

–Electronic Supplementary Information–

**Nucleophilicity parameters for designing transition metal-free C-C bond forming  
reactions of organoboron compounds**

*Guillaume Berionni, Biplab Maji, Paul Knochel and Herbert Mayr\**

Department Chemie,  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität,  
Butenandtstr. 5–13 (Haus F),  
81377 München, Germany.  
E-mail: Herbert.Mayr@cup.uni-muenchen.de

**Table of contents:**

<b>1</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>S2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Preparation of organoboron compounds 1c-g</b>	<b>S3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Product studies</b>	<b>S7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Kinetics</b>	<b>S14</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Determination of the nucleophilicity of organoboron compounds 1b–g</b>	<b>S25</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>S26</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Copies of NMR spectra</b>	<b>S27</b>

## 1. General

### Materials

Commercially available acetonitrile (VWR, Prolabo, HPLC-gradient grade and Acros, 99.9%, Extra Dry, AcroSeal) was used as received. Commercially available THF (Sigma-Aldrich, p.a.) was distilled over sodium prior to use.

The benzhdrylium tetrafluoroborates  $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+ \text{BF}_4^-$  were prepared as described before.<sup>S1</sup> 5-methylfuran-2-ylboronic acid **1a** was synthesised as described in the literature.<sup>S2</sup> 2-Methyl-5-(pinacolboryl)furan **1b** (CAS Registry Number: 338998-93-9) is commercially available (ABCR, purity 98 %) and used as received.

### Analytics

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 and 300 MHz),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 and 75.5 MHz), and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra (376.3 MHz) were recorded on Varian NMR systems in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  or  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Chemical shifts in ppm refer to the solvent residual signal in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.94,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  1.4 ppm) or  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.24,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.2 ppm) as internal standard or to external  $\text{CFCl}_3$  ( $\delta_{\text{F}}$  0.0 ppm), respectively.  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectra (128.3 MHz) were obtained by using a JEOL ECX-400 spectrometer and referenced to external  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  (0.0 ppm). The following abbreviations were used to describe the multiplicities of resonances: br s = broad singlet, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. NMR signal assignments are based on additional 2D-NMR experiments (COSY, HSQC, and HMBC).

### Kinetics

The rates of all investigated reactions were determined photometrically. The temperature of the solutions during all kinetic studies was kept constant ( $20.0 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ ) by using a circulating bath thermostat. The kinetic experiments were carried out with freshly prepared stock solutions of **1** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . The electrophiles **2** and **9–13** (also prepared as stock solutions in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  if not mentioned otherwise) were always employed as minor component in the reactions with the nucleophiles **1**, resulting in first-order kinetics.

The rates of slow reactions ( $t_{1/2} > 15\text{--}20\text{ s}$ ) were determined by using a J&M TIDAS diode array spectrophotometer controlled by Labcontrol Spectacle software and connected to a Hellma 661.502-QX quartz Suprasil immersion probe (5 mm light path) via fiber optic cables and standard SMA connectors. For the evaluation of fast kinetics ( $t_{1/2} < 20\text{ s}$ ) the stopped-

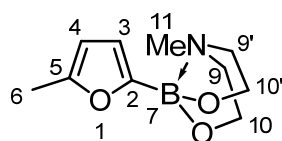
flow spectrophotometer system Applied Photophysics SX.18MV-R stopped-flow reaction analyser was used.

Rate constants  $k_{\text{obs}}$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) were obtained by fitting the single exponential  $A_t = A_0 \exp(-k_{\text{obs}}t) + C$  (exponential decrease if not mentioned otherwise) to the observed time-dependent absorbance (averaged from at least 5 kinetic runs for each nucleophile concentration in case of stopped-flow methodology). Second-order rate constants  $k_2$  ( $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) were derived from the slopes of the linear correlations of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  with nucleophile concentrations.

## 2. Preparation of organoboron compounds 1c-g

### 5-Methyl-2-(*N*-methyl-1,3,6,2-dioxazaborocane)furan (1c)

The 5-methylfuran-2-ylboronic acid **1a** (1.00 mmol, 126 mg) and *N*-methyldiethanolamine (0.999 mmol, 119 mg) were mixed in diethyl ether (5 mL, freshly distilled). The formed precipitate was separated by filtration, washed with diethyl ether ( $2 \times 50$  mL), and dried in vacuum ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mbar). The crude product was purified by precipitation from AcOEt/Et<sub>2</sub>O mixtures to give **1c** as a yellowish solid (79 mg, 39 %).



**Mp.** 116-118 °C (AcOEt/Et<sub>2</sub>O).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  2.25 (s, 3 H, 6-H), 2.39 (s, 3 H, 11-H), 2.91–2.97 and 3.12–3.18 (m, 4 H, 10-H and 10'-H), 3.87–3.95 (m, 4 H, 9-H and 9'-H), 5.88 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.29 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1 H, 3-H) ppm.

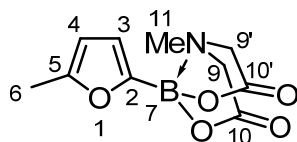
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  14.2 (q, C-6), 47.2 (q, C-11), 61.4 (t, C-9, C-9'), 63.0 (t, C-10, C-10'), 106.6 (d, C-4), 117.6 (d, C-3), 154.4 (s, C-5) ppm. C-2 has not been detected.<sup>S3</sup>

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.3 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  10.6 ppm.

### (5-Methyl-2-furanyl)boronic acid *N*-methyliminodiacetic ester (1d)

In analogy to the procedure described in reference S3, a two-necked flask was charged with freshly distilled THF (40 mL) and distilled 2-methylfuran (910 mg, 11.1 mmol) under argon. The solution was cooled at  $-40$  °C and *n*-butyllithium (2.1 M in hexane, 4.8 mL, 10 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was then allowed to warm progressively to  $0$  °C within 2 h. After cooling at  $-78$  °C, neat triisopropylborate (2.16 g, 11.5 mmol) was added dropwise

under vigorous stirring and the solution was allowed to warm to 20 °C within 4 h. Subsequently, the mixture was slowly transferred via a cannula into a flask containing *N*-methyliminodiacetic acid (2.1 g, 15 mmol) in DMSO (20 mL) at a temperature of 100 °C. After 2 h the solution was cooled to 20 °C and filtrated through Celite. The solvents were evaporated under vacuum. The residue was crystallised from acetonitrile/diethyl ether solutions to furnish **1d** as an off-white crystalline solid (1.1 g, 42%).



**Mp.** 135–137 °C (CH<sub>3</sub>CN/Et<sub>2</sub>O).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 2.29 (s, 3 H, 6-H), 2.63 (s, 3 H, 11-H), 3.88 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 2 H, 9'-H), 4.04 (d, *J* = 17.0 Hz, 2 H, 9-H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1 H, 3-H) ppm.

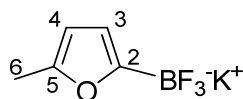
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 14.1 (q, C-6), 48.3 (q, C-11), 62.8 (t, C-9 and C-9'), 107.4 (d, C-4), 120.5 (d, C-3), 120.6 (s, C-5), 169.6 (s, C-10 and C-10') ppm. C-2 has not been detected.<sup>S3</sup>

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.3 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 9.7 ppm.

### Potassium (5-methylfuran-2-yl)trifluoroborate (**1e**)

(CAS Registry Number: 1111213-54-7)

Following a procedure described in reference S4, the boronic acid **1a** (756 mg, 6.00 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (5 mL), and the solution was cooled at 0 °C. A concentrated aqueous solution of KHF<sub>2</sub> (1.40 g in 5 mL of water, 18.5 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C, and the reaction was allowed to warm at r.t. within 1 h. Then the solvent was removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by two subsequent crystallisations from acetone/diethyl ether solutions to give **1e** as a colorless solid (680 mg, 62 %).



**Mp.** 265–267 °C (acetone/Et<sub>2</sub>O).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 2.23 (s, 3 H, 6-H), 5.78 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 6.04 (m, 1 H, 3-H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 12.6 (q, C-6), 104.6 (s, C-4), 111.5 (m, C-3), 150.5 (s, C-5) ppm. C-2 has not been detected.<sup>S3</sup>

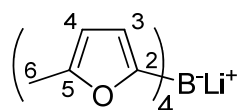
**$^{11}\text{B}$  NMR** (128.3 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  1.9 (q,  $J_{\text{B-F}} = 47.3$  Hz) ppm.

**$^{19}\text{F}$  NMR** (376.3 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  -141.9 (m) ppm.

NMR data for compound **1e** are in accordance with those reported in reference S3.

### Lithium tetrakis(5-methyl-2-furyl)borate (**1f**)

To a preformed solution of 5-methylfuryl-2-lithium (22.5 mmol, 2.00 mL) in 40 mL of THF (see synthesis of compound **1d** for the lithiation of 2-methylfuran) was added dropwise  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  (700  $\mu\text{L}$ , 5.62 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The formed precipitate was separated by filtration and purified by two subsequent crystallisations from acetone/diethyl ether solutions to give **1f** as a yellowish solid (0.34 g, 51%).<sup>S5</sup>



**Mp.** 330-333 °C (decomposition).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  2.20 (s, 12 H, 6-H), 5.71-5.72 (m, 4 H, 4-H), 5.76-5.78 (m, 4 H, 3-H) ppm.

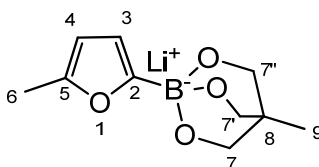
**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  14.4 (q, C-6), 112.8 (d,  $J_{\text{C-B}} = 5.3$  Hz, C-3), 106.2 (d, C-4), 150.3 (s, C-5), 176.8 (s,  $J_{\text{C-B}} = 60.1$  Hz, C-2) ppm.

**$^{11}\text{B}$  NMR** (128.3 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  1.8 ppm.

**HRMS (EI)**  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{20}^{11}\text{BO}_4^-$ : 335.1460, found 335.1466

### Lithium 5-methyl-2-furanyl triol borate (**1g**)

The procedure described in reference S6 was used, starting from 2-methylfuran (1.00 mL, 11.0 mmol) and 1,1,1-tris(hydroxymethyl)ethane (1.32 g, 11.0 mmol). The crude product was purified by two subsequent crystallisations from acetonitrile/ethyl acetate solutions to give **1g** as a colorless solid (1.55 g, 68 %).



**Mp.** 124-126 °C ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{EtOAc}$ ).

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO} + 1$  drop of  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  0.44 (s, 3 H, 9-H), 2.14 (s, 3 H, 6-H), 3.50 (s, 6 H, 7-H), 5.63-5.64 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 5.69-5.70 (m, 1 H, 3-H) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz, DMSO + 1 drop of  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ):  $\delta$  13.5 (q, C-6), 16.2 (q, C-9), 30.7 (s, C-8), 73.4 (t, C-7, C-7' and C-7''), 104.5 (d, C-4), 110.3 (d, C-3), 148.1 (s, C-5) ppm. C-2 has not been detected.

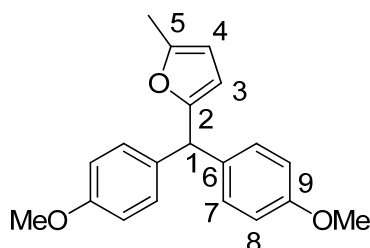
**$^{11}\text{B}$  NMR** (128.3 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ):  $\delta$  0.5 ppm.

**HRMS (EI)**  $m/z$  calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{14}^{11}\text{BO}_4^-$ : 209.0991, found 209.0991.

### 3. Product studies

#### 2-(Bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-5-methylfuran (**3**)

*From 1b and 2a-BF<sub>4</sub>:* To a solution of **1b** (209 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **2a**-BF<sub>4</sub> (310 mg, 1.10 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min at room temperature. The solvent was then evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/*n*-pentane = 1/9) to yield **3** as a colorless oil (228 mg, 78%).



$R_f$  = 0.76 (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/4)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  2.23 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (s, 6 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 5.28 (s, 1 H, 1-H), 5.70 (dd,  $J$  = 3.0, 0.5 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 5.85 (dd,  $J$  = 3.0, 1.0 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 4 H, 7-H), 7.06 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4 H, 8-H) ppm.

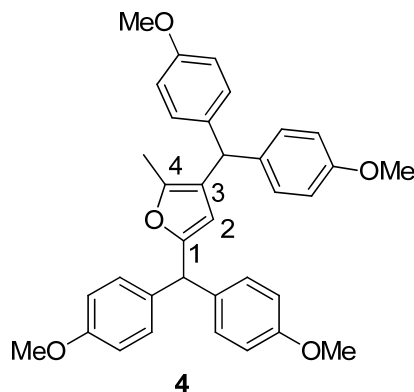
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  13.9 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 49.5 (d, C-1), 55.5 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 106.1 (d, C-4), 108.9 (d, C-3), 114.0 (d, C-8), 129.8 (d, C-7), 134.8 (s, C-6), 151.5 (s, C-9), 155.8 (s, C-5), 158.4 (s, C-2) ppm.

NMR data for compound **3** are in accord with those reported in reference S7.

*From 1c and 2a-BF<sub>4</sub>:* To a solution of **1c** (210 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **2a**-BF<sub>4</sub> (310 mg, 1.10 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min at room temperature. The solvent was then evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/*n*-pentane = 1/9) to yield **3** as a colorless oil (170 mg, 55%). Spectroscopic data for **3** were the same as above.

*From 1d and 2a-BF<sub>4</sub>:* To a solution of **1d** (237 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **2a**-BF<sub>4</sub> (310 mg, 1.10 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min at room temperature. The solvent was then evaporated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (ethyl acetate/*n*-

pentane = 1/9) to give **3** and 3,5-bis(bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl)-2-methylfuran (**4**). For the crude product a 1/2-ratio of **3**/**4** was determined from the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum. Isolated yield of **3**: 49 mg (16 %, spectroscopic data for **3** were the same as above); isolated yield of **4**: pale yellow oil, (106 mg, 34 %).



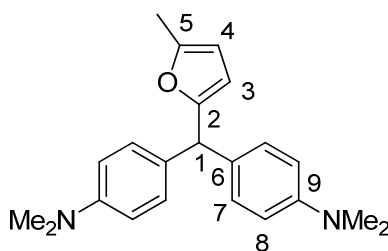
$R_f = 0.49$  (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/4).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  2.01 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.76, 3.77 (2 s,  $2 \times 6\text{H}$ ,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 5.10 (s, 3-CH), 5.22 (s, 1-CH), 5.62 (s, 1 H, 2-H), 6.78-6.81 (m, 8 H, Ar), 7.01-7.06 (m, 8 H, Ar) ppm.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 100 MHz):  $\delta$  12.2 (q,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 46.1 (d, 3-CH), 49.5 (d, 1-CH), 55.4 (q,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 110.2 (d, C-2), 113.8 (d, Ar), 113.9 (d, Ar), 122.3 (s, C-3), 129.82 (d, Ar), 129.86 (d, Ar), 134.9 (s, Ar), 136.7 (s, Ar), 147.2 (s, C-4), 154.4 (s, C-1), 158.1 (s, Ar), 158.3 (s, Ar) ppm.

## 2-(Bis((4-dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-5-methylfuran (**5**)

*From 1e and 2f-BF<sub>4</sub>*: To a deeply blue solution of **2f**-BF<sub>4</sub> (1.00 mmol, 340 mg) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **1e** (188 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min while the blue color faded. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/ethyl acetate = 9/1) to yield **5** as a colorless oil (294 mg, 88%).



$R_f = 0.69$  (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/9)



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 2.23 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.90 (s, 12 H, 2 × NMe<sub>2</sub>), 5.21 (s, 1 H, 1-H), 5.71 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1 H, 4-H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4 H, 7-H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4 H, 8-H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 13.9 (q, Me), 41.0 (q, 2 × NMe<sub>2</sub>), 49.3 (d, C-1), 106.0 (d, C-4), 108.5 (d, C-3), 112.9 (d, C-8), 129.5 (d, C-7), 131.2 (s, C-6), 149.5 (s, C-9), 151.2 (s, C-5), 156.7 (s, C-2) ppm.

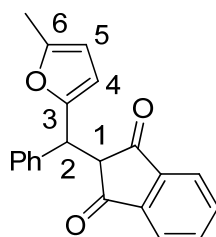
**HR-MS** (ESI, positive): calc. for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: 334.2045, found: 334.2045.

*From 1f and 2f-BF<sub>4</sub>*: To a deeply blue solution of **2f**-BF<sub>4</sub> (1.00 mmol, 340 mg) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **1f** (342 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min while the blue color faded. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/ethyl acetate = 9/1) to yield **5** as a colorless oil (237 mg, 71%). Spectroscopic data for **5** were the same as above.

*From 1g and 2f-BF<sub>4</sub>*: To a deeply blue solution of **2f**-BF<sub>4</sub> (1.00 mmol, 340 mg) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added dropwise a solution of **1g** (216 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 min while the blue color faded. The solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/ethyl acetate = 9/1) to yield **5** as a colorless oil (274 mg, 82%). Spectroscopic data for **5** were the same as above.

## 2-((5-Methylfuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methyl)-1H-indene-1,3(2H)-dione (**14**)

To an open flask charged with a mixture of **1e** (28 mg, 0.15 mmol) and 2-benzylidene-1H-indene-1,3(2H)-dione (**9**) (23.4 mg, 0.100 mmol) was added acetonitrile (2 mL) and methanol (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. After removing the solvents, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/9) to yield **14** as a yellow oil (29 mg, 92%).



$R_f = 0.3$  (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/9).

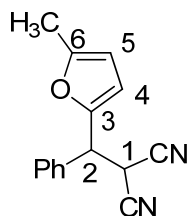
**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.01 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.69 (d,  $J = 3.2$  Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 4.96 (d,  $J = 2.9$  Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 5.77–5.78 (m, 1 H, 5-H), 5.93–5.94 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 7.13–7.25 (m, 3 H, Ar, superimposed with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), 7.35–7.38 (m, 2 H, Ar), 7.72–7.77 (m, 2 H, Ar), 7.86–7.90 (m, 2 H, Ar) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  13.5 (q,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 44.2 (d, C-1), 57.6 (d, C-2), 106.3 (d, C-5), 109.0 (d, C-4), 106.4 (d, Ar), 109.1 (d, Ar), 123.2 (d, Ar), 123.3 (d, Ar), 127.5 (d, Ar), 128.6 (d, Ar), 129.4 (d, Ar), 135.6 (d, Ar), 138.7 (s, Ar), 142.6 (s, Ar), 142.9 (s, Ar), 151.2 (s, Ar), 152.3 (s, Ar), 198.9 (s, C=O), 199.0 (s, C=O) ppm.

**HRMS** (ESI): Calculated for  $[\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_3]$  is 315.1027; obtained 315.1026.

### 2-((5-Methylfuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methyl) malononitrile (**15**)

To an open flask charged with a mixture of **1e** (28 mg, 0.15 mmol) and 2-benzylidenemalononitrile (**10**) (15.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) was added acetonitrile (2 mL) and methanol (0.5 mL). The mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. After removing the solvents, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/9) to yield **15** as a colorless oil (22 mg, 93%).



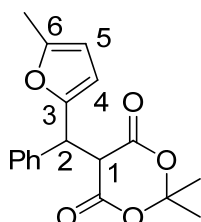
$R_f = 0.25$  (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/19)

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR** (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.29 (s, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 4.40 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 4.55 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 5.94–5.95 (m, 1 H, 5-H), 6.19–6.20 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 7.37–7.44 (m, 5 H, Ar) ppm.

**$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR** (75.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  13.8 (q,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 29.1 (d, C-1), 46.5 (d, C-2), 107.0 (d, C-5), 110.6 (d, C-4), 111.70 (s,  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 111.74 (s,  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ), 128.5 (d, Ar), 129.4 (d, Ar), 129.5 (d, Ar), 135.2 (s, Ar), 147.6 (s, C-3), 153.5 (s, C-6) ppm.

### 2,2-Dimethyl-5-((5-methylfuran-2-yl)(phenyl)methyl)-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (**16**)

To an open flask charged with a mixture of **1e** (28.2 mg, 0.150 mmol) and 5-benzylidene-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (**11**) (23.2 mg, 0.100 mmol) was added CH<sub>3</sub>CN (2 mL) and CH<sub>3</sub>OH (0.5 mL). The mixture was allowed to stir for 24 h at room temperature. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/4) to yield **16** as an off-white powder (27 mg, 86%).



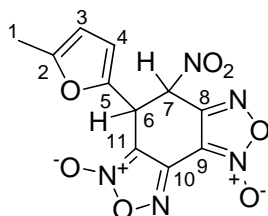
$R_f$  = 0.07 (EtOAc/*n*-pentane = 1/9)

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.47 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.71 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.24 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (d,  $J$  = 3.1 Hz, 1 H, 1-H), 5.22 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1 H, 2-H), 5.88-5.93 (m, 2 H, 5-H and 4-H), 7.27-7.34 (m, 3 H, Ar), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2 H, Ar) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  13.7 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.1 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.4 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.6 (d, C-1), 50.7 (d, C-2), 105.3 (s, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 106.8 (d, C-4 or C-5), 109.1 (d, C-4 or C-5), 128.2 (d, Ar), 128.8 (d, Ar), 129.9 (d, Ar), 137.7 (s, Ar), 151.2 (s, C-3 or C-6), 151.3 (s, C-3 or C-6), 164.4 (s, C=O), 164.6 (s, C=O) ppm.

### 2-Methyl-5-(4-nitrobenzodifuroxany)furan (**17**)

In an NMR tube **12** (15 mg, 0.063 mmol) and **1e** (12 mg, 0.063 mmol) were mixed in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (1 mL) at room temperature. After 5 min a drop of H<sub>2</sub>O was added. Then the NMR spectra were recorded to characterise **17**. Attempts to isolate **17** failed.

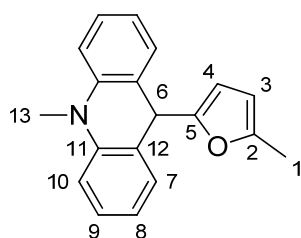


**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  2.19 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.52 (m, 1 H, 6-H), 5.99 (m, 1 H, 4-H), 6.31 (m, 1 H, 3-H), 6.53 (m, 1 H, 7-H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN):  $\delta$  12.5 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.9 (d, C-6), 78.1 (d, C-7), 106.9 (d, C-4), 111.3 (d, C-3), 121.6 (s, C-10 or C-11), 152.7 and 152.9 (s, C-1 and C-5) ppm. C-8, C-9, C-10, and C-11 have not been detected.

### 10-Methyl-9-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)-4a,9a,10-tetrahydroacridine (**18**)

A solution of *N*-methylacridinium tetrafluoroborate **13** (281 mg, 1.00 mmol) in acetonitrile (5 mL) was prepared. At 20 °C, a solution of trifluoroborate **1e** (188 mg, 1.00 mmol) was added dropwise. After 1 h the reaction was complete. Then the solvent was removed in vacuum. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel (*n*-pentane/AcOEt = 9/1) to yield **18** (yellow oil, 250 mg, 92 %).



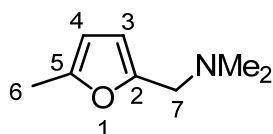
$R_f = 0.85$  (*n*-pentane/AcOEt = 9/1).

