

Supporting Information

Palladium-catalyzed C–H activation of anilides at room temperature: *ortho*-arylation and acetoxylation

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I. General remarks

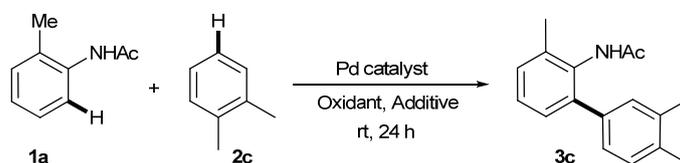
NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AV II-400 or a Varian Inova 400 spectrometer. The ^1H NMR (400 MHz) chemical shifts were measured relative to CDCl_3 , TMS, acetone- d_6 , methanol- d_4 or DMSO- d_6 as the internal reference (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 7.26$ ppm; TMS: $\delta = 0.00$ ppm; acetone- d_6 : $\delta = 2.05$ ppm; methanol- d_4 : $\delta = 3.31$ ppm; DMSO- d_6 : $\delta = 2.50$ ppm). The ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) chemical shifts were given using CDCl_3 , acetone- d_6 , methanol- d_4 or DMSO- d_6 as the internal standard (CDCl_3 : $\delta = 77.16$ ppm; acetone- d_6 : $\delta = 29.84, 206.26$ ppm; methanol- d_4 : $\delta = 49.00$ ppm; DMSO- d_6 : $\delta = 39.52$ ppm). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters-Q-TOF Premier (ESI). Melting points were determined with XRC-1 instrument and are uncorrected.

All the reactions were carried out under an air atmosphere. Arenes, trifluoroacetic acid, $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$, $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$, $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ were purchased from Chengdu Kelong Chemical Engineering Reagent (China) CO., Ltd. $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ and PdCl_2 were purchased from Shanxi Kaida Chemical Engineering (China) CO., Ltd. Anilides were prepared according to the literature procedure from anilines.¹

II. Optimization of the *ortho*-arylation reaction of anilides at room temperature

A Schlenk tube was charged with palladium species (0.05 mmol), oxidant (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and N-(*o*-tolyl)acetamide **1a** (0.5 mmol) under air. Additive and *o*-xylene **2c** were then added via syringes. After being stirred at room temperature for 24 h, the mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 . The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) to provide the desired product.

Table S1 Optimization of the palladium-catalyzed direct *ortho*-arylation of N-(*o*-tolyl)acetamide **1a**^a



Entry	Palladium (mol%)	Oxidant (equiv)	Additive (equiv)	Yield (%) ^b
1	$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10)	$\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (2)	TFA (20)	86
2	$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10)	$\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (2)	TFA (20)	80
3	$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10)	$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (2)	TFA (20)	95
4	$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10)	Oxone (2)	TFA (20)	trace

5	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (2)	TFA (20)	trace ^c
6	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	Cu(OAc) ₂ (2)	TFA (20)	16
7	PdCl ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (20)	trace ^c
8	Pd(TFA) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (20)	88
9	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	HOAc (20)	16
10	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	PivOH (20)	trace
11	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	HBF ₄ (20) ^d	trace ^c
12	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (10)	63
13	Pd(OAc) ₂ (5)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (20)	84
14 ^e	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (20)	70
15	Pd(OAc) ₂ (0)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (20)	0
16	Pd(OAc) ₂ (10)	(NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2)	TFA (0)	0

^a Reaction conditions: 2-methyl acetanilide (0.5 mmol), *o*-xylene (10.0 mmol, 20.0 equiv), palladium species, additive, and oxidant (1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) at room temperature for 24 h under air. ^b Isolated yield. ^c Most of the starting materials were consumed. ^d 40% HBF₄ aqueous solution was used. ^e 10.0 equiv of *o*-xylene was used. TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid.

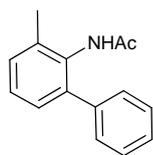
III. General procedure for the *ortho*-arylation reaction of anilides at room temperature

A Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol), (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ (228.0 mg, 1.00 mmol) and anilide derivatives (0.5 mmol) under air. TFA (0.74 mL, 10.0 mmol) and arenes (10.0 mmol) were then added via syringes. After being stirred at room temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

IV. General procedure for the *ortho*-acetoxylation reaction of anilides at room temperature

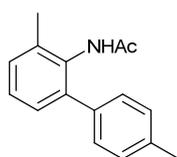
A Schlenk tube was charged with Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol), (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ (228.0 mg, 1.00 mmol) and anilide derivatives (0.5 mmol) under air. TFA (0.19 mL, 2.5 mmol) and HOAc (0.6 mL, 10.0 mmol) were then added via syringes. After being stirred at room temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to provide the desired product.

