **1a** 20 mM. Glassy carbon electrode (3 mm); CH₃CN + TBAPF₆ 0.1 M at 0.1 Vs⁻¹.

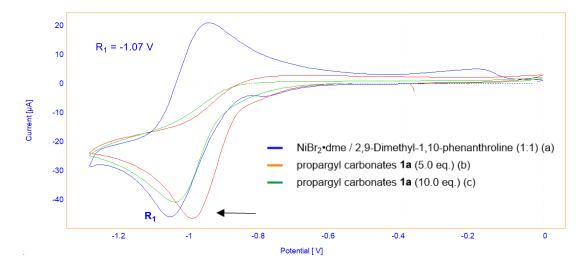


Figure S19. CV of the redox window from 0 V to -1.30 V. (a) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1). (b) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1) in the presence of propargyl carbonate **1a** 10 mM. (c) CV of NiBr₂.dme 2 mM and 2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline 2 mM (Ni/L = 1:1) in the presence of propargyl carbonate **1a** 20 mM. Glassy carbon electrode (3 mm); CH₃CN + TBAPF₆ 0.1 M at 0.1 Vs⁻¹.

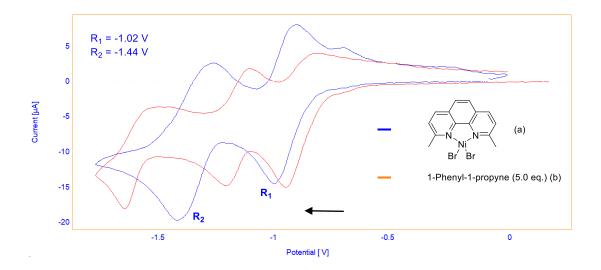
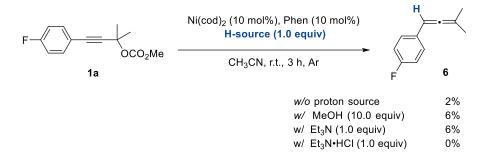


Figure S20. (a) CV of Ni complex (I) 1 mM. (b) CV of Ni complex (I) 1 mM in the presence of 1-phenyl-1-propyne 5 mM. Glassy carbon electrode (3 mm); $CH_3CN + TBAPF_60.1 \text{ M at } 0.1 \text{ Vs}^{-1}$.

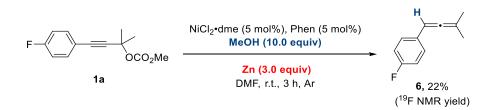
5.7. Comparison with alternative non-photochemical catalytic protocols:

Alternative protocol using Ni(0):



In a glove-box, a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the Ni(cod)₂ (5.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), phen (3.6 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and CH₃CN (2 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred in the glove-box for 20 mins. Then propargyl carbonates **1a** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and proton source MeOH (81.0 μ l, 2 mmol, 10.0 equiv), Et₃N (28 μ l, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), or Et₃N•HCl (27.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added immediately, respectively. The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature outside the glove-box for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, The crude mixture was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR (internal standard: Fluorobenzene) and GC/MS.

Alternative protocol using Ni(II) / Zn(0):

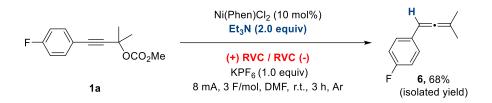


In a glove-box, a 8 mL vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the NiCl₂•dme (2.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), phen (1.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.05 equiv), Zn (39.2 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv), DMF (2 mL), MeOH (81.0 μ l, 2 mmol, 10.0 equiv), and propargyl carbonates **1a** (47.2 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). The vial was then capped, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature outside the glove-box for 3 h. When the reaction was completed, The crude mixture was analyzed by ¹⁹F NMR (internal standard: Fluorobenzene) and GC/MS.

<u>Alternative electrochemical protocol</u> :

Electrochemical experiments were conducted using an ElectraSyn 2.0. Information and details can be found at <u>https://www.ika.com/en/Products-Lab-Eq/Electrochemistry-Kit-csp-516/ElectraSyn-20-Package-cpdt-20008980/</u>.

Reticulated Vitreous Carbon (RVC) electrodes (Dimensions: W x H x D = 6 x 36 x 5 mm) were purchased on the IKA website: (<u>https://www.ika.com/en/Products-Lab-Eq/Electrochemistry-Kit-Accessories-cspacc-516/</u>).



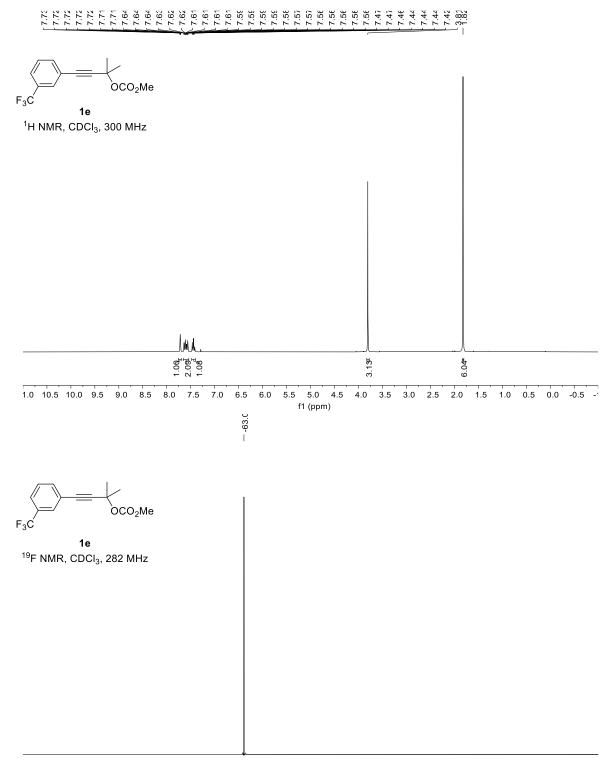
Preparation of Ni(Phen)Cl₂: In a 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 1,10phenanthroline (540 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NiCl₂•6H₂O (713.1 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and THF (30 mL) were added under an argon atmosphere, and the mixture was heated at 70 °C overnight. After cooling the reaction mixture to room temperature, the precipitate was isolated by vacuum filtration, washed with ethanol (x 2) and diethyl ether (x 2), and then dried under vacuum overnight using phosphorus pentoxide to obtain the Ni-phenanthroline complex as a green powder (541.5 mg, 58%).

Procedure for the electrosynthesis of allene 6: In a glove-box, a 5 mL ElectraSyn vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with the propargyl carbonates **1a** (70.9 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), KPF₆ (55.2 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Ni(Phen)Cl₂ (11.5 mg, 0.03 mmol, 0.1 equiv), DMF (3 mL), and Et₃N (83.4 μ l, 0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The ElectraSyn vial was then sealed with a cap equipped with anode (RVC) and cathode (RVC). The reaction mixture was electrolyzed under a constant current of 8 mA until 3 F/mol were delivered. When the reaction was completed, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether as eluent) to give 33.2 mg (68% yield) of pure allene **6**.

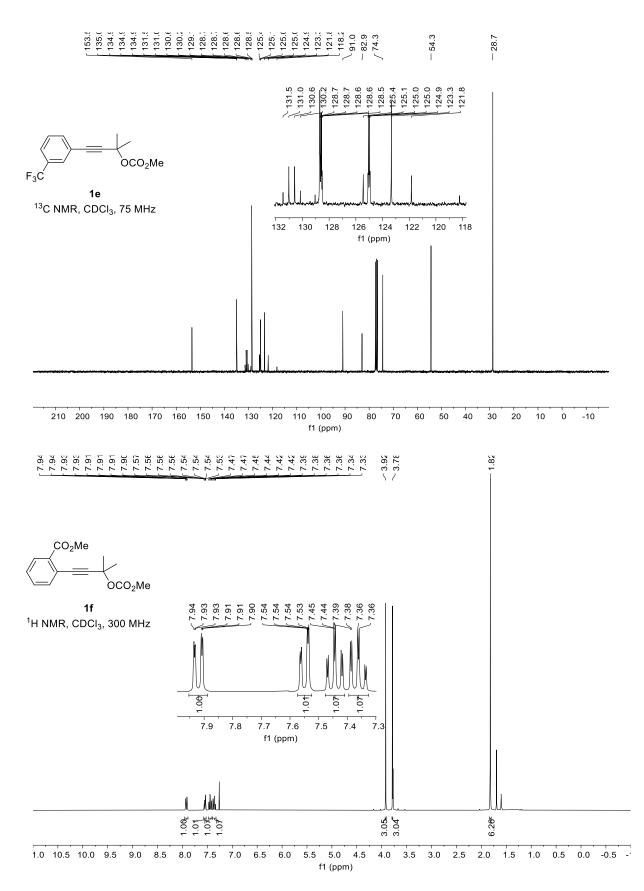
6. References.

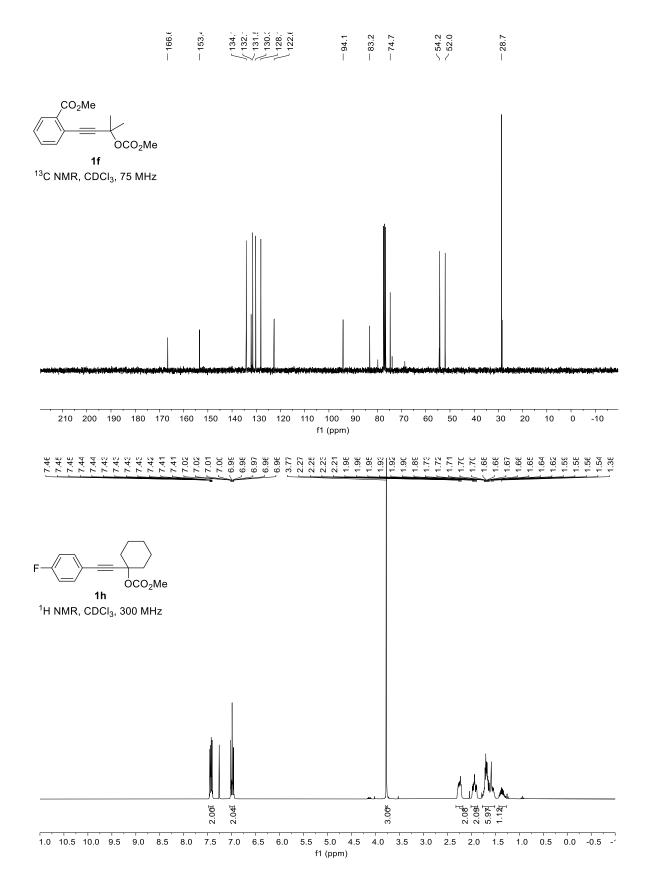
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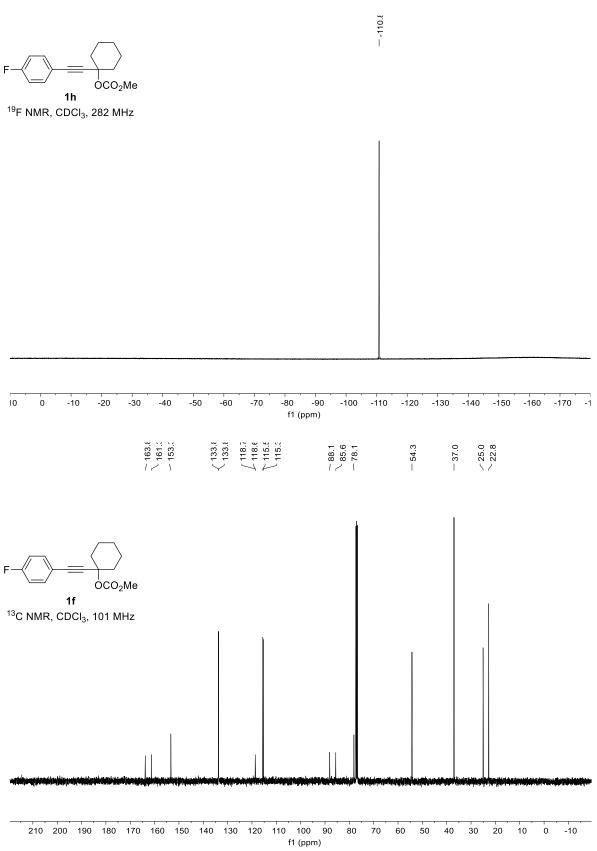
7. NMR spectra of propargyl carbonates and allenes.

