A Passage from Pincer Complexes to Rationally Designed Phosphine-Free Co(III) Catalysts Supported by Pentadentate Ligand for Activation of Alcohols: Studies on sp³ C–H Alkylation of 9H-Fluorene and Quinoline Synthesis

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1. Experimental

1.1 Materials used

All the chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercially available sources such as Aldrich, Merck, TCI, SRL, and ACROS organics and used as received. Analytical grade reagents and solvents were used for whole activities and spectroscopic studies. 2,6-Bis(1-phenylhydrazinyl) pyridine was synthesized according to literature.¹ UV-Vis. Spectra were recorded using a UV-Vis Spectrophotometer (UV-2600 from Shimadzu). IR spectra were recorded on an ALPHA II compact FT-IR spectrometer with the use of KBr pellets (16 scans in cm⁻¹). NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker Avance III 500 MHz (AV 500) and Jeol 500MHz spectrometers in deuterated solvents. Chemical shift values in NMR are recorded in δ (ppm) values against TMS as internal standard. NMR coupling constants (J) are represented in hertz (Hz) values. Multiplets in the chemical shift are given as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (doublet of doublets), ddd (doublet of doublet of doublets), dt (doublet of triples), td (triplet of doublets).

1.2 X-ray crystallography

The X-ray data collection and processing of complex 1 and complex 2 were performed on a Bruker Kappa (D8 QUEST) Apex-IV CMOS diffractometer by using graphite monochromated Mo-K α radiation (λ = 0.71070 Å) at 119 K and 105 K, respectively. The crystal structures were solved by SIR-92 GUI control methods. The Olex² software was used to solve the crystal structures and refine them using ShelXT and ShelXL, respectively.³ The bond lengths and bond angles were computed with the help of MERCURY software. Additionally, ORTEP⁴ images was generated using the same MERCURY program. The hydrogen atoms were placed in geometrically determined positions and refined using the riding model. The accompanying supplementary information (SI) files contains pertinent crystallographic parameters.

2. Synthesis

2.1 Synthesis of Ligand BPAPA-H = (2-(bis(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino)-N'-phenyl-N'-(pyridin-2-yl)acetohydrazide)

Bis(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)glycine (1.29 g, 3.6 mmol) was dissolved in 15–20 mL dimethylformamide solution and then cooled on an ice bath. To this solution, 1070.23 mg (7.92 mmol) of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) and 817 mg (3.96 mmol) of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) were added directly and the mixture was stirred for 5-10 min at 0 °C. Subsequently, a batch of 2-(1-phenylhydrazineyl)pyridine (666 mg, 3.6 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture with stirring for an additional 3 hours on the same ice bath. Afterward, the ice bath was removed and the stirring was continued for 24 hours at room temperature. The white precipitate of N,N'-dicyclohexylurea was removed by filtration, and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate and water. The ethyl acetate layer was dried using a rotatory evaporator, yielding an orange-red oil which was purified by column chromatography (using hexane and ethyl acetate as eluents) to give a red oil product. Yield - 998 mg (65%). Selected IR data (KBr, v_{max}/cm^{-1}): 1663 $v_{C=0 \text{ amide}}$, 1391. UVvisible [ACN, λ_{max}/nm (ε/M⁻¹cm⁻¹)]: 303.8 (6961.05), 269.45 (15498.94). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 11.33 (s, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.15 - 7.12 (m, 3H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 - 6.70 (m, 1H), 3.98 (s, 4H), 3.52 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.14, 158.20, 157.18, 149.26, 147.74, 144.28, 137.40, 136.69, 129.00, 125.26, 124.22, 123.33, 122.46, 115.82, 109.33, 60.34, 57.66.

2.2 Synthesis of Co(III) complexes C1 & C2.

To a methanolic solution of ligand BPAPA-H (213 mg, 0.5 mmol in 5 mL methanol), triethylamine (101 mg, 1 mmol) was added and stirred for 20 minutes. To this mixture, a solution of CoCl₂.6H₂O (119 mg, 0.5 mmol) or CoBr₂ (109 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 1 ml methanol was added dropwise. The solution turned greenish and was stirred for 4 hours under air. Subsequently, anhydrous NaClO₄ (98 mg, 0.7 mmol) dissolved in 1 mL methanol was added slowly dropwise and stirred for 1 hour. A brown precipitate formed, which was filtered and washed several times with diethyl ether. Yield: C1= 219mg (71%), C2 = 245 mg (74%), Co2 =231 mg (70%). Solubility – DMSO, methanol, ACN. Selected IR data (KBr, v_{max} /cm⁻¹): **Co1** = 1648 $v_{C=O \text{ amide}}$, 1474, 1096 v_{CIO4} , 768, 623 v_{CIO4} , **Co2** = 1647 $v_{C=O \text{ amide}}$, 1474, 1090 v_{CIO4} , 767, 627 v_{CIO4} . UV-visible [ACN, λ_{max} /nm (ϵ /M⁻¹cm⁻¹)]: **Co1** = 345 (3369.22), 451 (642.29), **Co2** = 345 (4926.6), 258 (22427.13). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) of **Co1** = δ 9.12 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 2H), 4.94 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 2H), 4.27 (s, 2H). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (126 MHz, DMSO) of **Co1** = δ 169.55, 163.52, 162.80, 149.84, 149.70 143.01, 142.33, 140.97, 129.86, 128.48, 127.19, 126.99, 124.83, 119.34, 111.19, 69.38.69.20.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) of **Co2** = δ 9.12 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.09 – 8.06 (m, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 5.00 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, DMSO) of **Co2** = δ 169.56, 163.56, 162.80, 149.86, 149.71, 143.03, 142.41, 141.03, 129.91, 128.49, 127.21, 127.03, 124.96, 119.39, 111.23, 69.46, 69.37.

3. Characterization

3.1 Characterization of Ligand (BPAPA-H)



















3.2 Characterization of complexes [Co(III)(BPAPA)CI]ClO₄ and [Co(III)(BPAPA)Br]ClO₄

Figure S7 - ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of C1



Figure S9 - UV visible spectrum of C1















Figure S13 - IR spectrum of C2



Figure S14 - UV visible spectrum of C2



Figure S15 – HRMS spectrum of C2

4. Single crystal XRD characterization

4.1 Crystal data collections and refinement parameters

Identification code	[Co(III)BPAPA(CI)]CIO ₄	[Co(III)BPAPA(Br)]ClO4
Empirical formula	C ₅₀ H ₄₆ Cl ₄ Co ₂ N ₁₂ O ₁₀	C ₂₇ BrClCoN ₇ O ₅ H ₂₆
Formula weight	1234.65	702.84
Temperature/K	104.00	109.0
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P-1	P-1
a/Å	8.6873(4)	9.1862(4)
b/Å	16.7926(8)	12.1495(5)
c/Ă	18.9662(10)	14.5113(7)
α/°	85.258(2)	111.807(2)
β/°	76.904(2)	96.893(2)
γ/°	86.461(2)	100.568(2)
Volume/Å ³	2683.0(2)	1446.42(11)
Z	2	2
ρ _{calc} g/cm ³	1.528	1.614
µ/mm ⁻¹	0.887	2.118
F(000)	1264.0	712.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.202 × 0.114 × 0.04	0.138 × 0.03 × 0.013
Radiation	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)
20 range for data collection/°	4.42 to 56.714	4.61 to 56.738
Index ranges	$-11 \le h \le 11, -22 \le k \le$	$-12 \le h \le 12, -16 \le k \le 16, -19$
Reflections collected	102746	54627
Independent reflections	13389 [$R_{int} = 0.0497$,	7216 [R _{int} = 0.0561, R _{sigma} =
Data/restraints/parameters	13389/0/703	7216/0/380
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.027	1.051
Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma (I)]$	R ₁ = 0.0480, wR ₂ = 0.1254	R ₁ = 0.0373, wR ₂ = 0.0909
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0559, wR_2 = 0.1310$	R ₁ = 0.0496, wR ₂ = 0.0978
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	3.68/-1.81	0.96/-0.45

Table S1 – Crystal data collections and refinement parameters for C1 and C2

4.2 Single crystal structure of [Co(III)BPAPA(CI)]CIO₄



Figure S16 - ORTEP diagram (25% probability level) of [Co(III)BPAPA(Cl)]ClO₄ (**C1**). Hydrogen atoms connected to C atoms, anion and solvent molecule are omitted for clarity.

Bond	Bond Length/Å	Bond	Bond Length/Å
Co2Cl2	2.2486(7)	Co2N10	1.932(2)
Co2N6	1.927(2)	O9C45	1.238(3)
Co2N7	1.858(2)	N7N33	1.430(3)
Co2N8	1.951(2)	N7C45	1.334(3)

Table S2 – Selected bond lengths of [Co(III)BPAPA(Cl)]ClO₄ (C1)

Bond	Bond Angle (°)	Bond	Bond Angle (°)
N6Co2Cl2	97.45(7)	N7Co2N10	89.75(9)
N6Co2N8	168.16(9)	N8Co2Cl2	94.34(6)
N6Co2N9	95.05(9)	N9Co2Cl2	89.78(6)
N6Co2N10	95.80(9)	N9Co2N8	83.90(9)
N7Co2Cl2	178.58(7)	N10Co2Cl2	88.88(6)
N7Co2N6	82.32(9)	N10Co2N8	85.47(9)
N7Co2N8	85.92(9)	N10Co2N9	169.15(9)
N7Co2N9	91.63(9)		

Table S3 – Selected bond angles of [Co(III)BPAPA(CI)]CIO₄ (C1)

4.3 Single crystal structure of [Co(III)BPAPA(Br)]ClO₄



Figure S17 - ORTEP diagram (25% probability level) of [Co(III)BPAPA(Br)]ClO₄ (**C2**). Hydrogen atoms connected to C atoms, anion and solvent molecule are omitted for clarity.

Bond	Bond length (Å)	Bond	Bond length (Å)
Br2 Co2	2.4096(4)	Co2 N4	1.949(2)
Co2 N1	1.945(2)	N2 N8	1.416(3)
Co2 N2	1.8716(19)	O2 C17	1.228(3)
Co2 N3	1.9534(19)	N2 C17	1.334(3)

Table S4 – Selected bond lengths of [Co(III)BPAPA(Br)]ClO₄ (C2)

Bond	Bond angles (°)	Bond	Bond angles (°)
N1 Co2 Br2	96.09(6)	N3 Co2 Br2	95.26(6)
N1 Co2 N3	168.65(8)	N4 Co2 Br2	90.11(6)
N1 Co2 N4	95.50(9)	N4 Co2 N3	84.13(9)
N2 Co2 Br2	178.44(6)	N5 Co2 Br2	91.11(6)
N2 Co2 N1	82.56(8)	N5 Co2 N1	96.13(9)
N2 Co2 N3	86.08(8)	N5 Co2 N3	83.98(9)
N2 Co2 N4	89.23(9)	N5 Co2 N4	168.11(9)
N2 Co2 N5	89.82(9)		

Table S5 – Selected bond angles of [Co(III)BPAPA(Br)]ClO₄ (C2)

5. Optimization of reaction conditions for sp³-H alkylation of fluorene

5.1. Optimization of base

					\sim	
	+	ОН	Catalyst mo Base, Solver	ol%		>
	(1a)	(2a)	Temperature,	Time	(3a)	
Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	CoCl ₂ .6H ₂ O 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
2	CoBr ₂ 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
3	BPAPA-H 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
4	C1, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	88
5	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94
6	C1, 1mol%	-	100	Toluene	12	NR
7	C2, 1mol%	-	100	Toluene	12	NR
8	-	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
9	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.5eq	100	Toluene	12	71
10	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94
11	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 1.0eq	100	Toluene	12	94

12	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 1.5eq	100	Toluene	12	94

Table S6: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 100 °C; base: 0.75 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.2. Optimization of solvent



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94
2	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Xylene	12	76
3	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Benzene	12	67
4	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	DMF	12	NR
5	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	DMSO	12	NR
6	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	t-amyl alcohol	12	NR
7	C2, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	1,4-dioxane	12	32%

Table S7: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 0.75 equivalent, solvent: 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.3. Optimization of base equivalent







Entry	Catalyst (Co1) mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hours)	Yield (%)
1	C2, 1mol%	KOH 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	81
2	C2, 1mol%	NaOH 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	74
3	C2, 1mol%	Cs ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	62
4	C2, 1mol%	Na ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
5	C2, 1mol%	K ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
6	C2, 1mol%	NaHCO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR

Table S8: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 0.5 – 1.5 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.4. Optimization of catalyst mol%

		+ Стон	Cataly Base, S Temperat	st mol%		
F . I .	(1a)	(2a)	T		(3a)	
Entry	catalyst (C2) mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (nrs)	Yield (%)
1	0.5 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	53
1	0.75 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	72
3	1.0 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94
4	1.25 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94

Table S9: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 0.75 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 0.5-1.5 mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.5. Optimization of time



Table S10: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 0.75 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1.0 mol% and time 10-14 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.6. Optimization of temperature

	(1a)	+ (2a)	Catalyst Base, Solv Temperature	mol% Vent 2, Time	(3a)	
Entry	Catalyst (C2) mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	80	Toluene	12	64
2	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	90	Toluene	12	78
3	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	94
4	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	110	Toluene	12	94
5	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	120	Toluene	12	94

Table S11: Fluorene (1a, 0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol (2a, 0.75 mmol), temperature 80-120 °C; ^tBuOK: 0.75 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1.0 mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

5.7. General procedure for sp³-H alkylation of fluorene

In a clean and dried 20 ml pressure tube filled with Fluorene derivatives (0.5 mmol), benzyl alcohol derivatives (0.75 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.75 equivalent), and catalyst (C2 1.0 mol%). The vial was filled with 2.0 mL of toluene and an inert atmosphere was created by purging N₂ to the reaction tube. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 100 °C for the next 10 hours. TLC was used to track the reaction's completion and ethyl acetate (4 × 5 mL) was used to extract the reaction mixture. After being dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, the resultant organic layer of ethyl acetate was concentrated under reduced pressure. Hexane/ethyl acetate was used as an eluent in column chromatography on silica (100–200 mesh size) to purify the resultant organic mixture. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopy was used to characterize the isolated products.

6. Optimization of reaction conditions for quinoline synthesis

6.1. Optimization of base



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	CoCl ₂ .6H ₂ O 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
2	CoBr ₂ 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
3	BPAPA-H 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
4	C1, 1mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	91
5	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
6	-	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
7	C1, 1mol%	-	100	Toluene	12	NR
8	C2, 1mol%	-	100	Toluene	12	NR
9	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.5eq	100	Toluene	12	74
10	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
11	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 1.0eq	100	Toluene	12	95
12	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 1.5eq	100	Toluene	12	95

Table S12: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100 °C; base: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.2. Optimization of base equivalent

		+	Catalyst mol% Base, Solvent Temperature, time	→ 〔		
Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
3	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
4	C2, 1 mol%	KOH 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	86
5	C2, 1 mol%	NaOH 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	78
6	C2, 1 mol%	Cs ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	66
7	C2, 1 mol%	Na ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
8	C2, 1 mol%	K ₂ CO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR
9	C2, 1 mol%	NaHCO ₃ 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	NR

Table S13: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100 °C; base: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.3. Optimization of solvent



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°C)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
2	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Xylene	12	70
3	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Benzene	12	62
4	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	DMF	12	NR
5	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	DMSO	12	NR
6	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	t-amyl alcohol	12	NR
7	C2, 1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	1,4-dioxane	12	25

Table S14: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.4. Optimization of catalyst mol%



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°c)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	0.5 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	59
1	0.75 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	75
3	1.0 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
4	1.5 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95

Table S15: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100 °C; ^tBuOK: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.5. Optimization of time



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°c)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	10	72
2	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	11	83
3	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	12	95
4	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	13	95

Table S16: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100 °C; base: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.6. Optimization of temperature



Entry	Catalyst mol%	Base	Temp. (°c)	Solvent	Time (hrs)	Yield (%)
1	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	80	Toluene	10	63
2	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	90	Toluene	10	80
3	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	100	Toluene	10	95

4	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	110	Toluene	10	95
5	1 mol%	^t BuOK 0.75eq	120	Toluene	10	95

Table S17: 2-amino benzyl alcohol (4a, 0.5 mmol), acetophenone (5a, 0.5 mmol), temperature 100-120 °C; base: 1.0 equivalent, solvent: Toluene 2ml, catalyst 1mol% and time 12 hours (under inert atmosphere of N_2). Isolated yields after column chromatography.

6.7. General procedure for quinoline synthesis

In a clean and dried 20 ml pressure tube filled with 2- amino benzyl alcohol derivative (0.5 mmol), acetophenone derivative (0.5 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.75 equivalent) and catalyst (C2 1.0 mol%). The charged vial was filled with 2.0 mL of toluene and an inert atmosphere was created by purging N₂ to the reaction tube. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 100 °C for the next 12 hours. TLC was used to track the reaction's completion and ethyl acetate (4 × 5 mL) was used to extract the reaction mixture. After being dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, the resultant organic layer of ethyl acetate was concentrated under reduced pressure. Hexane/ethyl acetate was used as an eluent in column chromatography on silica (100–200 mesh size) to purify the resultant organic mixture. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopy were used to characterize the isolated products.

7. Characterization of intermediates and side product (H₂) by GC-MS

7.1 Detection of in-situ formed 9-benzylidene-9H-fluorene during sp³ C–H alkylation of fluorene

In a 10 ml pressure tube Fluorene (0.5 mmol), 4-methoxy benzyl alcohol (0.75 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.75 equivalent) and catalyst (C2 1mol%) were taken in 2 ml toluene under inert atmosphere of N₂. Tube was sealed, heated at 100 °C for the next 4 hours, after that the reaction mixture was cooled at room temperature extracted with ethyl acetate and water. Formation of α , β unsaturated carbonyl compound (E)-1,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-one and 3,5-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-1H-pyrazole were then detected by GC-MS analysis.



Figure S18 - GC–MS spectrum of 9-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-9H-fluorene **7.2 Detection of H**₂ via styrene reduction in presence of 10% Pd-C and in-situ formed α - β unsaturated carbonyl compound



The two 20 ml round bottom flask was connected through a U-shaped tube. The first flask was charged with catalyst base and substrates, and the second flask was charged with styrene, Pd-C in THF at room temperature. The in situ-produced H₂ travelled from the first flask to the second flask and styrene was reduced to ethylbenzene by H₂ in the presence of Pd-C which was detected by GC-MS analysis.

Stoichiometry of reaction for dehydrogenation of 4-methoxy benzyl alcohol: In the firstround bottom flask, 4-methoxy benzyl alcohol (1.0 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.75 equivalent) and catalyst (C2, 1.0 mol%). The vial was filled with 2.0 mL of toluene and an inert atmosphere was created by purging N₂ to the reaction tube. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 100 °C for the next 12 hours. In the second-round bottom flask, styrene 0.5 mmol, Pd-C 10 mol% in THF 10 ml.

Stoichiometry of reaction for quinoline synthesis: In the first-round bottom flask 2aminobenzyl alcohol (1.0 mmol), 4-methyl acetophenone (1.0 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.75 equivalent) and catalyst (C2, 1.0 mol%). The vial was filled with 2.0 mL of toluene and an inert atmosphere was created by purging N₂ to the reaction tube. The reaction mixture was heated in an oil bath at 100 °C for the next 12 hours. In the second-round bottom flask, styrene 0.5 mmol, Pd-C 10 mol% in THF 10 ml.



Figure S19- GC–MS characterization of styrene and ethyl benzene



Figure S20 - GC-MS spectrum of (E)-3-(2-aminophenyl)-1-(p-tolyl)prop-2-en-1-one

7.3 Detection of Co-H and Co-alkoxy intermediates during catalysis

In a 10 ml pressure tube, benzyl alcohol (1.0 mmol), ^tBuOK (0.5 equivalent), C2 (1 mol%) was taken in 2 ml dry toluene. The pressure tube was then heated at 100 °C for the next 3 hours. Cool the reaction mixture at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was analysed by HRMS study. All the nickel-hydride and nickel-alkoxy intermediates formed by the reaction of catalysts C1 and C2 with benzyl alcohol are detected by HRMS. All experimental and calculated *m/z* values are shown in the table below.





8. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR characterization of sp³ C–H alkylated fluorene derivatives

The NMR spectroscopic data for all the reported monoalkylated fluorene derivatives are in agreement with the previously reported literatures.^{5–14}

9-benzyl-9H-fluorene (3a)



Yield: 94%, 120 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.31 (m, 11H), 4.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.99, 140.99, 139.98, 129.69, 128.44, 127.28, 126.81, 126.52, 125.00, 119.99, 48.85, 40.23.

9-(4-fluorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3b)



Yield: 85%, 117 mg. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J = 8.3, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.63, 160.69, 146.58, 140.98, 135.28 (d, J = 3.2 Hz), 130.94 (d, J = 7.8 Hz), 127.27, 126.76, 124.83, 119.96, 115.12, 114.95 48.77, 39.17. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -116.35 – -116.69 (m).

9-(4-chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3c)



Yield: 89%, 129 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.25 (m, 6H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.42, 140.93, 138.07, 132.14, 130.90, 128.37, 127.30, 126.78, 124.79, 119.98, 48.52, 39.29.

9-(4-bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3d)



Yield: 91%, 153 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, J = 17.0, 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.32 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.25 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.44, 140.96, 138.61, 131.35, 131.33, 127.35, 126.82, 124.81, 120.27, 120.02, 48.47, 39.37.

9-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-9H-fluorene (3e)



Yield: 88%, 143 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, J = 7.3, 3.9, 1.0 Hz, 4H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.25, 143.74, 140.96, 129.87, 128.86, 128.61, 127.42, 126.87, 125.52, 125.16 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.73, 123.36, 120.04, 48.33, 39.73. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -61.97 (s).

9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3f)



Yield: 93%, 135 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.40, 141.83, 140.89, 134.09, 129.63, 129.53, 127.80, 127.35, 126.83, 126.66, 124.80, 119.98, 48.42, 39.73.

9-(3-bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3g)



Yield: 92%, 154 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.32 (td, J = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.40, 142.16, 140.91, 132.57, 129.85, 129.60, 128.28, 127.38, 126.85, 124.82, 122.40, 120.01, 48.45, 39.72.

9-(4-methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3h)



Yield: 96%, 138 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.17 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.27, 147.03, 140.98, 131.95, 130.56, 127.20, 126.76, 125.00, 119.95, 113.77, 55.29, 49.04, 39.27.

9-(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)-9H-fluorene (3i)



Yield: 94%, 147 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (dd, J = 11.9, 5.6 Hz, 4H), 7.39 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 4.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H).

 $^{13}\text{C}\{^{1}\text{H}\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.38, 147.23, 140.96, 137.05, 129.31, 127.22, 126.81, 125.35, 125.03, 119.95, 48.91, 39.78, 34.61, 31.65.

9-(3-methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3j)



Yield: 97%, 139 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 6.93 – 6.89 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.32 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.18 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.61, 146.87, 141.45, 140.93, 129.31, 127.22, 126.77, 124.96, 122.06, 119.91, 112.08, 55.22, 48.65, 40.14.

9-(2,4-dimethoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3k)



Yield: 89%, 141 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.08 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.80, 158.90, 147.82, 140.82, 131.82, 126.88, 126.57, 125.12, 121.08, 119.73, 103.62, 98.54, 55.42, 55.37, 46.98, 35.00.

5-((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3l)



Yield: 91%, 137 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 6.83 – 6.79 (m, 2H), 6.69 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 2H), 4.22 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.60, 146.76, 146.10, 140.91, 133.63, 127.19, 126.73, 124.90, 122.61, 119.90, 109.76, 108.07, 100.90, 48.89, 39.81.

9-(4-methylbenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3m)



Yield: 94%, 127 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (ddd, *J* = 13.1, 9.8, 4.3 Hz, 4H), 7.24 – 7.20 (m, 4H), 4.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.07, 140.93, 136.83, 135.87, 129.48, 129.08, 127.16, 126.72, 124.97, 119.89, 48.88, 39.73, 21.22.

9-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-9H-fluorene (3n)



Yield: 86%, 143 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4H), 4.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.86, 140.93, 140.91, 139.18, 138.99, 129.99, 128.81, 127.20, 127.01, 126.96, 126.74, 124.91, 119.90, 48.72, 39.77.

9-(3-phenoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3o)



Yield: 84%, 146 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.12 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.00 – 6.88 (m, 5H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.54, 157.02, 146.65, 141.80, 140.98, 129.85, 129.63, 127.30, 126.84, 124.93, 124.78, 123.13, 120.36, 119.98, 118.70, 117.37, 48.64, 39.90.

9-(2-methylbenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3p)



Yield: 92%, 124 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 6H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.30, 140.94, 138.61, 136.95, 130.67, 130.61, 127.35, 126.92, 126.84, 126.15, 125.09, 120.06, 47.83, 37.92, 19.96.

9-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-9H-fluorene (3q)



Yield: 95%, 146 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (dt, *J* = 14.7, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.57 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.21, 140.91, 136.14, 134.21, 132.19, 129.25, 128.41, 127.67, 127.32, 126.82, 126.25, 125.85, 125.49, 125.31, 123.92, 120.02, 47.74, 38.15.

9-(1-phenylethyl)-9H-fluorene (3r)



Yield: 88%, 119 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (dd, J = 11.8, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.31 (m, 8H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.78 – 3.70 (m, 1H), 1.00 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.58, 144.66, 144.61, 141.85, 141.41, 128.23, 128.14, 127.13, 127.08, 126.86, 126.36, 126.29, 125.70, 124.34, 119.75, 119.67, 54.25, 41.93, 13.95.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3s)



Yield: 87%, 195 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.26 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.99, 138.88, 136.78, 132.59, 130.72, 130.65, 128.53, 128.09, 121.30, 121.00, 48.39, 38.79.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3t)



Yield: 90%, 222 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (ddd, J = 8.1, 1.8, 0.5 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 6.97 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 4.12 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.01, 138.98, 137.31, 131.52, 131.17, 130.72, 128.16, 121.39, 121.04, 120.71, 48.40, 38.92.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-9H-fluorene (3u)



Yield: 86%, 207 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 – 7.44 (m, 6H), 7.29 (s, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.17 – 4.10 (m, 1H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.81, 142.47, 138.96, 130.81, 129.81, 129.30, 129.04, 128.78, 128.12, 125.37 (q, *J* = 3.78 Hz), 123.20, 121.43, 121.09, 48.23, 39.25. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.19 (s).

2,7-dibromo-9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3v)



Yield: 89%, 200 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.96, 140.63, 138.80, 134.33, 130.69, 129.71, 129.50, 128.16, 127.66, 127.09, 121.29, 121.02, 48.34, 39.29.

2,7-dibromo-9-(3-bromobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3w)



Yield: 92%, 227 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (ddd, J = 8.1, 1.8, 0.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 8.0, 2.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dd, J = 1.7, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (ddd, J = 7.6, 1.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H),

2.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.99, 140.99, 138.87, 132.53, 130.76, 130.08, 128.25, 128.19, 122.62, 121.38, 121.07, 48.45, 39.36.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3x)



Yield: 95%, 211 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.00 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.49, 148.55, 138.84, 130.61, 130.46, 130.40, 128.25, 121.21, 120.94, 113.90, 55.34, 48.93, 38.74.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)-9H-fluorene (3y)



Yield: 93%, 219 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (s, 9H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.92, 148.56, 138.78, 135.80, 130.42, 129.17, 128.38, 125.42, 121.14, 120.89, 48.87, 39.23, 34.56, 31.49.

5-((2,7-dibromo-9H-fluoren-9-yl)methyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3z)



Yield: 92%, 211 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (dd, J = 8.1, 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (ddd, J = 8.1, 1.8, 0.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.04 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 2.94 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.38, 147.83, 146.46, 138.88, 132.42, 130.58, 128.29, 122.64, 121.28, 121.00, 109.54, 108.23, 101.08, 48.85, 39.42.

2,7-dibromo-9-(4-methylbenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3aa)



Yield: 93%, 198 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.27 (s, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.10 – 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.64, 138.89, 136.41, 135.60, 130.52, 129.37, 129.26, 128.33, 121.26, 120.98, 48.87, 39.28, 21.28.

2,7-dibromo-9-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-9H-fluorene (3ab)



Yield: 90%, 209 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.23 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 4.31 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.61, 138.73, 134.78, 134.13, 131.77, 130.51, 129.29, 128.05, 126.35, 125.91, 125.26, 123.40, 121.18, 120.90, 47.50, 37.68.

9-benzyl-2-bromo-9H-fluorene (3ac)



Yield: 89%, 149 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (dt, *J* = 5.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (dt, *J* = 4.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 7.5, 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.92, 140.92, 139.93, 139.31, 130.33, 129.64, 128.39, 127.21, 126.75, 126.47, 124.94, 121.21, 119.91, 48.81, 40.19.

2-bromo-9-(3-chlorobenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3ad)



Yield: 87%, 161 mg. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.34 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 7.24 (ddd, *J* = 10.6, 8.3, 4.0 Hz, 3H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 3.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dt, *J* = 6.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (ddd, *J* = 35.6, 13.8, 7.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.42, 146.07, 141.25, 139.92, 134.24, 130.51, 129.66, 129.61, 128.15, 127.78, 127.61, 127.27, 126.91, 124.92, 121.30, 120.60, 120.09, 48.46, 39.57.

2-bromo-9-(4-methoxybenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3ae)



Yield: 92%, 168 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 6.86 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 4.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.03 (ddd, *J* = 32.5, 13.8, 7.5 Hz, 2H) ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.36, 148.98, 146.62, 139.93, 131.30, 130.49, 130.27, 128.24, 127.38, 127.13, 126.72, 125.05, 121.20, 120.51, 119.97, 113.82, 55.36, 49.03, 39.04.

5-((2-bromo-9H-fluoren-9-yl)methyl)benzo[d][1,3]dioxole (3af)



Yield: 89%, 169 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (tddd, *J* = 4.1, 3.7, 1.0, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (ddd, *J* = 32.2, 13.9, 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.78, 147.72, 146.42, 146.28, 139.92, 139.91, 133.04, 130.34, 128.22, 127.44, 127.18, 125.02, 122.64, 121.22, 120.54, 120.00, 109.67, 108.17, 101.00, 48.92, 39.64.

2-bromo-9-(4-methylbenzyl)-9H-fluorene (3ag)



Yield: 90%, 157 mg. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 1.7, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 – 7.08 (m, 5H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (ddd, *J* = 32.8, 13.8, 7.6 Hz, 2H),

2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.05, 146.69, 139.92, 139.90, 136.20, 136.14, 130.28, 129.41, 129.15, 128.25, 127.37, 127.13, 125.06, 121.18, 120.52, 119.95, 48.90, 39.51, 21.22.

9-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-2-bromo-9H-fluorene (3ah)



Yield: 85%, 175 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dt, *J* = 6.2, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (ddd, *J* = 30.8, 13.7, 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.87, 146.53, 140.93, 139.95, 139.48, 138.40, 130.37, 130.00, 128.88, 128.27, 127.73, 127.20, 127.10, 125.05, 121.25, 120.57, 120.03, 48.78, 39.58.

9-butyl-9H-fluorene (3ai)



Yield: 85%, 94.65 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.85 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (tdd, J = 7.4, 1.1, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (td, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (ddd, J = 10.0, 8.0, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 1.42 – 1.34 (m, 2H), 1.31 – 1.24 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.81, 141.32, 127.02, 126.97, 124.53, 119.97, 47.66, 33.00, 27.99, 23.23, 14.14.

9-hexyl-9H-fluorene (3aj)



Yield: 87%, 109 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.15 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.29 (m, 8H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.75, 141.23, 126.93, 126.89, 124.45, 119.88, 47.62, 33.25, 31.79, 29.79, 25.80, 22.78, 14.21.

9-octyl-9H-fluorene (3ak)



Yield: 89%, 124 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 4.09 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.15 – 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.42 – 1.31 (m, 12H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.75, 141.23, 126.93, 126.88, 124.45, 119.88, 47.62, 33.23, 31.99, 30.12, 129.53, 29.44, 25.84, 22.79, 14.25.

9-decyl-9H-fluorene (3al)



Yield: 92%, 141 mg. ¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 2.11 (m, 2H), 1.49 – 1.35 (m, 16), 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.87, 141.38, 127.07, 127.02, 124.58, 120.02, 47.76, 33.38, 32.22, 30.29, 29.95, 29.91, 29.74, 29.64, 25.99, 23.01, 14.44.

9-isopentyl-9H-fluorene (3am)



Yield: 90%, 106 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (ddd, *J* = 10.5, 8.1, 5.8 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (dp, *J* = 13.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (ddd, *J* = 15.3, 6.8, 4.7 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.67, 141.25, 126.993, 129.89, 124.42, 119.87, 47.64, 34.58, 30.87, 28.43, 22.60.

9-cyclohexyl-9H-fluorene (3an)



Yield: 89%, 110.60 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (td, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (tq, J = 11.8, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 1.83 – 1.73 (m, 3H), 1.60 (d, J = 12.7 Hz, 2H), 1.40 – 1.14 (m, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.62, 141.77, 126.92, 126.76, 124.98, 119.69, 53.68, 43.25, 29.81, 27.06, 26.63.

9-(3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-yl)-9H-fluorene (3ao)



Yield: 86%, 131 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta \delta$ 7.76 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 5.06 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (qd, J = 5.8, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 1.88 (ddt, J = 21.8, 14.5, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.41 – 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.31 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.24 – 1.15 (m, 1H), 1.10 (ddd, J = 14.3, 9.5, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.05 – 0.97 (m, 1H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.74, 147.70, 141.31, 141.29, 131.21, 126.98, 126.95, 125.07, 124.49, 124.44, 119.92, 47.72, 36.89, 32.75, 32.55, 30.43, 25.89, 25.64, 19.65, 17.80.

9. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR characterization of quinoline derivatives

The NMR spectroscopic data for all the reported quinoline derivatives are in agreement with the previously reported literatures.^{15–24}

2-phenylquinoline (6a)



Yield: 94%, 96 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.27 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.45, 148.41, 139.80, 136.87, 129.86, 129.77, 129.44, 128.96, 127.70, 127.58, 127.30, 126.39, 119.10.

2-(4-fluorophenyl)quinoline (6b)



Yield: 85%, 95mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.25 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.21 – 8.16 (m, 3H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 164.87, 162.89, 156.35, 148.29, 137.03, 135.89 (d, J

= 3.1 Hz), 129.90, 129.70, 129.54, 129.47, 127.57, 127.16, 126.45, 118.75, 115.86 (d, J = 21.4 Hz). ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz) δ -112.27 – -112.42 (m).

2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinoline (6c)



Yield: 90%, 108mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.14 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.82 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 156.06, 148.30, 138.11, 137.05, 135.63, 129.94, 129.76, 129.10, 128.91, 127.59, 127.30, 126.59, 118.64.

2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinoline (6d)



Yield: 89% 122 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.26 (dd, J = 8.7, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 8.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 – 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.55 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 155.75, 148.34, 143.02, 137.23, 131.27, 131.01, 130.09, 129.92, 127.92, 127.62, 127.51, 126.94, 125.83 (q, 3.78 Hz), 125.38, 123.22, 118.87. ¹⁹F NMR (471 MHz) δ -62.39 (s).

4-(quinolin-2-yl)benzonitrile (6e)



Yield: 86%, 99 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.33 – 8.30 (m, 3H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 7.86 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.80 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 154.89, 148.25, 143.68, 137.30, 132.60, 130.18, 129.89, 128.07, 127.58, 127.54, 127.17, 118.86, 118.61, 112.70.

2-(2-chlorophenyl)quinoline (6f)



Yield: 84%, 101 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.23 (dd, J = 12.5, 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.38 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.44, 148.09, 139.67, 135.71, 132.38, 131.72, 130.12, 129.91, 129.72, 129.69, 127.59, 127.20, 127.15, 126.81, 122.80.

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)quinoline (6g)



Yield: 96%, 113 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.20 – 8.15 (m, 4H), 7.83 (dd, *J* = 11.4, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.83, 156.93, 148.30, 136.67, 132.26, 129.61, 129.52, 128.92, 127.48, 126.93, 125.94, 118.59, 114.25, 55.41.

2-(p-tolyl)quinoline (6h)



Yield: 95%, 104mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.24 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (ddd, *J* = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.42, 148.42, 139.49, 136.99, 136.75, 129.77, 129.69, 127.57, 127.22, 126.18, 118.94, 21.45.

2-(3-methoxyphenyl)quinoline (6i)



Yield: 88%, 104mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 8.2, 2.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.23, 157.23, 148.29, 141.24, 136.89, 129.92, 129.81, 129.78, 127.57, 127.37, 126.44, 120.13, 119.22, 115.48, 112.83, 77.45, 77.19, 76.94, 55.51.

2-(m-tolyl)quinoline (6j)



Yield: 92%, 101mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.23 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.62, 148.30, 139.69, 138.55, 136.75, 130.16, 129.72, 129.67, 128.78, 128.32, 127.50, 127.21, 126.25, 124.76, 119.20, 21.64.
2-(2-methoxyphenyl)quinoline (6k)



Yield: 86%, 101mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (ddd, J = 18.8, 15.8, 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.23, 157.17, 148.34, 135.13, 131.52, 130.37, 129.75, 129.64, 129.26, 127.44, 127.08, 126.22, 123.50, 121.30, 111.47, 55.67.

3-methyl-2-phenylquinoline (6l)



Yield: 92%, 101mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (ddd, J = 8.3, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.56, 146.65, 140.90, 136.77, 129.32, 129.24, 128.88, 128.78, 128.34, 128.22, 127.63, 126.74, 126.44, 20.66.

3-ethyl-2-phenylquinoline (6m)



Yield: 94%, 110mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.00 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 1H), 2.66 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.67, 146.35, 140.92, 135.33, 134.97, 129.27, 128.84, 128.75, 128.32, 128.12, 127.77, 126.96, 126.41, 26.04, 14.75.

5,6-dihydrobenzo[c]acridine (6n)



Yield: 90%, 104mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.64 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dt, J = 12.7, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.16 - 3.11 (m, 2H), 3.06 - 3.01 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 153.43, 147.67, 139.47, 134.76, 133.75, 130.63, 129.73, 129.44, 128.70, 128.01, 127.91, 127.38, 126.99, 126.11, 28.85, 28.43.

3-methoxy-5,6-dihydrobenzo[c]acridine (60)



Yield: 91%, 119 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.56 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.64 (m, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.12 – 3.09 (m, 2H), 3.01 – 2.97 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.94, 153.43, 147.68, 141.30, 133.52, 130.04, 129.15, 128.59, 127.83, 127.81, 127.58, 126.96, 125.64, 113.06, 112.97, 55.36, 28.90, 28.78.

2-(thiophen-2-yl)quinoline (6p)



Yield: 87%, 92 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.13 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dd, J = 4.9, 3.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 152.36, 148.13, 145.41, 136.65, 129.85, 129.27, 128.62, 128.12, 127.52, 127.21, 126.13, 125.90, 117.67.

2-(pyridin-2-yl)quinoline (6q)



Yield: 89%, 92 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.76 (ddd, J = 4.8, 1.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (dt, J = 8.0, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.85 (m, 2H), 7.75 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 156.34, 156.17, 149.19, 147.93, 136.99, 136.85, 129.82, 129.59, 128.26, 127.65, 126.79, 124.06, 121.87, 118.98.

2-(pyridin-3-yl)quinoline (6r)



Yield: 88%, 91 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 9.36 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (dd, J = 4.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 8.52 – 8.48 (m, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 11.7, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 7.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 154.57, 150.18, 148.78, 148.35, 137.17, 135.10, 134.95, 130.00, 129.74, 127.57, 127.36, 126.79, 123.69, 118.49.

2-(pyridin-4-yl)quinoline (6s)



Yield: 90%, 93 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.76 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 2.1 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.06 – 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.84 (ddd, *J* = 12.0, 7.4, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.78 – 7.72 (m, 1H), 7.56 (ddd, *J* = 9.8, 3.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 154.34, 150.40, 148.23, 146.64, 137.28, 130.13, 129.95, 127.81, 127.57, 127.23, 121.63, 118.40.

2-(naphthalen-1-yl)quinoline (6t)



Yield: 94%, 120 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.37 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd, J = 12.7, 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.00 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (ddd, J = 14.8, 8.1, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.1, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dddd, J = 16.6, 8.1, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 159.50, 148.23, 138.84, 136.38, 134.13, 131.39, 129.90, 129.80, 129.27, 128.55, 127.93, 127.73, 127.09, 126.74, 126.69, 126.11, 125.84, 125.53, 123.34.

6-chloro-2-(p-tolyl)quinoline (6u)



Yield: 83%, 105 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.08 – 8.03 (m, 4H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.58, 146.72, 139.82, 136.45, 135.81, 131.73, 131.31, 130.55, 129.74, 127.70, 127.47, 126.21, 119.71, 21.48.

6-chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinoline (6v)



Yield: 87%, 119 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.09 (ddd, *J* = 14.3, 12.7, 8.9 Hz, 4 H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 156.28, 146.67, 137.64, 136.12, 135.90, 132.23, 131.35, 130.86, 129.18, 128.83, 127.82, 126.25, 119.45.

6-chloro-2-(4-chlorophenyl)quinoline (6w)



Yield: 86%, 118 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.04 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.52 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 160.88, 145.05, 140.53, 135.85, 132.11, 131.02, 130.44, 129.76, 128.88, 128.49, 128.46, 128.24, 125.45, 20.78.

2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroacridine (6x)



Yield: 81%, 80 mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 7.96 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 3.21 (ddd, J = 17.9, 5.7, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (ddd, J = 17.8, 11.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.03 – 2.97 (m, 1H), 2.57 (dd, J = 16.3, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (tdd, J = 8.5, 5.9, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.59 (dtd, J = 13.1, 11.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 1.11 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 159.11, 146.72, 135.05, 130.68, 128.59, 128.32, 127.22, 126.97, 125.61, 37.88, 33.17, 31.50, 29.18, 21.76.

2-phenylpyridine (6y)



Yield: 52%, 40mg. ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 8.70 – 8.67 (m, 1H), 8.00 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.72 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.20 (ddd, *J* = 5.8, 4.8, 2.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz) δ 157.54, 149.75, 139.48, 136.88, 129.07, 128.86, 127.02, 122.21, 120.70.



10. ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of sp³ C–H alkylated fluorene derivatives

Figure S24: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3a in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.



Figure S26: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3b in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.























Figure S36: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3f in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.





Figure S37: ¹H NMR spectrum of 3g in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.











Figure S41: ¹H NMR spectrum of 3i in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.







Figure S44: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3j in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.













Figure S50: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3m in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.



Figure S52: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3n in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.







Figure S56: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3p in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.





Figure S58: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 3q in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.





























7.49 7.47 7.31 7.07 7.05 6.90 6.88









































3.13 77.30 77.25 77.25 77.25 77.25 77.25 77.25 77.23 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.15 77.557 .3 424 7.75 7.75 47.7 47.7 47.7 2.00 2.00 2.08 2.0] 7.80 7.70 7.60 7.50 fl (ppm) 7.40 7.30 7.20 H00.1 2.00 2.00-15 13 12 11 8 14 10 7 fl (ppm) 5 4 3 2 0



6

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7.77 7.77 7.77 7.77 7.75

















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Figure S108: ¹H NMR spectrum of 6a in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.





Figure S110: ¹H NMR spectrum of 6b in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.











Figure S113: ¹H NMR spectrum of 6c in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.



Figure S114: ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of 6c in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.





Figure S116: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 6d in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.













8.19 8.19 8.116 8.116 8.116 8.116 8.116 8.116 8.116 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.1757 7.175



































818 83.16 83.16 83.16 83.16 83.16 83.16 17.17 17.16 17.17 17.16 17.17 17







Figure S134: ¹H NMR spectrum of 6m in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.











Figure S137: ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of 6n in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.



Figure S138: ¹H NMR spectrum of 60 in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.







76.82.36 148.136 148.136 148.41 148.136 148.41 129.65 129.67 129.67 129.61 127.21 126.22 126.23 126.23 126.24 127.25 126.24 127.25 127.25 127.25 127.25 127.25 127.25 128.27 128.27 128.26 128.27 128.26 128.27 128.26 128.27 128.26 128.26 128.27 128.26<



Figure S141: ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of 6p in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.























Figure S149: ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of 6t in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.





























88.88 88.89 88.89 88.89 88.89 88.89 88.80 88






Figure S159: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 6y in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.



Figure S160: ¹H NMR spectrum of 4b in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz.

-159.61 141.17 141.17 135.69 135.5



Figure S161: ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of 4b in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz.

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