V. Characterization of the described substances



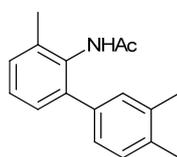
N-(3-Methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3a**)²

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3a** as a white solid (75.1 mg, 67% yield). M.p.: 128-130 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.43 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.7, 23.1, 127.46, 127.53, 128.0, 128.4, 129.0, 130.2, 132.7, 136.9, 139.67, 139.73, 169.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₆NO [M+H]⁺ 226.1232, found 226.1233.



N-(3,4'-Dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3b**)

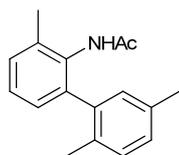
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3b** as a white solid (94.5 mg, 79% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, methanol-*d*₄): δ 1.93 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 7.14-7.26 (m, 7H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, methanol-*d*₄): δ 18.5, 21.2, 22.2, 128.6, 129.1, 129.8, 130.5, 134.2, 137.9, 138.0, 138.4, 141.9, 172.6 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₇NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 262.1208, found 262.1214. The NMR data of **3b** were consistent with the compound obtained through the coupling reaction of *N*-(*o*-tolyl)acetamide and *p*-tolylboronic acid.³



N-(3,3',4'-Trimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3c**)

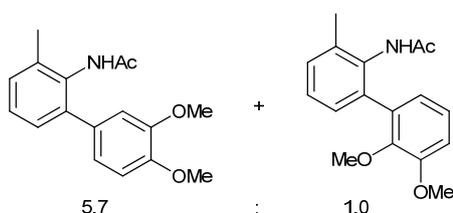
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3c** as a white solid (119.8 mg, 95% yield). M.p.: 137-139 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.28-2.31 (m, 9H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.8, 19.6, 19.9, 23.2, 126.4, 127.4, 128.0, 129.7, 130.0, 130.2, 132.7, 135.9, 136.7, 136.8, 137.1, 139.4, 169.5 ppm. HRMS

(ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺ 254.1545, found 254.1545.



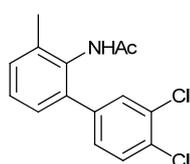
N-(2',3,5'-Trimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3d**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3d** as a white solid (92.9 mg, 73% yield). M.p.: 116-118 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.89 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.27 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.0, 19.5, 21.0, 23.2, 126.9, 127.6, 128.5, 128.7, 130.0, 130.1, 133.1, 133.3, 135.1, 136.3, 138.7, 138.8, 168.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺ 254.1545, found 254.1546.



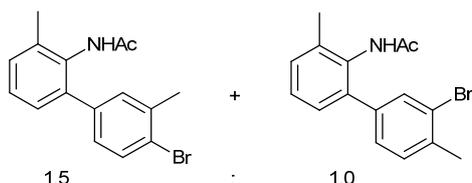
N-(3',4'-Dimethoxy-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3e**) and *N*-(2',3'-dimethoxy-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3e'**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded the mixture of **3e** and **3e'** as a white solid (107.2 mg, 70% yield). The ratio of **3e/3e'** was 5.7/1 as determined by ¹H NMR. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, a mixture of two isomers): δ 2.02 (s, COCH₃, major + minor isomer), 2.30 (s, CH₃, major isomer), 2.33 (s, CH₃, minor isomer), 3.84 (s, OCH₃, major isomer), 3.86 (s, OCH₃, minor isomer), 3.90 (s, OCH₃, minor isomer), 3.91 (s, OCH₃, major isomer), 6.68 (br. s, NHAc, major isomer), 6.75 (br. s, NHAc, minor isomer), 6.84-6.92 (m), 7.17 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz), 7.24-7.28 (m) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.5, 18.6, 20.2, 23.0, 55.75, 55.84, 111.0, 111.2, 112.1, 112.5, 121.0, 121.5, 127.4, 127.9, 128.2, 128.6, 129.78, 129.84, 131.6, 132.4, 132.8, 133.6, 136.7, 136.9, 139.5, 140.5, 148.3, 148.4, 148.5, 148.7, 169.5, 172.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 308.1263, found 308.1259.