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 2.23 (s, 3 H, Me), 3.42 (s, 3 H, NMe), 5.24 (s, 1 H, 6-H), 5.52 (m, 1 H, 3-H), 5.78 (1 H, 4-H), 6.90-6.98 (m, 4 H, 8-H and 10-H) and 7.18–7.30 (m, 4 H, 7-H and 9-H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN): δ 13.7 (C-1), 33.1 (C-13), 42.6 (C-6), 105.9 (d, C-4), 106.8 (d, C-3), 111.9 (d, Ar), 112.3 (d, Ar), 120.5 (d, Ar), 124.2 (q, Ar), 126.9 (q, Ar), 127.5 (d, Ar), 128.7 (d, Ar), 142.5 (q, Ar), 143.6 (q, Ar), 151.3 and 154.4 (C-2 and C-5) ppm.

### *N,N*-Dimethyl-1-(5-methylfuran-2-yl)methanamine (**20**)

The organoboron compound **1b,d,e,g** (1.1 mmol) was added to a solution of the iminium salt **19-X<sup>-</sup>** (1.0 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL). After stirring at r.t. for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by adding a few drops of an aqueous saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution. The resulting mixture was washed with brine (10 mL), and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 10 mL). Combining the organic phases, drying (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and evaporating the volatile components gave the disubstituted furan **20** as a pale liquid (yields of **20**: (a) 120 mg, 88 %, from the reaction of **1b** with **19**-CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>; (b) 130 mg, 93 % from the reaction of **1e** with **19**-CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>; (c) yields of further reactions (see Scheme 4 of the main text) were calculated from the crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra.)



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 2.29 (s, 6 H, NMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.30 (s, 3 H, Me), 3.43 (s, 2 H, 7-H), 5.91 (m, 1 H, 3-H), 6.08 (m, 1 H, 4-H) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 13.6 (C-6), 44.9 (NMe<sub>2</sub>), 55.9 (C-7), 105.83 (C-4), 109.4 (C-3), 150.2 (C-2), 151.92 (C-5) ppm.

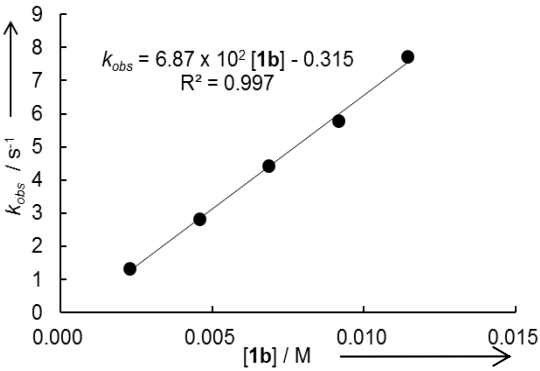
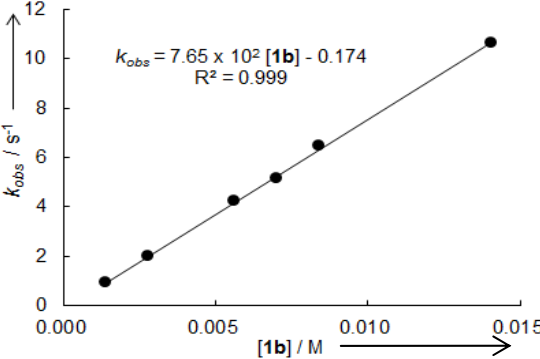
## 4. Kinetics

### 4.1 Kinetics of the reactions of **1b–g** with benzhydrylium ions **2a–j** ( $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{X}^-$ )

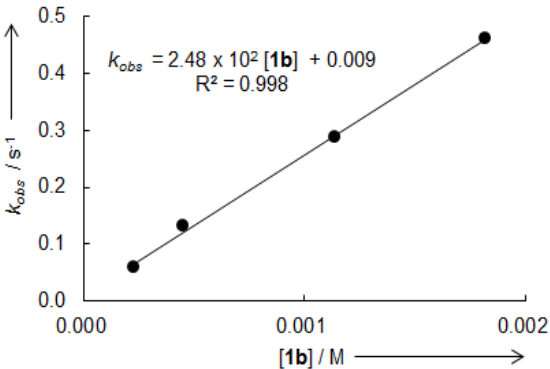
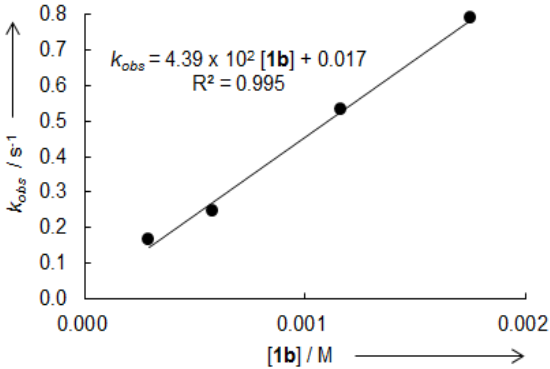
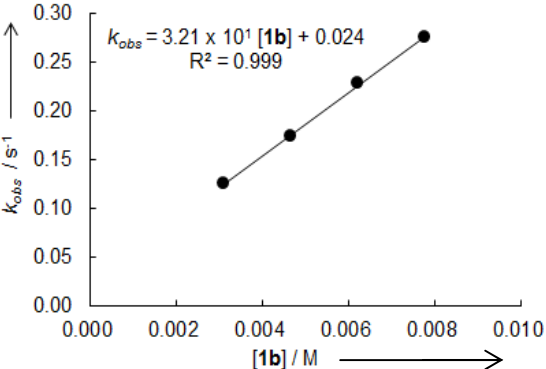
The rates of the reactions of **1b–g** with the benzhydrylium ions **2a–j** ( $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{X}^-$ ) were measured photometrically, by using diode array detector or conventional stopped flow technique as described previously (Ref. S1) at 20 °C in dry  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ .

First-order rate constants  $k_{\text{obs}}$  were obtained by least-squares fitting of the absorbances to the mono-exponential curve  $A_t = A_0 \exp(-k_{\text{obs}}t) + C$ . Since  $k_{\text{obs}} = k_2[\text{Nu}]$ , the second-order rate constants  $k$  ( $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) were derived from the slopes of the linear plots of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) vs.  $[\text{Nu}]$ .

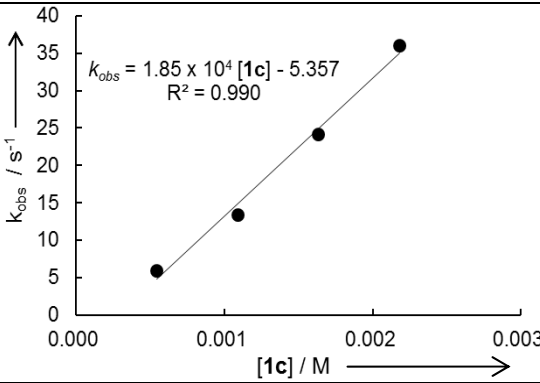
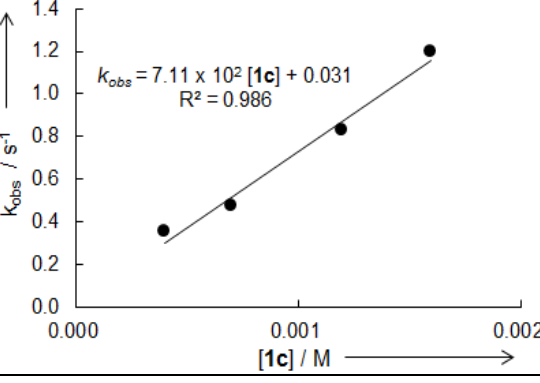
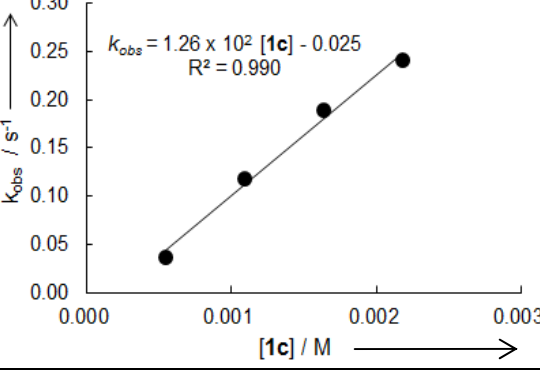
**Supplementary Table S1.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1b** with  $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{X}^-$  **2a** and **2b** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 20°C

$[\text{2a-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\text{1b}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 500 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.29 \times 10^{-3}$	1.31		$6.87 \times 10^2$
	$4.58 \times 10^{-3}$	2.83		
	$6.87 \times 10^{-3}$	4.36		
	$9.16 \times 10^{-3}$	5.72		
	$1.15 \times 10^{-2}$	7.76		
$[\text{2a-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\text{1b}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	(in $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) $\lambda = 500 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.41 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.04 \times 10^{-1}$		$7.65 \times 10^2$
	$2.81 \times 10^{-3}$	2.00		
	$5.62 \times 10^{-3}$	4.21		
	$7.03 \times 10^{-3}$	5.14		
	$8.44 \times 10^{-3}$	6.45		
	$1.41 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.06 \times 10^1$		

Supplementary Table S1. (Continued)

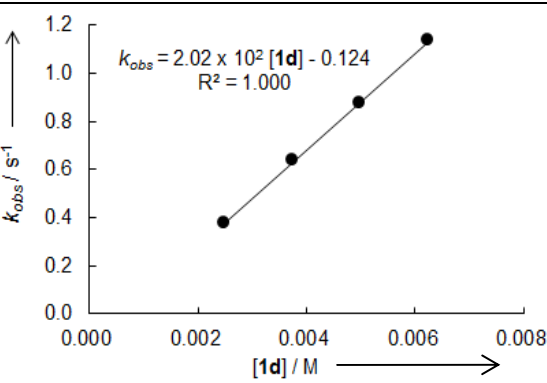
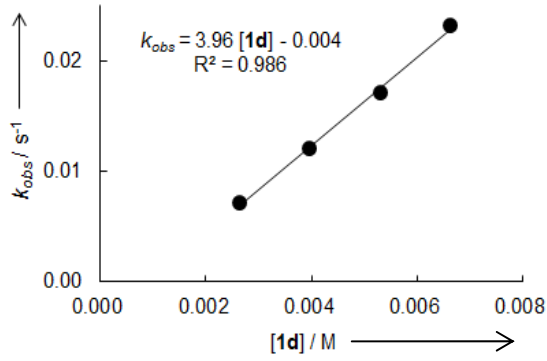
$[2a-SbCl_6^-] / M$	$[1b] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 500\text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.28 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.78 \times 10^{-2}$		$2.48 \times 10^2$
	$4.56 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.31 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.14 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.86 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.82 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.60 \times 10^{-1}$		
$[2a-PF_6^-] / M$	$[1b] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 500\text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.92 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.65 \times 10^{-1}$		$4.39 \times 10^2$
	$5.84 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.46 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.17 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.34 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.75 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.88 \times 10^{-1}$		
$[2b-BF_4^-] / M$	$[1b] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 524\text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$5.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.11 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.25 \times 10^{-1}$		$3.21 \times 10^1$
	$4.67 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.74 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$6.23 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.28 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$7.79 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.74 \times 10^{-1}$		

**Supplementary Table S2.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1c** with Ar<sub>2</sub>CH<sup>+</sup>BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> **2b-d** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at 20°C

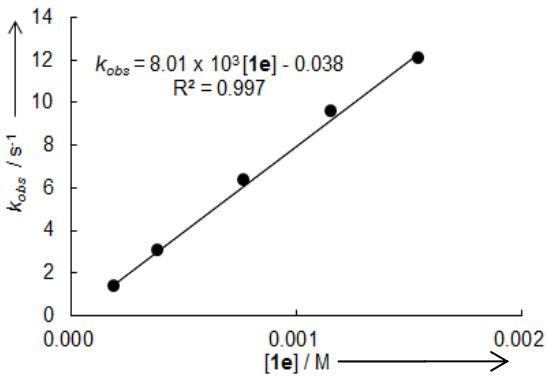
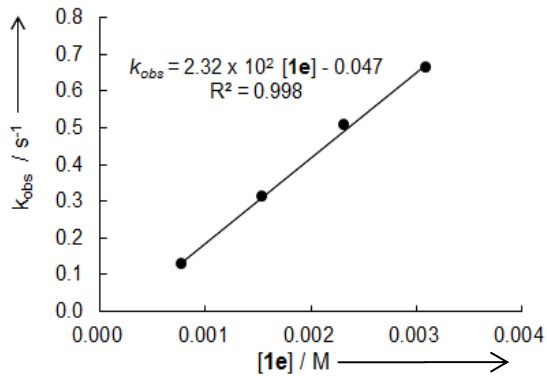
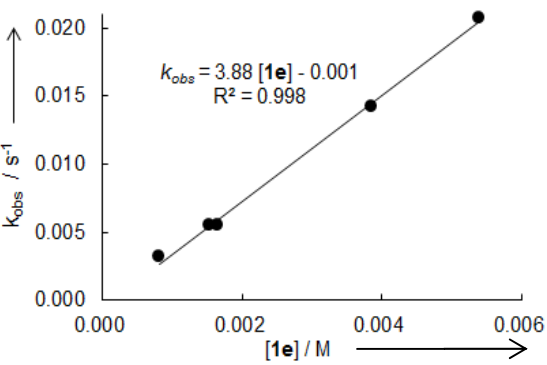
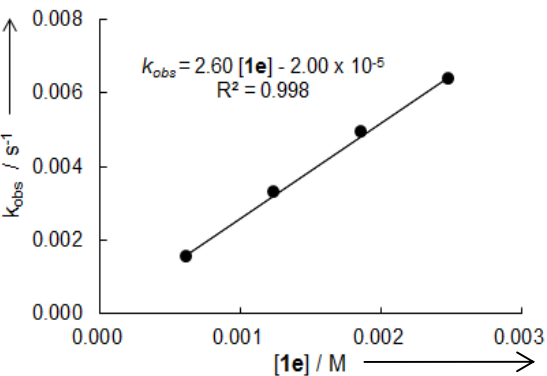
[ <b>2b</b> ] / M	[ <b>1c</b> ] / M	<i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 524 nm	<i>k</i> <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
5.2 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	5.46 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	5.93		1.85 × 10 <sup>4</sup>
	1.09 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.34 × 10 <sup>1</sup>		
	1.64 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.42 × 10 <sup>1</sup>		
	2.18 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.59 × 10 <sup>1</sup>		
[ <b>2c</b> ] / M	[ <b>1c</b> ] / M	<i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 592 nm	<i>k</i> <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
3.6 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	3.99 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.52 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		7.11 × 10 <sup>2</sup>
	6.98 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.74 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	1.20 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	8.26 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	1.60 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.20		
[ <b>2d</b> ] / M	[ <b>1c</b> ] / M	<i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 586 nm	<i>k</i> <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
3.9 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	5.46 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.60 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		1.26 × 10 <sup>2</sup>
	1.09 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.18 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	1.64 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.89 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	2.18 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.41 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		