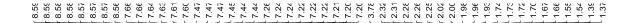


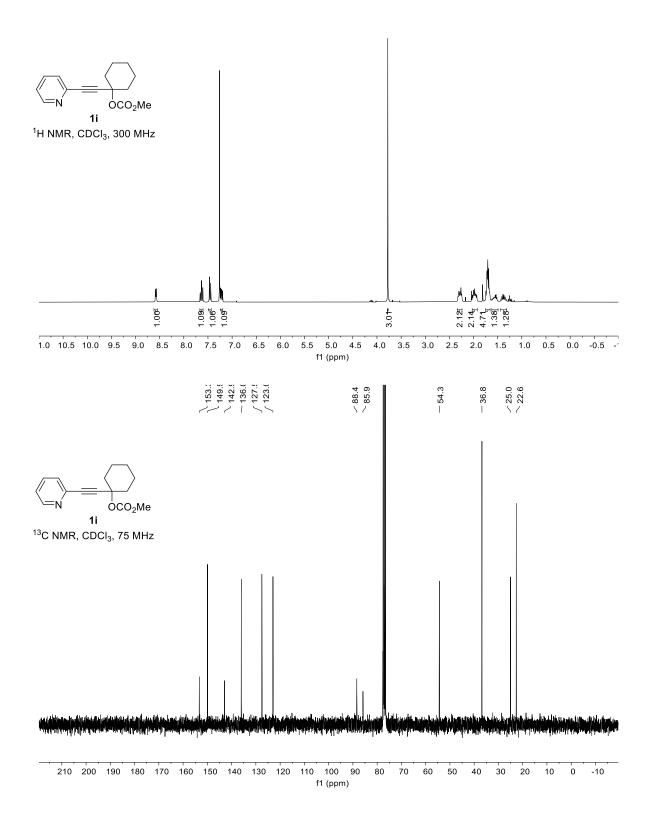
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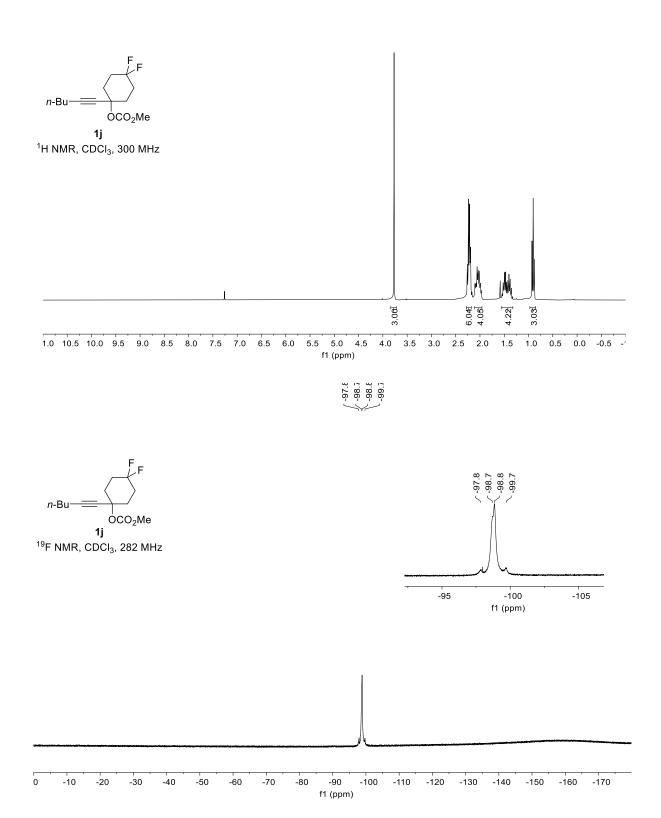