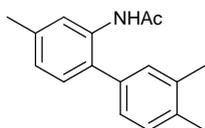
N-(3',4'-Dichloro-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3f**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3f** as a white solid (51.7 mg, 35% yield). M.p.: 171-173 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.7, 23.1, 127.8, 127.9, 128.4, 130.4, 130.8, 131.0, 131.8, 132.5, 132.6, 137.3, 137.8, 139.8, 169.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃Cl₂NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 316.0272, found 316.0268.



N-(4'-Bromo-3,3'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3g**) and *N*-(3'-bromo-3,4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3g'**)

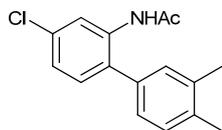
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded the mixture of **3g** and **3g'** as a white solid (49.1 mg, 31% yield). The ratio of **3g/3g'** was 1.5/1 as determined by ¹H NMR. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, a mixture of two isomers): δ 2.02 (s, COCH₃, major isomer), 2.03 (s, COCH₃, minor isomer), 2.29 (s, CH₃, major + minor isomer), 2.42 (s, CH₃, major isomer), 2.43 (s, CH₃, minor isomer), 6.62 (br. s, NHAc, major + minor isomer), 7.00 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, major isomer), 7.13-7.15 (m), 7.18 (s, major isomer) 7.23-7.30 (m), 7.50 (s, minor isomer), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, major isomer) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.6, 20.3, 22.7, 22.93, 22.95, 23.0, 124.1, 124.7, 127.6, 127.75, 127.82, 127.84, 130.3, 130.4, 130.6, 131.3, 132.2, 132.5, 132.6, 132.7, 136.9, 136.99, 137.02, 137.8, 138.2, 138.8, 139.98, 139.03, 169.55, 169.56 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆BrKNO [M+K]⁺ 356.0052, found 356.0053.



N-(3,4,4'-Trimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (**3h**)

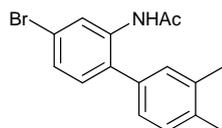
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3h** as a white solid (103.9 mg, 82% yield). M.p.: 58-62 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.315 (s, 3H), 2.323 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.19 (br. s, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,

CDCl₃): δ 19.6, 19.9, 21.6, 24.7, 122.1, 125.2, 126.6, 129.5, 129.9, 130.3, 130.6, 134.6, 135.8, 136.3, 137.5, 138.2, 168.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 276.1364, found 276.1358.



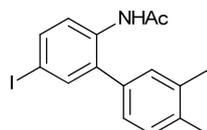
***N*-(4-Chloro-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (3i)**

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3i** as a white solid (86.8 mg, 63% yield). M.p.: 66-68 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.22 (br. s, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.7, 20.0, 24.8, 121.0, 124.2, 126.5, 130.2, 130.5, 130.6, 131.0, 133.9, 134.6, 136.0, 137.0, 137.9, 168.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆ClNNaO [M+Na]⁺ 296.0818, found 296.0818.



***N*-(4-Bromo-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (3j)**

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **3j** as a white solid (106.0 mg, 66% yield). M.p.: 88 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.23 (br. s, 1H), 7.26-7.31 (m, 2H), 8.59 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.6, 19.9, 24.8, 121.8, 123.8, 126.4, 127.1, 130.4, 130.5, 130.7, 131.3, 134.6, 136.1, 137.0, 137.9, 168.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆BrNNaO [M+Na]⁺ 340.0313, found 340.0310.

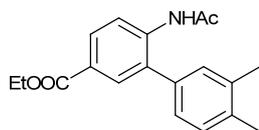


***N*-(5-Iodo-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl)acetamide (3k)**

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (DCM/EtOAc = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3k** as a white solid (80.6 mg, 44% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.01 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.18 (br. s, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.7, 20.0,

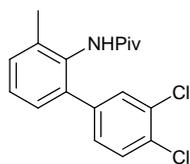
24.8, 87.6, 122.9, 126.3, 130.4, 130.5, 134.0, 134.1, 134.8, 137.0, 137.2, 137.9, 138.6, 168.3 ppm.

HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₆H₁₆INNaO [M+Na]⁺ 388.0174, found 388.0173.



