**Supporting Information** 

## One-pot synthesis of unsymmetrical diarylacetylenes *via* Sonogashira/Deacetonation/Sonogashira cross-coupling of two different aryl chlorides with 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol

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### **Experimental Section**

#### General

GC analysis was performed on Agilent 4890D gas chromatograph. Melting points were measured using a WC-1 microscopic apparatus and were uncorrected. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX-400 spectrometer with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as the solvent and TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectra were measured on an LC-MSD-Trap-XCT instrument. High-resolution mass spectra were measured on a MALDI-FTMS. Ethyl acetate and hexane (analytical grade) were used for column chromatography without purification. All chemicals were bought from commercial sources and used as-received unless otherwise noted.

# General procedure for the one-pot synthesis of unsymmetrical diarylacetylenes *via* Sonogashira/deacetonation/Sonogashira (SDS) cross-coupling of two different aryl chlorides with 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol

A mixture of  $Ar^1Cl$  (0.5 mmol), 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (0.6 mmol),  $Ar^2Cl$  (0.6 mmol),  $PdCl_2$  (4 mol%), X-Phos (4 mol%) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) in a 10 mL vial under a nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction was heated at 110 °C for 16 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with ethyl acetate. The mixture was added into H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the pure product.

# General procedure for the Sonogashira cross-coupling of Aryl Chlrorides with phenylacetylene

A mixture of ArCl (0.5 mmol), terminal alkyne (0.6 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub> (2 mol%), X-Phos (4 mol%) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.75 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) in a 10 mL vial under a nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction was heated at 110 °C for 16 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with ethyl acetate. The mixture was added into H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the pure product.

# General procedure for the one-pot synthesis of symmetrical diarylacetylenes *via* Sonogashira/deacetonation/Sonogashira (SDS) cross-coupling of one aryl chloride with 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol

A mixture of 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (0.5 mmol), ArCl (1.2 mmol), PdCl<sub>2</sub> (4 mol%), X-Phos (4 mol%) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) in a 10 mL vial under a nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction was heated at 110 °C for 16 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with ethyl acetate. The mixture was added into H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate) to give the pure product.

#### 2-Methyl-4-(4-nitrophenyl)but-3-yn-2-ol. (2ax)<sup>1</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 100–102 °C, yield: 72%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.17 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 1H), 1.64 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 147.5, 132.8, 130.1, 123.9, 99.5, 80.8, 66.0, 31.6.

#### 1-Methyl-4-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ab)<sup>2</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 149–150 °C, yield: 98%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.21 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 147.2, 140.1, 132.6, 132.2, 130.9, 129.7, 124.0, 119.4, 95.5, 87.5, 22.0.

#### 1-Methyl-3-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ac) <sup>3</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 106–107 °C, yield: 95%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 145.9, 137.3, 131.4, 131.2, 129.4, 129.2, 127.9, 127.4, 122.6, 120.9, 94.0, 86.2, 20.2.

#### 1-Methyl-2-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ad)

Yellow solid, mp 78–79 °C, yield: 99%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.24 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J*=7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 145.9, 139.6, 131.1, 131.1, 129.5, 128.7, 128.3, 124.8, 122.6, 120.8, 92.8, 90.4, 19.7; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 238.0863, Found: 238.0858.

#### 1,2-Dimethyl-4-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ae) <sup>4</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 102–103 °C, yield: 94%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.20 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.28 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 145.8, 137.5, 135.9, 131.8, 131.1, 129.6, 128.8, 128.3, 122.6, 118.3, 94.3, 85.9, 18.9, 18.6.

#### 1,4-Dimethyl-2-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2af) <sup>5</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 94–95 °C, yield: 98%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.16–7.09 (m, 2H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 145.8, 136.5, 134.3, 131.5, 131.0, 129.5, 129.3, 128.5, 122.6, 120.6, 93.1, 90.1, 19.7, 19.2.

#### 1,3-Dimethyl-2-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ag)

Yellow solid, mp 90–91 °C, yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.27 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.21–7.16 (m, 1H), 7.11–7.08 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 145.8, 139.7, 131.0, 129.7, 127.8, 125.9, 122.7, 120.8, 94.8, 91.7, 20.1; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 252.1019, Found: 252.1020.

#### 1,3,5-Trimethyl-2-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene.(2ah)<sup>5</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 89–90 °C, yield: 82%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.21 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (s, 2H), 2.48 (s, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 145.7, 139.6, 138.1, 130.9, 130.0, 126.8, 122.7, 117.9, 94.3, 92.1, 20.4, 19.9.

#### 1-Methoxy-4-((4-nitrophenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2ai) <sup>6</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 111–112 °C, yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.21 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 159.1, 145.4, 132.1, 130.7, 129.4, 122.3, 112.9, 112.8, 93.8, 85.3, 54.1.

#### Methyl 4-(2-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)ethynyl)benzoate. (2jg)

Pale yellow solid, mp 70–71 °C, yield: 93%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.02 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.06 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 165.6, 139.5, 130.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.5, 127.3, 125.8, 121.4, 96.0, 89.2, 51.2, 20.1; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 265.1223, Found: 265.1224.