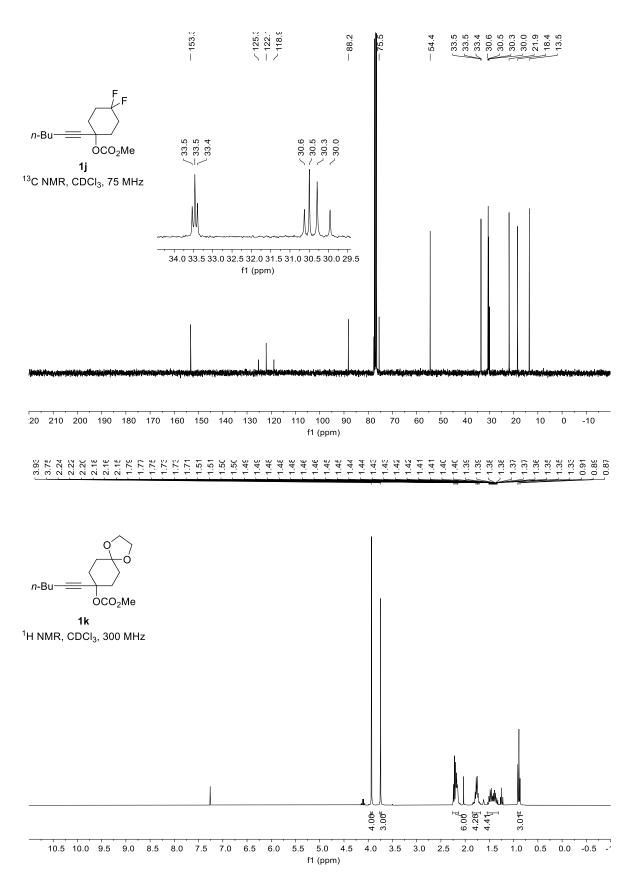


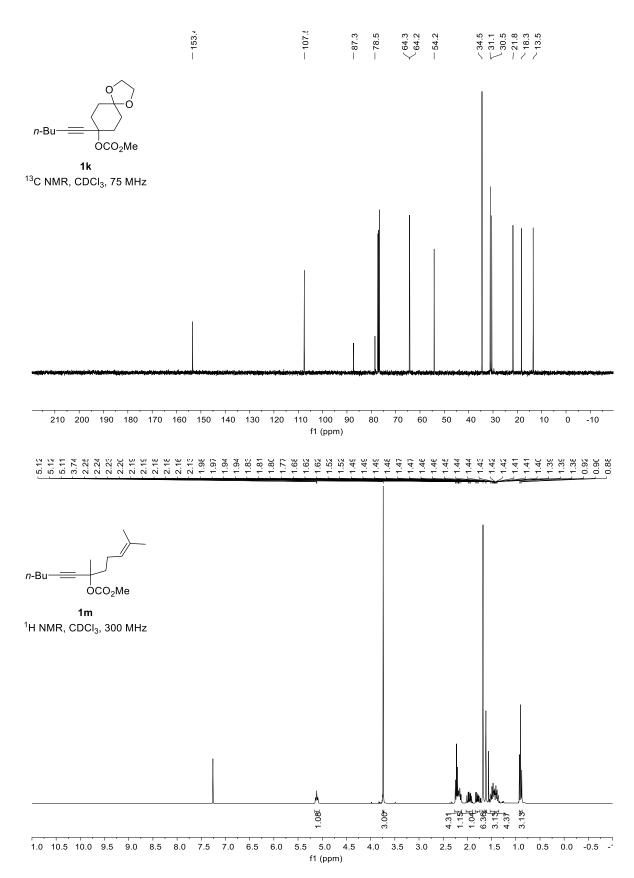


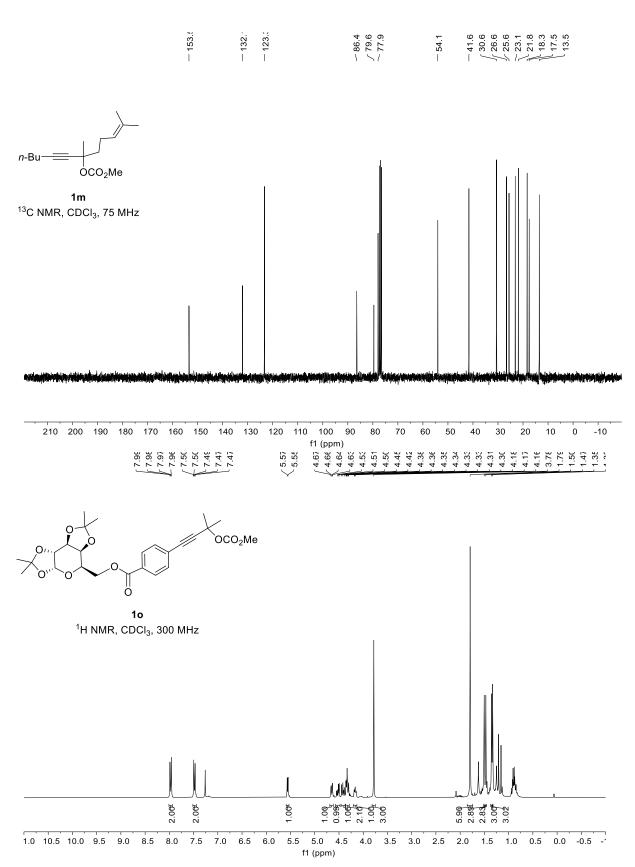


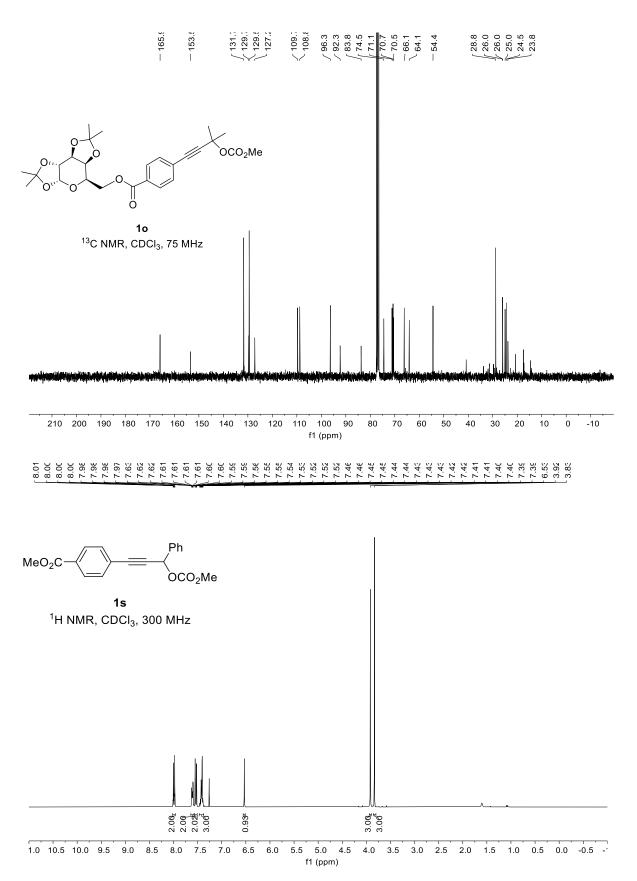


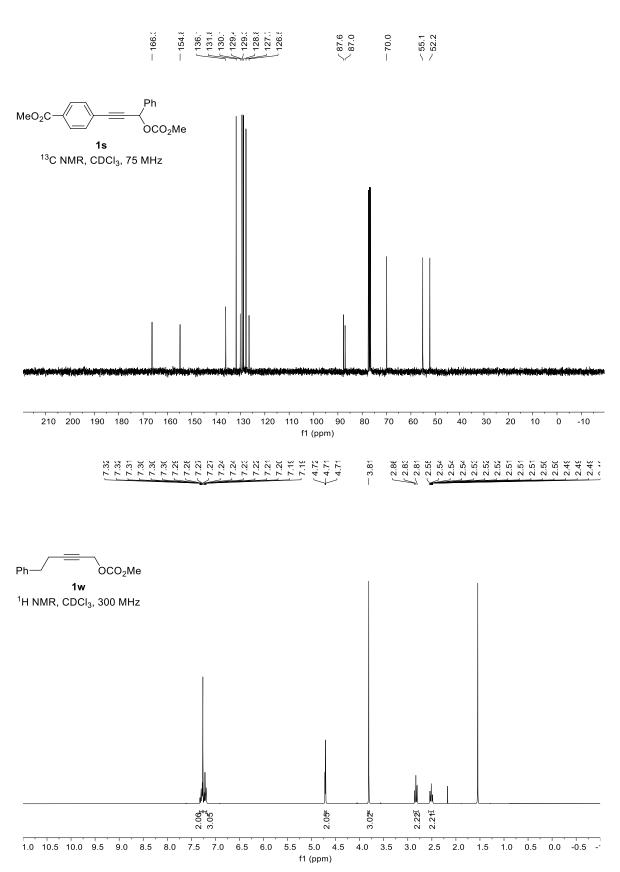
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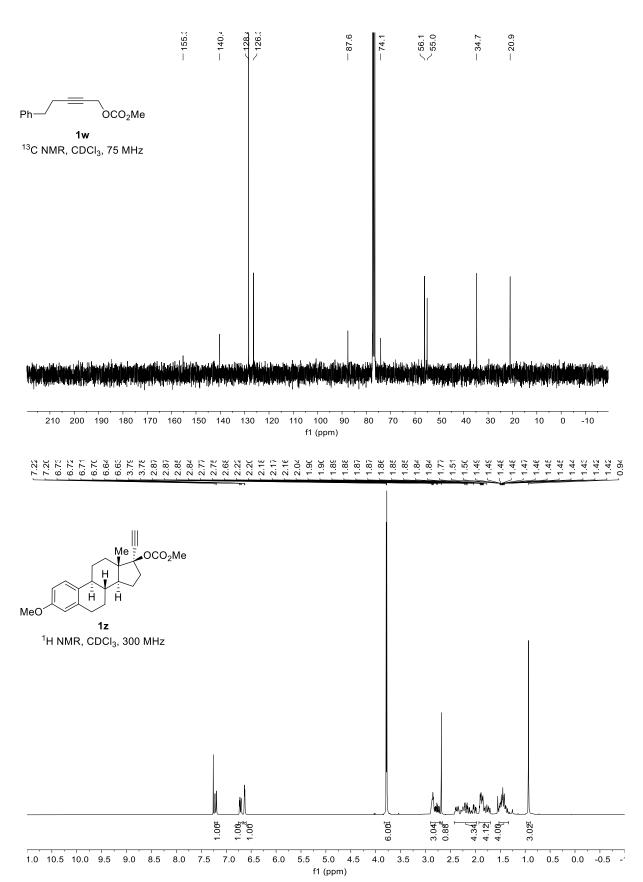