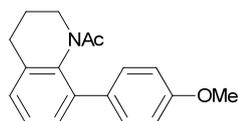
Ethyl 6-acetamido-3',4'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (**3l**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (DCM/EtOAc = 40/1, v/v) afforded **3l** as a white solid (95.7 mg, 62% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.337 (s, 3H), 2.343 (s, 3H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (br. s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.4, 19.6, 19.8, 24.8, 60.9, 120.0, 125.7, 126.4, 129.8, 130.50, 130.53, 131.4, 131.5, 134.6, 137.1, 137.9, 139.1, 166.2, 168.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₂₁KNO₃ [M+K]⁺ 350.1159, found 350.1157.



N-(3',4'-Dichloro-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-yl) pivalamide (**3m**)

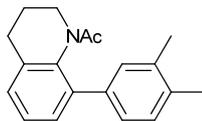
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4/1, v/v) afforded **3m** as a white solid (51.7 mg, 31% yield). M.p.: 154-156 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.17 (s, 9H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 6.82 (br. s, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.5, 27.6, 39.2, 127.6, 127.7, 128.6, 130.3, 130.86, 130.90, 131.6, 132.2, 132.8, 137.1, 137.8, 139.8, 177.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₈H₂₀Cl₂NO [M+H]⁺ 336.0922, found 336.0925.



1-(8-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3,4-dihydroquinolin-1(2H)-yl)ethanone (**3n**)³

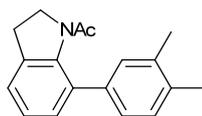
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ether = 1/2, v/v) afforded **3p** as a white solid (119.7 mg, 85% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.69-1.81 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.34 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.52 (m, 1H), 2.69-2.75 (m, 1H), 3.02-3.08 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.74-4.81 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 4H) ppm. ¹³C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.9, 24.3, 26.8, 41.6, 55.2, 114.5, 126.3, 126.9, 128.5, 129.4, 131.3, 137.3, 137.5, 138.1, 159.0, 170.3 ppm.



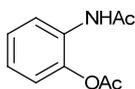
1-(8-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)-3,4-dihydroquinolin-1(2H)-yl)ethanone (**3o**)⁴

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4/1, v/v) afforded **3o** as a white solid (112.4 mg, 80% yield). M.p.: 88-90 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.66-1.74 (m, 1H), 2.20 (s, 6H), 2.26 (s, 1H), 2.38-2.44 (m, 1H), 2.65-2.68 (m, 1H), 2.98-3.04 (m, 1H), 4.66-4.73 (m, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H) 7.17-7.25 (m, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.5, 19.0, 21.0, 23.5, 26.0, 40.8, 124.7, 125.5, 125.9, 127.8, 128.5, 129.3, 135.0, 135.7, 136.2, 136.7, 137.0, 137.2, 169.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₉H₂₁NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 302.1521, found 302.1518.



1-(7-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)indolin-1-yl)ethanone (**3p**)

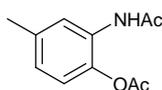
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 4/1, v/v) afforded **3p** as a white solid (112.1 mg, 84% yield). M.p.: 164-167 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.46 (br. s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 6H), 3.02 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 7.14-7.24 (m, 6H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.5, 19.9, 22.7, 29.3, 50.6, 123.5, 124.8, 125.4, 128.5, 129.4, 130.4, 131.5, 135.7, 136.6, 137.4, 138.0, 140.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₈H₁₉NNaO [M+Na]⁺ 288.1364, found 288.1369.



2-Acetamidophenyl acetate (**4a**)⁵

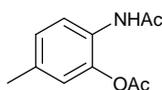
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4a** as a white solid (65.0 mg, 67% yield). M.p.: 120-122 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (br. s, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.1, 24.4, 122.2, 123.4, 125.0, 126.5, 129.8, 141.0, 168.6, 169.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₀H₁₁NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 216.0637, found

216.0635.



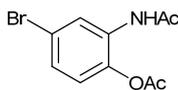
2-Acetamido-4-methylphenyl acetate (**4b**)⁶

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4b** as a white solid (78.0 mg, 75% yield). M.p.: 137-140 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (br. s, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.1, 21.3, 24.6, 121.8, 123.8, 125.7, 129.3, 136.5, 138.8, 168.4, 169.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 230.0793, found 230.0789.



