

# Thiolated Molybdenum diselenide Quantum Dots as a Bifunctional Catalyst towards the Synthesis of Benzimidazoles

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*Supporting Information*

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## 1. General considerations:

Chemicals: Spectrochem, SRL, Hi-Media, Alfa Aesar, ThermoFisher, TCI, BLD Pharm, ChemPure, ChemScene, Avra, and Sigma Aldrich (used without further purification).

Solvents: SD Fine Chemicals Limited, India (distilled for column chromatography).

Silica gel: Isochem (100-200 mesh for Column Chromatography) and silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> precoated plates (0.25 mm) from Sigma Aldrich (for Thin Layer Chromatography or TLC).

LEDs: commercial suppliers.

For the biological assays, HPLC grade DMSO (Finar) was used. Unless mentioned otherwise, the solutions were prepared in distilled water. The LB media and PBS solutions were autoclaved at 120°C before use. The kinetic assays were done in transparent, flat-bottomed, polystyrene, sterile 96-well plates (Biofil).

Data plotting/smoothing/fitting/deconvolution was done in OriginPro 9.1, GraphPad, and Image J software. All the figures were processed in Adobe Illustrator CS6, while the chemical structures were made in ChemDraw 20.1.1.

## 2. Instrumentation:

NMR spectroscopy: Bruker Ultrashield spectrometer (400 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 376 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F and 100 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C); data has been reported as chemical shift in ppm (multiplicity, coupling

constant in Hertz and integration) for  $^1\text{H}$  spectra. The NMR spectra was processed in Topspin 3.6.4.

HRMS: Waters XEVO G2-XS QToF instrument.

UV-visible spectroscopy: UV-3600 Shimadzu UV-Vis-NIR Spectrophotometer from Japan Analytical Instruments (1 mL quartz cuvette with a 10 mm optical path).

Fluorescence spectroscopy: Varian Cary Eclipse Fluorescence Spectrophotometer.

FT-IR spectroscopy:  $\text{CaF}_2$  cell in Bruker alfa FT-IR instrument.

Zeta Potential: Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS System.

TGA: TA Q-50 thermogravimetric analyzer (temperature range 25-700°C).

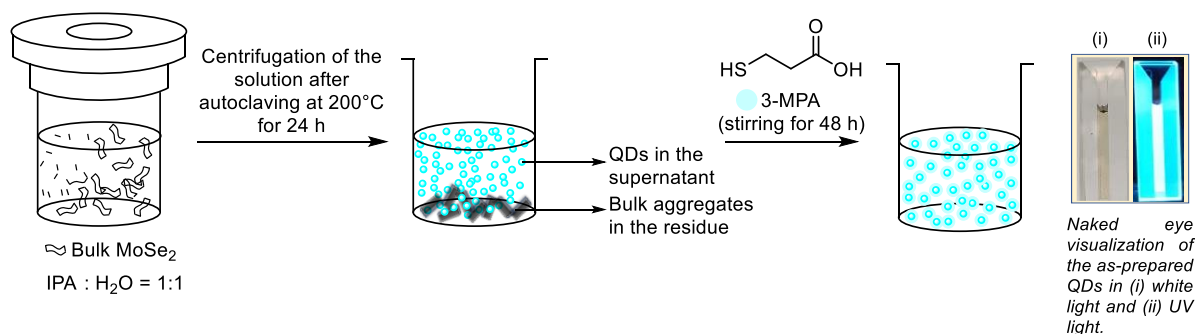
TEM: JOEL JEM-2100F with an accelerating voltage of 200 kV.

XPS: ESCALAB 250 (Thermo Electron) instrument with monochromatic Al K $\alpha$  (1486.6 eV) as the X-ray source.

CV: Electrochemical Analyser (HCH Instruments CHI604E); platinum working electrode, platinum wire counter electrode and Ag/AgCl reference electrode were procured from CH Instruments, Inc.

Optical density: ThermoFisher Scientific Microplate Reader

### 3. Preparation of MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs:



**Scheme S1:** Schematic representation of the preparation of MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs and its functionalization with 3-MPA.

The MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs were synthesized based on literature report with slight modifications.<sup>1</sup> A hydrothermal strategy was used. 100 mg of bulk MoSe<sub>2</sub> powder was taken in 60 mL of 1:1 isopropyl alcohol : water mixture. The solution was probe-sonicated for 60 mins and transferred to Teflon-lined autoclave chambers. The setup was kept for 24 h at 200°C. Afterwards, the solution was cooled to room temperature and centrifuged for 30 mins at 12,000 rpm. The supernatant was carefully retrieved and stored at 4°C.

For functionalization, the QDs and the ligand, 3-MPA (3-Mercaptopropionic acid) were mixed (for 1 mL of the QDs having a strength of 0.1 mg/mL, about 50 mg of ligand was taken) in a vial and stirred for 24 h to get MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs.

All solutions were kept wrapped in aluminium foils to avoid quenching of the luminescent materials. The as-synthesized materials were characterized using optical and microscopic techniques.

#### **4. Optical/microscopic characterization:**

##### **4.1 Procedure for optical/microscopic characterization and sample preparation:**

**UV-Visible Absorption spectroscopy:** A 1 mL quartz cuvette with 10 mm path length was used. The stock solution was diluted such that the absorbance is less than 1. The scan was done from 200 to 800 nm (step size = 1 nm).

**Fluorescence spectroscopy:** A diluted solution of the material was taken and excited at the wavelength at which the absorption maxima was observed. The excitation dependent emission spectra were also recorded for each sample. The slit width was kept as 10 throughout.

**Fourier transform-InfraRed (FT-IR) spectroscopy:** About 50  $\mu$ L of the sample was lyophilized, dissolved in methanol and spread on a CaF<sub>2</sub> cell. The residual solvent was removed by drying. The spectra was recorded from 4000 to 430 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

**Zeta Potential:** The aqueous solution of the QDs was loaded in the relevant cuvette.

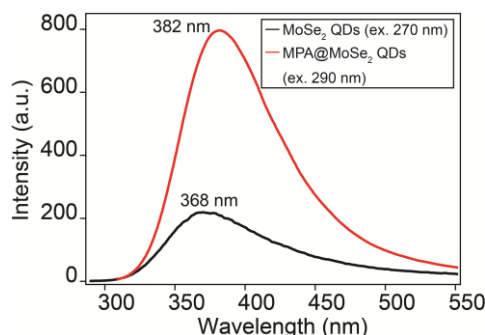
**Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA):** TGA data was recorded on a TA Q-50 unit in the temperature range 25-700°C. The rate of heating was maintained at 10°C/min under a static air atmosphere.

**Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM):** A Formvar/carbon 200 mesh copper grid was cleaned by dipping gently in water. An extremely dilute sample of the MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs was drop-casted on the grid and dried overnight. Finally, any residual solvent was removed by drying in vacuum.

**X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS):** Samples were prepared on Silicon wafers. The wafers were cut as 0.5 cm X 0.5 cm squares and cleaned in isopropyl alcohol (heating at 60°C for 20 mins followed by decantation of the solvent, the process being repeated thrice). Finally, the surfaces were rinsed with acetone, dried and a

concentrated solution of the sample was drop-casted. The samples were allowed to dry in air and then in vacuum for 24 h.

## 4.2 Optical characterization:



**Figure S1:** Comparative plots of the emission spectra of MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs and MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs, showing the shift in the emission maxima.