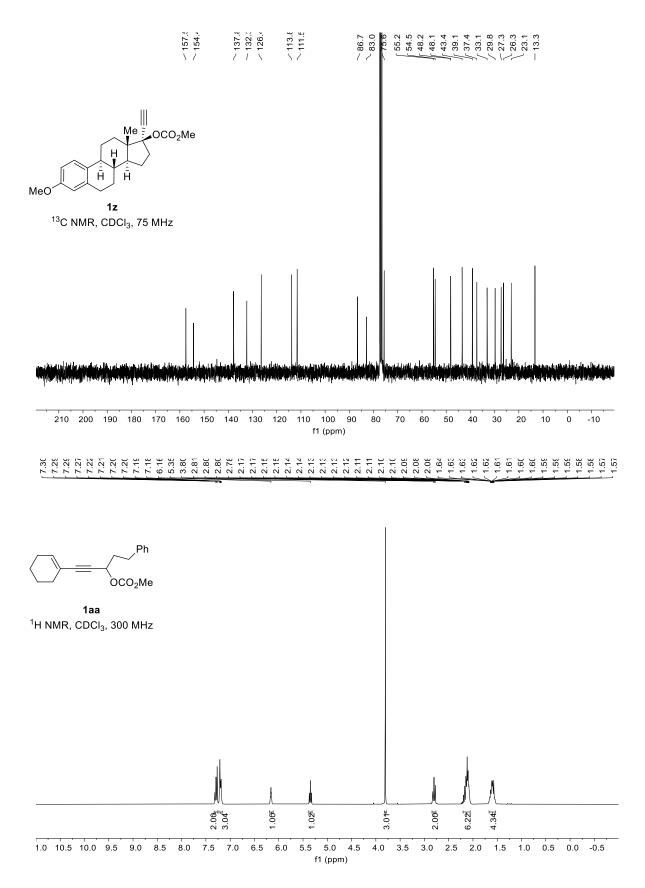


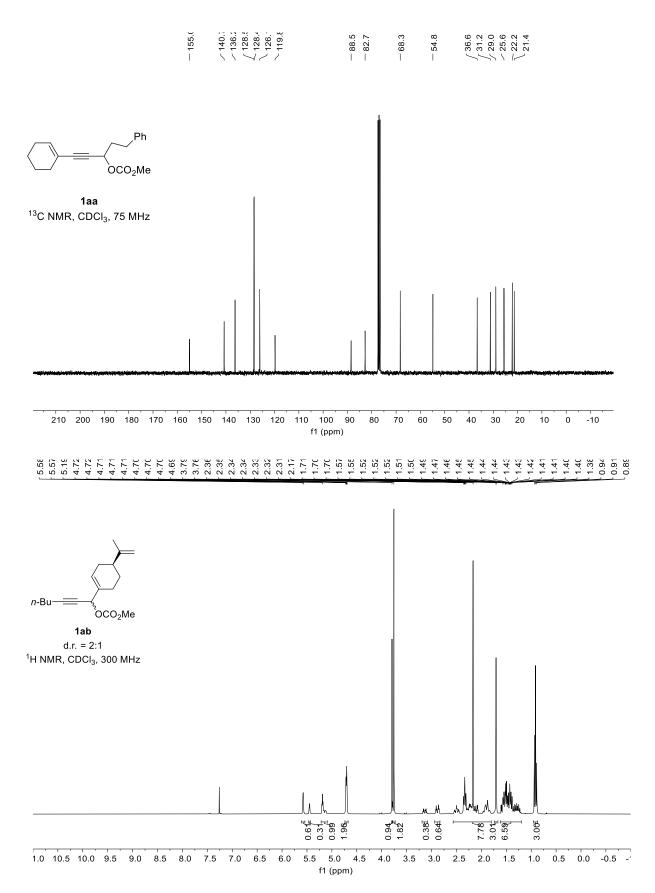


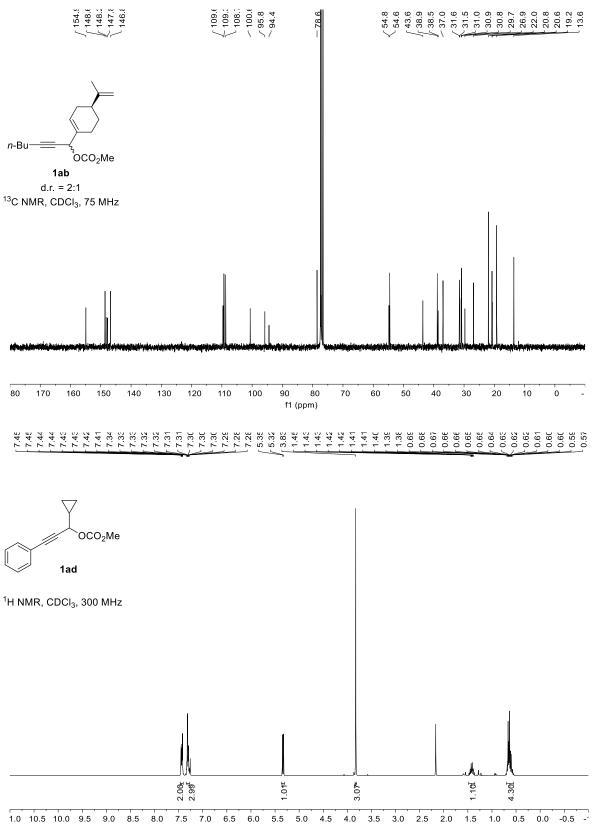


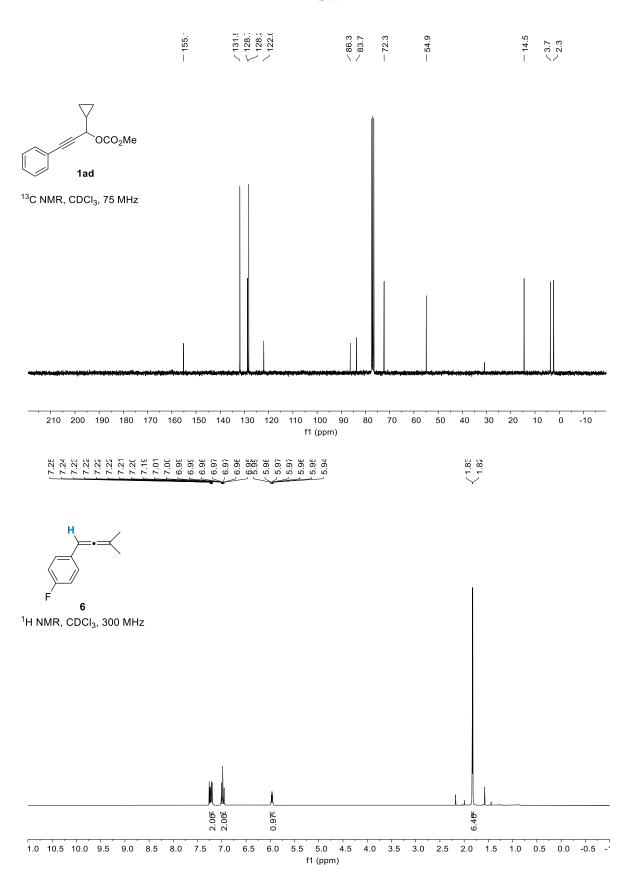


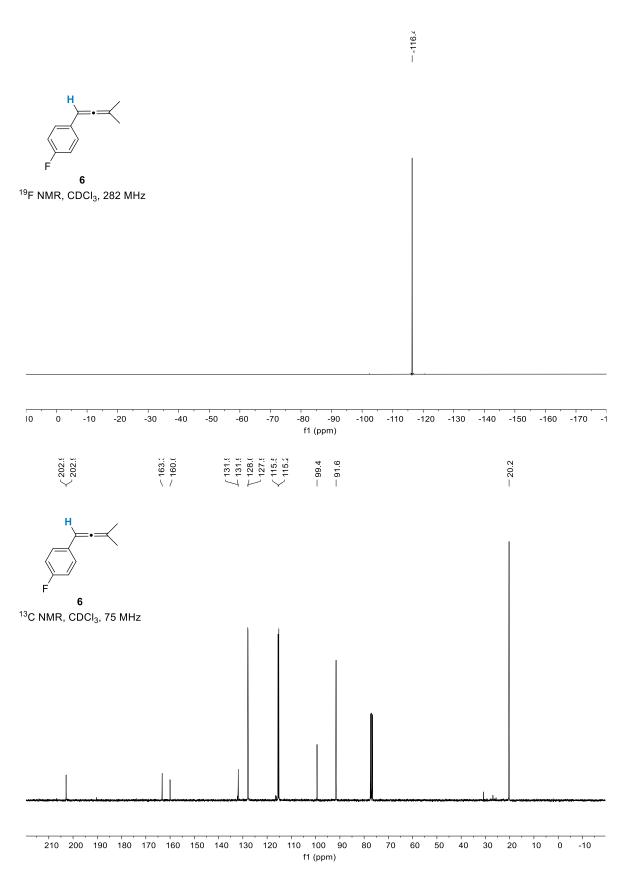


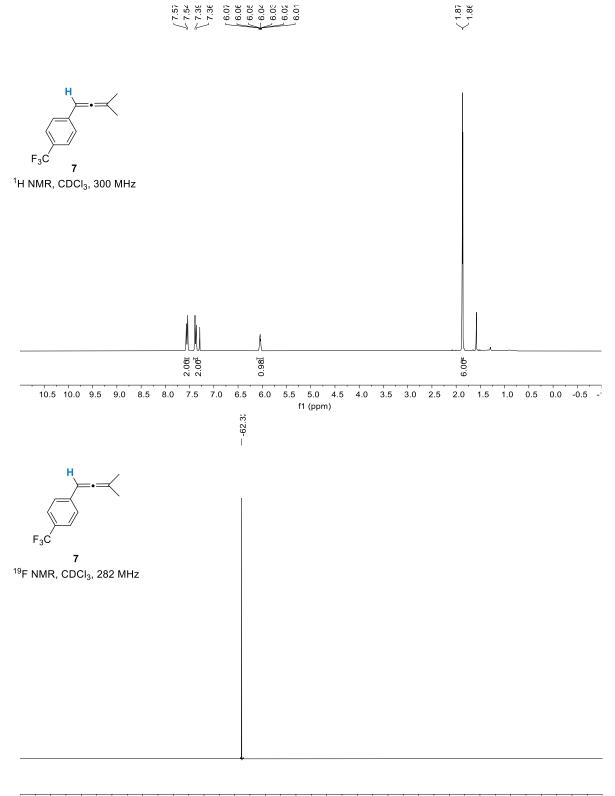




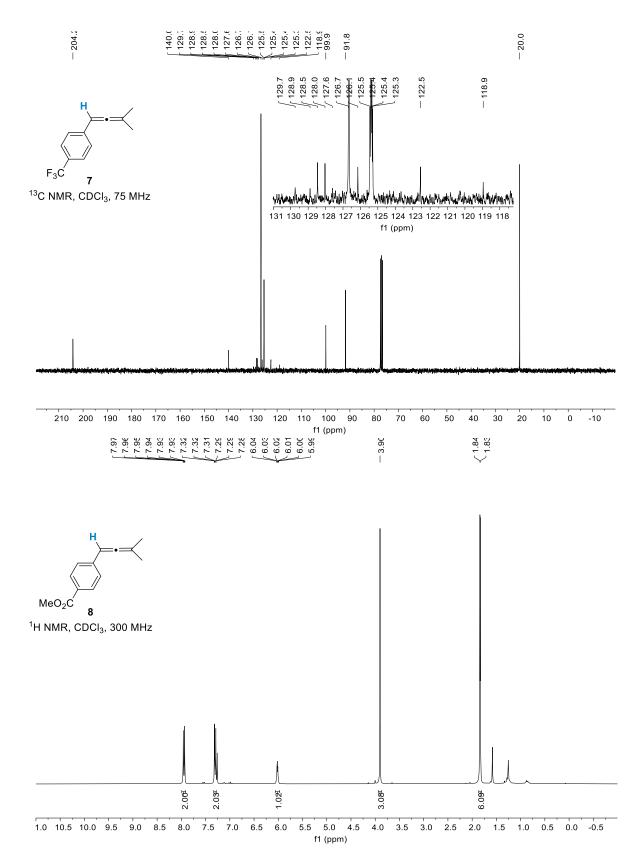


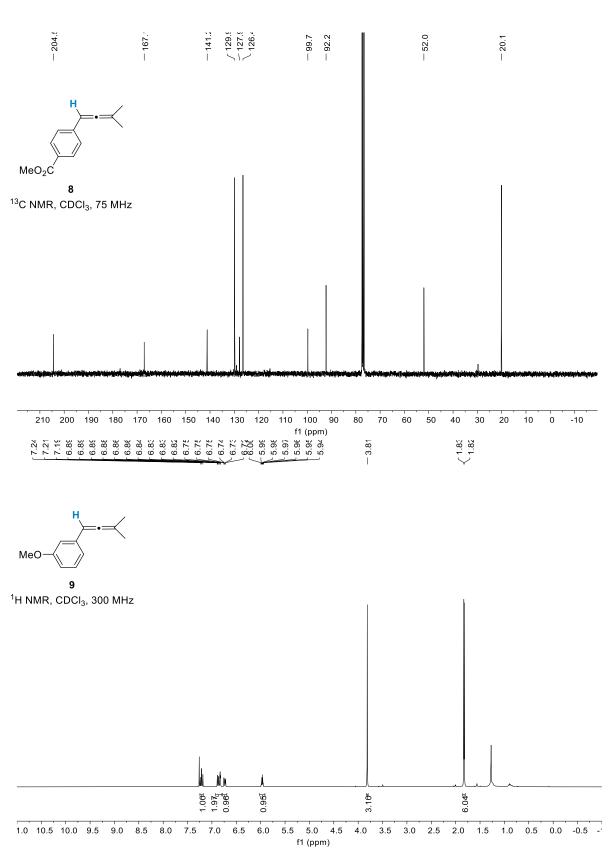


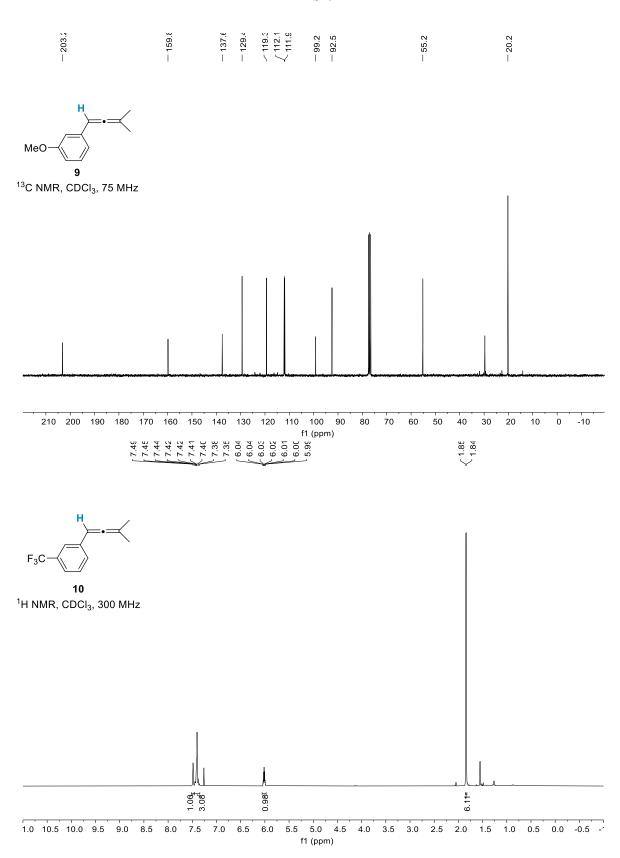


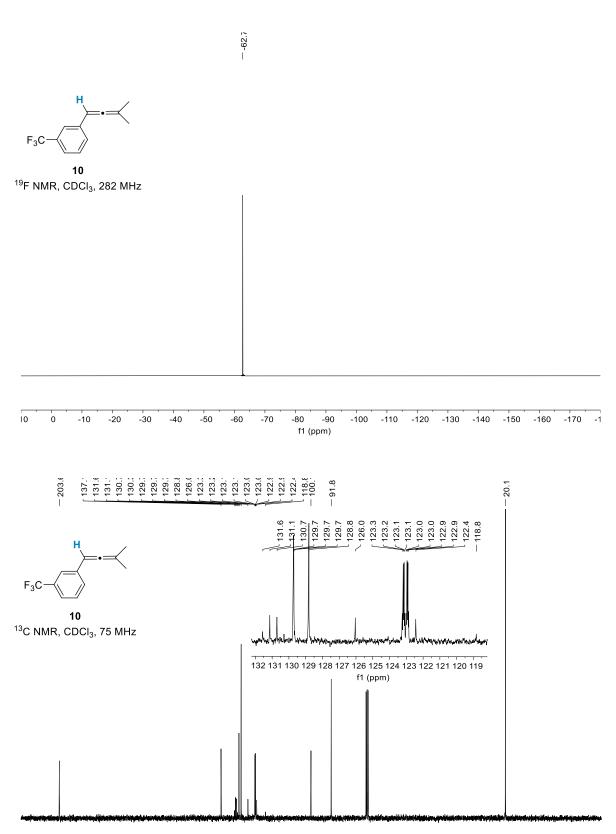


IO 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -1 f1 (ppm)