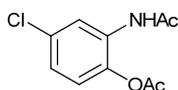
2-Acetamido-5-methylphenyl acetate (**4c**)⁷

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4c** as a white solid (52.9 mg, 51% yield). M.p.: 154-155 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (br. s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.0, 21.2, 24.5, 122.6, 123.7, 127.0, 127.3, 135.5, 141.2, 168.4, 169.1 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₁H₁₃NNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 230.0793, found 230.0794.



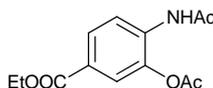
2-Acetamido-4-bromophenyl acetate (**4d**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4d** as a white solid (106.4 mg, 76% yield). M.p.: 171-172 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 9.54 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 21.2, 23.7, 117.6, 125.1, 125.4, 126.7, 132.3, 140.2, 168.90, 168.93 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₀H₁₀BrNNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 293.9742, found 293.9741.



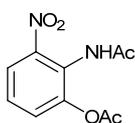
2-Acetamido-4-chlorophenyl acetate (**4e**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4e** as a white solid (82.7 mg, 73% yield). M.p.: 168-170 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 7.06-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.20 (br. s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.2, 24.8, 122.4, 123.1, 124.5, 130.8, 131.9, 138.6, 168.2, 168.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₀H₁₀ClNNaO₃ [M+Na]⁺ 250.0247, found 250.0249.



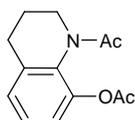
Ethyl 4-acetamido-3-acetoxybenzoate (**4f**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4f** as a white solid (77.2 mg, 58% yield). M.p.: 132-133 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.37 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.39 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 14.2, 21.3, 23.9, 60.8, 122.2, 124.0, 125.0, 126.9, 135.4, 140.1, 164.8, 169.1, 169.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): C₁₃H₁₅NNaO₅ [M+Na]⁺ 288.0848, found 288.0851



2-Acetamido-3-nitrophenyl acetate (**4g**)

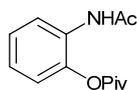
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4g** as a white solid (43.1 mg, 35% yield). M.p.: 181-183 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (br. s, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.1, 23.8, 122.5, 125.1, 126.3, 129.6, 144.6, 146.4, 168.1, 168.3 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₂NaO₅ [M+Na]⁺ 261.0487, found 261.0487.



1-Acetyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-8-yl acetate (**4h**)

Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) afforded **4h** as a white solid (86.9 mg, 74% yield). M.p.: 94-96 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.73 (s, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 1H), 2.72-2.76 (m, 1H), 2.89 (s, 1H), 4.56 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100

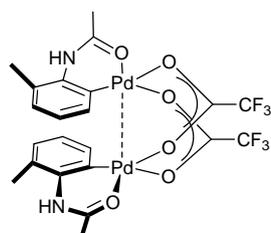
MHz, CDCl₃): δ 20.8, 21.7, 24.1, 26.3, 41.2, 120.7, 125.7, 126.9, 133.0, 137.8, 144.6, 168.6, 170.7 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 234.1130, found 234.1132.



2-Acetamidophenyl pivalate (4i)

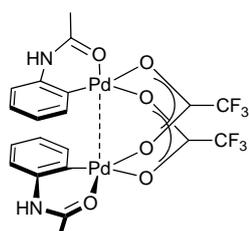
Purification via column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) afforded **4i** as a white solid (86.1 mg, 73% yield). M.p.: 85-87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.40 (s, 9H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.5, 27.3, 39.5, 122.1, 123.4, 125.1, 126.5, 129.9, 141.2, 168.1, 176.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺ 236.1287, found 236.1288.

VI. The synthesis and characterization of bimetallic palladacycles **5a** and **5b**⁸



Bimetallic palladium complex **5a**

To a 25 mL round-bottom flask was added *N*-(*o*-tolyl)acetamide (149.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (224.0 mg, 1.0 mmol), DCM (10 mL) and TFA (156.0 μ L, 2.1 mmol) under air. After being stirred at room temperature for 8 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL of EtOAc, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of EtOAc. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was recrystallized from EtOAc/hexane to give the palladium complex **5a** as a yellow solid (316 mg, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.35 (s, 6H), 2.43 (s, 6H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (br. s, 2H), 10.92 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 18.8, 21.2, 125.1, 125.8, 128.4, 130.6, 132.0, 159.2, 171.5 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₉H₁₀NOPd [monomer-TFA]⁺ 253.9797, found 253.9796.



Bimetallic palladium complex **5b**

Following the same procedure as complex **5a**. *N*-phenylacetamide (135.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) was used. Complex **5b** was obtained as a yellow solid (306 mg, 90% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ 1.46 (s, 6H), 6.86-6.90 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 10.49 (s, 2H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ 20.2, 116.7, 123.8, 126.3, 131.9, 133.5, 167.9 ppm. HRMS (ESI⁺): calcd for C₈H₈NOPd [monomer-TFA]⁺ 239.9641, found 239.9633.

VII. The reaction of complex **5a** with *o*-xylene

A Schlenk tube was charged with **5a** (73.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), TFA (296 μL, 4.0 mmol) and *o*-xylene (0.48 mL, 4.0 mmol) under air. After being stirred at room temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) to afford 46.4 mg of **3c** in 92% yield. No reaction happened if TFA was absent from the reaction mixture.

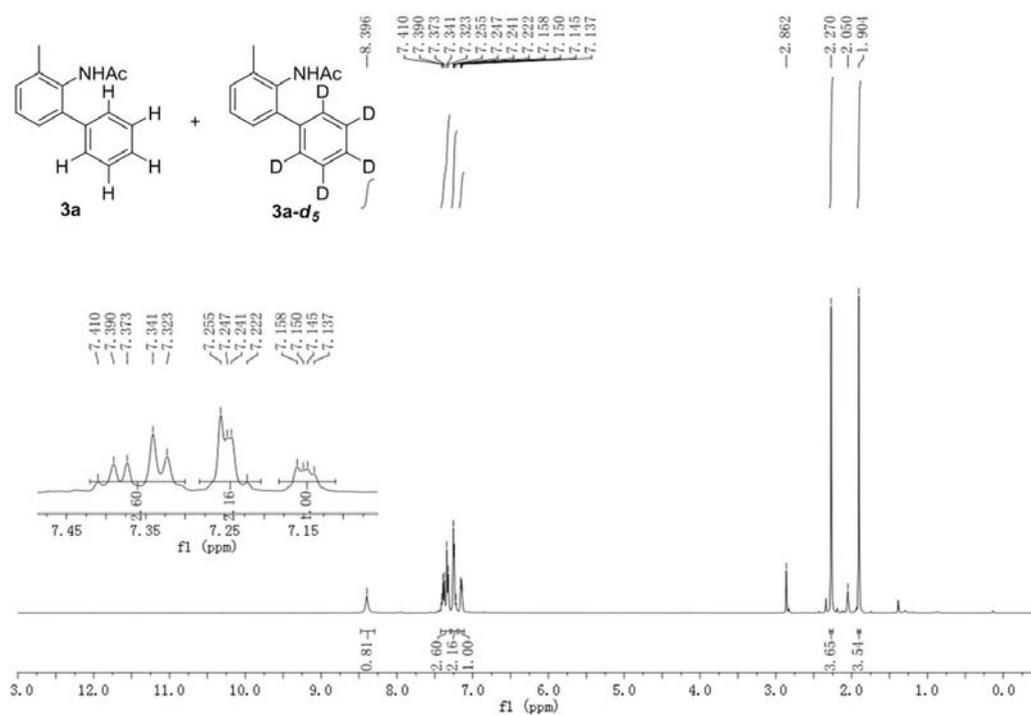
VIII. The acetoxylation of complex **5b**

A Schlenk tube was charged with *N*-phenylacetamide (67.6 mg, 0.5 mmol), (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ (228.0 mg, 1.00 mmol), complex **5b** (17.0 mg, 0.025 mmol) and HOAc (0.6 mL, 10.0 mmol) under air. After being stirred at room temperature for 24 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 1/1, v/v) to afford 59.6 mg of **4a** in 62% yield. No reaction happened if (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ was absent from the reaction mixture.

IX. Intermolecular kinetic isotope effect

A Schlenk tube was charged with *N*-(*o*-tolyl)acetamide **1a** (75.0 mg, 0.5 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) and (NH₄)₂S₂O₈ (228.0 mg, 1.0 mmol) under air. TFA (0.74 mL, 10.0 mmol), benzene (0.45 mL, 5.0 mmol) and benzene-*d*₆ (0.45 mL, 5.0 mmol) were added via syringes. After being stirred at room temperature for 8 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂. The filtrate was collected and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/EtOAc = 2/1, v/v) to afford **3a** and **3a-d**₅ as an inseparable mixture (53.1 mg, 47% yield). The ratio of **3a**/**3a-d**₅ was

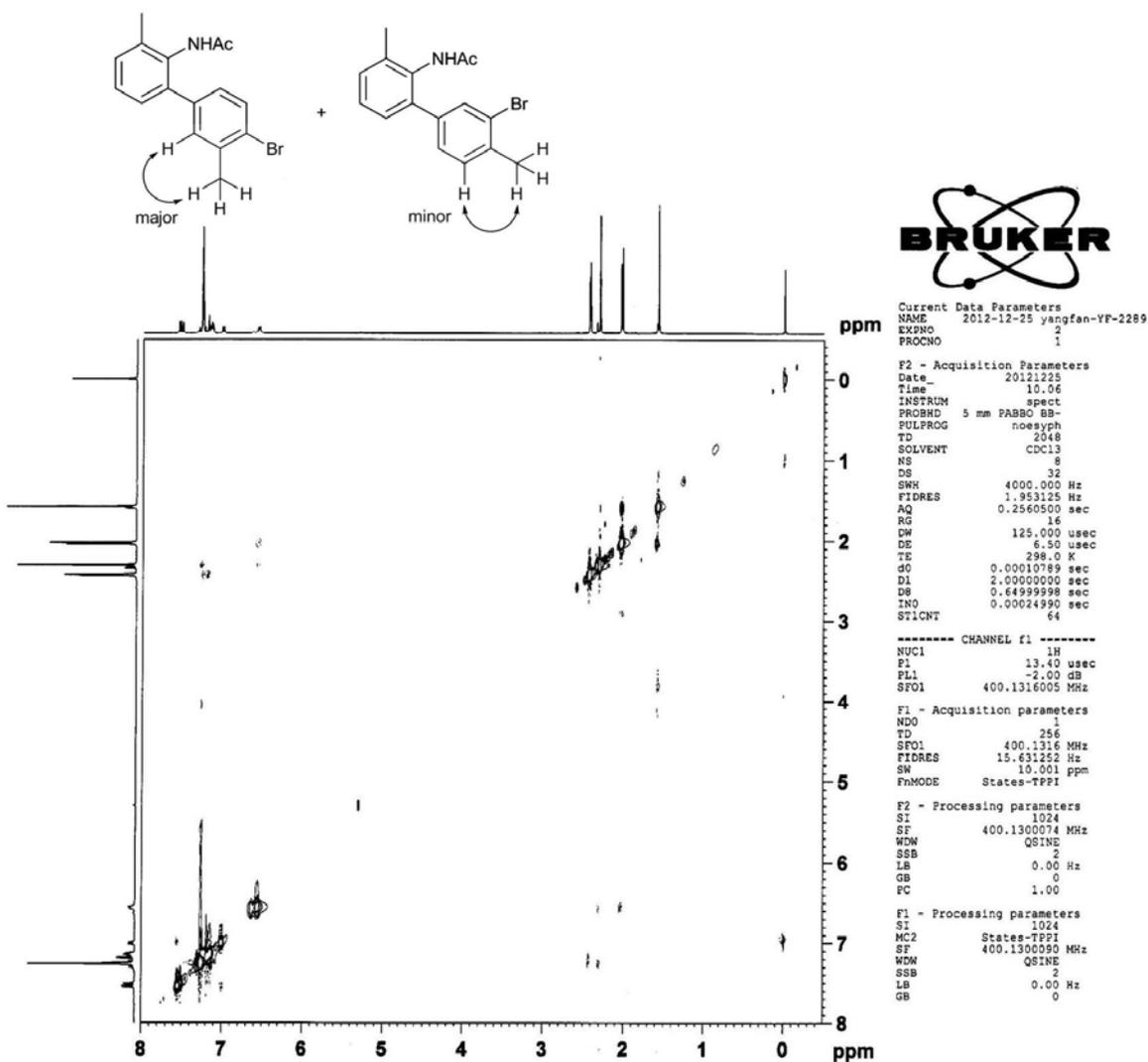
2.6/2.4 ($k_H/k_D = 1.1$) as determined by ^1H NMR.



X. References

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XI. ^1H - ^1H NOESY spectrum of the mixture of 3g and 3g'



XII. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra