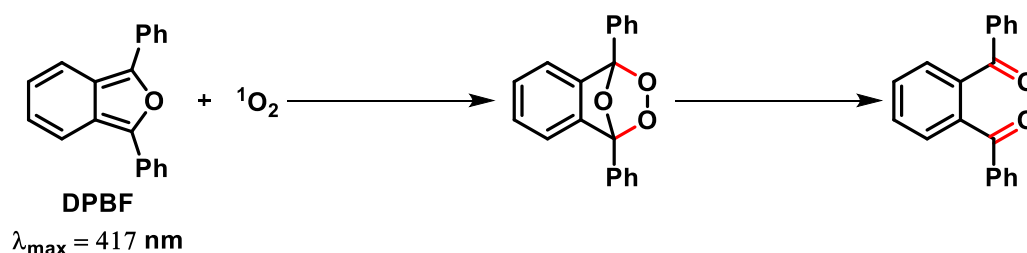
## 5. General procedure for the mechanistic analysis:

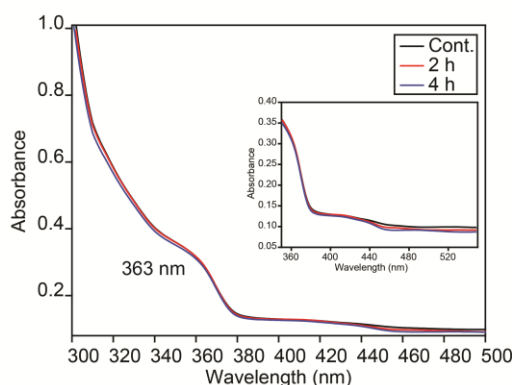
### 5.1 Quenching experiments for electron/energy transfer processes:

For mechanistic investigations, the quenching experiments were performed using Na<sub>2</sub>CrO<sub>4</sub> (sodium chromate) as the electron scavenger, DIPEA (*N,N*-diisopropylethylamine) as the hole scavenger, and TEMPO (2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy) as the radical scavenger, keeping the optimal conditions intact. Further, the possibility of energy transfer was also investigated using various quenchers such as benzil, pyrene and benzophenone.

### 5.2 Experiment to detect the generation of singlet oxygen (<sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>):

1,3-Diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) was also used to detect the possibility of singlet oxygen (<sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>) generation. The MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs were taken with DPBF (100 μL of 20 ppm stock in MeCN) and irradiated with a 10 W blue LED. The absorption spectra was recorded after 2 h and 4 h.





**Figure S2:** Photophysical characterization to confirm the absence of  $^1\text{O}_2$  using DPBF probe.

### 5.3 Experiment to check the operation of a radical chain propagation pathway:

In order to explore the possibility of radical chain propagation pathway, the reaction vessel was exposed to light and kept in dark for a definite time period as indicated below, following which, the yield was determined.

**Table S1: Light On-Off Study to explore the possibility of radical chain propagation**

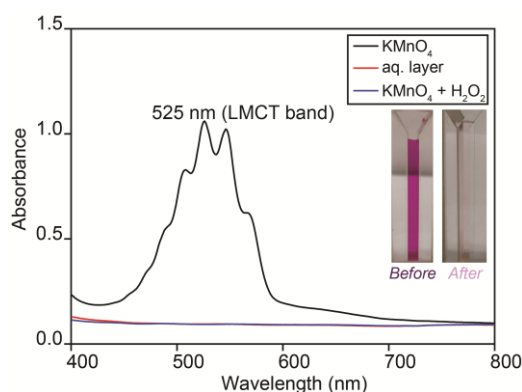
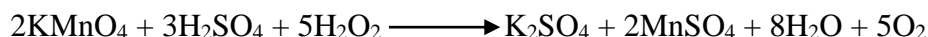
Entry	Irradiation Conditions	Yield (%) <sup>a</sup>
1	No light	<5
2	6 h hv	17
3	6 h hv, 18 h dark	23
4	12 h hv	45
5	12 h hv, 12 h dark	50
6	18 h hv	79
7	18 h hv, 6 h dark	85
8	24 h hv	90

0.2 mmol (1 equiv.) of 4-fluorobenzylamine **1a** and 0.4 mmol (2 equiv.) of *o*-phenylenediamine **2a** were taken in a clean reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stir-bar. 1.8 mL of MeCN was added to solubilize the components, followed by addition of the catalyst MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs. The reaction tube was purged with O<sub>2</sub> and irradiated using a 10 W blue LED or kept in dark (as indicated) at 25°C.