#### Methyl 4-(2-mesitylethynyl)benzoate. (2jh)

Pale yellow solid, mp 106–107 °C, yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.01 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 165.6, 139.4, 137.4, 130.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.7, 126.7, 118.4, 95.3, 89.5, 51.2, 20.4, 20.0; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 279.1380, Found: 279.1382.

#### Methyl 4-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)benzoate.(2ji) 7

Pale yellow solid, mp 145–146 °C, yield: 73%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.00 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 165.6, 159.0, 132.2, 130.3, 128.5, 128.1, 127.4, 113.8, 113.1, 91.6, 86.5, 54.3, 51.2.

#### 4-(2-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)ethynyl)benzonitrile. (2kg)

Pale yellow solid, mp 82–83 °C, yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.62 (q, *J*=7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.20–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.10–7.07 (m, 2H), 2.50 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 139.6, 131.1, 130.8, 127.7, 127.7, 125.9, 120.9, 117.6, 110.3, 95.0, 90.7, 20.1; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, m/z 232.1121, Found: 232.1112.

#### 4-(2-Mesitylethynyl)benzonitrile. (2kh)

Pale yellow, solid, mp 128–129 °C, yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.64–7.57 (m, 4H), 6.91 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 6H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 139.5, 137.9, 131.0, 130.7, 128.0, 126.8, 118.0, 117.7, 110.0, 94.4, 91.1, 20.4, 19.9; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, m/z 246.1277, Found: 246.1268.

#### 4-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)benzonitrile. (2ki)

Pale yellow solid, mp 118–119 °C, yield: 77%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.63–7.56 (m, 4H), 7.48 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 159.3, 132.3, 131.0, 130.8, 127.6, 117.6, 113.3, 113.2, 110.0, 93.1, 85.7, 54.3; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sup>+</sup>, m/z 234.0913, Found: 234.0903.

#### 4-(2-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)ethynyl)benzaldehyde. (2lg)

White solid, mp 41–42 °C, yield: 73%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 10.02 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.09–7.07 (m, 2H), 2.52 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 190.4, 139.6, 134.3, 130.8, 129.1, 128.6, 127.5, 125.9, 121.2, 95.9, 90.4, 20.1; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sup>+</sup>, m/z 235.1117, Found: 235.1117.

#### 1-Nitro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene. (2am)<sup>6</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 110–112 °C, yield: 99% (Scheme 5) and 97% (Scheme 8); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.41–

7.38 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 148.2, 133.5, 133.1, 131.5, 130.5, 129.8, 124.8, 133.3, 95.9, 88.8.

#### 1-(2-(4-Nitrophenyl)ethynyl)naphthalene. (2an)

Yellow solid, mp 119–120 °C, yield: 98%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.41 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.96–7.91 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.79 (m, 3H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.60 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J*=7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 146.0, 132.2, 132.1, 131.3, 130.1, 129.3, 128.9, 127.5, 126.2, 125.7, 124.8, 124.3, 122.7, 118.7, 91.9, 91.3; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 274.0863, Found: 274.0861.

#### 1-(2-(4-Nitrophenyl)ethynyl)-4-vinylbenzene. (2ao)

Yellow solid, mp 149–151 °C, yield: 94%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, *J*=17.6 Hz, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (d, *J*=17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (d, *J*=10.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 147.0, 138.5, 136.1, 132.3, 132.1, 130.3, 126.4, 123.7, 121.3, 115.5, 94.8, 88.2; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 250.0863, Found: 250.0864.

#### 1-(2-(4-Nitrophenyl)ethynyl)-2-vinylbenzene. (2ap)

Yellow solid, mp 90–91 °C, yield: 95%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68–7.61 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d, J=6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, J= 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.21 (m, 2H), 5.87 (d, J=17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (d, J=11.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 147.0, 139.5, 134.5, 132.8, 132.2, 130.3, 129.5, 127.7, 124.9, 123.7, 120.7, 116.4, 93.2, 92.0; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, m/z 250.0863, Found: 250.0861.

#### 1-Nitro-4-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzene. (2aq) 8

Yellow solid, mp 110–111 °C, yield: 99%;<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.25 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.71–7.63 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 146.4, 131.5, 131.1, 129.9 (q, *J*=32.7 Hz), 128.4, 124.9, 124.5 (q, *J*=3.8 Hz), 122.7 (q, *J*=270.8 Hz), 122.7, 91.8, 88.5.

#### Methyl 4-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzoate. (2jq) 9

Pale yellow solid, mp 136–137 °C, yield: 87%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.80–7.76 (m, 1H), 8.58 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 165.4, 130.9, 130.6, 129.4 (q, *J*=32.2 Hz), 129.0, 128.6, 126.2, 125.5, 124.4 (q, *J*=3.8 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J*=270.5 Hz), 89.8, 89.6, 51.3.

#### 4-((4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzonitrile. (2kq)

Pale yellow solid, mp 114–115 °C, yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.68–7.61 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 131.2, 131.1, 131.0, 129.8 (q, *J*=32.8 Hz), 126.4, 125.0, 124.4 (q, *J*=3.8 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J*=270.7 Hz), 117.3, 111.1, 91.0, 88.7; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sup>+</sup>, m/z 272.0682, Found: 272.0674.

#### 4-((4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)benzaldehyde. (2lq)<sup>10</sup>

Pale yellow solid, mp 93–94 °C, yield: 81%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 10.4 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.71–7.62 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 190.3, 134.8, 131.3, 131.0, 129.6 (q, *J*=32.9 Hz), 128.6, 127.7, 125.3, 124.4 (q, *J*=3.8 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J*=270.6 Hz), 90.6, 89.6.

#### 2-(2-(4-Nitrophenyl)ethynyl)thiophene. (2ar)

Yellow solid, mp 137–138 °C, yield: 69%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.22 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.08–7.04 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 145.9, 132.2, 130.9, 128.9, 127.8, 126.4, 122.7, 121.0, 90.3, 87.1; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup>, m/z 230.0270, Found: 230.0269.

#### 3-(2-(4-Nitrophenyl)ethynyl)pyridine. (2as) <sup>11</sup>

Yellow solid, mp 125–126 °C, yield: 74%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.61 (d, *J*=4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, *J*=8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 151.4, 148.4, 146.3, 137.7, 131.4, 128.3, 122.7, 122.2, 118.3, 89.9, 89.5.

#### Methyl 4-(2-(thiophen-2-yl)ethynyl)benzoate. (2jr)

Yellow solid, mp 104–105 °C, yield: 86%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.02 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J*=8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, *J*=4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 165.5, 131.5, 130.2, 128.5, 128.5, 127.0, 126.6, 126.2, 121.7, 91.3, 84.6, 51.2; HRMS: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sup>+</sup>, m/z 243.0474, Found: 243.0474.

#### Methyl 4-(2-(pyridin-3-yl)ethynyl)benzoate. (2js) 12

Pale yellow solid, mp 113–114 °C, yield: 88%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.04 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.66–7.59 (m, 6H), 3.94 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 165.4, 151.3, 148.0, 137.5, 130.6, 129.0, 128.6, 126.1, 122.1, 118.9, 90.7, 87.7, 51.3.

#### 4-(2-(Thiophen-2-yl)ethynyl)benzonitrile. (2kr)<sup>13</sup>

Pale yellow solid, mp 134–135 °C, yield: 72%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.65–7.57 (m, 4H), 7.38–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, *J*=4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 132.0, 131.1, 130.7, 127.5, 126.9, 126.3, 121.1, 117.5, 110.5, 90.4, 86.1.

#### 1,3-Dimethyl-2-(o-tolylethynyl)benzene. (2gd) <sup>14</sup>

White solid, mp 57–58 °C, yield: 38% in Scheme 5 and 78% in Scheme 6; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.55 (d, *J*=7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.09 (m, 6H), 2.56 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 140.2, 139.8, 131.9, 129.6, 128.2, 127.7, 126.8, 125.7, 123.7, 123.3, 97.0, 91.1, 21.3, 21.1.

#### 1,2-Bis(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethyne. (2ff) <sup>15</sup>

White solid, mp 116–117 °C, yield: 67%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.09 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J*=7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 6H), 2.29 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 135.9, 134.1, 131.3, 128.4, 128.1, 122.2, 91.2, 19.8, 19.5.

#### 1,2-Bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyne. (2qq)<sup>16</sup>

White solid, mp 107–108 °C, yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.67–7.61 (m, 8H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 131.0, 129.5 (q, *J*=32.6 Hz), 125.4, 124.4 (q, *J*=3.8 Hz), 122.8 (q, *J*=272.3 Hz), 89.1.

#### 1-methyl-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene. (2dm) <sup>17</sup>

Colorless oil, yield: 91%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.54–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.32–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.21–7.12 (m, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 140.3, 131.9, 131.6, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 125.7, 123.7, 123.1, 93.5, 88.5, 20.8.

#### 1,3-dimethyl-2-(phenylethynyl)benzene. (2gm)<sup>17</sup>

Colorless oil, yield: 83%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.55–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.12–7.03 (m, 3H), 2.51 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 140.3, 131.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 126.8, 123.9, 123.1, 97.9, 87.2, 21.2.

#### 2-(phenylethynyl)thiophene. (2rm) <sup>18</sup>

Pale yellow solid, mp 49–50 °C, yield: 82%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.53–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.28 (d, *J*=4.4 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (t, *J*=4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 130.4, 127.4, 127.3, 126.2, 126.1, 122.2, 121.9, 92.0, 81.6.

#### 3-(phenylethynyl)pyridine. (2sm) 18

Colorless oil, yield: 98%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.77 (s, 1H), 8.55 (d, *J*=4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J*=8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, *J*=3.2 Hz, 3H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 152.3, 148.6, 138.5, 131.7, 128.8, 128.5, 123.1, 122.5, 120.5, 92.6, 85.9.

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150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm







170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm