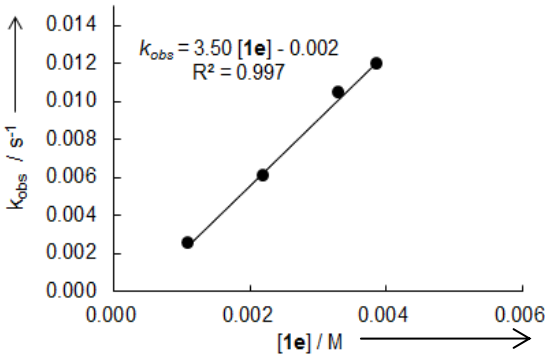
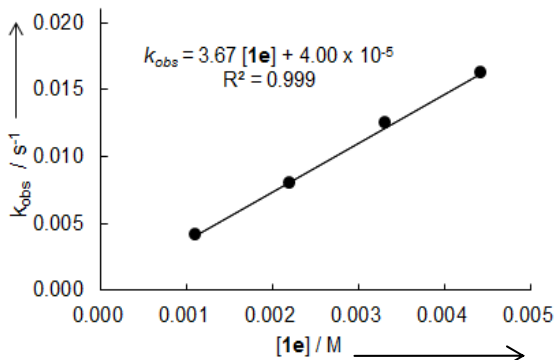
**Supplementary Table S3.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1d** with  $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{BF}_4^-$  **2a** and **2b** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$

$[\mathbf{2a}] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1d}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 500 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.50 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.78 \times 10^{-1}$		$2.02 \times 10^2$
	$3.74 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.36 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$4.99 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.75 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$6.24 \times 10^{-3}$	1.14		
$[\mathbf{2b}] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1d}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 524 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$5.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.65 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.12 \times 10^{-3}$		$3.96$
	$3.97 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.21 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$5.29 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.61 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$6.61 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.32 \times 10^{-2}$		

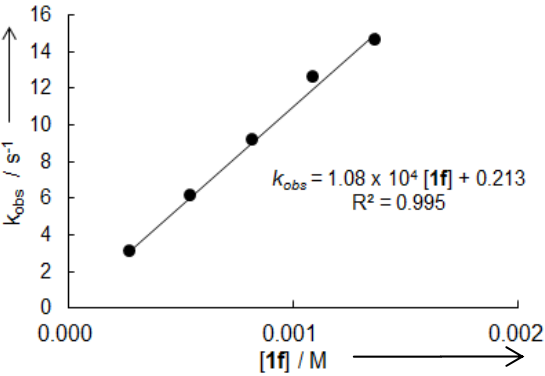
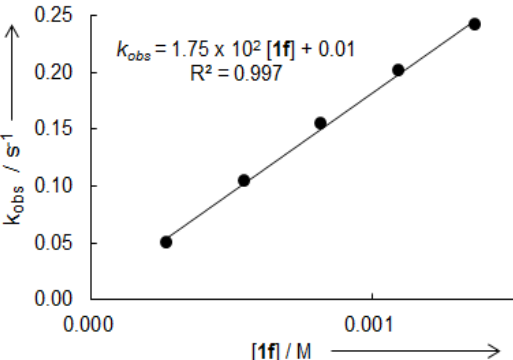
**Supplementary Table S4.** Kinetics of the Reactions of **1e** with  $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{X}^-$  **2d-f** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $20^\circ\text{C}$

$[\mathbf{2d}\text{-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1e}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 586 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$2.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.93 \times 10^{-4}$	1.34		$8.01 \times 10^3$
	$3.86 \times 10^{-4}$	3.01		
	$7.72 \times 10^{-4}$	6.34		
	$1.16 \times 10^{-3}$	9.56		
	$1.54 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.20 \times 10^1$		
$[\mathbf{2e}\text{-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1e}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 610 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$2.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.72 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.28 \times 10^{-1}$		$2.32 \times 10^2$
	$1.54 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.14 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$2.32 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.06 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$3.09 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.62 \times 10^{-1}$		
$[\mathbf{2f}\text{-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1e}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 607 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.27 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.16 \times 10^{-3}$		3.88
	$1.54 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.45 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$1.65 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.48 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$3.86 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.42 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$5.41 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.07 \times 10^{-2}$		
$[\mathbf{2f}\text{-BF}_4^-] / \text{M}$	$[\mathbf{1e}] / \text{M}$	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	(with 1 equivalent of 18-crown-6) $\lambda = 607 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.22 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.51 \times 10^{-3}$		2.60
	$1.24 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.30 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$1.87 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.92 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$2.49 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.36 \times 10^{-3}$		

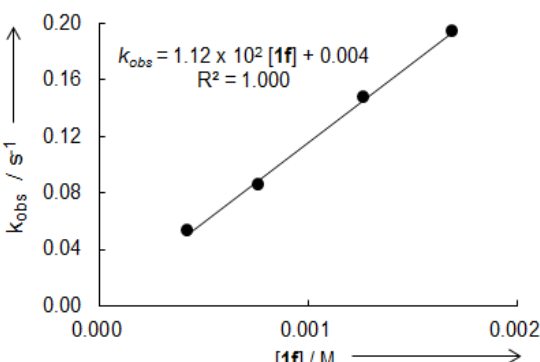
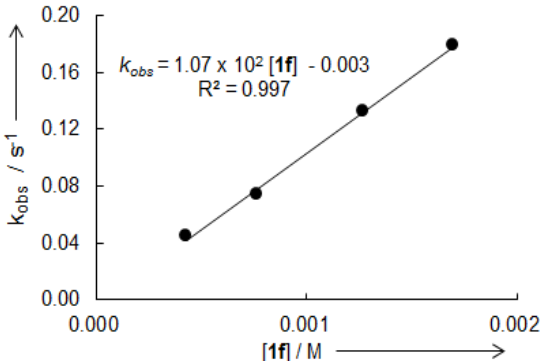
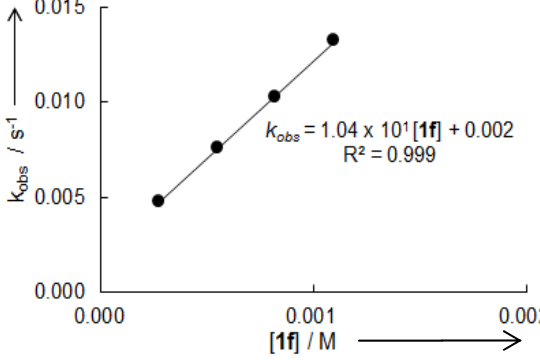
**Supplementary Table S4.** (Continued)

$[2f-OTf^-] / M$	$[1e] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 607 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.11 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.51 \times 10^{-3}$		3.50
	$2.21 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.01 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$3.32 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.05 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$3.87 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.20 \times 10^{-2}$		
$[2f-Br^-] / M$	$[1e] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 607 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.11 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.13 \times 10^{-3}$		3.67
	$2.21 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.99 \times 10^{-3}$		
	$3.32 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$4.43 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.62 \times 10^{-2}$		

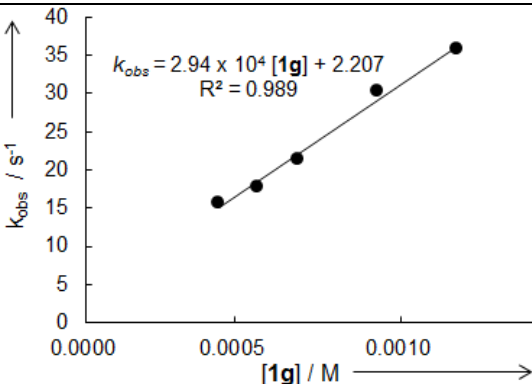
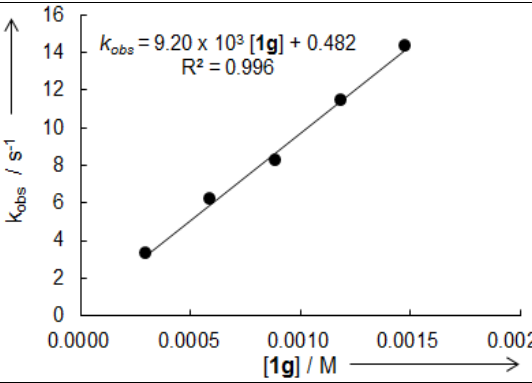
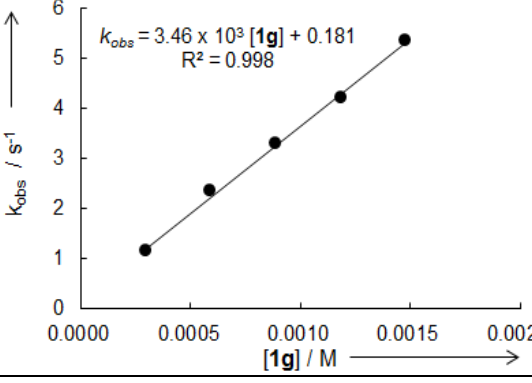
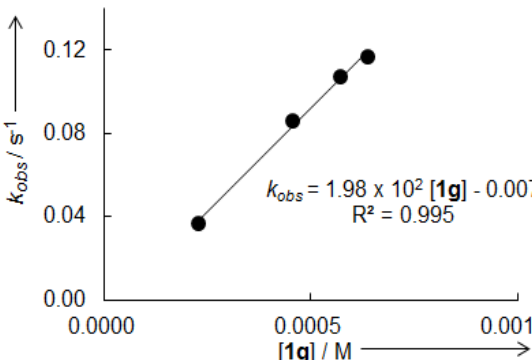
**Supplementary Table S5.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1f** with  $Ar_2CH^+X^-$  **2e-g** in  $CH_3CN$  at  $20^\circ C$

$[2e-BF_4^-] / M$	$[1f] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 586 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$2.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.73 \times 10^{-4}$	3.05		$1.08 \times 10^4$
	$5.47 \times 10^{-4}$	6.08		
	$8.20 \times 10^{-4}$	9.11		
	$1.09 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.26 \times 10^1$		
	$1.37 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.46 \times 10^1$		
$[2f-BF_4^-] / M$	$[1f] / M$	$k_{obs} / s^{-1}$	$\lambda = 607 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / M^{-1} s^{-1}$
$2.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.73 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.01 \times 10^{-2}$		$1.75 \times 10^2$
	$5.47 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$8.20 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.54 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.09 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.01 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$1.37 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.41 \times 10^{-1}$		

Supplementary Table S5. (Continued)

[2f-PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] / M	[1f] / M	k <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 607 nm	k <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
2.8 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	4.24 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	5.31 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		1.12 × 10 <sup>2</sup>
	7.63 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	8.49 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		
	1.27 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.47 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	1.70 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.94 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
[2f-OTf] / M	[1f] / M	k <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 607 nm	k <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
2.8 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	4.24 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.49 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		1.07 × 10 <sup>2</sup>
	7.63 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	7.39 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		
	1.27 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.32 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
	1.70 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.79 × 10 <sup>-1</sup>		
[2h-BF <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] / M	[1f] / M	k <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>-1</sup>	λ = 610 nm	k <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
2.4 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.73 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.76 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>		1.04 × 10 <sup>1</sup>
	5.47 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	7.58 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>		
	8.20 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.02 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		
	1.09 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.33 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>		

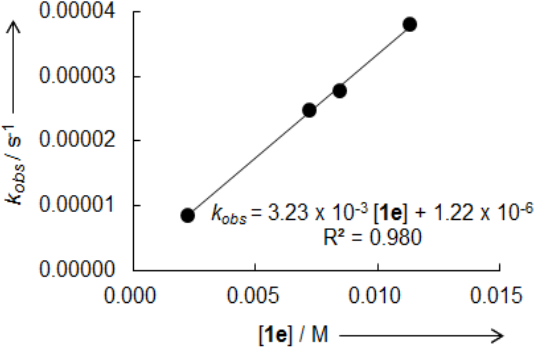
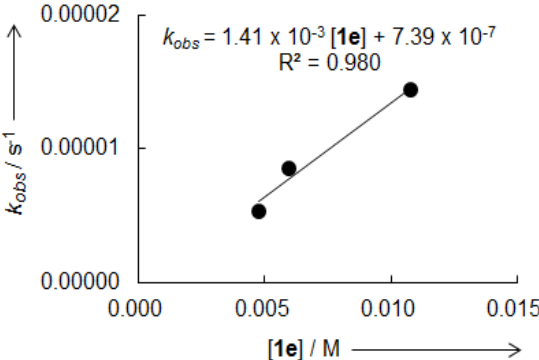
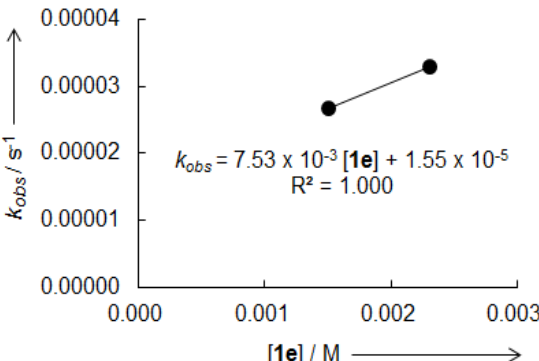
**Supplementary Table S6.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1g** with  $\text{Ar}_2\text{CH}^+\text{BF}_4^-$  **2g-j** in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 20 °C.

<b>[2g]</b> / M	<b>[1g]</b> / M	$k_{\text{obs}}$ / $\text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 620 \text{ nm}$	$k_2$ / $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$1.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.82 \times 10^{-4}$	17.0		$2.94 \times 10^4$
	$6.02 \times 10^{-4}$	19.1		
	$7.22 \times 10^{-4}$	22.6		
	$9.63 \times 10^{-4}$	31.6		
	$1.20 \times 10^{-3}$	37.0		
<b>[2h]</b> / M	<b>[1g]</b> / M	$k_{\text{obs}}$ / $\text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 620 \text{ nm}$	$k_2$ / $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$1.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.96 \times 10^{-4}$	3.25		$9.20 \times 10^3$
	$5.93 \times 10^{-4}$	6.21		
	$8.89 \times 10^{-4}$	8.25		
	$1.19 \times 10^{-3}$	11.4		
	$1.48 \times 10^{-3}$	14.3		
<b>[2i]</b> / M	<b>[1g]</b> / M	$k_{\text{obs}}$ / $\text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 620 \text{ nm}$	$k_2$ / $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$1.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.96 \times 10^{-4}$	1.14		$3.46 \times 10^3$
	$5.93 \times 10^{-4}$	2.33		
	$8.89 \times 10^{-4}$	3.27		
	$1.19 \times 10^{-3}$	4.21		
	$1.48 \times 10^{-3}$	5.33		
<b>[2j]</b> / M	<b>[1g]</b> / M	$k_{\text{obs}}$ / $\text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 620 \text{ nm}$	$k_2$ / $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$1.4 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.28 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.66 \times 10^{-2}$		$1.98 \times 10^2$
	$4.56 \times 10^{-4}$	$8.62 \times 10^{-2}$		
	$5.70 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.07 \times 10^{-1}$		
	$6.38 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.17 \times 10^{-1}$		

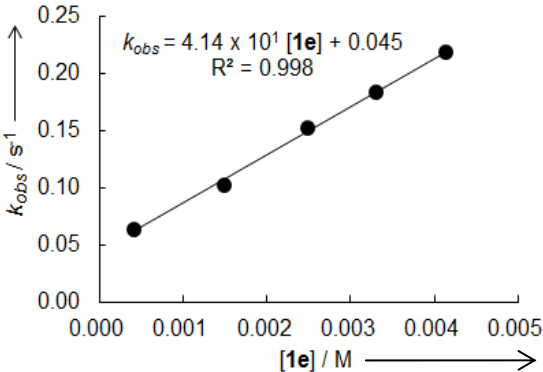
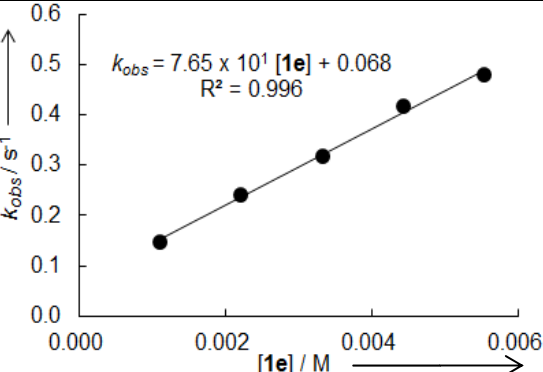
## 4.2 Kinetics of the reactions of **1e** with Michael acceptors **9–13**

The rates of the reaction of **1e** with Michael acceptors **9–13** were measured photometrically, under pseudo-first order conditions (excess of **1e**) at the absorption maxima of **9–13** by UV-Vis spectrometers (using diode array detector at 20 °C). First-order rate constants  $k_{\text{obs}}$  were obtained by least-squares fitting of the absorbances either to the mono-exponential curve  $A_t = A_0 \exp(-k_{\text{obs}}t) + C$  (exponential decrease) or to  $A_t = A_0[1 - \exp(1 - k_{\text{obs}}t)] + C$  (mono-exponential increase). Since  $k_{\text{obs}} = k_2[\text{Nu}]$ , the second-order rate constants  $k_2$  ( $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) were derived from the slopes of the linear plots of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) vs.  $[\text{Nu}]$ .

**Supplementary Table S7.** Kinetics of the reactions of **1e** with **9-11** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/MeOH (95:5).

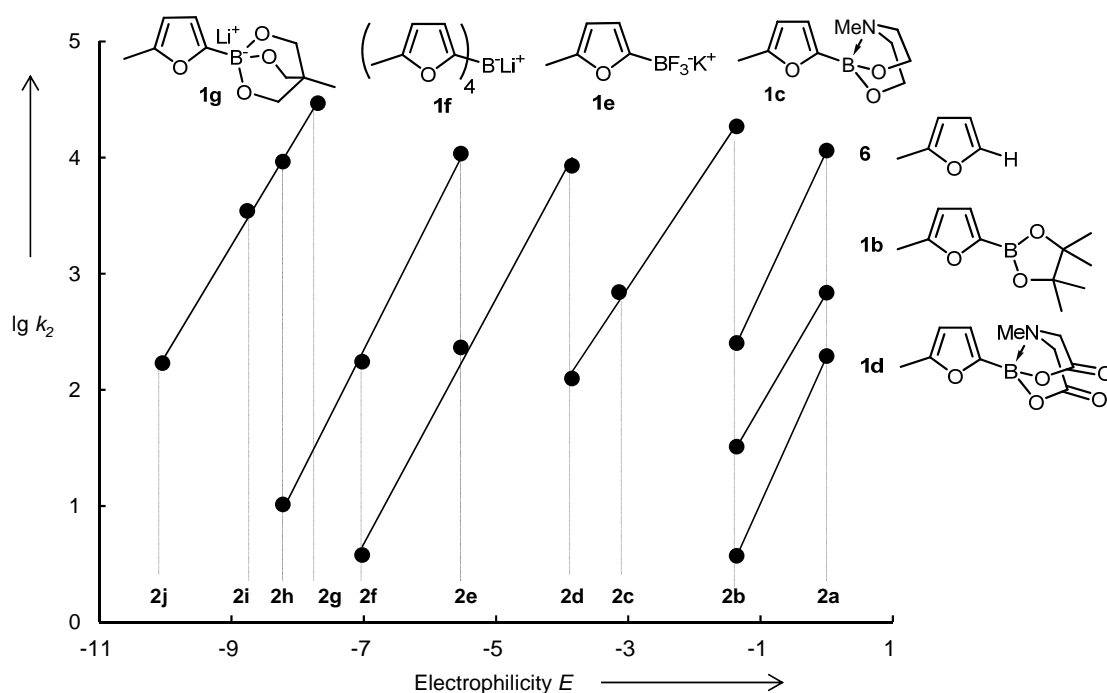
[ <b>9</b> ] / M	[ <b>1e</b> ] / M	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 340 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.93 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.21 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.52 \times 10^{-6}$		$3.23 \times 10^{-3}$
$4.43 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.21 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.48 \times 10^{-5}$		
$4.52 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.46 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.78 \times 10^{-5}$		
$4.56 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.13 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.81 \times 10^{-5}$		
[ <b>10</b> ] / M	[ <b>1e</b> ] / M	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 306 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.72 \times 10^{-5}$	$4.79 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.36 \times 10^{-6}$		$1.41 \times 10^{-3}$
$4.68 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.94 \times 10^{-3}$	$8.58 \times 10^{-6}$		
$4.64 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.08 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.44 \times 10^{-5}$		
[ <b>11</b> ] / M	[ <b>1e</b> ] / M	$k_{\text{obs}} / \text{s}^{-1}$	$\lambda = 306 \text{ nm}$	$k_2 / \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$4.97 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.50 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.68 \times 10^{-5}$		$7.53 \times 10^{-3}$
$4.90 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.31 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.29 \times 10^{-5}$		

**Supplementary Table S8.** Kinetics of the Reactions of **1e** with **12–13** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN.

[ <b>12</b> ] / M	[ <b>1e</b> ] / M	<i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>−1</sup>	Increase at λ = 395 nm	<i>k</i> <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>−1</sup> s <sup>−1</sup>
6.1 × 10 <sup>−4</sup>	4.14 × 10 <sup>−4</sup>	6.47 × 10 <sup>−2</sup>		4.14 × 10 <sup>1</sup>
	1.49 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	1.04 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	2.48 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	1.57 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	3.31 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	1.83 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	4.14 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	2.17 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
[ <b>13</b> ] / M	[ <b>1e</b> ] / M	<i>k</i> <sub>obs</sub> / s <sup>−1</sup>	λ = 415 nm	<i>k</i> <sub>2</sub> / M <sup>−1</sup> s <sup>−1</sup>
4.1 × 10 <sup>−4</sup>	1.11 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	1.46 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		7.65 × 10 <sup>1</sup>
	2.21 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	2.42 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	3.32 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	3.18 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	4.43 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	4.17 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		
	5.53 × 10 <sup>−3</sup>	4.80 × 10 <sup>−1</sup>		



## 5. Determination of the nucleophilicity of organoboron compounds 1b–g



**Figure S1.** Plots of the logarithm of the second-order rate constants  $\lg k_2$  versus the electrophilicity parameters  $E$  used for the determination of the nucleophilicity  $N$  and sensitivity (slope) parameters  $s_N$  (see equation (1) and Table 1 in the main text).

**Supplementary Table S8.** Determination of the nucleophilicity of 1b–g.

Nucleophiles	$s_N$ (slopes)	$N$	$R^2$
<b>1b</b>	0.98	2.90	-
<b>1c</b>	0.86	6.38	-
<b>1d</b>	1.26	1.84	0.997
<b>1e</b>	1.04	7.66	0.994
<b>1f</b>	1.12	9.09	0.998
<b>1g</b>	0.92	12.55	0.999

## 6. References

- S1. H. Mayr, T. Bug, M. F. Gotta, N. Hering, B. Irrgang, B. Janker, B. Kempf, R. Loos, A. R. Ofial, G. Remennikov and H. Schimmel, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2001, **123**, 9500.
- S2. D. Florentin, M. C. Fournié-Zaluski, M. B Callanquin and P. Roques, *J. Heterocycl. Chem.*, 1976, **13**, 1265.
- S3. D. M. Knapp, E. P. Gillis and M. D. Burke, *Org. Lett.*, 2010, **12**, 2314.
- S4. G. A. Molander, B. Canturk and L. E. Kennedy, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2009, **74**, 973.
- S5. For an early synthesis of potassium tetrakis(5-methyl-2-furyl)borate, see: A. N. Nesmeyanov, V. A. Sazonova and V. N. Drozd., *Russ. Chem. Bull.*, 1959, **8**, 147.
- S6. X.-Q. Yu, T. Shirai, Y. Yamamoto and N. Miyaura. *Chem. Asian. J.*, 2011, **6**, 932.
- S7. M. Hofmann, N. Hampel, T. Kanzian and H. Mayr, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2001, **43**, 5402.

## 7. Copies of NMR Spectra