<sup>a</sup>the product **3a** was quantified using <sup>19</sup>F-NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solvent post work-up (using EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O mixture).

### 5.4 Detection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the reaction mixture:

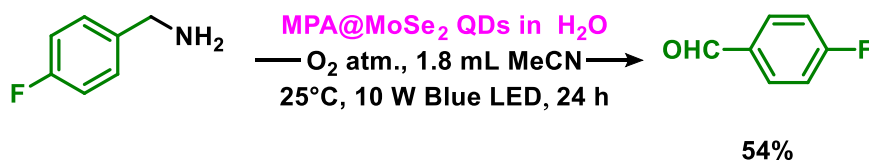
Photophysical characterizations were also done to check the formation of any H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. For detection of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, permanganometric estimation method was employed. A 1:1 mixture (by volume) of aqueous KMnO<sub>4</sub> (N/20) and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (4 N) were taken and added slowly to a beaker containing the aqueous layer collected from the reaction mixture post work-up. The end point was marked as the appearance of a persistent light pink color. The UV spectra for the solutions were recorded before as well as after the titration to analyze the ligand to metal charge transfer (LMCT) bands of KMnO<sub>4</sub>.



**Figure S3:** Permanganometric assay to detect H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the reaction mixture.

## 5.5 Detection of intermediate species in the cyclization process:

In order to check for the generation of 4-fluorobenzaldehyde as the intermediate, the reaction was done as per the optimized conditions but without including any *o*-phenylenediamine **2a**. 4-fluorobenzaldehyde was purified on a silica gel column (100-200 mesh) with EtOAc/Hexane as the eluent.



## 5.6 Role of QDs as a Lewis acid (thermal) catalyst:

The role of the QDs as thermal catalyst was confirmed using 4-fluorobenzaldehyde and *o*-phenylenediamine **2a**. In a clean reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stir-bar, 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (0.2 mmol; separated from the acid derivative, if any, using a work-up procedure with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution) and *o*-phenylenediamine (0.4 mmol) were dissolved in 1.8 mL MeCN. The MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs were added and the resulting solution was irradiated with a 10 W blue LED or

kept in dark for 24 h. Then, the reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (at least thrice) (if necessary, MeCN was removed before initiating the work-up). The combined organic phases were washed with brine and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The product was quantified using <sup>19</sup>F-NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solvent.

**Table S2: Evaluating the role of MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs as a Lewis acid in the cyclization process**

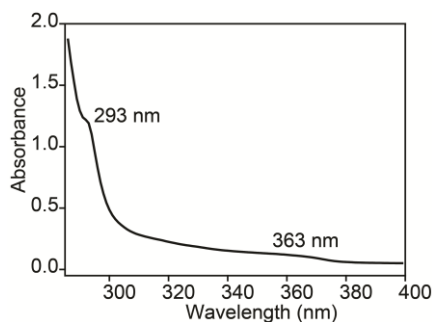
Entry	Conditions	Yield (%) <sup>a,b</sup>
1	MPA@MoSe <sub>2</sub> QDs, no hv	67
2	MPA@MoSe <sub>2</sub> QDs, hv	69

Reaction conditions: 0.2 mmol of 4-fluorobenzaldehyde and 0.4 mmol of *o*-phenylenediamine **2a** were taken in a clean reaction tube equipped with a magnetic stir-bar. 1.8 mL of MeCN was added to solubilize the components, followed by addition of the catalyst MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs (200 μL). The reaction tube was irradiated using 10 W blue LED or kept in dark (as indicated) for 24 h at 25°C.

<sup>a</sup>the product **3a** was quantified using <sup>19</sup>F-NMR in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solvent post work-up (using EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O mixture); <sup>b</sup>around 20-22% of 4-fluorobenzoic acid was also obtained in each case.