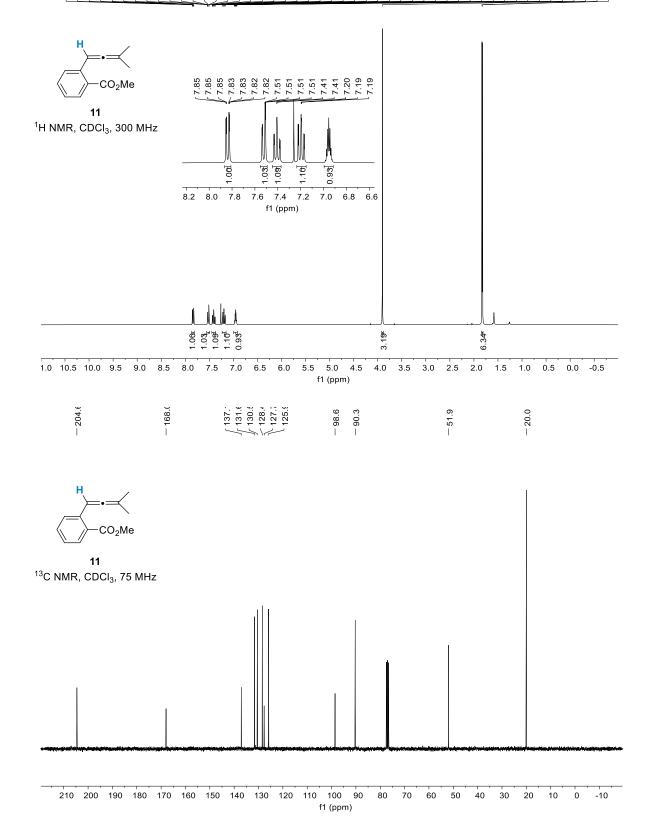


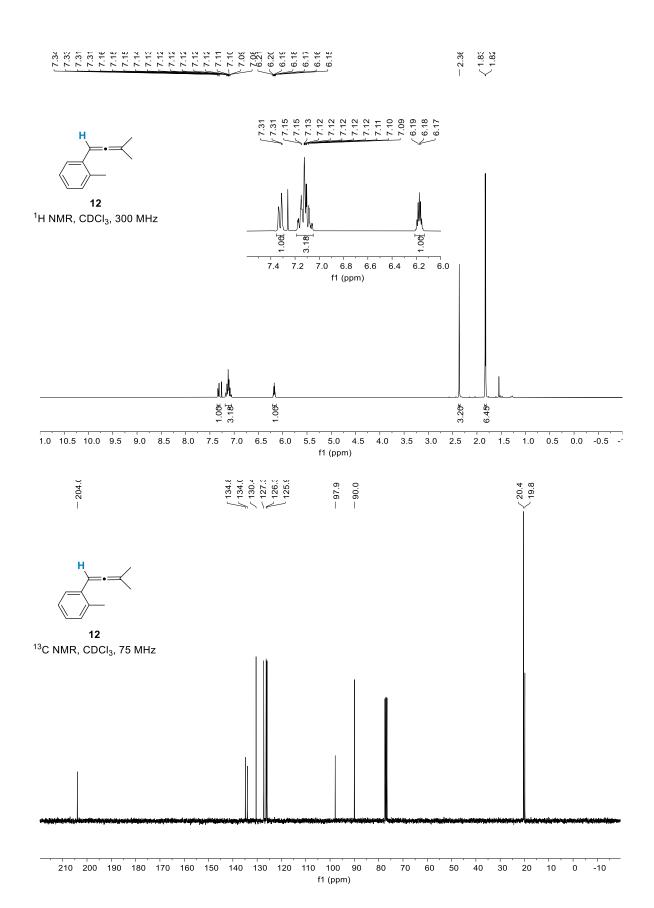


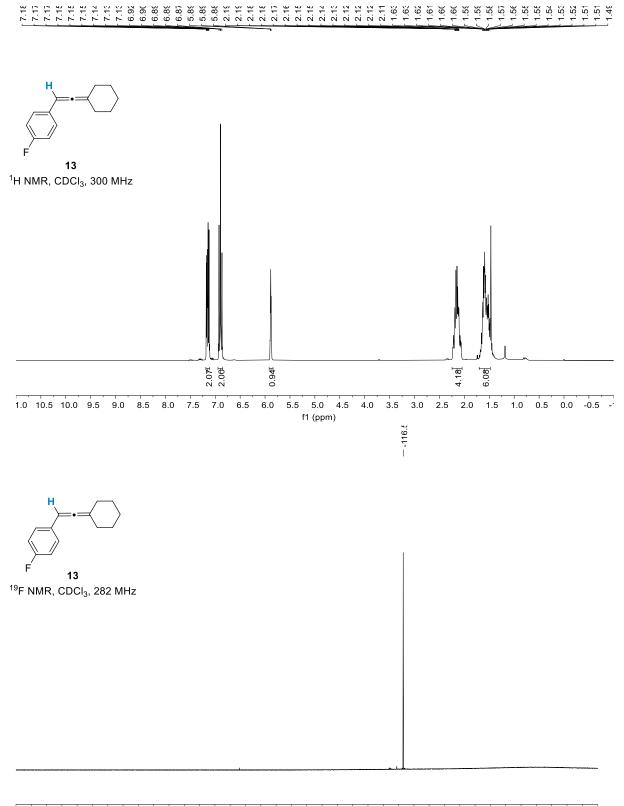




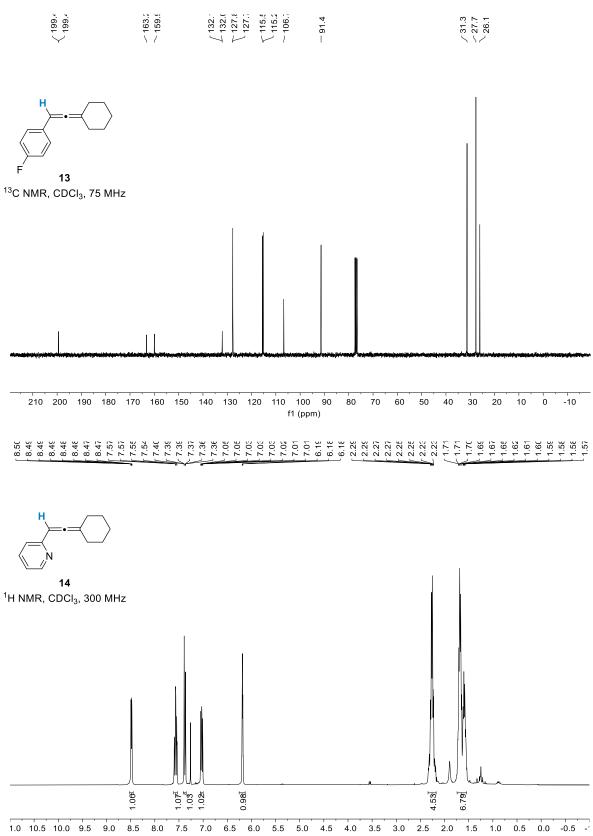
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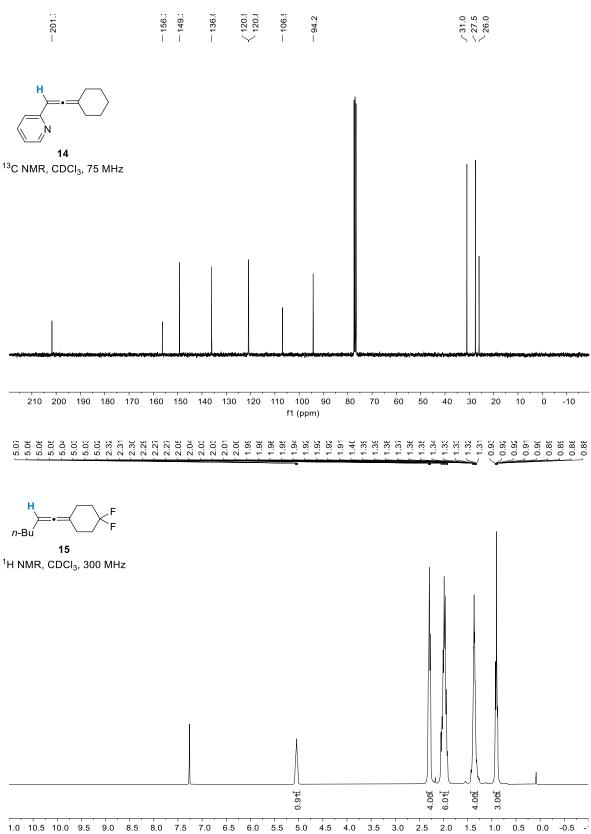


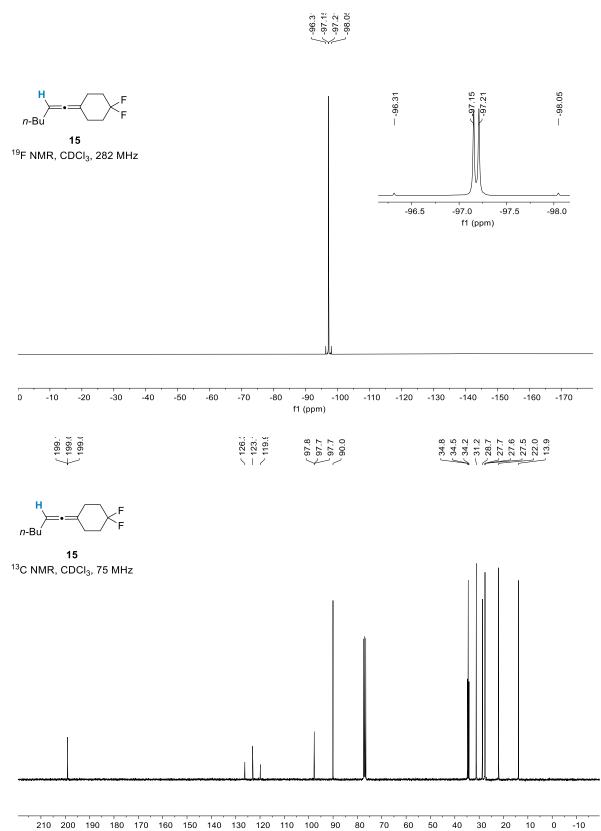


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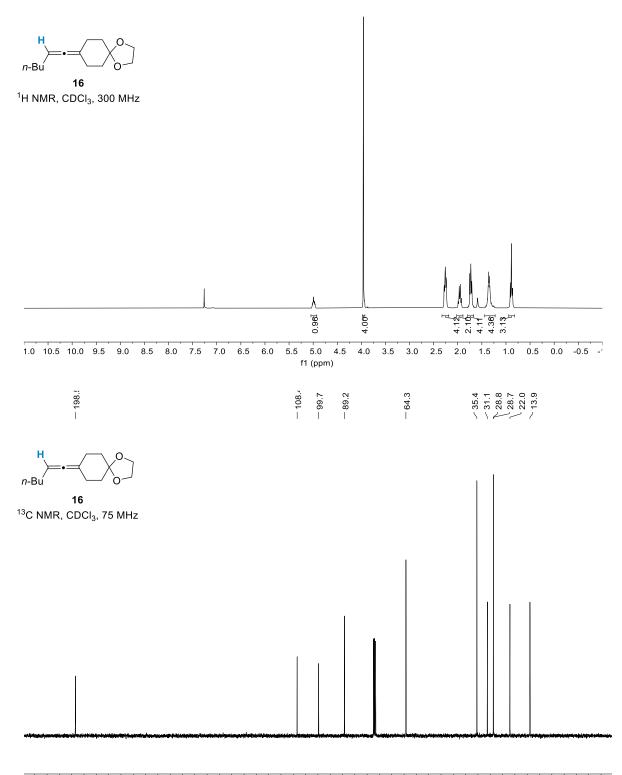
f1 (ppm)



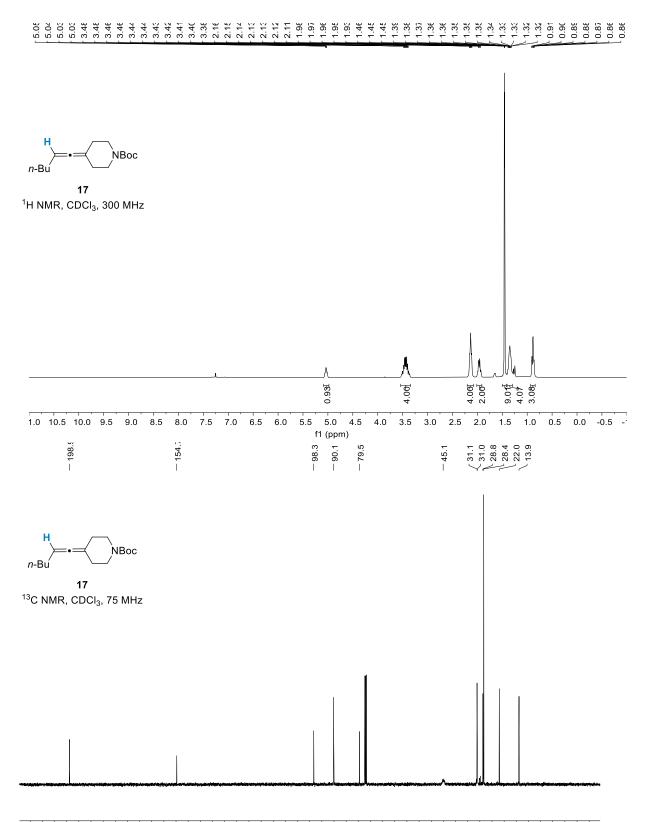




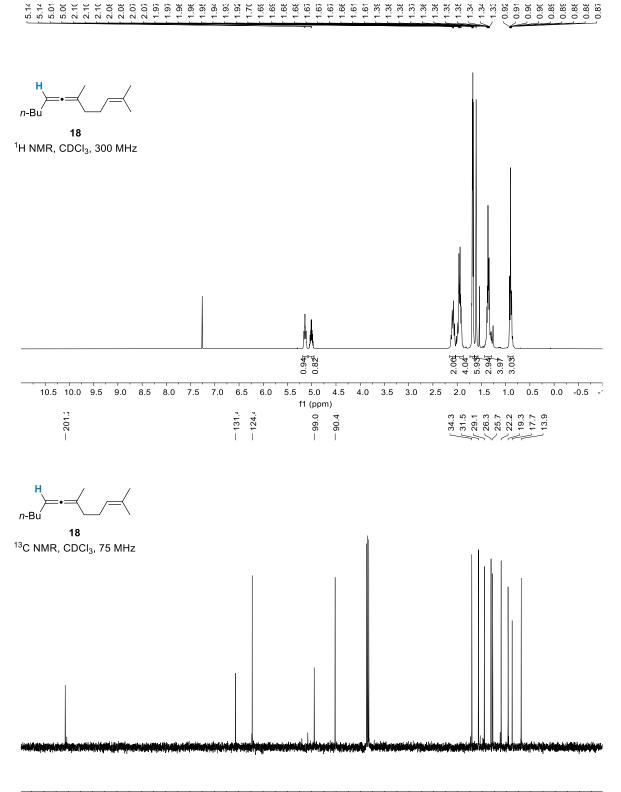




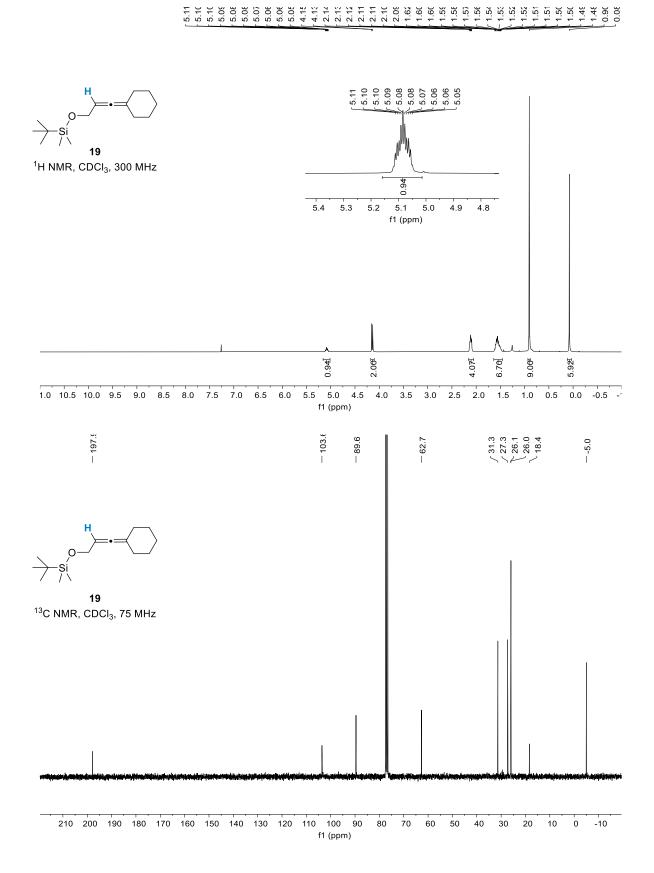
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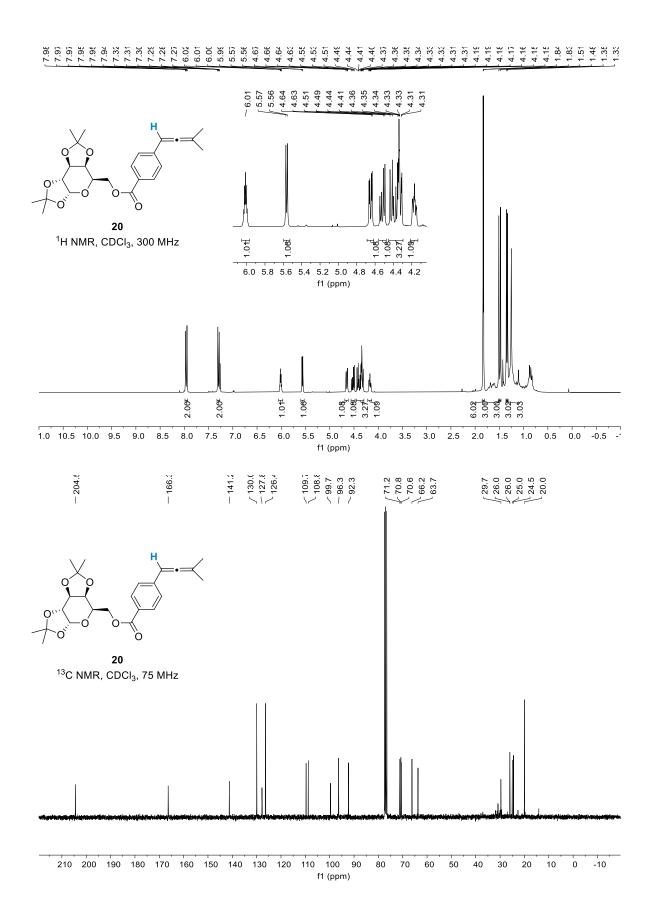
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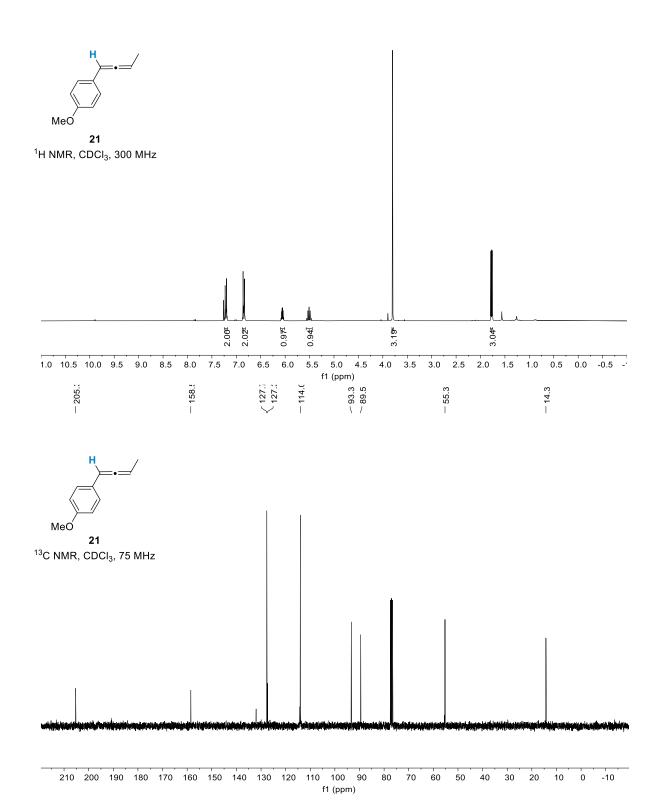
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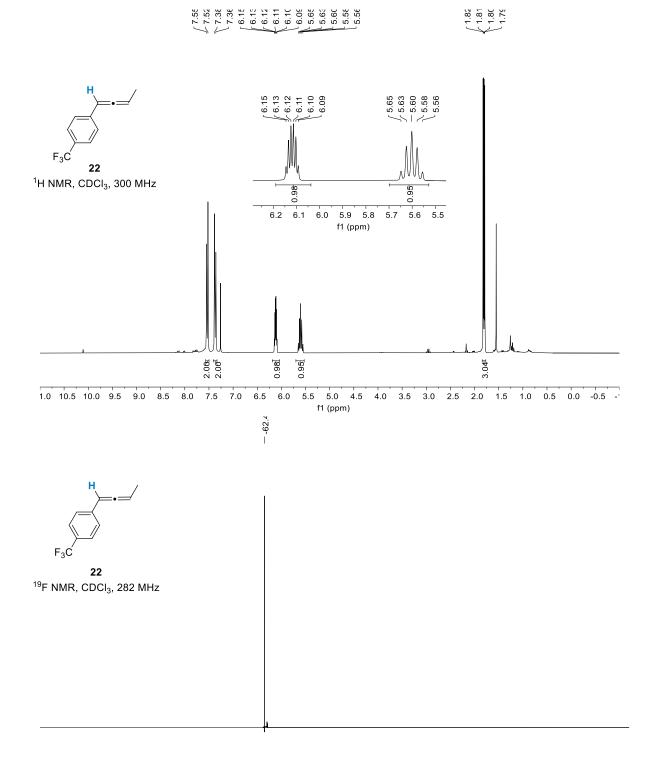


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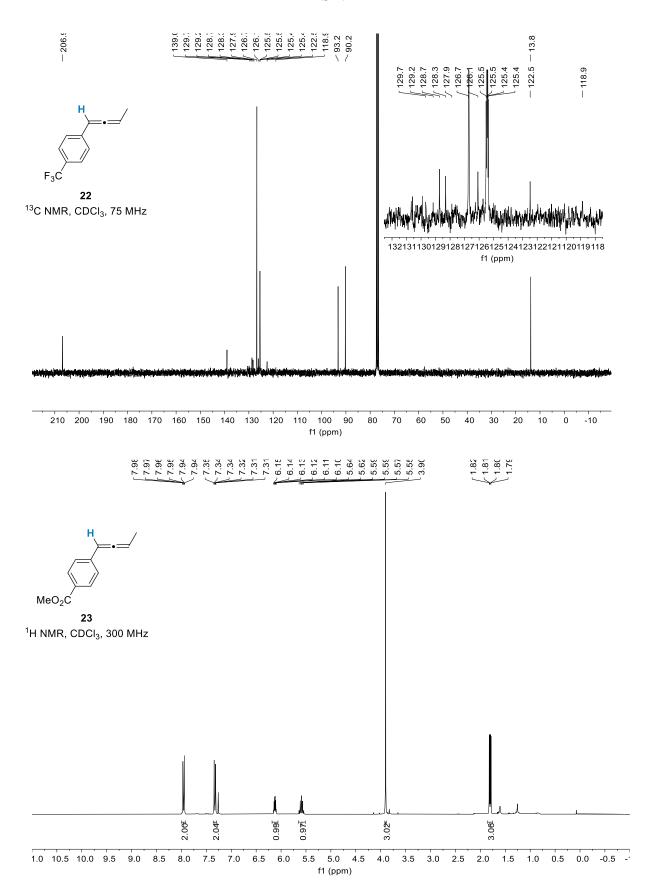


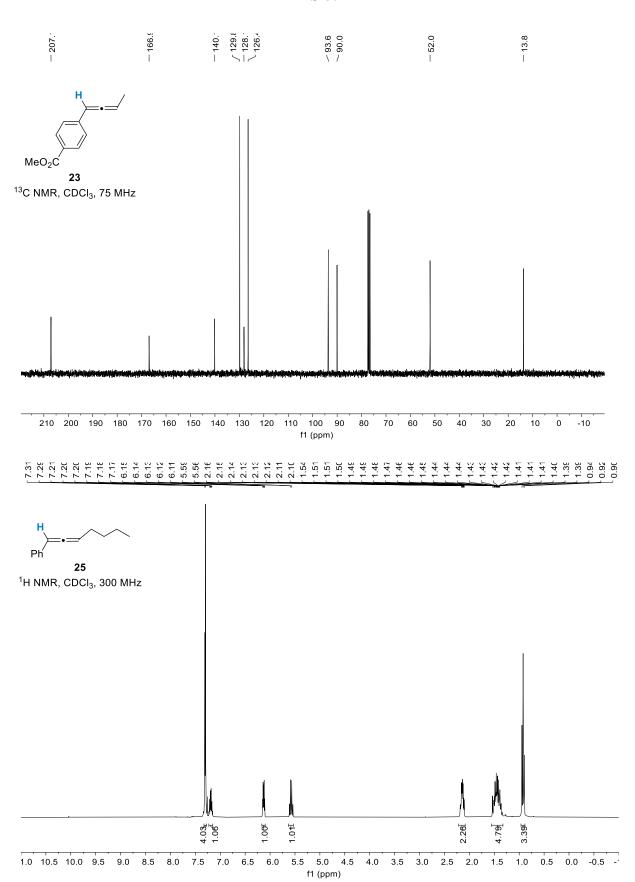
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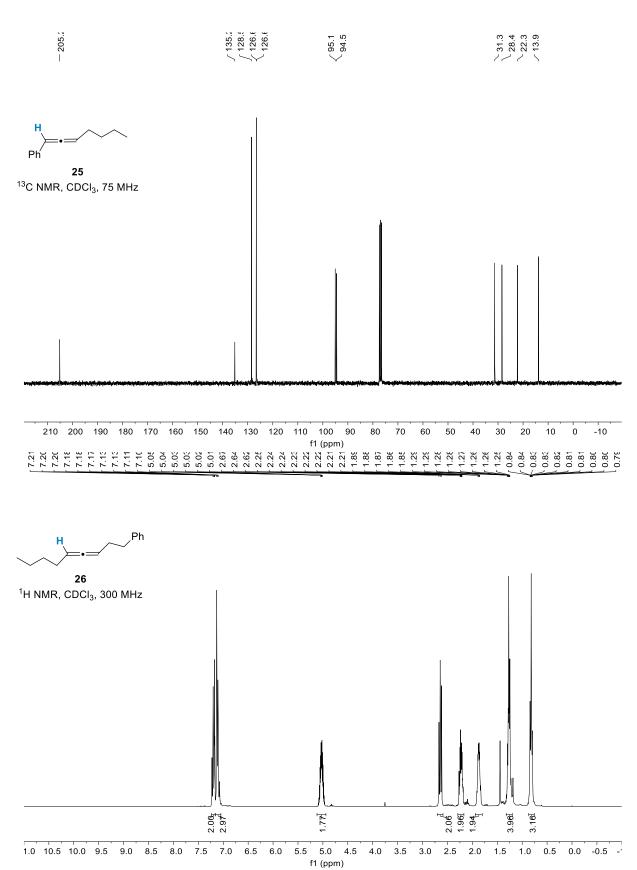


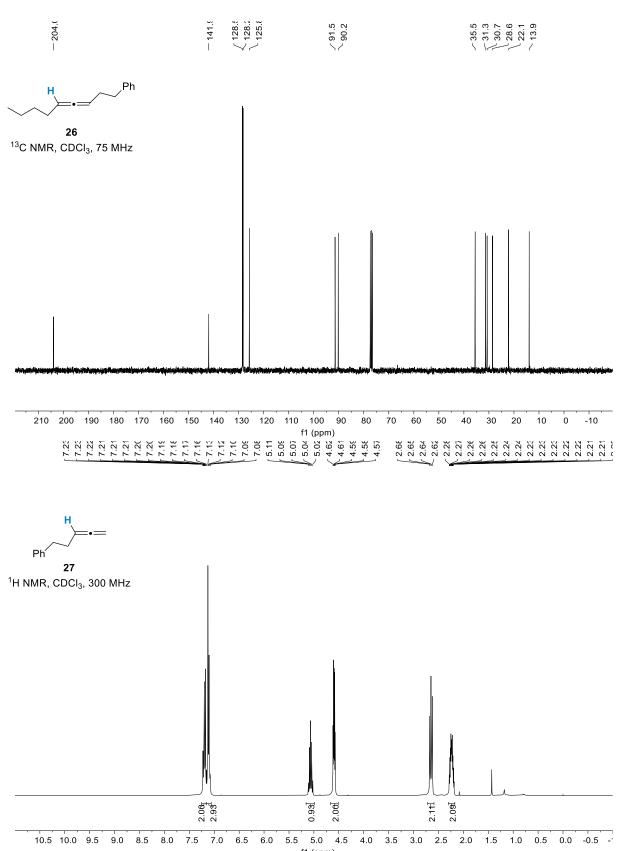


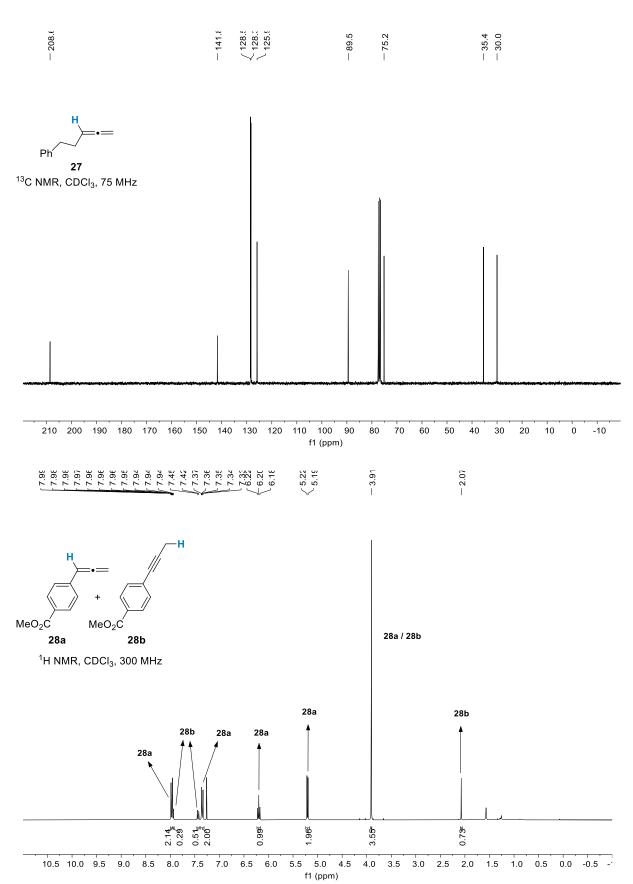
10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -1 f1 (ppm)

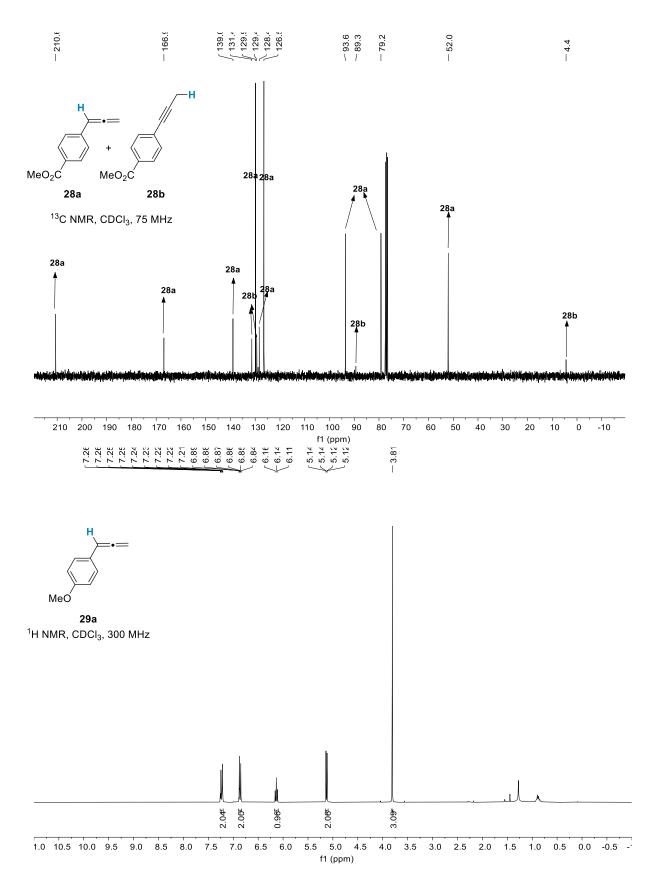


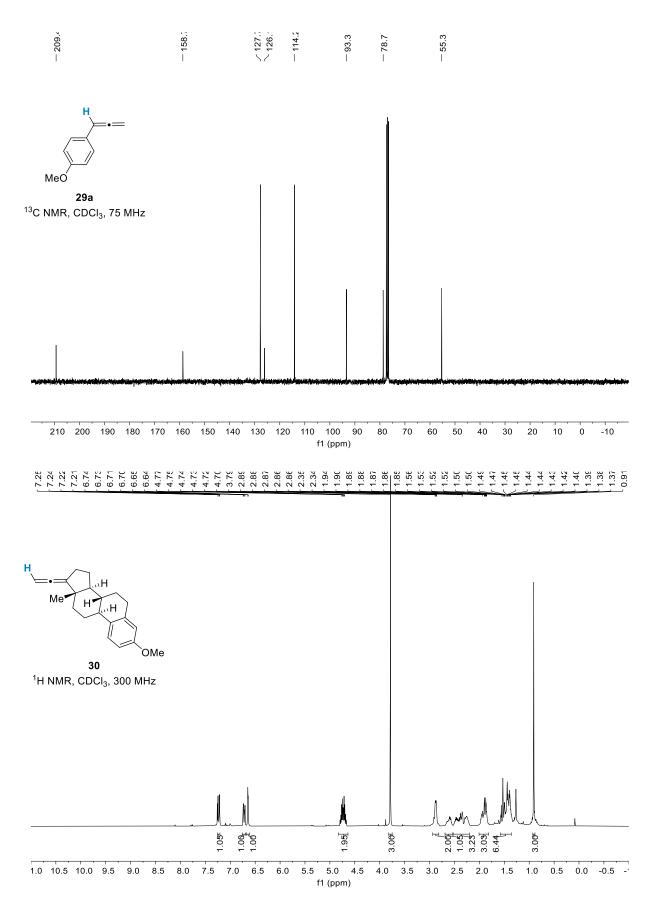


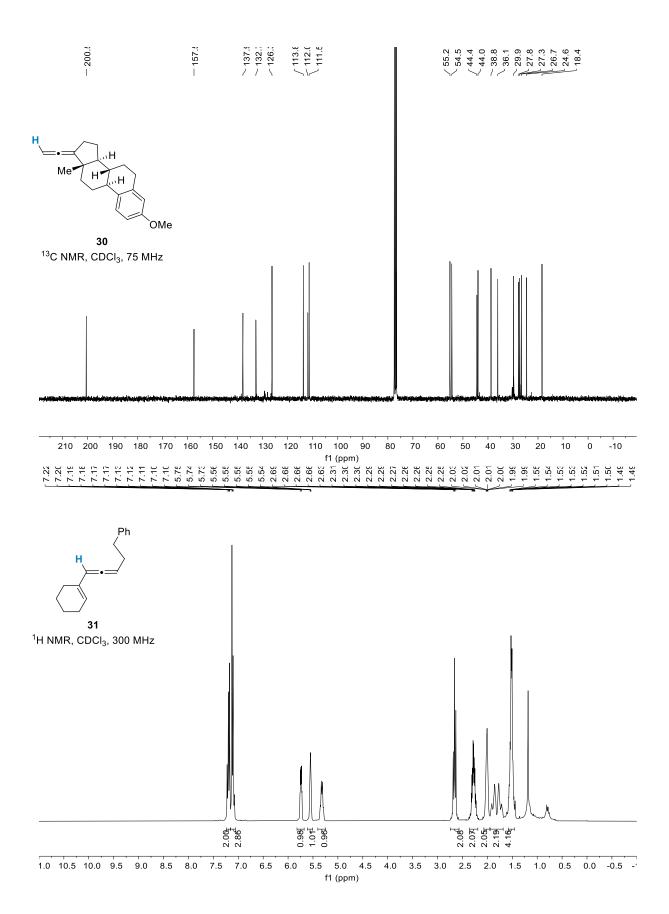


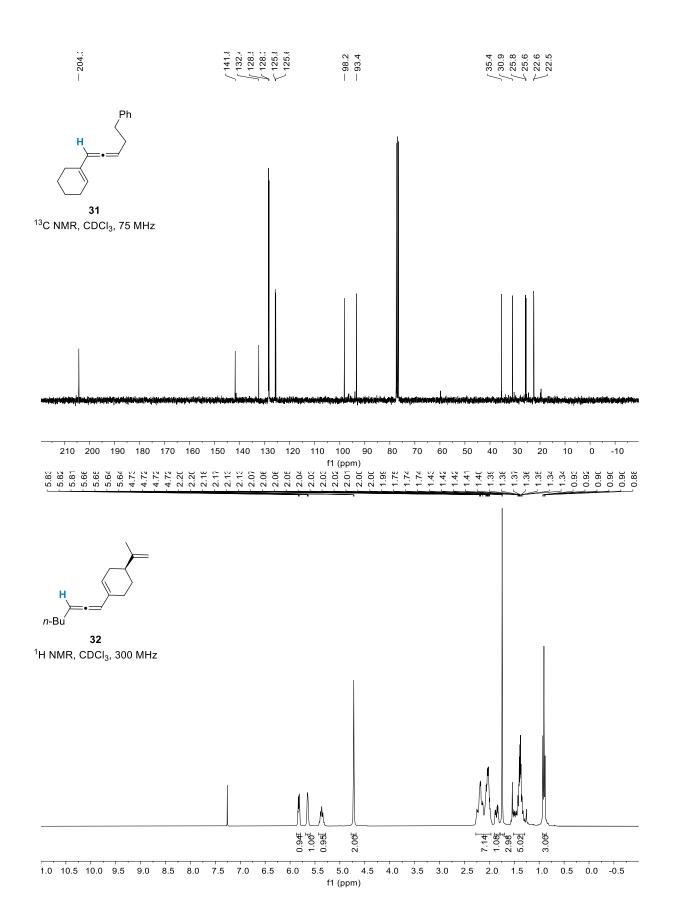


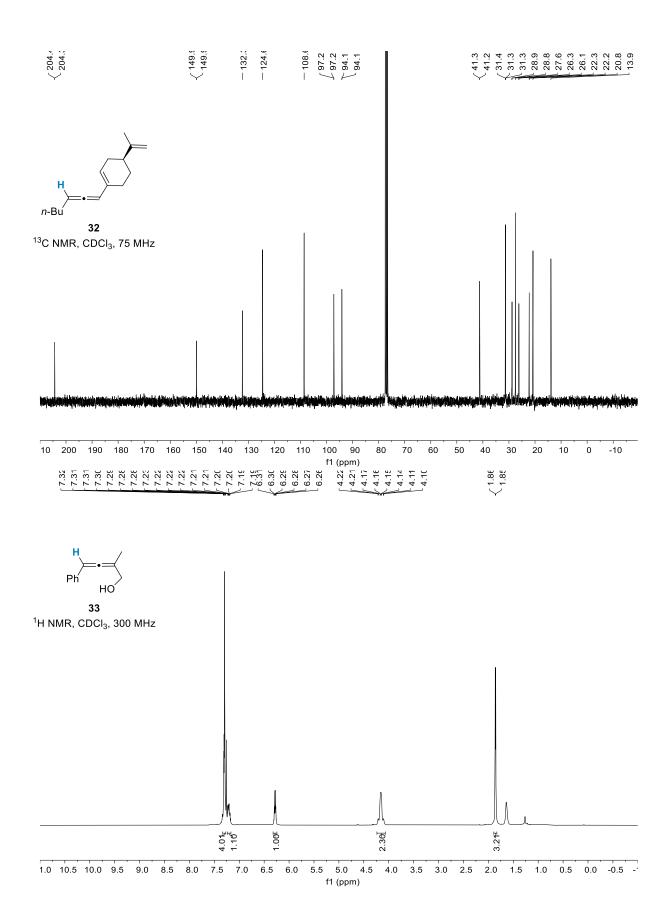


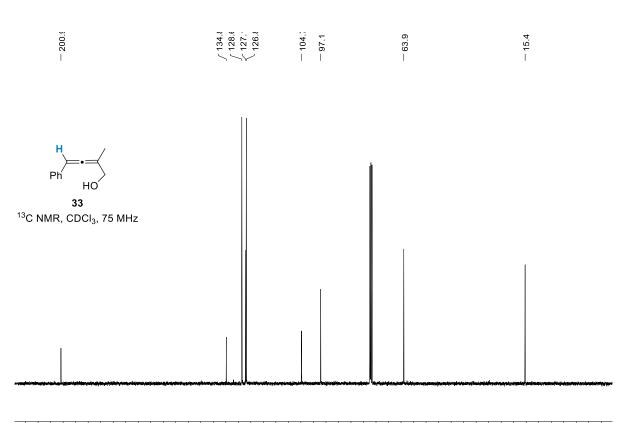












210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)