## 6 General procedure for recyclability studies:

The heterogeneous nature of the nanomaterial was established by testing its ability to catalyze the coupling process in subsequent cycles. The reaction mixture was concentrated to remove MeCN and subjected to work-up with EtOAc. The aqueous layer containing the catalyst was collected carefully. Any excess water added during the work-up could be removed by lyophilization such that the residual catalyst remains suspended in 0.2 mL water. **1a**, **2a** and 1.8 mL MeCN was further added and the reaction vessel was irradiated as per the optimal conditions after purging with O<sub>2</sub>. The studies were done for 5 cycles in total and the yields were reported in each case. The absorption profile was captured to characterize the nanomaterial post recyclability.



**Figure S4:** Absorption profile of the recycled MPA@MoSe<sub>2</sub> QDs.



## 7 General procedure for Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) studies:

The electrodes used for CV studies included a Pt wire electrode (counter electrode; cleaned by dipping the wire in conc.  $\text{HNO}_3$  and heating over a burner flame), platinum electrode (working electrode; cleaned by rubbing over alumina sheet followed by rinsing with distilled  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and Ag/AgCl electrode (reference electrode; cleaned using  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). 40 mL of a solution of 5 mM  $\text{K}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  and 0.1 M KCl (electrolyte) was taken. The readings were taken in static mode (to prevent analyte deposition on the working electrode) (scan rate = 0.1 V/s) in the absence as well as presence of the material.

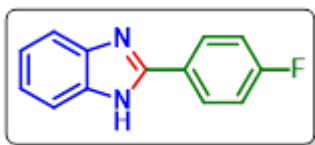
## 8 Procedure for studying the efficacy of the molecules against bacteria:

Considering the vast range of infections (such as skin diseases, respiratory ailments, etc.) that it can cause, SA (*Staphylococcus aureus*) was taken as the strain of interest. The frozen stock of the bacteria was cultured on a freshly prepared nutrient agar plate. The primary stock was obtained by culturing a few colonies from this plate in Luria Broth (LB, 20 g/L) for 10-12 h. Prior to each study, the secondary culture was generated by mixing 0.2 mL of the primary stock with 1.7 mL of LB incubated at 37°C. The bacteria were harvested when the mid-log phase was attained, i.e., the O.D.@620 nm reached 0.2-0.3. The O.D.@620 nm was finally adjusted to 0.01 (which implies a count of  $10^6$ - $10^7$  cells/mL).

The benzimidazoles were prepared as a stock solution in 5% DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixture. A microbroth dilution method was employed to estimate the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) in a 96-well plate. The two-fold serial dilution was done using phosphate buffer saline (PBS, pH = 7.4), such that the volume of the compound in buffer is 100  $\mu\text{L}$  for each well. Finally, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of the bacterial solution having O.D.@620 nm as 0.01 was added in each well. The bacterial growth kinetics was monitored for 16 h, wherein, the O.D.@620 nm was recorded every 10 mins (with shaking in between consecutive readings). The thermostat was set to 37°C throughout the course of the experiment. MIC was noted as the value at which atleast 95% of the population ceased to grow. The data was normalized, smoothed and plotted in GraphPad.

## 9 Characterization data:<sup>2-18</sup>

**2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200

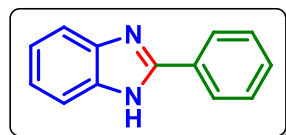


mesh) column chromatography in 9-10% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.93 (s, 1H), 8.25-8.21 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.66 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.39 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 164.28, 161.82, 150.36, 143.73, 135.00, 128.75, 128.67, 126.80, 126.77, 122.55, 121.71, 118.83, 116.13, 115.91, 111.32; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = -111.17; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 213.0828, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 213.0832.

**2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh)

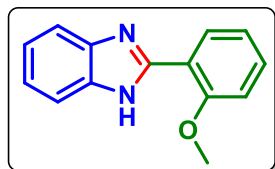


column chromatography in 7-8% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR

(400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.92 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.17 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.68-7.66 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.17

(m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 151.21, 143.81, 134.95, 130.16, 129.87, 128.97, 126.42, 122.55, 121.68, 118.86, 111.33; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 195.0922, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 195.0923.

**2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-

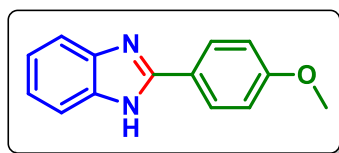


200 mesh) column chromatography in 11-12% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.14 (s, 1H), 8.34-8.32 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.24 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H),

4.03 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 156.78, 148.95, 131.28, 129.75, 121.79, 120.89, 118.10, 112.12, 55.78; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 225.1028, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 225.1024.

**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-

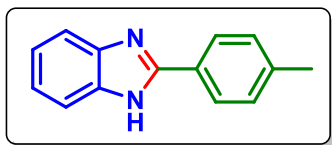


200 mesh) column chromatography in 13-14% EtOAc/Hexane

eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.74 (s, 1H), 8.13-8.11 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.63-7.61 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.19-7.10 (m, 4H), 3.85 (s, 3H);

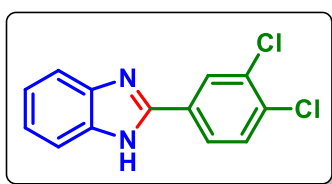
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 160.56, 151.30, 143.85, 134.93, 127.96, 122.66, 122.04, 121.41, 118.46, 114.34, 111.00, 55.31; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OH (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 225.1028, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 225.1029.

**2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh)



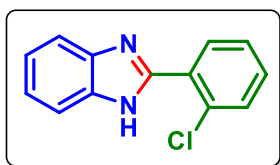
column chromatography in 13-14% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.82 (s, 1H), 8.08-8.06 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.63 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.50 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.16 (m, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 151.33, 143.76, 139.53, 134.91, 129.48, 127.40, 126.34, 122.30, 121.51, 118.66, 111.14, 20.95; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 209.1079, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 209.1082.

**2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-



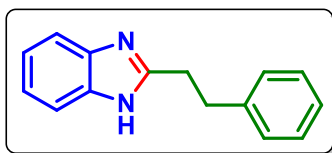
200 mesh) column chromatography in 14-15% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 13.12 (s, 1H), 8.41-8.40 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86-7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 148.89, 143.60, 135.01, 132.31, 131.86, 131.37, 130.72, 127.98, 126.46, 123.19, 122.12, 119.14, 111.61; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 263.0143, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 263.0142.

**2-(2-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200



mesh) column chromatography in 5-6% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.72 (s, 1H), 7.92-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 149.07, 143.18, 134.65, 132.07, 131.61, 131.19, 130.33, 129.95, 127.42, 122.72, 121.67, 119.07, 111.68; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 229.0533, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 229.0528.

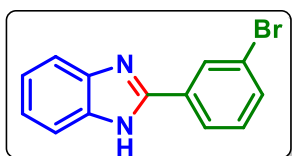
**2-phenethyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** Off-white solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200



mesh) column chromatography in 24-25% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm) = 12.24 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 2H), 3.12 (s, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ (ppm)

= 154.29, 143.25, 141.00, 134.20, 128.33, 128.21, 126.00, 121.39, 120.77, 118.08, 110.70, 33.27, 30.35; HRESI-MS (*m/z*): Calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>H (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 223.1235, Found (M + H)<sup>+</sup> : 223.1239.

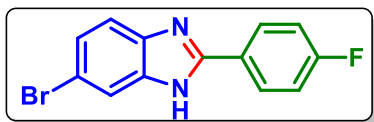
**2-(3-bromophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200



mesh) column chromatography in 24-25% EtOAc/Hexane eluent; <sup>1</sup>H

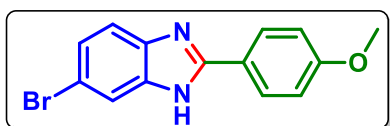
**NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 13.05 (s, 1H), 8.38-8.37 (t,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20-8.18 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.68 (t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.20 (m, 2H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 149.56, 132.53, 132.23, 131.23, 128.90, 125.40, 122.55, 122.27; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{BrN}_2\text{H}$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 273.0027, Found ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 273.0030.

**6-bromo-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 25-30%



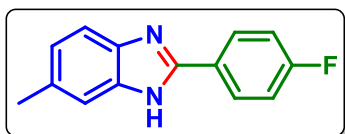
EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 13.15 (s, 1H), 8.24-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.86-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.29 (m, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 164.54, 162.07, 151.61, 129.04, 128.95, 126.23, 125.08, 116.27, 116.05, 114.34;  **$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR** (376 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = -110.44; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{BrFN}_2\text{H}$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 290.9933, Found ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 290.9935.

**6-bromo-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Off-white solid; isolated using



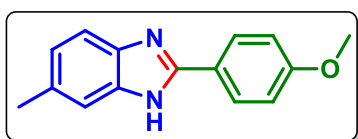
silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 13-14% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.97 (s, 1H), 8.13-8.10 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 160.89, 152.59, 128.21, 124.59, 122.07, 114.44, 113.88, 55.36;  **$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR** (376 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = -110.44; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{BrN}_2\text{OH}$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 303.0133, Found ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 303.0137.

**2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel



(100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 17-18% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.78 (s, 1H), 8.22-8.18 (m, 2H), 7.47 (br s, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 3H), 7.04-7.02 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H);  **$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 164.20, 161.74, 150.05, 131.46, 128.63, 128.55, 126.90, 126.88, 123.66, 116.10, 115.88, 21.34;  **$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR** (376 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = -111.38; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{FN}_2\text{H}$  ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 227.0985, Found ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ) $^+$  : 227.0982.

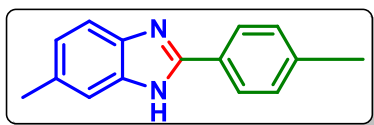
**2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica



gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 20-21% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  **$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.60 (s, 1H), 8.10-8.08 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.33

(m, 2H), 7.11-7.09 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.00-6.98 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 160.40, 150.96, 130.73, 128.97, 128.49, 127.80, 123.11, 122.79, 114.26, 113.59, 113.42, 55.26, 21.27; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{OH}$  ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 239.1181, Found ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 239.1184.

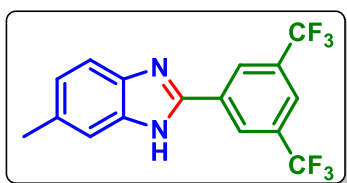
**6-methyl-2-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200



mesh) column chromatography in 19-20% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.67 (s, 1H), 8.05-8.03 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.36-

7.34 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 3H), 7.02-7.01 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 150.93, 141.94, 139.36, 135.20, 131.64, 129.48, 127.56, 126.25, 123.74, 123.14, 118.28, 110.93, 21.34, 20.97; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_2\text{H}$  ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 223.1235, Found ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 223.1233.

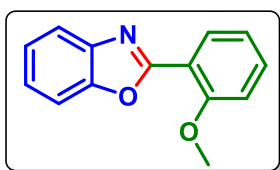
**2-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** White solid; isolated



using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 14-15% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 13.22 (s, 1H), 8.80 (s, 2H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.63-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.08 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,

DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 148.10, 147.73, 143.89, 141.68, 135.37, 133.28, 133.16, 132.70, 131.60, 131.54, 131.27, 130.94, 130.61, 127.33, 126.60, 126.56, 126.51, 126.48, 125.25, 124.61, 124.16, 122.84, 121.89, 119.18, 119.02, 111.46, 21.42;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = -61.48; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{H}$  ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 345.0826, Found ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 345.0826.

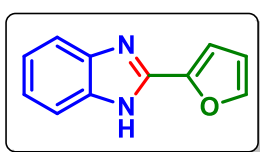
**2-(2-methoxyphenyl)benzo[*d*]oxazole:** White solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh)



column chromatography in 8-9% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 8.16-8.14 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.85 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.50 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.09 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR

(100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 161.42, 158.89, 150.09, 133.69, 131.38, 125.56, 124.93, 120.95, 120.21, 116.25, 112.28, 110.70, 56.46; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2\text{H}$  ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 226.0868, Found ( $M + H$ ) $^+$  : 226.0876.

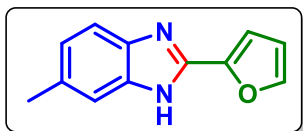
**2-(furan-2-yl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole:** Orangish solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200



mesh) column chromatography in 26-28% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.93 (s, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H),

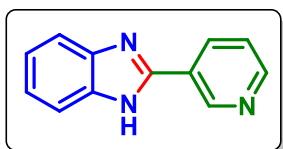
7.63-7.61 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 3H), 6.74-6.73 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 145.55, 144.68, 143.65, 134.24, 122.68, 121.84, 118.78, 112.37, 111.38, 110.51; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2\text{OH}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 185.0715, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 185.0712.

**2-(furan-2-yl)-6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Brown solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 28-30% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;



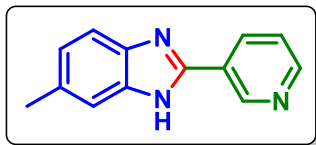
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.77 (s, 1H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.45 (br s, 1H), 7.34 (br s, 1H), 7.17-7.16 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.04-7.02 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.73-6.72 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 146.13, 144.91, 143.77, 132.30, 124.08, 118.88, 112.75, 111.55, 110.59, 21.77; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{OH}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 199.0871, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 199.0869.

**2-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Yellow solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 40-45% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;



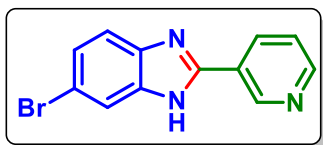
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.36 (s, 1H), 8.70-8.69 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.52-8.50 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.67-7.60 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 151.01, 149.27, 147.94, 134.29, 126.52, 124.55, 123.04; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{H}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 196.0875, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 196.0872.

**6-methyl-2-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Yellow solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 45-50% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 12.96 (s, 1H), 9.33 (s, 1H), 8.68-8.66 (d,  $J = 4.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.49-8.47 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.60-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.04 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 150.36, 148.39, 147.38, 133.62, 126.26, 124.03, 123.63, 118.65, 111.20, 21.35; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{H}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 210.1031, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 210.1027.

**6-bromo-2-(pyridin-3-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Yellow solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 35-40% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;

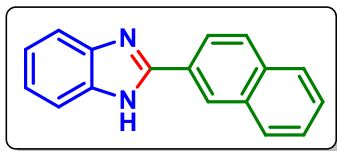


$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 10.36 (s, 1H), 9.26 (s, 1H), 8.75-8.74 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.47-8.45 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.70 (br s, 1H), 7.52-7.48 (dd,  $J = 8.0$



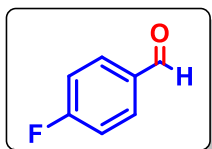
Hz,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 150.82, 147.60, 133.92, 125.68, 124.02; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{BrN}_3\text{H}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 273.9980, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 273.9984.

**2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole:** Yellow solid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 10-12% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;



$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 13.10 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.34-8.31 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.10-8.08 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.07-8.04 (m, 1H), 8.01-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.23 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 151.21, 143.90, 135.08, 133.43, 132.78, 128.54, 128.43, 127.78, 127.55, 127.11, 126.92, 125.78, 123.90, 122.67, 121.77, 118.88, 111.37; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2\text{H}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 245.1079, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 245.1080.

**4-fluorobenzaldehyde:** Colourless liquid; isolated using silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography in 2-4% EtOAc/Hexane eluent;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,



$\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.99 (s, 1H), 7.96-7.92 (dd,  $J = 8.6$  Hz,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 190.66, 167.93, 165.38, 133.08, 133.06, 132.41, 132.32, 116.60, 116.38;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) = -102.35; HRESI-MS ( $m/z$ ): Calculated for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{FOH}$  ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 125.0403, Found ( $M + \text{H}$ ) $^+$ : 125.0406.

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## 11 NMR Spectra:

