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Submitted date: 03/09/2020 Posted date: 04/09/2020

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Citation information: Lau, Sii Hong; Yu, Peng; Chen, Liye; Madsen-Duggan, Christina B.; Williams, Michael;

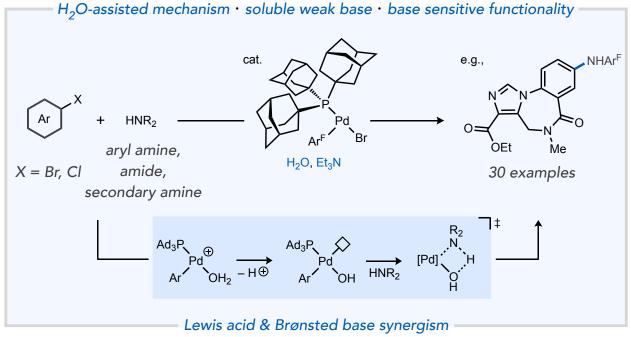
Carrow, Brad (2020): Aryl Amination with Soluble Weak Base Enabled by a Water-Assisted Mechanism.

ChemRxiv. Preprint. https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv.12912455.v1

Amination of aryl halides has become one of the most commonly practiced C–N bond-forming reactions in pharmaceutical and laboratory synthesis. The widespread use of strong or poorly soluble inorganic bases for amine activation nevertheless complicates the compatibility of this important reaction class with sensitive substrates as well as applications in flow and automated synthesis, to name a few. We report a palladium-catalyzed C–N coupling using Et₃N as a weak, soluble base, which allows a broad substrate scope that includes bromo- and chloro(hetero)arenes, primary anilines, secondary amines, and amide type nucleophiles together with tolerance for a range of base-sensitive functional groups. Mechanistic data have established a unique pathway for these reactions in which water serves multiple beneficial roles. In particular, ionization of a neutral catalytic intermediate via halide displacement by H₂O generates, after proton loss, a coordinatively-unsaturated Pd–OH species that can bind amine substrate triggering intramolecular N–H heterolysis. This water-assisted pathway operates efficiently with even weak terminal bases, such as Et₃N. The use of a simple, commercially available ligand, PAd₃, is key to this water-assisted mechanism by promoting coordinative unsaturation in catalytic intermediates responsible for the heterolytic activation of strong element-hydrogen bonds, which enables broad compatibility of carbon-heteroatom cross-coupling reactions with sensitive substrates and functionality.

File list (3)

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Aryl Amination with Soluble Weak Base Enabled by a Water-Assisted Mechanism

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ABSTRACT: Amination of aryl halides has become one of the most commonly practiced C-N bond-forming reactions in pharmaceutical and laboratory synthesis. The widespread use of strong or poorly soluble inorganic bases for amine activation nevertheless complicates the compatibility of this important reaction class with sensitive substrates as well as applications in flow and automated synthesis, to name a few. We report a palladium-catalyzed C-N coupling using Et_3N as a weak, soluble base, which allows a broad substrate scope that includes bromo- and chloro(hetero)arenes, primary anilines, secondary amines, and amide type nucleophiles together with tolerance for a range of base-sensitive functional groups. Mechanistic data have established a unique pathway for these reactions in which water serves multiple beneficial roles. In particular, ionization of a neutral catalytic intermediate via halide displacement by H_2O generates, after proton loss, a coordinatively-unsaturated Pd-OH species that can bind amine substrate triggering intramolecular N-H heterolysis. This water-assisted pathway operates efficiently with even weak terminal bases, such as Et_3N . The use of a simple, commercially available ligand, PAd_3 , is key to this water-assisted mechanism by promoting coordinative unsaturation in catalytic intermediates responsible for the heterolytic activation of strong element-hydrogen bonds, which enables broad compatibility of carbon-heteroatom cross-coupling reactions with sensitive substrates and functionality.

INTRODUCTION

Carbon-nitrogen cross-coupling reactions using palladium and related late transition metal catalysts are some of the most widely utilized methods for the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, organic electronic materials, and fine chemicals. Over that past two decades, numerous innovations in the ligand(s) and precatalyst structure of palladium complexes have been made that have expanded the diversity of organic electrophile and amine nucleophile classes applicable to this transformation.² On the other hand, the bases used for Buchwald-Hartwig amination have evolved to a lesser extent; modern C-N coupling methods still rely heavily on ionic bases, such as sodium tert-butoxide or lithium hexamethyldisilazide (LiHMDS).3 Such strong ionic bases impose compatibility issues with functional groups susceptible to nucleophilic attack, such as carboxylic acids, esters, nitriles, nitro groups, and carbonyl groups with enolizable sites, to name a few. Amination reactions conducted on scale in organic solvents using common inorganic bases, such as hydroxide, carbonate and phosphate salts, also frequently incur reproducibility issues.⁵ High-throughput experimentation (HTE)⁶ and continuous flow chemistry⁷ face similar issues where base insolubility can present either an inconvenience or major hurdle, respectively.8 The development of new methods that operate efficiently with weak, soluble, and inexpensive bases could circumvent all of these issues and broaden the applicability of C-N coupling in industrial applications.

The difficulty of transitioning C–N coupling toward the use of weak, soluble bases can be attributed, at least in part, to a mechanistic challenge using conventional Pd catalysts, such as those ligated by BINAP as a prototypical example. A combined computational and experimental mechanistic study by Norrby found that soluble neutral bases such as the phosphazene *tert*-butylimino-

Scheme 1. Base effects in Pd-catalyzed C-N coupling.

A. Conventional conditions (strong ionic bases)

Norrby, 2014:

B. Ionic pathway (soluble amine bases)

Buchwald, 2018:

favored for weak anions

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{OTf} \\ \text{Me} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Ph} \\ \text{NH}_2 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{IPO}_2(\text{AIPhos})_2\text{COD}]} \text{(0.5 mol\%)} \\ \text{DBU (2 equiv), MTBE} \\ \text{60 °C, 16 h} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{Me}} \begin{array}{c} \text{NH}_2 \\ \text{98\%} \end{array}$$

$$\text{Via:} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{Via:} \\ \text{Via:} \\ \text{OTf} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{DBU}} \begin{array}{c} \text{TrO}^{\Theta} \\ \text{Pod} \\ \text{C} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{DBU}} \begin{array}{c} \text{TrO}^{\Theta} \\ \text{Pod} \\ \text{C} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{DBU}} \begin{array}{c} \text{TrO}^{\Theta} \\ \text{Pod} \\ \text{C} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{NR}_2} \begin{array}{c} \text{Pod} \\ \text{NR}_2 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{Pod}} \begin{array}{c} \text{Pod} \\ \text{Pod} \\ \text{C} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{NR}_2} \begin{array}{c} \text{Pod} \\ \text{NR}_2 \end{array}$$

C. Ambiphilic, water-assisted pathway (this work)

- · Coordination-induced acidification (II)
- · Lewis acid & Brønsted base synergism (III)
- · Base inhibition (i.e., I) mitigated by H2O
- · Amination of ArBr and ArCl enabled with a soluble weak base

tri(pyrrolidino)phosphorene (*t*-BuP1(pyrr)), Barton's guanidine base 2-*tert*-butyl-1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (BTMG), or the amidines 7-methyl-1,5,7-triazabicyclo[4.4.0]dec-5-ene (MTBD) and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) perform poorly relative to NaO'Bu as a prototypical strong ionic base (Scheme 1a). This striking difference was correlated to the preference of the system to maintain neutral reaction pathways in nonpolar organic solvents because ionization of neutral metal halide complexes is too energetically unfavorable. Ionic bases are more reactive in the neutral manifold, either by deprotonating a neutral amine-coordinated Pd intermediate or through salt metathesis to generate a basic Pd-alkoxo intermediate that can deprotonate an amine substrate. Furthermore, amine bases such as DBU were implicated in catalyst inhibition by competitively binding Pd to form off-cycle intermediates.

Several studies have recently demonstrated that newer generation Pd complexes featuring hindered phosphines can catalyze C–N coupling reactions with soluble bases. The phosphazene superbase P₂Et enabled homogeneous aminations suitable for HTE screening on micro- or nanomole scale. However, phosphazene bases are prohibitively expensive for large scale applications. Buchwald developed a well-defined Pd precatalyst coordinated by the hindered terphenyl phosphine AlPhos, which catalyzes amination reactions of aryl triflates or some halides with unhindered primary amines and amides using DBU as base. Palladium catalysts featuring other phosphine ligands, such as Xantphos, DPEphos, and Josiphos have also emerged for DBU-promoted C–N coupling. Additionally, photoredox or electrochemical conditions have been demonstrated to provide sufficient driving force to utilize weak bases, such as DABCO.

Importantly in the (AlPhos)Pd-catalyzed reactions, a ligand-enabled mechanism change from a typical neutral to an ionic pathway for N-H cleavage was identified, which facilitates efficient turnover with a weak base (Scheme 1b).16 Dissociation of a triflate anion and coordination of amine leads to acidification of the bound substrate to such an extent that the cationic intermediate is susceptible to external N-H deprotonation by even moderate bases, like DBU. Furthermore, the turnover-limiting step of these reactions was found to be dissociation of DBU from an off-cycle intermediate coordinated by this base, which highlights another challenge facing weak base amination reactions involving Lewis basic (strongly coordinating) reagents. Extending the applicable weak base further to tertiary amines remains highly desirable in this area due to their low cost, tunable properties, and low basicity in comparison to other soluble bases such as amidines, guanidines, or phosphazenes. To this end, a Ni-catalyzed amination of aryl triflates with anilines and triethylamine as base was recently reported by Buchwald. 17 An ionic catalytic pathway is also believed to operate in this system for which aryl bromides and chlorides are more challenging substrates, possibly due to stronger halide coordination to the transition metal that inhibits ionization and amine binding. An outstanding need thus remains for the identification of new catalysts that can promote weak base coupling with widely available halo (hetero) arene electrophiles, as opposed to specialty aryl triflates, with a variety of amine nucleophile classes using an "ideal" soluble weak base, such as Et₃N.¹⁸

Our group previously reported a coordinatively-unsaturated organopalladium catalyst, $Pd(PAd_3)(Ar^F)Br \mathbf{1} (Ar^F = 4-FC_6H_4)$, which functions as an on-cycle catalyst for Suzuki-Miyaura coupling with organoboronic acids prone to fast base-catalyzed protodeboronation (PDB).¹⁹ A key aspect of this development was achieving efficient catalytic turnover using the combination of H_2O and a weak, soluble amine base (Et₃N). Stoichiometric mechanistic experiments implicated ionization of $Pd(PAd_3)(Ar^F)X$ (X = Br, Cl) complexes to cationic species $[Pd(PAd_3)(Ar^F)(S)]^+$ (S = water, solvent), 20 which undergo facile deprotonation of the acidified aqua ligand even by mild bases (Scheme 1c). 21 It is thus possible to access coordinatively unsaturated Pd-hydoxo intermediates (III, Scheme 1c) that feature both Lewis acidic (open coordination site) and Lewis/Brønsted basic properties in the absence of stoichiometric ionic bases (i.e., hydroxide or alkoxides). 22 Because palladium hydroxo and alkoxo complexes have been implicated in numerous other catalytic processes but are classically accessed by reactions involving stoichiometric strong bases (e.g., NaOH, NaO'Bu), it may be possible to leverage the water-assisted pathway we uncovered to promote a range of catalytic transformations under conditions milder than what was possible using traditional catalysts.

The Brønsted basicity of species such as III should also be reactive toward activation of strong element-hydrogen bonds, such as in the amine activation step (N-H heterolysis) of Buchwald-Hartwig amination.²³ While such species can be generated from stoichiometric reactions of Pd(II)-halide complexes with hydroxide, 25 the intermediacy of palladium hydroxo complexes in N-H bond activation has to our knowledge not been unambiguously established in a catalytic setting.²⁴ We hypothesized that the coordination of amine to the catalyst open site should strongly acidify the N-H bond, and the cis-hydroxo ligand would then be poised for intramolecular deprotonation to extrude water and generate the penultimate Pdamido catalytic intermediate. Here we report a method for aryl amination of bromo- and chloro(hetero)arenes using the on-cycle catalyst 1 and Et₃N as a soluble weak base. Water is an essential component for these reactions, and mechanistic data implicate three complementary roles by which water can facilitate the overall catalytic process: i) acceleration of an inner sphere heterolysis of the substrate N-H bond, ii) driving an unfavorable ionization of neutral palladium halide species by sequestering halide into an aqueous phase, and iii) shunting catalyst away from an inhibited, base-coordinated

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

High-throughput experimentation (HTE) techniques were used to assess the multi-dimensional influence of solvent, amine base, and water on a model reaction between 4-chlorobiphenyl and 4-nitroaniline catalyzed by complex 1 (1 mol%) to form amine 2.26 Representative results of this three-dimensional screening are visualized in the heat plot shown in Figure 1 (see Tables S1 and S2 for tabular data). The solvent dimension did not indicate a clear contrast in conversion as a function of solvent polarity. Both polar (a) protic (e.g., tamyl alcohol, DMF) and relatively non-polar (e.g., toluene, DME, 2methyl tetrahydrofuran) solvents were associated with significant conversion. On the other hand, Et₃N ($pK_{aH}^{DMSO} = 9$) gave the best average conversion versus other tertiary amines (e.g., diisopropylethylamine, N-methyl morpholine) in the base dimension. Counterintuitively, stronger bases (p K_a^{DMSO}) such as MTBD (15), DBU (14), or tetramethylguanidine (13) were generally inferior to Et₃N, which contrasts the base trends typically observed in C-N coupling, even compared to a recently-developed weak base method using AlPhos-coordinated Pd catalysts. 16 Importantly, reactions conducted with more water performed better regardless of the choice of base.

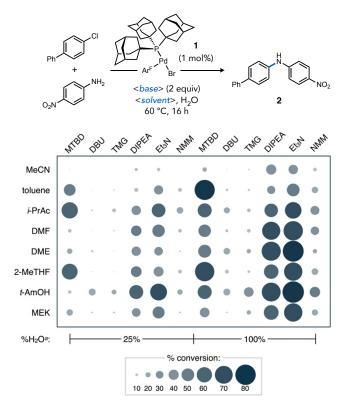


Figure 1. Heat plot for survey of soluble amine bases under Buchwald-Hartwig amination conditions with water co-solvent. $Ar^F = 4 - FC_6H_4$. Versus total solvent volume.

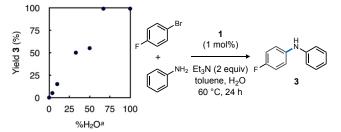


Figure 2. Optimization of water assistance during weak base Buchwald-Hartwig amination. Yield determined by ^{19}F NMR versus $CF_3C_6H_5$ as internal standard. 4 Versus total toluene volume.

Additional optimization confirmed water loading as a crucial dimension for achieving high reaction conversions (Figure 2), as determined by formation of 3 by ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy during reactions of 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene with aniline. Together with an increase in reaction temperature from 60 to 80 °C, adjusting the solvent/water ratio to at least 2:3 gave markedly improved yields after 6 h. It is worth noting we believe the better performance of toluene in this model reaction versus the HTE screen may reflect a solubility artifact during catalyst dosing (compare Tables S1 and S2). In subsequent methodology studies (Tables S3–S5), a 1:4 mixture of toluene and water was ultimately selected as the most versatile mixture across different haloarene and amine combinations.

A variety of chloro- and bromo(hetero) arene electrophiles and nucleophiles were tested to explore the scope of a method featuring this $(Ad_3P)Pd$ -catalyzed, water-assisted reaction pathway (Table 1). For primary aryl amines, products generated from an electron-poor nucleophile (4), which are more challenging versus simple amines, 14,27 and hindered aniline (5) occurred in 92% and 72%

isolated yield, respectively, suggesting good tolerance to variations in aniline electronic and steric properties. Chemoselective oxidative addition favoring bromide over triflate or chloride is confirmed by formation of **6**, **12**, **13**, **18**, and **27** in 61–87% isolated yields. This orthogonality makes bond constructions at different C–X bonds viable and also complements previous C–N coupling methods favoring activation of aryl triflates. Heteroaryl chlorides, such as those containing thiophene (7) and pyrimidine (8) motifs, were compatible substrates under the reaction conditions. Reactions using heterocyclic amines such as 5-aminoindole (9) and 3-amino-2-methoxypyridine (10) underwent arylation in high yield (84% and 91%, respectively).

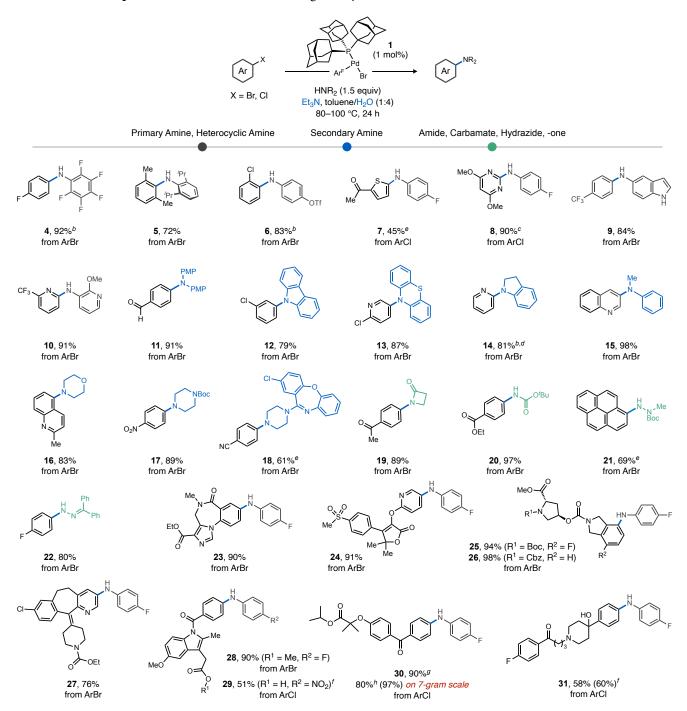
Secondary anilines that underwent arylation in good to excellent yields (79–98%) include carbazole (12), phenothiazine (13), indoline (14), and N-methylaniline (15). Aliphatic secondary amines are also competent nucleophiles to generate 16-18 in 61-83% isolated yields, the latter of which involved the drug amoxapine as the nucleophile. As a point of comparison, secondary amines were shown to be poor substrates in previous C-N coupling strategies with organic base, presumably due to steric clash with the extremely hindered ligands used. 13,17 The amide nucleophile 2-azetidinone or the protected ammonia equivalent t-butyl carbamate generated 19 and 20 in 89% and 97% yields, respectively. Hydrazine derivatives that are useful functional handles for heterocycle synthesis, 1a such as 1-Boc-1methylhydrazide or benzophenone hydrazone, were also suitable nucleophiles for this method generating 21 and 22 in 69% and 80% isolated yields, respectively. These results highlight versatility of this water-assisted method across a spectrum of nucleophile classes that sample a broad range of N-H p K_a and size.

Drug-like electrophiles were also explored to gauge the tolerance of the catalyst and water-assisted method to more complex functionality. Reaction of 4-fluoroaniline with the Merck informer compounds X2, X3, X4, X6, or X8 generated amination products **23–27** in 76–98% isolated yields.²⁸ The high yields in these reactions indicate the synthetic utility of a weak base strategy compared against established catalytic or stoichiometric C–N coupling of these substrates using strong bases. ^{11d,29}

Importantly, we envisioned this weak base method should engender improved compatibility toward base-sensitive functionality. Ketone and ester functional groups with enolizable sites were well-tolerated, as exemplified by the moderate to good yields obtained for formation of products 7 (45%), 19 (89%), 25 (94%), 26 (98%), 28 (90%), and 31 (58%). Formation of 17 and 18 in 89% and 61% yield, respectively, demonstrate tolerance of nitrile and nitro groups. Functionalization of the commercial drugs indomethacin, fenofibrate, and haloperidol in 51%, 90%, and 58% isolated yields, respectively, further highlight both the compatibility of this weak base amination method with chloroarenes as well as with protic functional groups (e.g., carboxylic acid in 29 and alcohol in 31). Several amination reactions were also conducted in neat water (e.g., 4, 6, and 14), which demonstrate that catalyst 1 can operate under single phase conditions that could be advantageous for green chemistry^{30,31} or biorthogonal³² applications and also hints that the beneficial role(s) of water may extend beyond just sequestration of halide away from the organic solvent phase where catalyst resides.

Amination of the chloroarene fenofibrate was selected to evaluate the scalability of the method. Preliminary reactions (Table S7) on half-gram scale at 98 °C indicated comparably high conversions for reactions in toluene, anisole, cyclopropyl methyl ether, or *t*-amyl

Table 1. Substrate Scope of Water-Assisted Amination Using Triethylamine as a Soluble Weak Base.^a



 a Standard conditions: Aryl halide (0.2 M), amine (1.5 equiv), Et₃N (2 equiv), and catalyst **1** (1 mol%) were stirred in a toluene/H₂O (1:4) mixture at 80 °C (X = Br) or 100 °C (X = Cl) in a sealed vial over 24 h. Isolated yields shown unless noted otherwise; parentheses denote yields determined by 19 F NMR vs. CF₃C₆H₅ as internal standard or calibrated UPLC analysis. b Neat water. c 16 h. d 3 mol% **1**. c 48 h. f 2 mol% **1**, 48 h. g 36 h. b *t*-AmOH/H₂O (1:3), 85 °C for 12 h. Ar^F = 4-FC₆H₄. PMP = 4-MeOC₆H₄.

alcohol as solvent. At a lower temperature (80 °C), *t*-AmOH was superior giving 94% conversion within 21 h. Further increasing the reaction in *t*-AmOH to 20-mmol scale gave an excellent solution yield (97%) of **30** within 12 h at 85 °C yielding 7.0 g (80%) of analytically pure (>99%) product after crystallization. Kinetic profiling of the reaction (Figure S3) indicated 100% conversion was actually achieved within 45 min at 1 mol% catalyst loading.

The effectiveness of the combination of a (Ad₃P)Pd catalyst and water in enabling catalytic turnover of bromo- and chloroarenes raised several mechanistic questions. For instance, it was not clear *a priori* if a similar or distinct catalytic mechanism might be operative compared to what has been proposed using an (AlPhos)Pd catalyst and DBU under anhydrous conditions (Scheme 1b). ^{12,16} A switch in mechanism could potentially account for the improved reactivity toward bromo- and chloroarene electrophiles in this method versus

aryl triflates as well as the lack of base inhibition observed previously. Experiments were thus conducted to interrogate the role(s) water plays in the catalytic mechanism, such as the initially hypothesized potential for on-cycle Pd intermediates to be generated from coordinated water.

Observation of the reaction of neutral complex 1 with water and Et₃N in toluene by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy indicated clean formation of a new palladium complex after 1 min (Figure 3a). Based on comparison to an independently prepared sample, this new species was assigned as the μ -hydroxo complex 32. A dimeric solution structure for 32 is suggested by the observation in the 1H NMR spectrum of a single upfield resonance virtually coupled to phosphorus (δ_H = -2.12 ppm, $J(^{31}P^{-1}H) = 3.2 \text{ Hz})$ corresponding to a μ -OH ligand and an anti disposition of PAd₃ ligands. Importantly, the time frame for this stoichiometric reaction is far less than that required for the respective catalytic aminations in Table 1 even at a much lower temperature, which suggests formation of Pd hydroxo species from water and Et₃N is a kinetically viable step during catalysis. On the other hand, addition of water or Et₃N individually to 1 led to no detectable changes in the ³¹P NMR spectra. Based on the above data together with the observation that substitution of water and Et₃N for phosphate buffer (pH 8.0) in the catalytic reaction completely suppressed conversion, we propose 32 forms through initial equilibrium hydrolysis of 1 to generate a cationic Pd intermediate rather than by direct substitution of halide at palladium by a low concentration of free hydroxide ions.

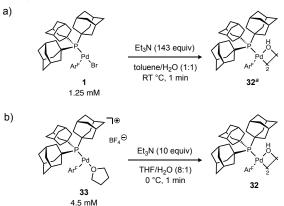


Figure 3. Stoichiometric O–H heterolysis reactions initiated from (a) neutral or (b) cationic aryl-palladium complexes using water and Et_3N . 4 No conversion was observed in the absence of added H_2O or Et_3N . $Ar^F = 4-FC_6H_4$.

Deprotonation of a strongly acidified aqua ligand by Et₃N in a cationic Pd species would be expected to be facile. An analogous cationic pathway for B-to-Pd transmetalation was postulated in our previous study of weak base Suzuki-Miyaura coupling.²⁰ To further probe if such a process could be operative in the present amination reactions, a discrete cationic species [Pd(PAd₃)(Ar^F)(THF)] * BF₄ (33) was prepared at low temperature according to a reported procedure.²⁰ Treatment of 33 with water and Et₃N at 0 °C in THF for 1 min again led to clean formation of the Pd hydroxo complex 32 (Figure 3b). This faster reaction is consistent with a cationic aqua complex being a competent intermediate in the conversion of the palladium halide complex 1 to the palladium hydroxo complex 32, considering that exchange of the labile solvento ligand in 33 for water should occur readily. Furthermore, water could also play a role in driving the reaction forward by sequestering the resulting ammonium salts. Finally, the presumed basicity of the hydroxo ligand was

confirmed by the immediate reversion of 32 back to 33 upon treatment with HBF $_4$ etherate in THF at -25 °C (Figure S10).

While palladium hydroxo complexes have been proposed as intermediates in numerous cross-coupling reactions, their formation is generally believed to require anion exchange processes using stoichiometric ionic bases. Hydrolysis of halide ligands in a nonpolar organic solvent represents a unique and much milder pathway to access these versatile intermediates, yet such ionization processes have been proposed to be energetically prohibitive. This issue has been mitigated by moving away from halide electrophiles to those with weaker anions (e.g., triflate) or by addition of halide abstracting reagents (i.e., Ag+, Tl+), such as in methods that access the cationic pathway for the Mizoroki-Heck reaction.³³ Our data suggest that an appropriate coordinatively-unsaturated metal intermediate, such as the T-shaped (Ad₃P)Pd(II) species in this work, can in fact undergo facile ionization through hydrolysis even in toluene, which allows deprotonation of the resultant acidified aqua ligand in the cationic complex using very mild bases. To our knowledge, such a process represents a novel pathway for a key catalytic step of Buchwald-Hartwig amination reactions that activates the substrate amine, which engenders advantages in the electrophile scope to include more strongly coordinating anions (e.g., Br, Cl) without the need for halide scavengers.

Scheme 2. Proposed catalytic cycle for (Ad₃P)Pd-catalyzed, water-assisted amination.

A catalytic cycle is proposed for (Ad₃P)Pd-catalyzed aryl amination of aryl halides in Scheme 2, which incorporates a water-assisted mechanism to generate an ambiphilic Pd hydroxo species. To probe the turnover-limiting step, the experimental rate law (eq 1) was determined using either Burés' variable time normalization analysis³⁴

$$\frac{d[3]}{dt} = k_{\text{obs}} \left[Ar^{\text{F}} Br \right]^{0} \left[H_{2} NPh \right]^{0} \left[Et_{3} N \right]^{0} \left[1 \right]^{1}$$
 (1)

or initial rate measurements for reactions of 4-BrC₆H₄F (Ar^FBr) with aniline under the standard conditions of Table 1 (see Figures S31–S34). The observation of a zeroth-order dependence of the initial rates on [Ar^FBr] and [Et₃N] suggest neither oxidative addition (step *ii*) nor deprotonation of water (step *iii*) are turnover-limiting, respectively, in the catalytic reaction. These results contrast prior work on amination of aryl triflates where either a positive order dependence on [DIPEA] signified rate-determining N–H deprotonation using a

tertiary amine base, or a negative order dependence on [DBU] under different conditions indicated catalyst poisoning by this base.¹⁶

or
$$\frac{1}{(1 \text{ mol}\%)}$$
 or $\frac{4-\text{BrC}_6\text{H}_4\text{F, Et}_3\text{N}}{\text{toluene, H}_2\text{O or D}_2\text{O (1:2)}}$ $\frac{k_\text{H}}{k_\text{D}} = 1.2$

Figure 4. Determination of kinetic isotope effect from independent catalytic amination reactions of aniline or aniline-*d*.

While the zeroth-order dependence of the rate on [amine] is consistent with fast N–H heterolysis (step iv), it could also be manifested in a scenario in which amine coordination to Pd occurred reversibly and the equilibrium saturated in the range of concentrations tested. To distinguish between these possibilities, the kinetic isotope effect (KIE) was determined for independent reactions of Ar^EBr with aniline in toluene/H₂O or aniline- d_2 in toluene/D₂O (Figure 4). The absence of a primary KIE in these reactions is inconsistent with turnover-limiting N–H heterolysis regardless of potential reversibility in amine substrate coordination.

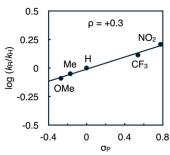


Figure 5. Hammett plot for catalytic amination of 4-BrC₆H₄F with a *para*-substituted aniline under the optimized conditions of Table 1 as determined by the method of initial rates.

The kinetic and isotope effect data above seem to implicate C-N reductive elimination as the likely turnover-limiting step of catalysis. However, analysis of the initial rates for reactions using a series of para-substituted anilines (Figure 5) suggest C-N bond formation (step v) is not rate-determining. The slope of this Hammett plot (ρ = +0.3) is inconsistent with literature data for stoichiometric reductive elimination reactions from arylpalladium amido complexes, which are generally faster for complexes with more electron-rich amido ligands (ρ < 0).³⁵ Considering also that stoichiometric reactions (see Figure 3) suggest hydrolysis is kinetically facile (step ii), the available data are not consistent with any on-cycle catalytic step being turnover-limiting. An alternative kinetic scenario must then be operative during these catalytic reactions, and spectroscopic data from additional stoichiometric experiments at low temperature with isolated organometallic complexes provided several key insights in this regard.

The stoichiometric N–H heterolysis of $H_2NC_6F_5$ by Pd hydroxo complex $\bf 32$ in THF occurred with full conversion of $\bf 32$ within 1 min at -25 °C to generate a new palladium species (δ_P 58.8 ppm) in 84% yield (Figure 6a). The stoichiometry of μ -OH and μ -NHC $_6F_5$ resonances versus Pd(PAd $_3$) and Pd(4-FC $_6H_4$) resonances (1:2, respectively) in the 1H NMR and single resonance in the ^{31}P NMR spectra suggests a *syn*-dinuclear complex ($\bf 34$), which is structurally analogous to a {Pd $_2$ (PPh $_3$) $_2$ Ph $_2$ (μ -OH)(μ -NHtBu)} species that was

crystallographically characterized by Hartwig. 23,36 When 34 was allowed to warm to room temperature, C-N reductive elimination occured completely to form 4 in 93% yield, relative to both [Pd]-Ar^F equivalents in the starting dimer complex 32, as determined by 19F NMR versus octafluorotoluene as standard. A yield of product 4 in excess of 50% necessitates the μ -OH ligand in the dinuclear intermediate 34 further reacts with the remaining $H_2NC_6F_5$ in solution after C-N bond formation is triggered. The identification of this dinuclear species (34) can also resolve the issue of the turnover-limiting step during catalysis. Specifically, the observed reaction constant of $\rho = +0.3$ is consistent with rate-determining fragmentation of the μ anilido ligand in species analogous to 34, which should be faster with decreasing ligand σ-donicity induced by withdrawing anilido substituents. Fragmentation of this dinuclear catalyst resting state is still consistent with a first-order dependence of the rate on [1] because dissociation of the dinuclear species into one equivalent of Pd(PAd₃)(Ar)NR₂ (plus a Pd(PAd₃)(Ar)OH fragment) generates only one equivalent of product per turnover.

a)

H₂NC₆F₅
(2 equiv)

THF-
$$d_8$$
-25 °C, 1 min

32
4.2 mM

BF₄ Θ
H₂NC₆F₅
(2 equiv)

THF, H₂O (100 equiv)

-25 °C, 1 min

34
4.5 mM

C)

 H_2 NC₆F₅
(2 equiv)

 H_3 NC₆F₅
(2 equiv)

 H_4 NC₆F₅
(2 equiv)

 H_5 NC₆P₅
(2 eq

Figure 6. Stoichiometric N–H heterolysis reactions between aryl-palladium complexes, $H_2NC_6F_5$, and Et_3N with or without added water and characterization of the resulting amido-Pd or amino-Pd intermediates. Dashed lines indicate NOE-correlated 1H nuclei. aRelative to both $[Pd]-Ar^F$ equivalents in **32.** $Ar^F=4$ -FC₆H₄.

The reaction of cationic complex 33 with $H_2NC_6F_5$, excess water, and Et_3N in THF also occurred within 1 min at -25 °C to generate the same dinuclear intermediate 34 (Figure 6b). In contrast, an analogous reaction of 33 with Et_3N in the absence of added water (Figure 6c) led to the consumption of starting material but generated a distinct product (δ_P 41.5 ppm) as shown in Figure 7. Characterization of this species by 1H and $^1H^{-1}H$ NOESY NMR is consistent with a cationic, Et_3N -coordinated structure (35). Importantly, repetition of the reaction with added $H_2NC_6F_3$ led to formation of the same species (Figure 7), but upon warming to room temperature only a trace (4%) of C–N coupling product 4 formed after 1 h. We interpret these results as suggesting that aniline substrates struggle to displace coordinated Et_3N at Pd, and catalyst inhibition should

occur using a soluble base as was observed previously by Buchwald. ¹⁶ Because this does not appear to occur during the catalytic reactions

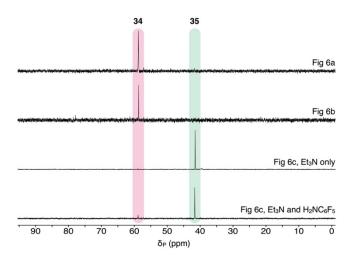


Figure 7. ³¹P NMR spectra of stoichiometric reactions of aryl-Pd complexes **32** or **33** with amines shown in Figure 6.

of this work (reactions are zeroth- rather than inverse-order in $[Et_3N]$), we postulate that another role of excess water can be to shunt catalyst away from an inactive state (e.g., 35) toward active intermediates, such as $[Pd(PAd_3)Ar(OH_2)]^{\scriptscriptstyle +}$ and $Pd(PAd_3)Ar(OH)$. In total, these mechanistic data strongly support a catalytic pathway unique from previous work on amination of aryl triflates using weak base for which the resting state is an off-cycle base-coordinated Pd species – an undesirable poisoned state that can be circumvented by the action of water together with the coordinative unsaturation of $(Ad_3P)Pd$ catalytic species.

CONCLUSION

A method for amination of chloro- and bromo (hetero) arenes has been developed that operates efficiently with $\mathrm{Et_3N}$ as a mild, soluble base in combination with water in toluene. The nucleophile classes applicable to this transformation span a wide pK_a range from relatively acidic amides and electron-deficient anilines to poorly acidic aliphatic secondary amines. The mild conditions are also compatible with range of base sensitive functional groups that can be problematic under classic strong base conditions, which includes carboxylic acids, esters, nitrile, nitro, and enolizable keto groups. Amination in complex settings was validated by reactions of the chloroaryl group in the pharmaceuticals indomethacin, fenofibrate, and haloperidol as well as in five drug-like bromo (hetero) arenes from the Merck informer library. Reactions can also be conducted in neat water for applications requiring single phase conditions.

Mechanistic experiments support multiple roles for water assistance in the catalytic mechanism. An initial hydrolysis of the organopalladium halide complex formed after oxidative addition is facilitated kinetically by the PAd₃-enforced coordinative unsaturation of the complex, as well as thermodynamically driven through sequestration of the halide byproduct into the aqueous phase of a biphasic system. Importantly, this ionization occurs even for more strongly coordinated halide ions derived from commercially abundant bromo- and chloroarenes, which contrasts the typically difficult task of ionization Pd(II) complexes in nonpolar media that traditionally requires organic electrophiles with better leaving groups or halide

scavengers. Deprotonation of an acidified aqua ligand in the cationic intermediate can occur readily even with Et₃N, which corresponds to a considerable influence of the catalyst on relative acidities $(\Delta p \textit{K}_{a}^{\text{DMSO}} = 22)$. The ambiphilic Pd(PAd₃)(Ar)OH intermediate that is readily accessible from water and Et₃N in these reactions features both Lewis acidic and Brønsted basic properties that, upon coordination of amine substrate, triggers an intramolecular N–H cleavage under very mild conditions.

Stoichiometric experiments with aryl-palladium complexes implicate another unanticipated role of water in shunting catalyst speciation away from inactive, base-coordinated intermediates, which has been a challenge in other recently developed weak base amination methods. To our knowledge, this water-assisted mechanism for C–N coupling reactions has not been previously observed and could potentially be effective in promoting other catalytic processes involving element-hydrogen bond activation under weak base conditions. The persistent coordinative unsaturation of the (Ad₃P)Pd catalyst thus appears to engender a number of kinetic benefits in accessing unique catalytic mechanisms for carbon-carbon and now carbon-heteroatom bond forming reactions that are attractive for catalysis in the most sensitive settings.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

Experimental procedures. Reaction optimization details, kinetics data, and spectral data for new compounds.

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Notes

The authors declare the following competing financial interest(s): A patent was filed by Princeton University: Carrow, B. P.; Chen, L. WO2017/075581 A1, May 4, 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Support was provided by the National Institutes of Health (R35GM128902). We thank Kiwoon Baeg and Lucy Wang for assistance with preliminary catalyst development and Michael Peddicord for HR-MS analyses.

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$$H_2O\text{-assisted mechanism} \cdot \text{soluble weak base} \cdot \text{base sensitive functionality}$$

$$cat. \qquad e.g., \qquad NHAr^F$$

$$aryl \text{ amine,} \qquad H_2O, El_3N \qquad 30 \text{ examples}$$

$$secondary \text{ amine} \qquad 30 \text{ examples}$$

$$Lewis \text{ acid & Brønsted base synergism}$$

Supporting Information

Aryl Amination with Soluble Weak Base Enabled by a Water-Assisted Mechanism

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General Remarks

All reactions were performed inside a dry nitrogen filled glovebox or using standard Schlenk techniques unless otherwise noted. Solvents (tetrahydrofuran, toluene, diethyl ether, dichloromethane, n-pentane, tert-amyl alcohol (t-AmOH), cyclopentyl methyl ether (CPME), and anisole) were purified in a solvent purification system by percolation through neutral alumina under positive pressure of nitrogen or purchased from Millipore Sigma in Sure/Seal® containers. Deuterated solvents (chloroform- d_3 , benzene- d_6 , tetrahydrofuran- d_8) were stored over 4Å molecular sieves. All chemicals purchased from commercial suppliers were used as received unless otherwise noted. $PAd_{3}^{-1} Pd(PAd_{3})(4-FC_{6}H_{4})Br(1)_{2}^{-2}$ and $[Pd(PAd_{3})(4-FC_{6}H_{4})]^{+} BF_{4}^{-1}(33)^{3}$ were prepared according to literature. ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P{¹H} nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (NMR) were obtained on a Bruker Avanche III 500 MHz, Bruker NanoBay 400 MHz or Bruker NanoBay 300 MHz spectrometers recorded in ppm (δ), referenced to residual solvent (CHCl₃, CHDCl₂, etc.). Spin-spin coupling is described as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (quint), broad (br) or multiplet (m); coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz. Purity values were utilized from commercial sources or determined via ¹H NMR spectroscopy (300 MHz, delay = 30 s) implementing 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the external standard. All analysis was performed on a mixture of accurately weighed (0.01 mg) standard and substrate in deuterated solvents. HR-MS was obtained from either Agilent 6320B LC TOF-MS with 0.01M ammonium acetate in 95:5 and 5:95 mixtures of acetonitrile and water as mobile phases or Waters GCT Premier Spectrometer using the desorption chemical ionization probe (DCI) with methane as CI reagent gas. UPLC analysis was performed on a Waters I-Class instrument (MP-A: 0.05% TFA in 95:5 water:acetonitrile; MP-B: 0.05% TFA in 95:5 acetonitrile:water; Column: Agilent Zorbax Eclipse C18+ (2.1x50 mm; 1.8 um); Temperature: 40 °C; flow: 0.8 mL/min; wavelength: specified for experiment; and gradient: 100 % MPA to 100% MPB over 1.2 min, hold at 100% MPB for 0.4 min, and return to initial conditions). Measurement of pH was accomplished using a Mettler Toledo Seven Excellence meter (with pH electrode) and calibrated using commercially available buffer standards (pH = 4, 7, and 10; slope > 99%).

Methodology Optimization

General procedure for high-throughput screening. A 96-well aluminum microvial plate (Analytical Sales & Services cat. no. 96973) was equipped with 1 mL microvials (Analytical Sales & Services cat. no. 884001). In all reactions, stock solutions of reagents were used. In cases where reagents were only partially soluble, slurry additions were employed. Catalyst Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br 1 (0.2 mmol, 0.004 M) and 4-propyl-1,1'-biphenyl (internal standard, 2 mmol, 0.04 M) were loaded by one of two methods: (i) a THF solution (50 μL) was transferred to all vials in the reaction plate then the plate was evaporated to dryness using a Genevac, at RT, 15 min, 20 Torr; (ii) a THF solution (50 μL) was transferred to all vials in the reaction plate last after all other reagents and solvent. Eight stock solutions containing 4-chloro-1,1'-biphenyl (20 mmol, 0.2 M) and 4-nitroaniline (24 mmol, 0.24 M) were dispensed into the appropriate wells, as shown in Figure S1, from stock solutions using pipettors so that each well received 100 µL of the appropriate solvent. To the left half of the plate (wells A1:A6, B1:B6, C1:C6, D1:D6, E1:E6, F1:F6, G1:G6, H1:H6) an additional appropriate solvent (50 μL) was added. Degassed water (50 μL) was added to the same left half of the plate (wells A1:A6, B1:B6, C1:C6, D1:D6, E1:E6, F1:F6, G1:G6, H1:H6), (solvent / $H_2O(3:1) = 150 \mu L$ solvent, $50 \mu L$ water total added per well). Degassed water (100 μL) was also added to the right half of the plate (wells A7:A12, B7:B12, C7:C12, D7:D12, E7:E12, F7:F12, G1:G12, H7:H12), (solvent / H_2O (1:1) = 100 μ L solvent, 100 μ L water total added per well). The organic base (40 mmol) was added neat, as diagrammed in Figure S1, the microvial plate was sealed, removed from the glove box and shaken at 1000 rpm for 16 h at 60°C on an Eppendorf Thermomixer C with plate adapter. After aging, the reactions were diluted with MeCN: DMSO: H2O (3:1:1) with 1% HOAc (0.5 mL) and the plate was sealed and shaken at 1000 rpm an additional 15 minutes, at RT. The quenched reaction mixtures (30 mL) were sampled into a diluted sample plate occupied by 750 mL of 2:1 MeCN: Water. The plate was filtered and analyzed on Acquity I-class plus, Zorbax Eclipse plus C18, 2.1x50mm, 1.8um, TFA, 2 mins methods, 284 nm.

Reaction mixture from wells in columns B1:H1, B2:H2, B7:H7, B8:H8 and B10:H10 in the HTE screen were pooled and diluted with EtOAc (7 mL) and brine (7 mL) and transferred to a separatory funnel. Layers were split and the organics were collected, and solvents evaporated. The solid residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and the mixture was purified via silica, eluted with 0-40 % EA/heptane. Evaporation of desired product, followed by drying under vacuum, provided an analytical sample of 2, as a yellow solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 8.19 - 8.10 (m, 2H), 7.63 - 7.57 (m, 4H), 7.53 - 7.34 (m, 3H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.04 - 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.34 (s, 1H)

¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) = 150.0, 140.2, 139.9, 138.8, 137.5, 128.9, 128.3, 127.3, 126.8, 126.3, 122.0, 113.9

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{18}H_{15}N_2O_2^+]$ (M+H+), 291.1128; Found, 291.1130.

HPLC (Zorbax Eclipse plus C18, 2.1x50mm, 1.8um, TFA, 2 mins methods, 284 nm): 1.184 mins

96 total reaction conditions (6 bases x 8 solvents x 2 solvent / H₂O ratios)

Bases: Et₃N, DIPEA, DBU, MTBD, NMM, TMG

Solvents: MeCN, Anisole, IPAc, DMF, DME, 2-MeTHF, t-AmOH, MEK

Solvent / H_2O ratios: (3:1) and (1:1)

	MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM	MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM
MeCN												
toluene												
IPAc			Left half	of screen				F	Right ha	lf of scree	n	
DMF			Solvent /	H ₂ O (3:1)			Solvent / H ₂ O (1:1)					
DME			20 μmol	/ reaction					20 μmol	/ reaction		
2-MeTHF		200	μL scale	in microvia	ıls		200	μL scale	e in microv	vials		
t-AmOH												
MEK												

Figure S1. Plate design for HTE screening of soluble base and solvent combinations at two different solvent/water ratios.

Table S1. Tabular reaction conversions (%) for HTE screen shown in Figure 1 using catalyst loading method i.

		Solvent / H ₂ O (3:1)								Solvent /	ent / H ₂ O (1:1)		
		MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM	MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MeCN	A	4	0	0	12	13	0	17	3	5	40	37	14
toluene	В	46	3	5	15	36	15	79	8	9	32	50	25
IPAc	C	64	6	15	37	54	26	55	24	14	53	65	35
DMF	D	14	3	5	41	49	14	49	11	14	71	76	33
DME	E	21	8	4	37	34	6	51	17	26	75	82	26
2-MeTHF	F	62	4	3	42	39	15	76	15	10	57	72	26
t-AmOH	G	13	27	19	55	66	21	55	27	38	74	84	41
MEK	Н	25	6	7	34	47	7	38	6	17	58	72	24
Conversion Yields (%):					10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	

^aNormalized conversions, versus 4-propyl-1,1'-biphenyl as internal standard, are reported as a single run.

Table S2. Tabular reaction conversions (%) for HTE screen using catalyst loading method $ii.^a$

			S	Solvent /	H ₂ O (3:1)		Solvent / H ₂ O (1:1)						
		MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM	MTBD	DBU	TMG	DIPEA	Et ₃ N	NMM
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MeCN	A	4	0	0	9	5	2	13	4	3	52	45	16
anisole	В	49	0	0	56	67	26	65	1	5	62	71	38
IPAc	C	66	21	34	46	58	39	57	37	35	59	69	39
DMF	D	17	3	4	50	60	14	38	11	9	50	57	16
DME	E	30	9	7	49	58	9	54	18	22	84	82	32
2-MeTHF	F	37	0	0	60	70	48	70	5	7	72	82	57
t-AmOH	G	32	21	26	59	66	26	44	23	34	81	87	41
MEK	Н	39	3	17	41	54	10	52	9	22	62	72	24
Conversion Yields (%):		10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90			

^aNormalized conversions, versus 4-propyl-1,1'-biphenyl as internal standard, are reported as a single run.

Representative procedure for non-parallel reaction optimizations. In a nitrogen filled glovebox, to an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μL, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), aniline (34 μL, 0.375 mmol, 1.5 equiv), triethylamine (70 μL, 0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μL, 0.083 mmol, 0.33 equiv), Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br (1) (1.8 mg, 2.5 μmol, 1 mol%) and solvent. The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring at a certain temperature for the desired time period. After cooling down to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with CDCl₃ (1 mL) and the organic layer was separated for NMR characterization. The yield of 3 was obtained from the relative ¹⁹F resonance integration of product and standard.⁵

Table S3. Effect of water on C-N coupling yield.

Entry	Variation from standard condition	Yield (%)
1	None (1:2 tol:H ₂ O)	>99
2	No water (1.0/0.0 mL)	0
3	25:1 tol:H ₂ O (1.0/0.04 mL)	5
4	10:1 tol:H ₂ O (1.0/0.1 mL)	18
5	2:1 tol:H ₂ O (1.0/0.5 mL)	50
6	1:1 tol:H ₂ O (1.0/1.0 mL)	55
7	$0:1 \text{ tol}:H_2O (0.0/1.0 \text{ mL})$	>99

Conditions: toluene (0.5 mL):H₂O (1 mL), 60 °C, 24 h.

Table S4. Effect of amine identity on the C-N coupling yield.

Entry	Variation from standard condition	Yield (%)
1	none	61
2	1:4 tol:H ₂ O (0.25/1.0 mL)	92
3	NCy ₂ Me instead of NEt ₃	25
4	N(OEt) ₃ instead of NEt ₃	33
5	With 1.1 equiv LiI as additive	11
6	<i>p</i> -F-C ₆ H ₄ OTf instead of <i>p</i> -F-C ₆ H ₄ Br	3

Conditions: toluene (0.5 mL): H_2O (1 mL), 60 °C, 6 h.

Table S5. Effect of solvent choice on the C-N coupling yield.

Entry	Variation from standard condition	Yield (%)
1	None	59
2	THF instead of toluene	52
3	Dioxane instead of toluene	44
4	2-MeTHF instead of toluene	53
5	DMF instead of toluene	45
6	DMA instead of toluene	35
7	K Phosphate Buffer pH 7.0 (0.1M) instead of water, no NEt ₃	0
8	K Phosphate Buffer pH 6.0 (0.1M) instead of water	44
9	K Phosphate Buffer pH 7.0 (0.1M) instead of water	46
10	K Phosphate Buffer pH 8.0 (0.1M) instead of water	26

Conditions: toluene (0.25 mL):H₂O (1 mL), 60 °C, 1 h.

General procedures for C-N coupling reactions

Procedure A (bromoarenes). To an oven-dried 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br (1) (5.4 mg, 7.5 μmol, 1 mol%), aryl bromide (0.75 mmol), amine nucleophile (1.13 mmol, 1.5 equiv), triethylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and toluene (0.75 mL) under nitrogen (a 4 mL scintillation vial was used as reaction vessel for reactions conducted on 0.05 or 0.25 mmol-scale). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and taken out of the glovebox. Degassed deionized water (3.0 mL) was injected into the vial *via* a syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL) and the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the crude product was purified by column chromatography.

Procedure B (chloroarenes). To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br (1) (1.8 mg, 2.5 μ mol, 1 mol%), aryl chloride (0.25 mmol), amine nucleophile (0.38 mmol, 1.5 equiv), triethylamine (70 μ L, 0.50 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and toluene (0.25 mL) under nitrogen. The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and taken out of the glovebox. Degassed deionized water (1.0 mL) was injected into the vial via a syringe. The reaction mixture was left stirring at 100 °C for the indicated time. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 5 mL) and the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄. After evaporation, the crude product was purified by column chromatography.

Compound Characterization:

General procedure A was used, except using neat water (3.0 mL), on 0.75 mmol scale, and 191 mg of 4 (92%) was obtained as a pink solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.07–6.96 (m, 2H), 6.83–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.37 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6 (d, J = 241.4 Hz), 141.0 (dm, J = 246.3 Hz), 138.4 (dm, J = 250.2 Hz), 138.2 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 137.0 (dm, J = 249.6 Hz), 118.8 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 118.4–118.2 (m), 116.0 (d, J = 22.9 Hz).

¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.3 (m, 1F), -150.5 – -150.6 (m, 2F), -162.7 (td, J = 21.8, 5.3 Hz, 2F), -164.3 (tt, J = 21.8, 3.4 Hz, 1F).

HRMS (DCI) Calcd. for [C₁₂H₆F₆N] (M), 277.0326; Found, 277.0338.

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 152 mg (72%) of **5** was obtained as a colorless liquid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16–7.10 (m, 3H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.15 (hept, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, 6H), 1.12 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 12H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.3, 143.3, 138.9, 129.6, 125.7, 124.9, 123.4, 119.7, 28.2, 23.6, 19.5.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{20}H_{28}N^+]$ (M+H+), 282.2216; Found, 282.2222.

General procedure A was used, except using neat water (3.0 mL), on 0.75 mmol scale, and 219 mg (83%) of 6 was obtained as a colorless liquid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.13 (m, 5H), 6.91 (td, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H).

¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.9, 142.3, 139.0, 130.2, 127.7, 123.0, 122.6, 122.1, 119.8, 118.9 (q, J= 321.3 Hz), 117.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for [C₁₃H₁₀ClF₃NO₃S⁺] (M+H⁺), 352.0017; Found, 352.0020.

General procedure B was used on 0.25 mmol scale (48 h reaction time), and 26.5 mg (45%) of 7 was obtained as a grey solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18–7.16 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 6.39 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H).

¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.6, 159.0 (d, J = 243.2 Hz), 158.4, 137.5 (d, J = 2.6 Hz), 134.2, 130.3, 120.5 (d, J = 7.8 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 22.9 Hz), 109.3, 25.7.

¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -119.2.

HRMS (DCI) Calcd. for [C₁₂H₁₁FNOS] (M), 236.0545; Found, 236.0536.

General procedure B was used on 0.25 mmol scale (16 h reaction time), and 56 mg (90%) of **8** was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.03–6.99 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 5.58 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 6H)

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.1, 158.4 (d, J = 240.0 Hz), 157.5, 135.8 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 120.83 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 81.2, 54.0.

¹⁹**F NMR** (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -121.1.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{12}H_{13}FN_3O_2^+]$ (M+H⁺), 250.0986; Found, 250.0995.

$$F_3C$$

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 174 mg (84%) of **9** was obtained as a brown solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.53 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.6, 133.5, 133.3, 128.7, 126.7 (q, J = 3.8 Hz), 125.4, 125.0 (q, J = 270.6 Hz), 120.0 (q, J = 32.6 Hz), 119.5, 115.5, 113.6, 112.0, 102.8.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{15}H_{12}F_3N_2^+]$ (M+H⁺), 277.0947; Found, 277.0955.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 61.2 mg (91%) of **10** was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.71 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd, J = 7.8, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.06, 153.04, 146.36 (q, J = 34.3 Hz), 138.36, 138.01, 124.91, 124.30, 121.68 (q, J = 274.1 Hz), 117.54, 113.99, 111.62, 53.81.

¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -68.64.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{12}H_{11}F_3N_3O^+]$ (M+H+), 270.0849; Found, 270.0858.

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 228 mg (91%) of 11 was obtained as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.14–7.12 (m, 4H), 6.91–6.84 (m, 6H), 3.82 (s, 6H).

¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 190.43, 157.43, 154.19, 138.94, 131.56, 128.20, 127.89, 116.87, 115.18, 55.64.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{21}H_{20}NO_3^+]$ (M+H+), 334.1438; Found, 334.1445.

12

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 165 mg (79%) of **12** was obtained as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.50 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.44 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 140.7, 139.1, 135.5, 131.0, 127.7, 127.4, 126.3, 125.4, 123.6, 120.5, 120.5, 109.8.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{18}H_{13}ClN^{+}]$ (M+H+), 278.0731; Found, 278.0737.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 67.6 mg (87%) of **13** was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.40 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 7.66 (dd, J = 8.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.18 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 6.48 – 6.46 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.6, 143.0, 138.2, 127.8, 127.4, 125.8, 124.5, 124.3, 118.8, 118.8.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{17}H_{12}ClN_2S^+]$ (M+H⁺), 311.0404; Found, 311.0411.

General procedure A was used, except using neat water (3.00 mL) and 3 mol% 1, on 0.75 mmol scale, and 119 mg (81%) of 14 was obtained as an off-white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 – 8.35 (m, 1H), 8.22 – 8.19 (m, 1H),), 7.61 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 6.87 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 4.04 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H), 3.21 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.6, 148.1, 145.0, 137.4, 131.5, 127.4, 124.7, 120.5, 114.5, 113.4, 108.7, 49.5, 27.8.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{13}H_{13}N_2^+]$ (M+H⁺), 197.1073; Found, 197.1080.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 57.4 mg (98%) of **15** was obtained as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.69 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.36 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.16 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.08 (m, 1H), 3.44 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.2, 146.4, 143.3, 142.6, 129.8, 129.1, 129.1, 127.1, 126.7, 126.6, 123.4, 122.3, 119.6, 40.6.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{16}H_{15}N_2^+]$ (M+H⁺), 235.1230; Found, 235.1233.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 47.4 mg (83%) of **16** was obtained as an orange solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.93–3.91 (m, 4H), 3.28 – 3.26 (m, 4H), 2.70 (s, 3H). (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.4, 148.9, 143.7, 135.2, 129.6, 127.5, 122.5, 122.1, 109.4, 67.0, 49.8, 25.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{14}H_{17}N_2O^+]$ (M+H⁺), 229.1335; Found, 229.1343.

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 205 mg (89%) of 17 was obtained as an orange solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.61 – 3.59 (m, 4H), 3.43 – 3.41 (m, 4H), 1.49 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 154.7, 138.9, 126.1, 113.0, 80.5, 47.0, 28.5.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{15}H_{22}N_3O_4^+]$ (M+H+), 308.1605; Found, 308.1606.

General procedure A was used (48 h reaction time) on 0.25 mmol scale, and 63.3 mg (61%) of **18** was obtained as an off-white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.18 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.12 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 4H), 3.46 (s, 4H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.5, 158.9, 153.4, 151.9, 139.9, 133.7, 133.0, 130.6, 129.0, 127.3, 126.0, 125.1, 124.9, 123.0, 120.3, 120.0, 114.7, 101.1, 47.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{24}H_{20}ClN_4O^+]$ (M+H+), 415.1320; Found, 415.1326.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 42.1 mg (89%) of **19** was obtained as an off-white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.18 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.9, 164.9, 142.3, 132.7, 130.1, 115.9, 38.4, 36.7, 26.6.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{11}H_{12}NO_2^+]$ (M+H⁺), 190.0863; Found, 190.0870.

General procedure A was used on 0.75 mmol scale, and 193 mg (97%) of **20** was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 152.3, 142.7, 131.0, 124.9, 117.4, 81.3, 60.9, 28.4, 14.5.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{14}H_{20}NO_4^+]$ (M+H+), 266.1387; Found, 266.1391.

General procedure A was used (48 h reaction time) on 0.25 mmol scale, and 59.8 mg (69%) of **21** was obtained as an off-white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.12 – 8.06 (m, 3H), 8.05 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.98 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, J= 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 141.0, 132.0, 131.3, 127.6, 126.6, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7, 125.6, 125.3, 124.6, 124.5, 124.0, 119.3, 117.1, 109.9, 81.3, 37.7, 28.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for [C₂₂H₂₃N₂O₂+] (M+H+), 369.1573; Found, 369.1580.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 58.1 mg (80%) of **22** was obtained as a brown solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.42 (s, br, 1H), 7.34 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.97 – 6.94 (m, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.4 (d, J = 237.8 Hz), 144.5, 141.1 (d, J = 2.1 Hz), 138.4, 132.8, 129.8, 129.4, 129.2, 128.3, 128.2, 126.6, 115.9 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 113.9 (d, J = 7.7 Hz).

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{19}H_{16}FN_2^+]$ (M+H+), 291.1292; Found, 291.1305.

General procedure A was used on 50 μ mol scale, and 17.7 mg (90%) of **23** was obtained as an off-white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H, obscured by chloroform- d_6 peak), 7.17 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.08 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 5.25-5.07 (m, 1H), 4.51 – 4.29 (m, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 1.45 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 163.3, 159.4 (d, J = 242.9 Hz), 145.2, 136.9 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 135.5, 134.8, 130.4, 128.3, 124.2, 123.3, 123.2 (d, J = 8.1 Hz), 118.7, 118.0, 116.6 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 61.1, 42.6, 36.0, 14.6.

¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.8.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{21}H_{20}FN_4O_3^+]$ (M+H+), 395.1514; Found, 395.1521.

General procedure A was used on 50 μ mol scale, and 21.3 mg (91%) of **24** was obtained as a green oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 – 7.97 (m, 2H), 7.83 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.80 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 – 6.89 (m, 6H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 1.76 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 158.2 (d, J = 240.8 Hz), 155.6, 147.6, 141.2, 138.7, 138.1, 137.4, 136.4, 135.1, 129.7, 129.0, 127.9, 120.0 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 116.2 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 111.6, 84.3, 44.4, 26.5.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for [C₂₄H₂₂FN₂O₅S⁺] (M+H⁺), 469.1228; Found, 469.1233.

General procedure A was used on 50 µmol scale, and 24.3 mg (94%) of **25** was obtained as an orange solid. Note that the starting aryl bromide (X4 in Merck informer library) is supplied as a mixture of diastereomers. Flash chromatography did not separate the diastereomers of **25**, and spectral data are reported for the mixture as a result.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.01 – 6.84 (m, 6H), 5.36 – 5.26 (m, 1H), 5.18 (d, J = 28.1 Hz, 1H), 4.81 – 4.77 (m, 1H), 4.72 (s, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 4.56 – 4.53 (m, 1H), 4.49 – 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.78 – 3.72 (m, 4H), 3.78 – 3.59 (m, 1H), 2.52 – 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.29 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.49 – 1.39 (m, 9H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 173.1, 172.9, 172.8, 159.0, 158.9, 157.1, 157.0, 154.4, 154.4, 154.1, 154.0, 153.9, 153.8, 153.7, 153.7, 152.1, 152.1, 151.9, 139.1, 139.1, 139.0, 139.0, 134.8, 134.7, 134.6, 134.6, 129.7, 129.7, 129.5, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 124.7, 124.5, 124.4, 124.3, 124.2, 119.7, 119.7, 119.6, 119.5, 119.5, 118.8, 116.2, 116.2, 116.0, 116.0, 115.4, 115.3, 115.3, 115.2, 115.2, 115.1, 80.6, 73.8, 73.8, 73.2, 73.2, 58.1, 58.0, 57.7, 57.6, 52.8, 52.7, 52.5, 52.4, 52.2, 51.5, 51.0, 51.0, 50.3, 49.8, 37.0, 37.0, 36.1, 36.0, 28.4, 28.3.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{26}H_{30}F_2N_3O_6^+]$ (M+H+), 540.1917; Found, 540.1925.

General procedure A was used on 50 µmol scale, and 26.1 mg (98%) of **26** was obtained as an orange solid. Note that the starting aryl bromide (X8 in Merck informer library) is supplied as a mixture of diastereomers. Flash chromatography did not separate the diastereomers of **26**, and spectral data are reported for the mixture as a result.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 6.92 (m, 5H), 6.86 – 6.77 (m, 1H), 5.38 – 4.96 (m, 4H), 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.69 – 4.42 (m, 4H), 3.93 – 3.73 (m, 4H), 3.56 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.45 (m, 1H), 2.32 – 2.19 (m, 1H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 172.7, 172.5, 172.5, 159.4, 159.4, 157.5, 157.5, 154.9, 154.9, 154.3, 153.9, 153.7, 139.3, 139.3, 138.2, 138.1, 138.1, 138.0, 138.0, 137.9, 137.9, 136.3, 136.3, 136.3, 136.2, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 128.1, 127.9, 127.9, 125.0, 124.8, 124.8, 124.7, 121.5, 121.4, 121.3, 121.3, 116.2, 116.0, 114.9, 114.8, 114.8, 114.8, 114.4, 114.2, 114.1, 73.6, 73.0, 72.9, 67.4, 58.1, 57.8, 57.8, 53.1, 53.0, 53.0, 52.8, 52.7, 52.7, 52.5, 52.3, 51.0, 50.6, 50.5, 37.2, 37.1, 36.1, 36.1.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{29}H_{29}FN_3O_6^+]$ (M+H+), 534.2035; Found, 534.2038.

General procedure A was used on 50 μ mol scale, and 18.7 mg (76%) of **27** was obtained as an orange solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 7.06 – 6.96 (m, 5H), 5.63 (s, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 2H), 3.41 – 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.31 – 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.18 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 2.85 – 2.68 (m, 2H), 2.55 – 2.44 (m, 1H), 2.43 – 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.35 – 2.28 (m, 2H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5 (d, J = 241.5 Hz), 155.5, 148.6, 139.7, 139.3, 138.5, 137.7 (d, J = 2.9 Hz), 137.2, 136.0, 133.8, 133.6, 132.7, 130.2, 128.7, 126.2, 123.8, 121.2 (d, J = 7.9 Hz), 116.2 (d, J = 22.6 Hz), 61.3, 44.9, 44.9, 32.0, 31.5, 30.8, 30.6, 14.7.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for [C₂₈H₂₈ClFN₃O₂+] (M+H+), 492.1849; Found, 492.1855.

General procedure A was used on 0.25 mmol scale, and 100 mg (90%) of **28** was obtained as a brown solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.07 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 168.9, 159.5 (d, J = 242.5 Hz), 155.7, 149.5, 136.3, 136.3, 132.9, 131.3, 130.3, 125.3, 123.9 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 116.5 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 114.8, 113.9, 111.5, 111.1, 101.0, 55.9, 52.2, 30.4, 13.0.

¹⁹**F NMR** (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{26}H_{24}FN_2O_4^+]$ (M+H+), 447.1715; Found, 447.1720.

General procedure B was used (48 h reaction time), except using 2 mol% 1, on 0.25 mmol scale, and 58.6 mg (51%) of 29 was obtained as a yellow solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 9.78 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H).

¹³C **NMR** (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 172.3, 168.1, 155.2, 148.6, 145.5, 139.7, 135.3, 131.9, 130.5, 130.4, 127.6, 126.0, 117.8, 116.0, 114.2, 112.5, 111.2, 101.4, 55.4, 29.6, 12.9.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{25}H_{22}N_3O_6^+]$ (M+H+), 460.1503; Found, 460.1505.

General procedure B was used (36 h reaction time) on 0.25 mmol scale, and 98.0 mg (90%) of **30** was obtained as a white solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 – 7.69 (m, 4H), 7.17 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.05 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 10 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 10 Hz, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 5.08 (hept, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 6H), 1.20 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.2, 173.4, 159.2 (d, J = 241.3 Hz), 159.0, 148.7, 136.8 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 132.6, 131.7, 131.7, 128.9, 123.4 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 117.3, 116.3 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 113.8, 79.4, 69.4, 25.5, 21.6.

¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -118.9.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for [C₂₆H₂₇FNO₄⁺] (M+H⁺), 436.1919; Found, 436.1907.

General procedure B was used (48 h reaction time), except using 2 mol% 1, on 0.25 mmol scale, and 65.3 mg (58%) of 31 was obtained as a white solid. The yield of 31 was 60% as determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis versus internal standard. The product is poorly soluble in common deuterated solvents.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 8.09 – 8.07 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 9.0, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 8.5, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 6.5, 4H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.5, 2H), 6.98 (brs, 1H), 3.36 – 3.17 (m, 10H), 2.02 (s, 2H), 1.72 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 197.6, 165.0 (d, J = 251.7 Hz), 156.2 (d, J = 236.0 Hz), 142.4, 140.0, 133.4, 130.9 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 125.6, 118.4 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 115.8, 115.7 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 115.7 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 68.2, 48.5, 35.4, 21.0.

¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ -107.1, -123.2.

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{27}H_{29}FNO_4^+]$ (M+H⁺), 451.2192; Found, 451.2193.

Scale-Up of Synthesis of Fenofibrate Derivative 30:

Reaction Conversion Calibration Curve. To 4 x 8 mL vials was charged fenofibrate (MW 360.83 g/mol; measured purity 98%) and **30** (MW 435.495 g/mol; measured purity 99.5%) according to the values in the Table S6. The mixtures were then dissolved in EtOAc (7 mL), sampled (30 uL in 1.5 mL of 2:1 acetonitrile:water), and assayed via UPLC analysis. The resulting areas of each peak were measured at 304 nm and conversion (%) values were compared to the actual mass conversion values (%).

Table S6. Tabular data for detector response for substrate and product analytes.

Entry	Compound	Wt. (mg)	Corrected wt. (mg)		mmol	Measured Area (304 nm)
	fenofibrate	159.4	156.212		0.4329	333319.00
1	30	44.9	44.6755		0.103	77607
				conversion:	19%	19%
	fenofibrate	84.2	82.516		0.228	183257
2	Substrate 30	116	115.42		0.265	203654
		-	-	conversion:	54%	53%
	fenofibrate	25.7	25.186		0.0697	58840
3	30	194.0	193.03		0.4432	323089
				conversion:	86%	85%
	fenofibrate	5.4	5.292		0.014	16690
4	Substrate 30	226.8	225.666		0.5181	382633
		-	-	conversion:	97%	96%

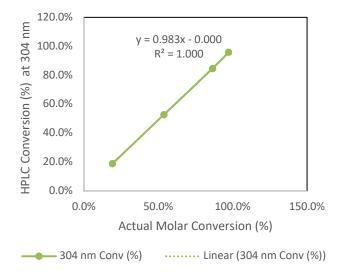


Figure S2. Calibration curve of measured versus actual conversion of fenofibrate to 30.

Optimization of solvent and temperature in synthesis of 30. To 8 x 20 mL vials with stir bars outside of the glovebox was charged isopropyl 2-(3-(3-chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy)-2-methylpropanoate (fenofibrate) (530 mg, 1.44 mmol, 98% purity), 4-fluoroaniline (245 mg, 2.16 mmol, 1.5 equiv, 98% purity), and 1 (9.39 mg, 0.013 mmol, 0.9 mol%). The vials were then brought into the glovebox and charged with solvent (1.5 mL), degassed water (6 mL), and triethylamine (405 uL, 2.88 mmol, 2 equiv, 99% purity). The vials were sealed, removed from the glovebox, and placed into a pre-heated hotplate at the specified temperatures and aged for 21 h with vigorous stir bar agitation. Upon cooling, aliquots (50 uL) were taken with continued agitation, diluted into 2:1 acetonitrile:water (7 mL), and assayed for reaction completion using UPLC-MS analysis at 304 nm.

Table S7. Results of Temperature and Solvent Variation During Synthesis of 30.

Entry	Solvent	Temperature (°C)	Conversion (%)
1	Anisole	98	89
2	CPME	98	98
3	t-AmOH	98	96
4	toluene	98	97
5	anisole	80	74
6	CPME	80	71
7	t-AmOH	80	94
8	toluene	80	83

Monitoring aqueous pH at initial reaction time. To a 20 mL vial with stir bar was charged isopropyl 2-(3-(3-chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy)-2-methylpropanoate (fenofibrate) (1.00 g, 2.72 mmol, 98% purity), 4-fluoroaniline (462 mg, 4.07 mmol, 1.5 equiv., 98% purity), *tert*-amyl alcohol (3 mL), degassed water (9 mL), and triethylamine (765 μ L, 5.43 mmol, 2 equiv., 99% purity). The vial was agitated for ~10 min where upon the initial pH measurement was obtained (pH = 11.9) using the pH meter, electrode, and calibration procedure (*vide supra*).

Synthesis of 30 on 20-mmol Scale. To a 100 mL EasyMax vessel fitted with reflux condenser, pitched blade impeller, and nitrogen inlet was charged isopropyl 2-(3-(3-chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy)-2-methylpropanoate (fenofibrate) (7.36 g, 20.0 mmol, 98% purity) and 4-fluoroaniline (3.40 g, 30.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv, 98% purity). The vessel was sealed and purged with N2. Degassed water (66 mL, 9× vol.), t-Amyl alcohol (22 mL, 3× vol., commercially available anhydrous solvent from Millipore Sigma), and degassed triethylamine (5.63 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2 equiv, 99% purity) were charged to the reactor utilizing Schlenk techniques while keeping the internal temperature at 25 °C with agitation set at 600 RPM. To the reactor was then charged complex 1 (144 mg, 200 µmol, 1 mol%) as a solid under nitrogen purge. The reaction was then ramped to 85 °C over 15 min at 600 RPM agitation rate, aged for 12 h, sampled (50 μL in 7 mL of 2:1 acetonitrile:water), and deemed complete (100% conversion). The reaction mixture was cooled to 25 °C, EtOAc (37 mL, 5× vol.) was charged, and the mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel with additional EtOAc (37 mL, $5 \times$ vol.). The resulting biphasic solution was separated (aqueous layer loss <0.1%, pH = 8.5), and the organic layer assayed (solution yield = 97%). The resulting dark organic phase was concentrated to a near oil on the rotary evaporator (70-80 mm Hg, 40 °C), and then diluted with EtOAc (37 mL, 5× vol.). To the organic mixture was then charged heptane (22 mL, 3× vol.), then 30 Seed (~50 mg), and the resulting slurry was allowed to age (~30 min). Additional heptane (29 mL, $4 \times \text{vol.}$) was charged to the dark slurry over $\sim 20 \text{ min.}$ The resulting mixture was allowed to further age (30 min) whereupon it was filtered through at disposable polypropylene filter funnel (10 μ m). The wet cake was slurry washed with 20% EtOAc in heptane (2 × 22 mL, 2 × 3× vol), and the cake was allowed to dry overnight at room temperature under vacuum and a stream of N₂ to yield 30 as a light gray solid (7.02 g, 16.0 mmol, 80% yield at 99% purity by ¹H wt/wt NMR).

HRMS (ESI+) Calcd. for $[C_{26}H_{27}FNO_4^+]$ (M+H+), 436.1919; Found, 436.1938.

Kinetic Profile of Reaction on 20-mmol Scale. To a 100 mL EasyMax vessel fitted with reflux condenser, pitched blade impeller, nitrogen inlet, and EasySampler (Fitted with the following solvent lines: Reaction = degassed water; Quench and Diluent = 2:1 acetonitrile:water – non-degassed; Dilution Factor = 350) was charged isopropyl 2-(3-(3-chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy)-2-methylpropanoate (fenofibrate) (7.36 g, 20.0 mmol, 98% purity) and 4-fluoroaniline (3.40 g, 30.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv., 98% purity). The vessel was sealed and purged with N₂. Degassed water (66 mL, 9× vol.), *t*-Amyl alcohol (22 mL, 3× vol. - commercially available anhydrous solvent from Millipore Sigma), and degassed triethylamine (5.63 mL, 40.0 mmol, 2 equiv., 99% purity) were charged to the reactor under Schlenk conditions keeping the internal temperature at 25 °C with agitation set at 600 RPM. To the reactor was then charged complex 1 (144 mg, 0.200 mmol, 1 mole%) as a solid under nitrogen purge. The sampling times (min), temperature ramp (°C in min), and reaction conversion (%) are tabulated below.

Table S8. Tabular Data for 20-mmol Scale Amination of Fenofibrate.

Entry	Temp Ramp Time (min)	Temp (°C)	Sampling Time (min)	DP Area (304 nm)	SM Area (304 nm)	Conv. (%)	Comment
1	0	25	2	13272	240538	5%	Sampling delay of ~2 min
2	15	25	17	104215	219975	32%	Sampled after 17 min at 25 °C
3	30	85	32	448567	24593	95%	Sampled 2 min after reaching 85 °C
4	45	85	47	476641	0	100%	Sampled 17 min after reaching 85 °C
5	60	85	62	421346	0	100%	Sampled 32 min after reaching 85 °C
6	120	85	122	442854	0	100%	Sampled 1h after reaching 85 °C

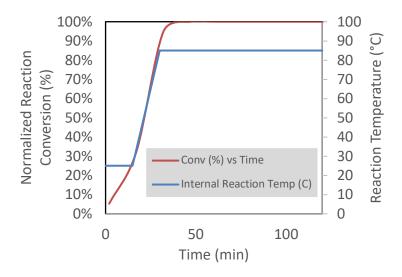
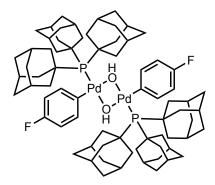


Figure S3. Reaction conversion (left-axis) and temperature (right-axis) of fenofibrate to **30** (20-mmol scale) versus time.



32

anti-[Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)(μ -OH)]₂ (32). To an oven-dried 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br (1) (90 mg, 0.13 mmol) and dichloromethane (30 mL). A solution of sodium hydroxide (50 mg, 1.3 mmol, 10 equiv) in water (30 mL) was injected into the reaction mixture. The resulting biphasic solution was stirred vigorously for 30 min at room temperature. The aqueous layer was then separated, the organic layer was concentrated, and resulting was washed with *n*-hexanes (3 x 5 mL), filtered and dried under reduced pressure to afford 64 mg (78%) of 32 an off-white solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 6.63 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 2.42 (s, 36H), 1.88 (s, 18H), 1.72 - 1.57 (m, 36H), -2.19 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 2H).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 160.91 (d, J = 238.0 Hz), 139.96, 138.68, 112.48 (d, J = 18.5 Hz), 48.83 (d, J = 5.1 Hz), 42.02, 36.97, 29.84 (d, J = 7.5 Hz).

 $^{19} F$ NMR (470 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ -125.2.

 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (202 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 67.1.

HRMS (ESI) m/z calculated for C₃₈H₅₂FNPPd (M/2-OH+MeCN), 678.28562, found 678.28588.

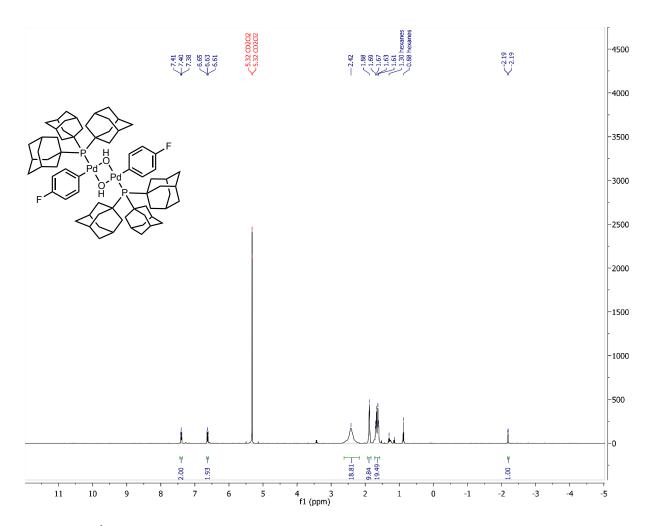


Figure S4. ¹H NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz) of 32.

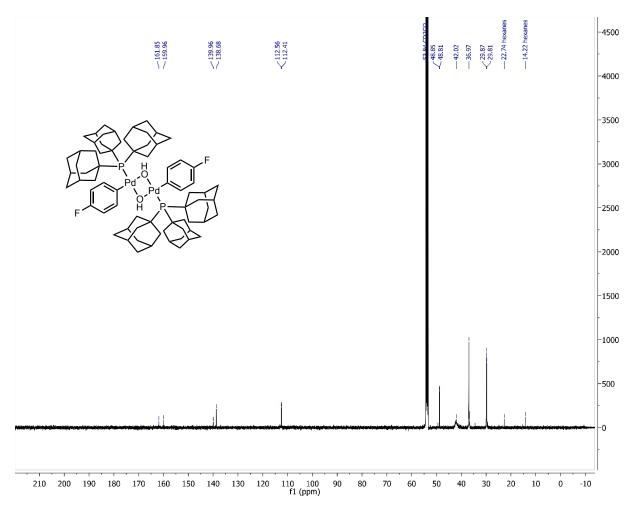


Figure S5. 13 C NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 126 MHz) of 32.

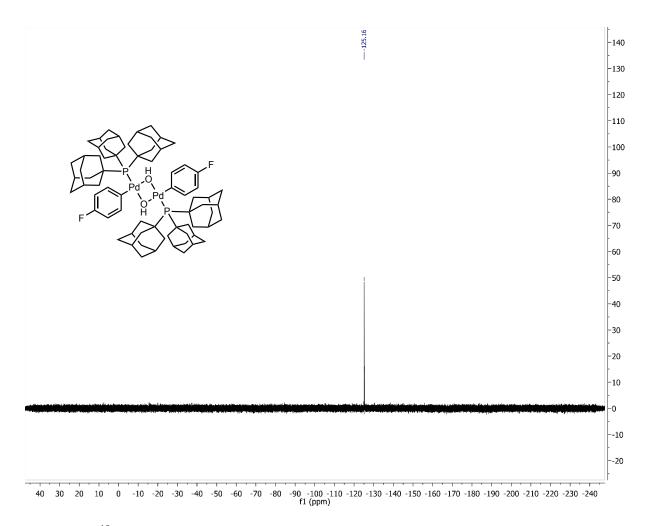


Figure S6. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 470 MHz) of 32.

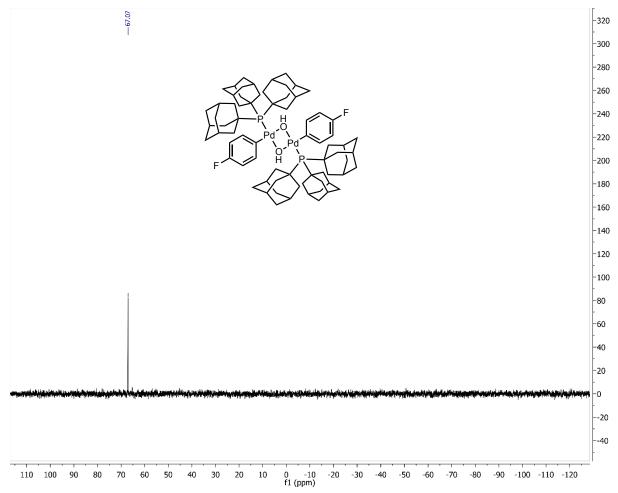


Figure S7. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (CD₂Cl₂, 202 MHz) of 32.

Kinetic and Mechanistic Experiments:

Independent route to 32 under catalytically-relevant conditions. A solution of Pd(PAd₃)(4-C₆H₄F)Br (1) (1.8 mg, 2.5 µmol) in toluene (1.0 mL) was transferred to an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Triethylamine (50 µL, 359 µmol, 143 equiv) and water (1.0 mL) were injected and the reaction mixture was shaken gently for 1 min at room temperature. A 31 P{ 1 H} spectrum of the resulting solution indicated complete consumption of 1, and 32 was cleanly formed. Analogous reactions that omitted water or triethylamine showed no conversion of 1.

 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (202 MHz, toluene) δ 66.9.

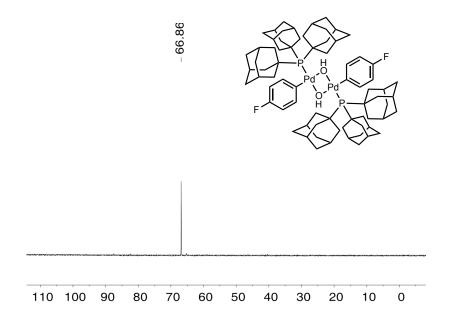


Figure S8. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (202 MHz, toluene) of reaction of 1 with Et₃N and water in toluene after 1 min at RT.

Independent route to 32 from an independently prepared cationic aryl-Pd complex:

Generation of [Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)]⁺ BF₄⁻ (33). The generation of 33 was adapted from a published procedure.³ Pd(PAd₃)(*p*-FC₆H₄)Br 1 (9.0 mg, 12.5 μmol) was dissolved in THF (2.5 mL). Separately, AgBF₄ (20 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in THF (2 mL). Both solutions were chilled at -35 °C (MeOH/H₂O dry ice bath). The latter solution (AgBF₄, 2.5 μmol, 50 μL) was then added to an aliquot of the solution of 1 (2.5 μmol, 0.5 mL) in a 4 mL vial at -35 °C. The mixture (0.55 mL) was quickly shaken, left in the cooling bath for 10 min, and transferred under nitrogen into an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Generation of 33 was confirmed by ³¹P{¹H} spectrum at -25 °C before proceeding to the next step.

Generation of 32 from 33. Triethylamine (10 μ L, 72 μ mol, 29 equiv) and water (68 μ L) were injected into the solution of 32 and the resulting mixture was shaken gently for 1 min at 0 °C. A ³¹P{¹H} spectrum was acquired at 0 °C, which showed full conversion of 33 and clean formation of 32.

 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (202 MHz, THF, 0 °C) δ 66.2.

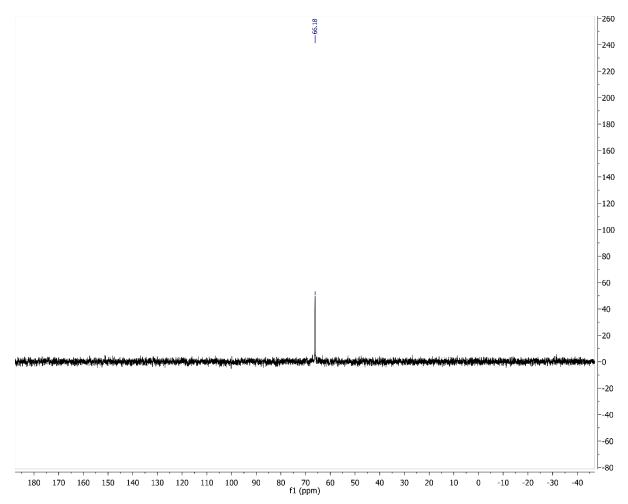


Figure S9. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (202 MHz, THF, 0 °C) of the reaction of **33** with Et₃N and H₂O in THF.

Conversion of 32 to 33. A solution of 32 (1.8 mg, 1.34 μ mol) in THF- d_8 (0.5 mL) was transferred to an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Tetrafluoroboric acid diethyl ether complex (0.5 μ L, 3.7 μ mol, 1.3 equiv to Pd) was injected and the reaction mixture was shaken gently for 1 min at -35 °C. 1 H, 19 F, and 31 P{ 1 H} NMR spectra acquired at -25 °C, which indicated full conversion of 32 and clean formation of 33. 3

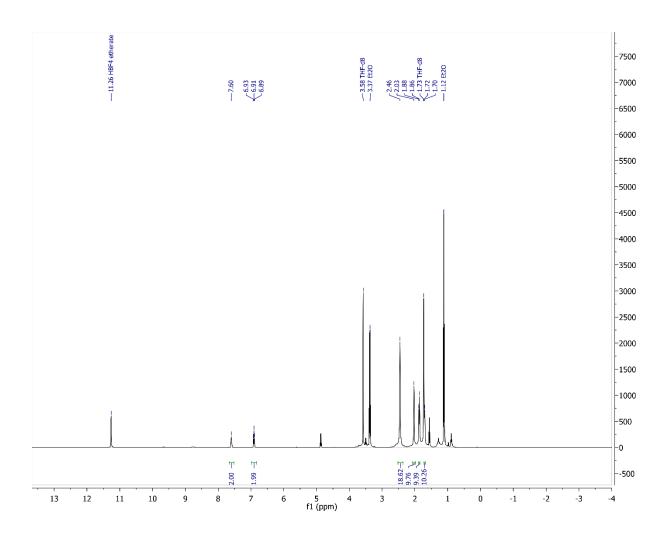


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF- d_8) of the mixture generated by reaction of **32** with HBF₄·Et₂O in THF at -35 °C.

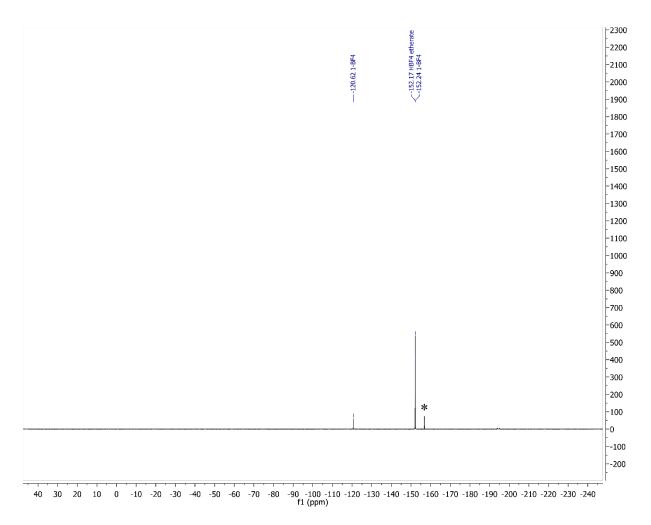


Figure S11. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF- d_8) of the mixture generated by reaction of **32** with HBF₄·Et₂O in THF at –35 °C (* = unidentified).

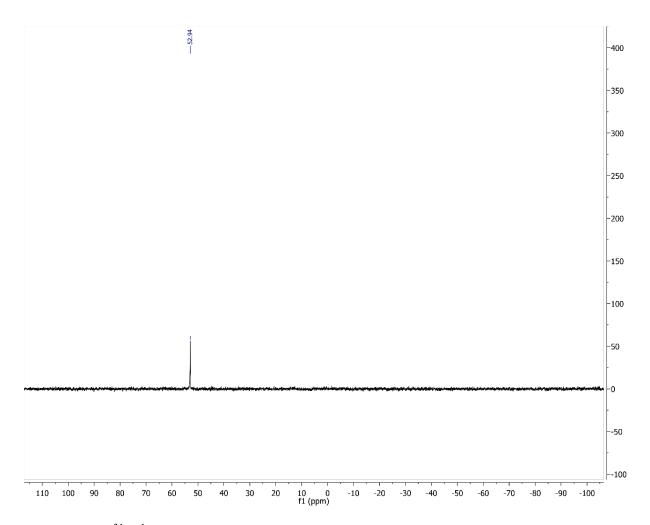


Figure S12. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (202 MHz, THF- d_8) of the mixture generated by reaction of **32** with HBF₄·Et₂O in THF at -35 °C.

Synthesis and characterization of catalyst resting state, syn-[Pd₂(PAd₃)₂(4-C₆H₄F)₂(μ-OH)(μ-NH₂C₆F₅)] (34). A solution of 32 (4.9 mg, 3.8 μmol) in THF- d_8 (0.5 mL) was transferred to an NMR tube under nitrogen and capped with a rubber septum. Separately, pentafluoroaniline (2.8 mg, 15 μmol, 4 equiv) was dissolved in THF- d_8 (0.1 mL) in a 4 mL vial, and the resulting solution was added to the solution of 32 via a 1 mL syringe at low temperature (acetone/dry ice bath). The NMR tube was then shaken gently for 1 min. 1 H, 19 F, and 31 P{ 1 H} NMR spectra acquired at –25 °C indicated full conversion of 32 and clean formation of 34. An EXSY NMR analysis indicated exchange between free C₆F₅NH₂ and the μ-anilido ligand in 34 during NMR time scale suggesting

¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 7.33 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.51 (td, J = 8.9, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.20 (td, J = 8.7, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 2H), 2.70 – 2.53 (m, 36H), 2.46 – 2.27 (m, 18H), 2.03 – 1.58 (m, 36H, partly obscured by THF residual peak), -3.84 (s, 1H).

¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, THF- d_8) δ -125.09 (2F), -147.73 (1F), -158.18 (1F), -170.71 (1F), -171.42 (1F), -176.06 (1F).

 $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (202 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 58.8.

formation of **34** can occur reversibly.

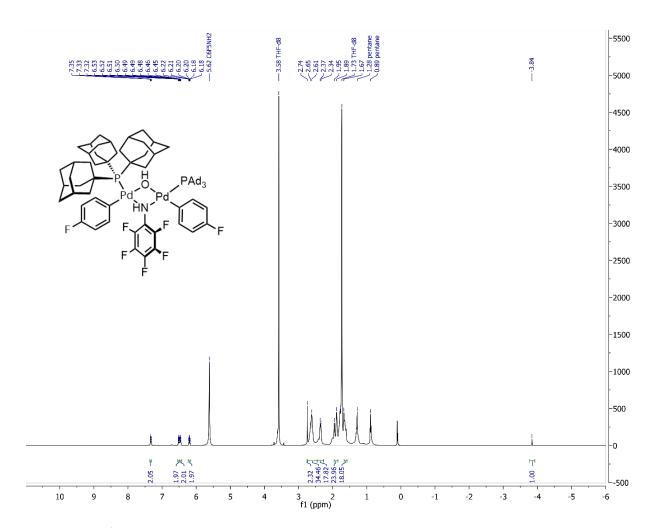


Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF-*d*₈) of **34**.

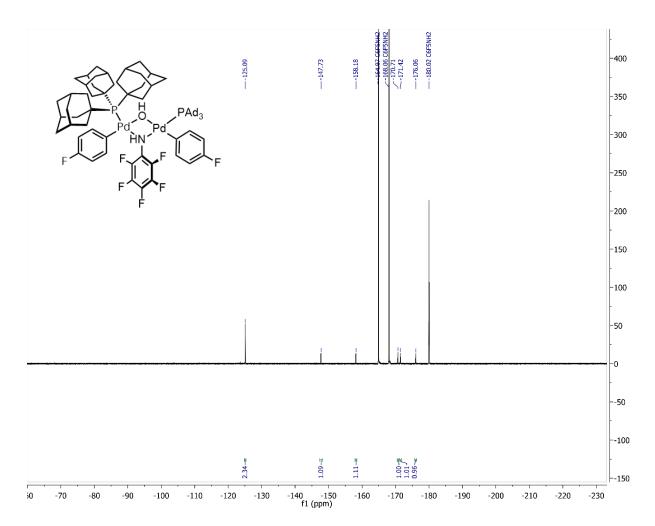


Figure S14. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF-*d*₈) of **34**.

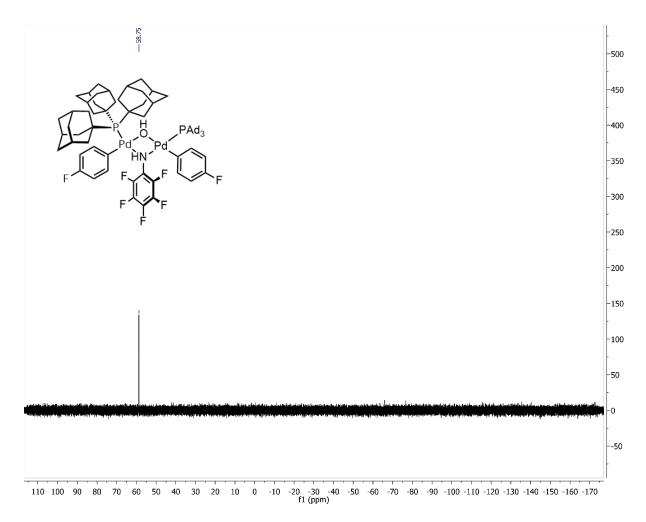


Figure S15. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (202 MHz, THF- d_8) of **34**.

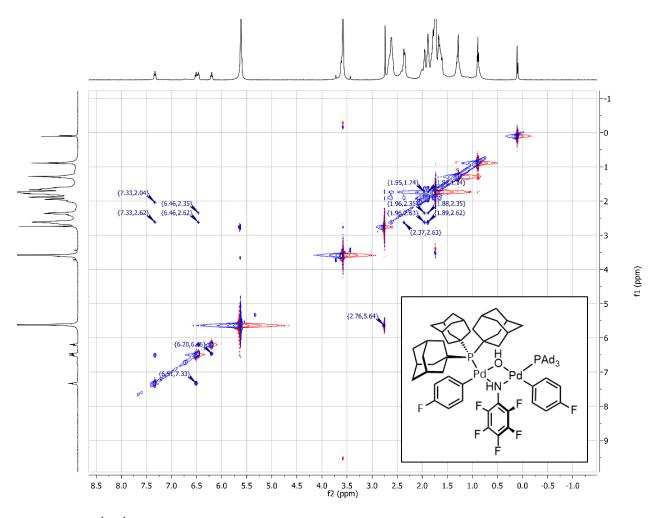


Figure S16. ¹H-¹H NOESY/EXSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF-*d*₈) of **34**.

Stoichiometric C–N bond formation from resting state complex 34. In a glove box, **32** (3.3 mg, 2.5 µmol) and octafluorotoluene (internal standard, 15 µL, 106 µmol) were dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) in a 4 mL vial. The resulting solution was transferred into an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Separately, pentafluoroaniline (10 mg, 55 µmol) was dissolved in THF (1 mL) in a 4 mL vial, and the resulting solution (0.1 mL, 5.5 µmol) was drawn into a 1 mL syringe. A solution of PAd₃ (4.4 mg, 10 µmol) in THF (0.2 mL) was drawn into another 1 mL syringe. The syringe needles were sealed by insertion into a rubber septum to prevent exposure to air. Both the NMR tube and syringes were taken out of the box, and the $C_6F_5NH_2$ solution was then injected into the NMR tube cooled in an acetone/dry ice bath. The NMR tube was shaken gently for 1 min after the addition. ¹⁹F and ³¹P {¹H} NMR spectra acquired at –25 °C, which confirmed full conversion of **32** and formation of **34** (84%). Next, the PAd₃ solution (to stabilize (Ad₃P)Pd⁰) was injected into the NMR tube at -78 °C, and the mixture was warmed up to room temperature. ¹⁹F and ³¹P {¹H} NMR spectra acquired after 1 h, which indicated full conversion of **34** and formation of **4** in 93% yield.

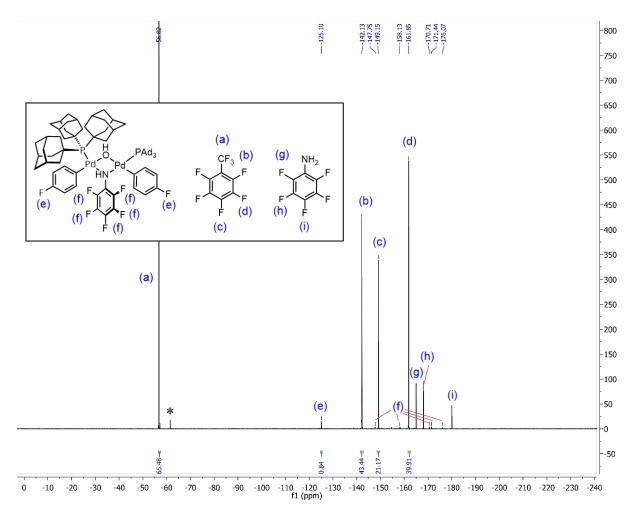


Figure S17. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF) of **34** generated in presence of internal standard (* = unidentified).

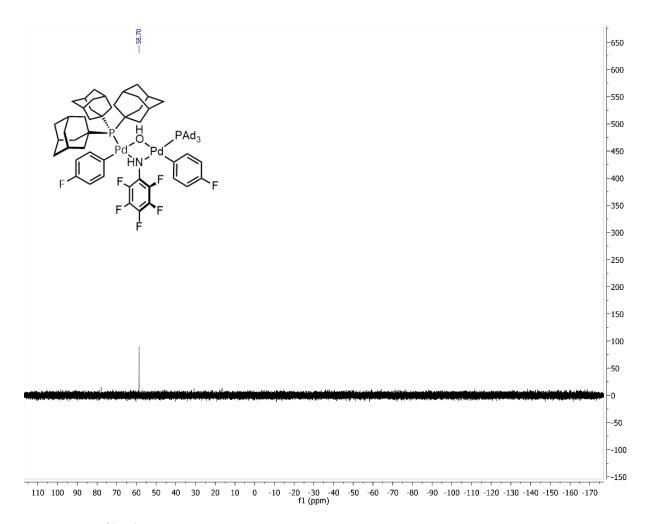


Figure S18. ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum (202 MHz, THF) of **34** generated in presence of internal standard.

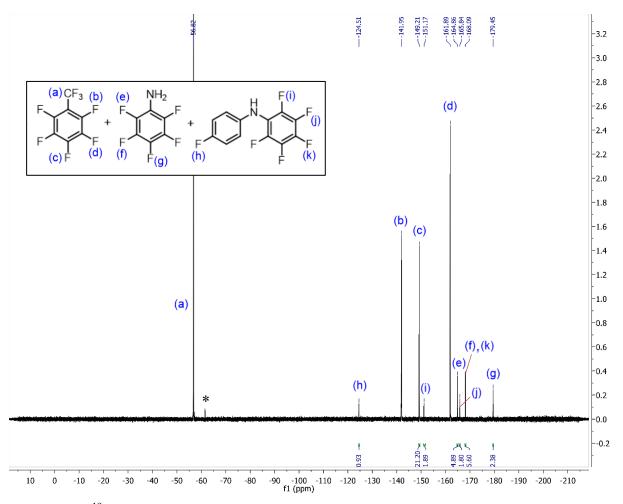


Figure S19. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF) of **4** generated upon warming a solution of **34** (* = unidentified).

Independent synthesis of 34 from 33 in the presence of H_2O . The generation of $[Pd(PAd_3)(4-FC_6H_4)]^+$ BF₄⁻ (33) was adapted from a known procedure.³ Pd(PAd_3)(4-FC₆H₄)Br (9.0 mg, 12.5 μmol) was dissolved in THF (2.5 mL). Separately, AgBF₄ (20 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in THF (2 mL). Both solutions were chilled at -35 °C (MeOH/H₂O dry ice bath). The latter solution (AgBF₄, 2.5 μmol, 50 μL) was then added to the solution of 1 (2.5 μmol, 0.5 mL) in a 4 mL vial at -35 °C. The mixture (0.55 mL) was quickly shaken, left in the cooling bath for 10 min, and transferred into an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Next, degassed deionized water (14 μL, 0.75 mmol, 300 equiv), pentafluoroaniline (0.1 mL from a 15 mM stock solution in THF, 15 μmol, 6 equiv), and triethylamine (5 μL, 38 μmol, 15 equiv) were injected into the NMR tube sequentially at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was shaken gently for 1 min, then a ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum was acquired at -25 °C, which indicated clean formation of 34.

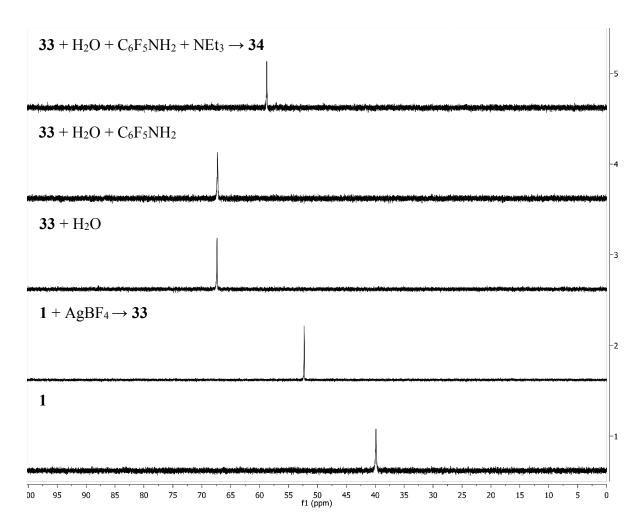


Figure S20. Stacked ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra (202 MHz, THF) for generation of **34** from **1** (via **33**) by sequential addition of (top to bottom) AgBF₄, water, pentafluoroaniline, then Et₃N.

Synthesis and characterization of [Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)(NEt₃)]⁺ BF₄⁻ (35). The generation of [Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)]⁺ BF₄⁻ (33) was adapted from a known procedure.³ Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)Br (5.4 mg, 7.5 μ mol) was dissolved in THF- d_8 (1.5 mL). Separately, AgBF₄ (9.8 mg, 50 μ mol) was dissolved in THF- d_8 (1 mL). Both solutions were chilled at -35 °C (MeOH/H₂O dry ice bath). The latter solution (AgBF₄, 2.5 µmol, 50 µL) was then added to the solution of 1 (2.5 µmol, 0.5 mL) in a 4 mL vial at -35 °C. Octafluorotoluene (internal standard, 0.3 μL, 1.9 μmol) was added to the solution. The mixture (0.55 mL) was quickly shaken, left in the cooling bath for 10 min, and transferred into an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. ¹H, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were acquired at -25 °C to confirm clean formation of 33 prior to proceeding to the next step. Next. triethylamine (5.0 µL, 38 µmol, 15 equiv) was injected and the reaction mixture was shaken gently for 1 min at -35 °C. ¹H, ¹⁹F, and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were acquired at -25 °C, which indicated formation of a new complex (35) in 74% yield along with an unidentified side product (19%). Analysis by EXSY NMR indicated exchange between free and Pd-bound NEt₃ on the NMR time scale; signals corresponding to the 4-fluorophenyl group on 35 and the unidentified side product supports an equilibrium process involving the two compounds. NOE correlations (dashed lines) between the 4-fluorophenyl on Pd and coordinated Et₃N, and also between PAd₃ resonances and coordinated Et₃N, support the structure assignment of **35** shown above.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 7.55 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 6.96 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (6H, obscured by NEt₃ peak), 2.43 (18H, obscured by NEt₃ peak), 2.07 (br, 9H), 1.87 – 1.69 (m, 18H, obscured by THF peak), 1.51 (br, 9H).

¹⁹**F NMR** (470 MHz, THF- d_8) δ 120.5, 153.8

³¹**P**{¹**H**} **NMR** (202 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ 41.5.

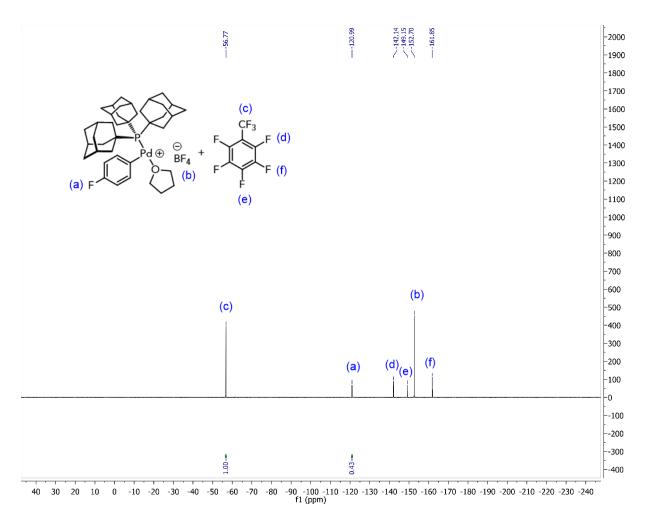


Figure S21. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF- d_8) of **33** generated prior to addition of Et₃N and formation of **35**.

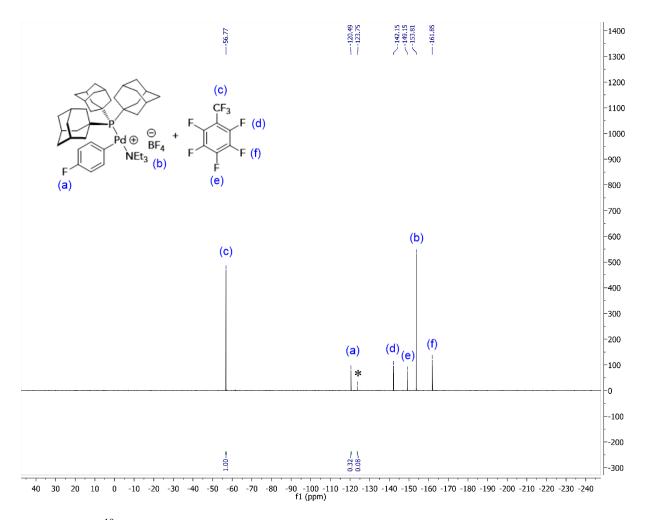


Figure S22. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF- d_8) of **35** (* = unidentified).

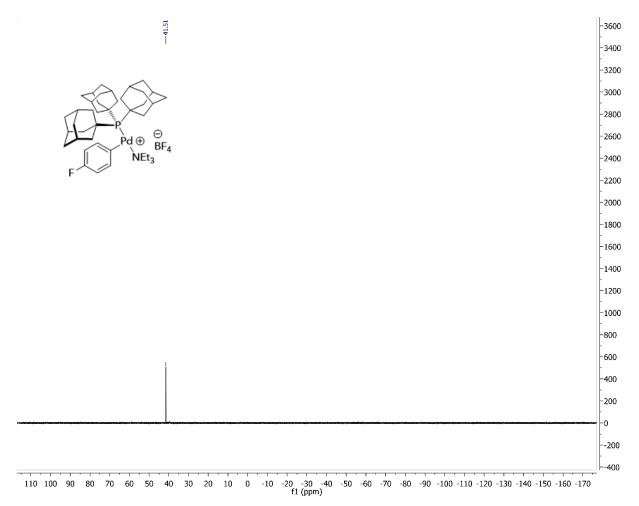


Figure S23. $^{31}P\{^{1}H\}$ NMR spectrum (202 MHz, THF- d_8) of **35**.

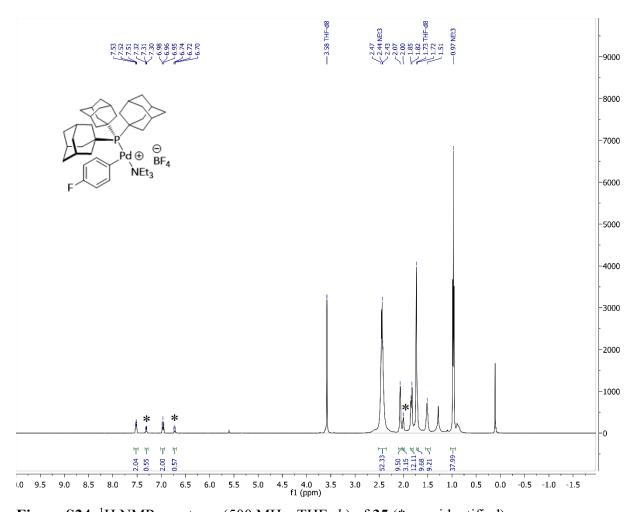


Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF- d_8) of **35** (* = unidentified).

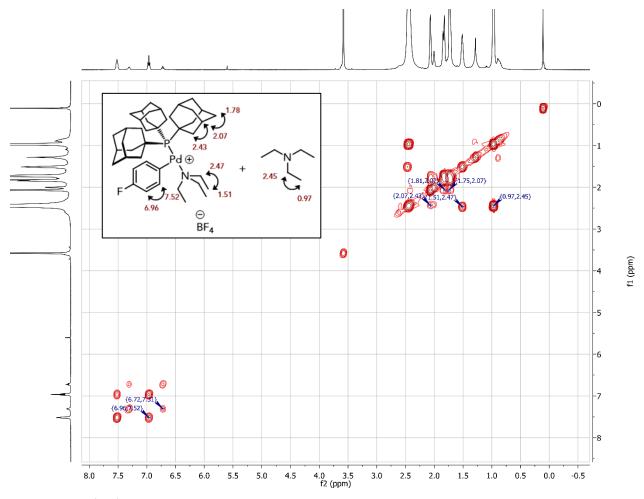


Figure S25. ¹H-¹H COSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF-*d*₈) of **35**.

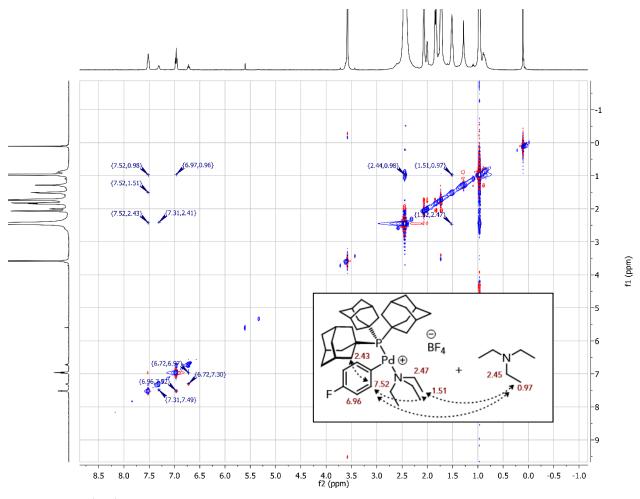


Figure S26. ¹H-¹H NOESY/EXSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, THF-*d*₈) of **35**.

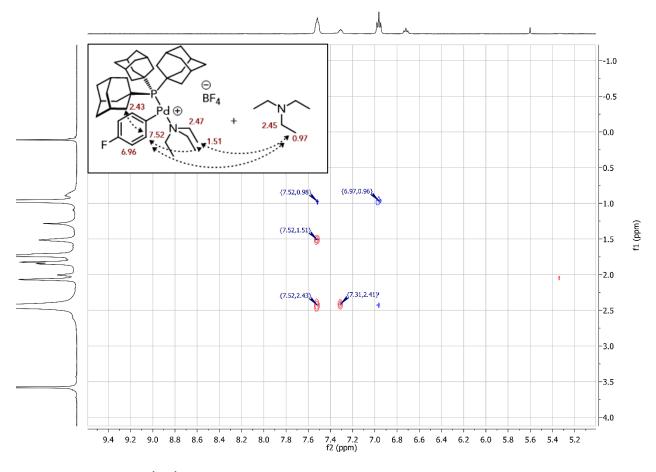


Figure S27. Inset of ${}^{1}\text{H-}{}^{1}\text{H NOESY/EXSY NMR spectrum } (500 \text{ MHz}, \text{THF-} d_8)$ of **35**.

Attempted conversion of 35 into 4 in the absence of water. The generation of [Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)]⁺ BF₄⁻ (33) was adapted from a known procedure.³ Pd(PAd₃)(4-FC₆H₄)Br (5.4 mg, 7.5 μmol) and trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 1 μL, 8.2 μmol) were dissolved in THF- d_8 (1.5 mL). Separately, AgBF₄ (10 mg, 50 μmol) was dissolved in THF- d_8 (1 mL). Both solutions were chilled at -35 °C (MeOH/H₂O dry ice bath). The latter solution (AgBF₄, 2.5 μmol, 50 μL) was then added to the solution of 1 (2.5 μmol, 0.5 mL) in a 4 mL vial at -35 °C. The mixture (0.55 mL) was quickly shaken, left in the cooling bath for 10 min, and transferred into an NMR tube capped with a rubber septum. Next, pentafluoroaniline (0.1 mL from a 15 mM stock solution in THF, 15 μmol, 6 equiv), and triethylamine (5 μL, 37.5 μmol, 15 equiv) were injected into the NMR tube sequentially at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was shaken gently for 1 min then a ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum was acquired at -25 °C confirming formation of 35 (77%). Finally, a solution of PAd₃ (2.2 mg, 5.0 μmol, 2 equiv) in THF (0.1 mL) was injected into the NMR tube and the mixture was warmed to room temperature. After 1 h, ¹⁹F and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were acquired that showed formation of only a trace of 4 (4%).

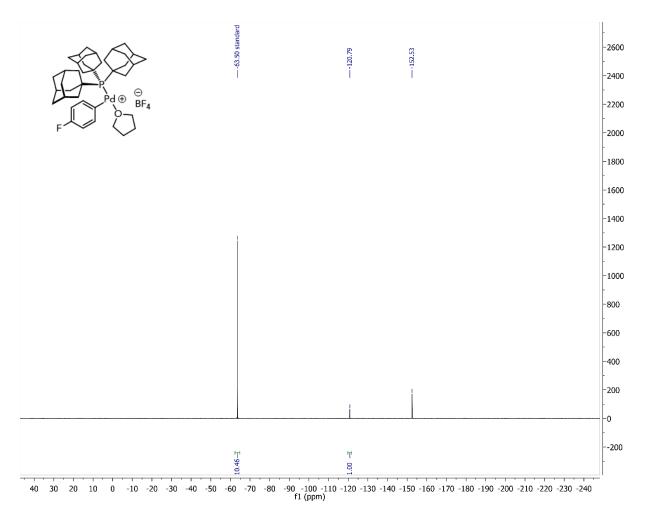


Figure S28. 19 F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF) of **33** prior to addition of Et₃N and formation of **35**.

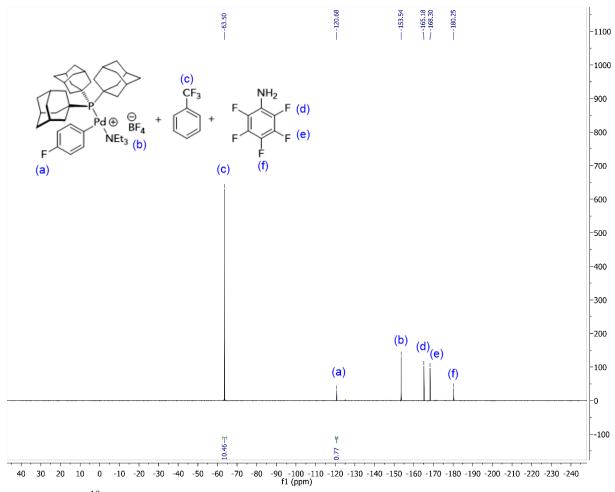


Figure S29. ¹⁹F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF) of **35** in the presence of pentafluoroaniline, indicating the preference for coordination of Et₃N to Pd.

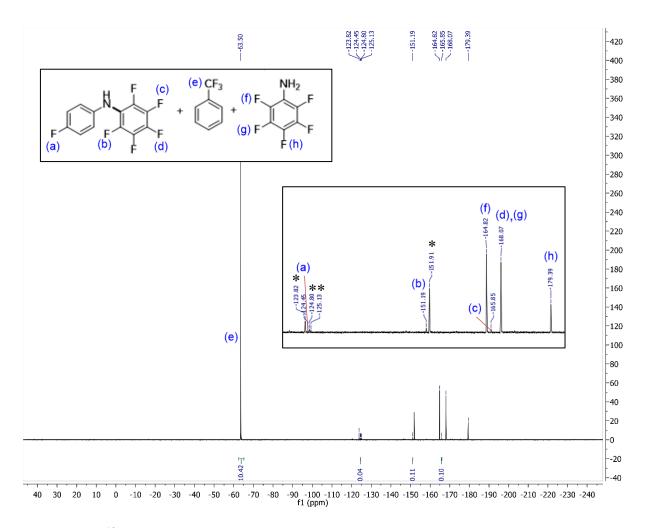


Figure S30. 19 F NMR spectrum (470 MHz, THF) of **35** after warming to RT for 1 h (* = unidentified).

Kinetic studies:

General procedure for determination of the rate dependence on [4-FC₆F₄Br]. The method of variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) was used to interpret kinetic data. To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (0.125 or 0.25 mmol), aniline (34 μ L, 0.38 mmol), triethylamine (70 μ L, 0.5 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μ L, 83 μ mol), 1 (1.8 mg, 2.5 μ mol) and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C for 160 minutes. Aliquots (20 μ L) were taken at 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, and 160 min and were quenched by dilution in CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Both [3] vs. Σ ([4-F-C₆F₄Br]^{0*} Δ t) and [3] vs. Σ ([4-F-C₆F₄Br]^{1*} Δ t) were plotted where time (t) is in units of min, and the best overlay of data points was found for the zeroth-order plot with respect to the dependence of the rate on [4-F-C₆F₄Br]ⁿ. Note that for the reaction using 0.25 mmol 4-F-C₆F₄Br, data were not plotted beyond 20 min because yield of 3 at this time was 94%.

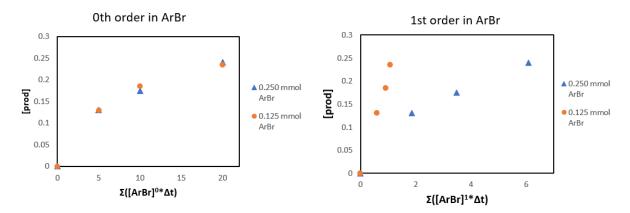


Figure S31. Variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) of reactions conducted at varying [4-F-C₆F₄Br].

General procedure for determination of the rate dependence on [PhNH₂]. The method of variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) was used to interpret kinetic data.⁶ To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μ L, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), aniline (0.38 mmol or 0.75 mmol), triethylamine (70 μ L, 0.5 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μ L, 83 μ mol), 1 (1.8 mg, 2.5 μ mol) and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C for 160 minutes. Aliquots (20 μ L) were taken at 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, and 160 minutes and were quenched by dilution into CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Both [3] vs. Σ ([PhNH₂]^{1*} Δ t) were plotted where time (t) is in units of min, and the better overlay of data points was found for the zeroth-order plot with respect to the dependence of the rate on [PhNH₂]ⁿ.

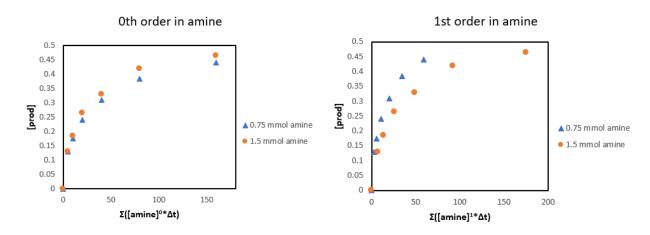


Figure S32. Variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) of reactions conducted at varying [PhNH₂].

General procedure for determination of the rate dependence on [Et₃N]. The method of variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) was used to interpret kinetic data.⁶ To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μ L, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), aniline (34 μ L, 0.38 mmol), triethylamine (0.5 mmol or 1.0 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μ L, 83 μ mol), 1 (1.8 mg, 2.5 μ mol) and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C for 160 minutes. Aliquots (20 μ L) were taken at 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, and 160 minutes and were quenched by dilution into CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Both [3] vs. Σ ([NEt₃]⁰* Δ t) and [3] vs. Σ ([NEt₃]¹* Δ t) were plotted where time (t) is in units of min, and the better overlay of data points was found for the zeroth-order plot with respect to the dependence of the rate on [Et₃N]ⁿ.

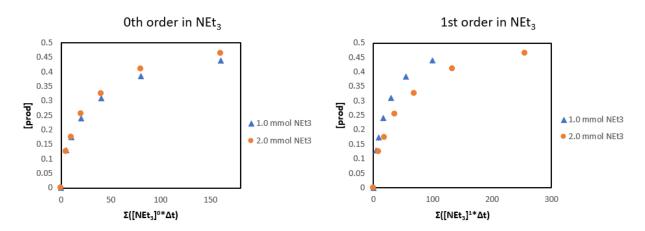


Figure S33. Variable time normalization analysis (VTNA) of reactions conducted at varying [Et₃N].

General procedure for determination of the rate dependence on [1]. The method of initial rates was used. To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μL, 0.25 mmol), aniline (34 μL, 0.375 mmol), triethylamine (70 μL, 0.5 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μL, 83 μmol), 1 (2.5 μmol or 5.0 μmol) and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C. Aliquots (20 μL) were taken at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 minutes and were quenched by dilution into CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields at each time were determined by 19 F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Data were fit by linear regression analysis of plots of [3] vs. time at conversions of ≤30% yield. The dependence of the initial rate on [1] was calculated according to the following equations:

$$\left(\frac{[Pd]_2}{[Pd]_1}\right)^x = \left(\frac{slope\ 2}{slope\ 1}\right)$$
$$(2)^x = \left(\frac{0.028}{0.015}\right)$$
$$x = 0.90$$

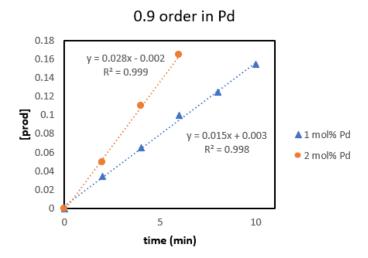


Figure S34. Initial rates during reactions conducted with either 2.5 μmol or 5.0 μmol of catalyst **1**.

Linear free-energy relationship (LFER) studies with respect to para-substituted anilines.

Five parallel reactions were performed using a *para*-substituted aniline (*p*-R-C₆H₄NH₂; R = MeO, Me, H, CF₃, or NO₂). To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μ L, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), aniline (0.38 mmol), triethylamine (70 μ L, 0.5 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μ L, 83 μ mol), 1 (1.8 mg, 2.5 μ mol, 1 mol%), and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N₂ atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C. Aliquots (20 μ L) were taken at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 minutes and were quenched by dilution into CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields at each time were determined by ¹⁹F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Data were fit by linear regression analysis of plots of [product] vs. time at conversions of \leq 30% yield. ^{5,7-10} A Hammett analysis was performed using the initial rates and corresponding substituent constants (σ _P). ¹¹ A ρ value of +0.3 was determined from the slope of this plot.

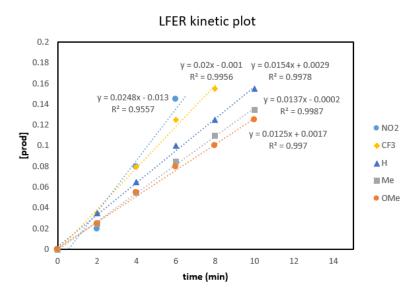


Figure S35. Determination of the initial rate of reactions between 4-FC₆H₄Br and a *para*-subsituted aniline under the conditions noted above.

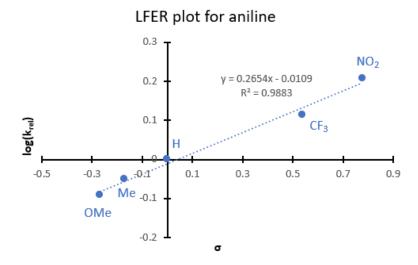


Figure S36. Hammett plot determined from initial rates of reactions between 4-FC₆H₄Br and a *para*-substituted aniline under the conditions noted above.

C₆H₅ND₂. To a 20 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with aniline (0.5 mL, 5.5 mmol), D₂O (5.0 mL, 0.28 mol, 51 equiv), and DCM (2 mL). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 min. The organic layer was extracted with DCM and washed with D₂O (3 mL x 2), dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. ¹H NMR taken in CDCl₃ indicated the absence of NH₂ resonances.

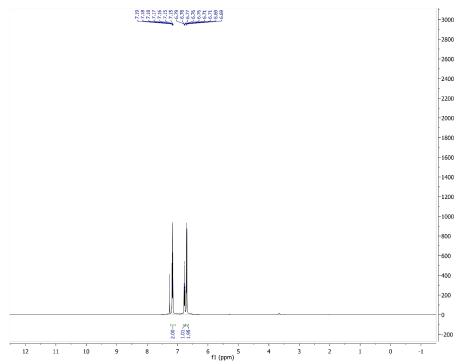


Figure S37. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of C₆H₅ND₂.

Kinetic isotope effect (KIE) experiments. To an oven-dried 4 mL scintillation vial equipped with a stir bar was charged with 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (27 μL, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $C_6H_5NH_2$ (0.38 mmol), triethylamine (70 μL, 0.5 mmol), trifluorotoluene (internal standard, 10 μL, 83 μmol), 1 (1.8 mg, 2.5 μmol, 1 mol%), and toluene (0.5 mL). The vial was capped with a puncturable PTFE-lined cap and was taken out of the glovebox. Under N_2 atmosphere, degassed deionized water (3 mL) was injected into the vial and the reaction mixture was left stirring vigorously at 80 °C. Aliquots (20 μL) were taken at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 minutes and were quenched by dilution into CDCl₃ (0.6 mL) at RT in an NMR tube. The yields at each time were determined by ^{19}F NMR using a quantitative, single-scan experiment (acquisition time of 1.46 s and recycle delay time (d1) of 10 s). Data were fit by linear regression analysis of plots of [3] vs. time at conversions of ≤30% yield. The experiment and data analysis were repeated with substitution of $C_6H_5ND_2$ for $C_6H_5NH_2$ and D_2O for H_2O . The KIE was calculated according to the equation:

$$KIE = \frac{k_H}{k_D} = \frac{0.154}{0.127} = 1.2$$

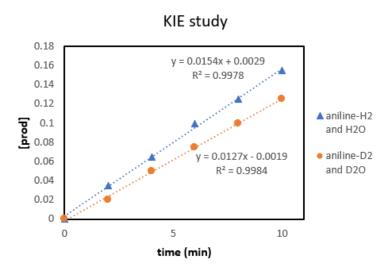


Figure S38. Plot of product (3) formation versus time during reacitons with aniline isotopologues.

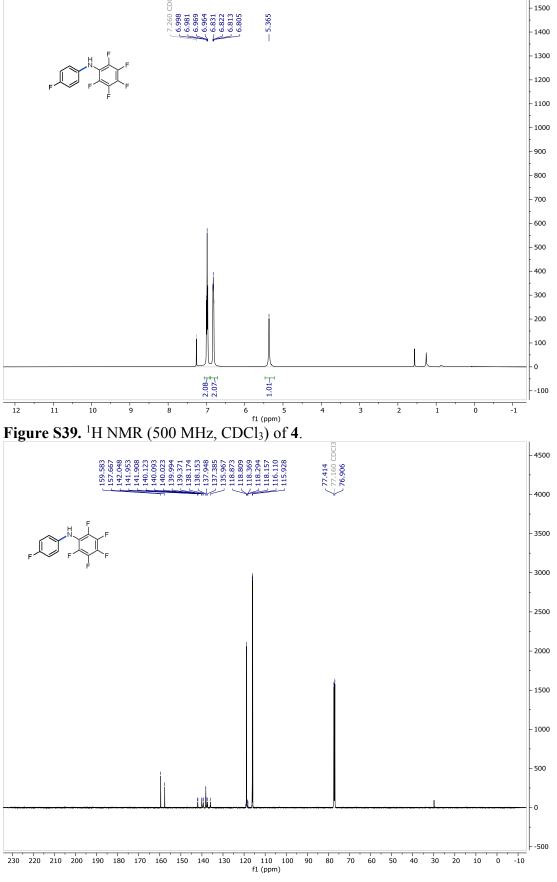
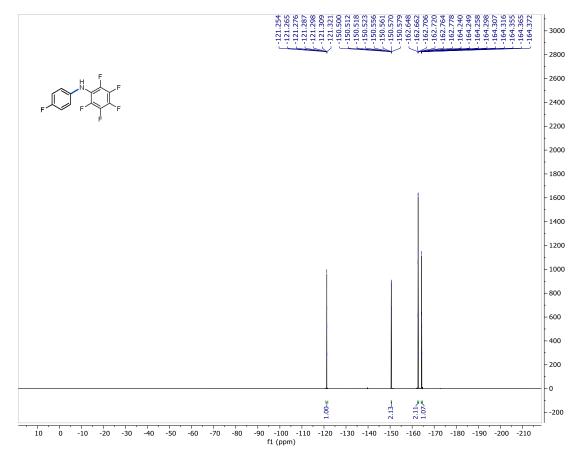
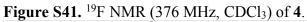


Figure S40. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **4**.





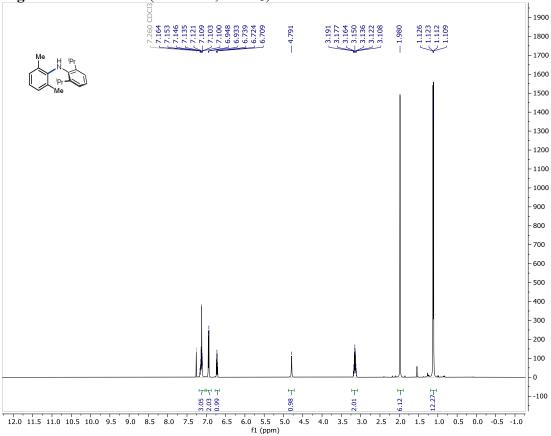
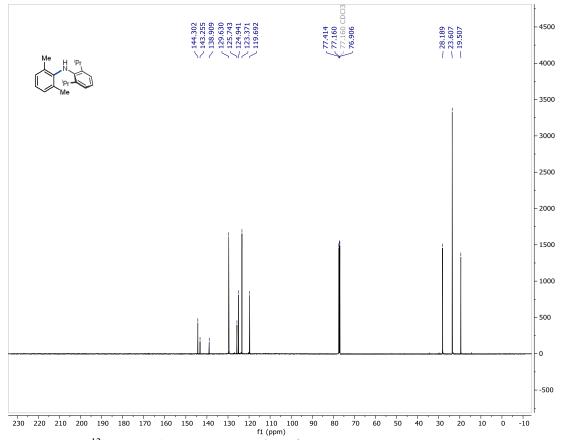
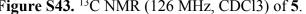


Figure S42. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of **5**.





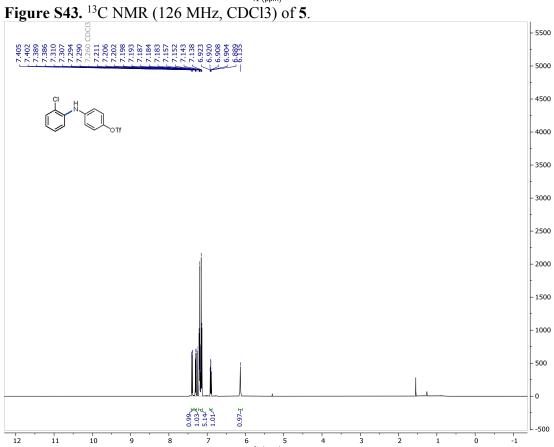
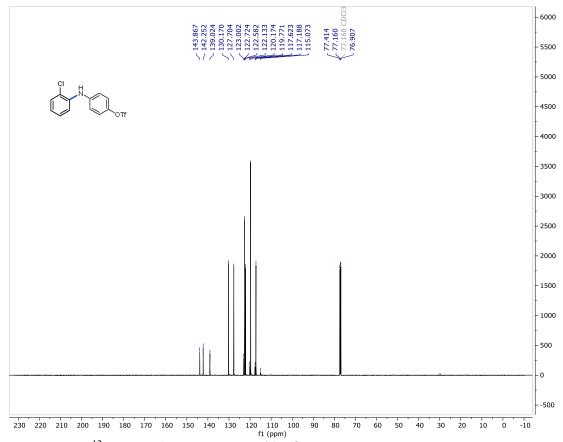
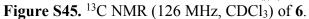


Figure S44. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 6.





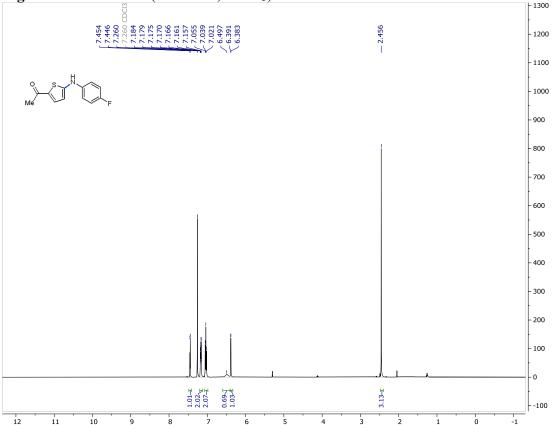


Figure S46. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of **7**.

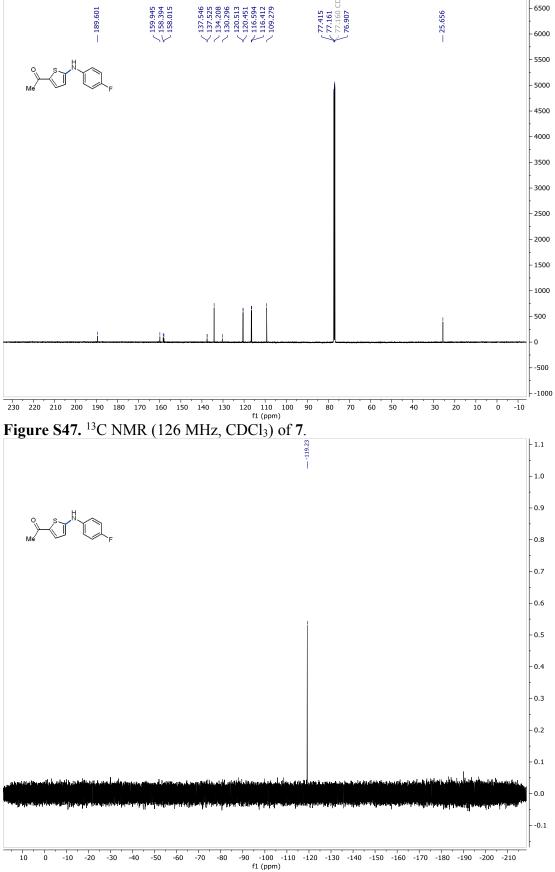


Figure S48. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of **7**.

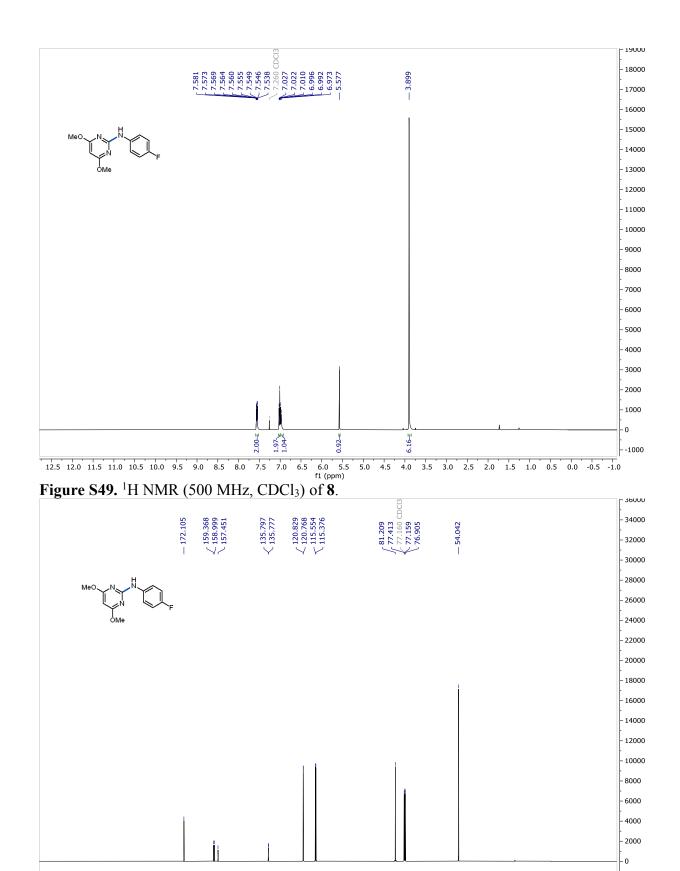
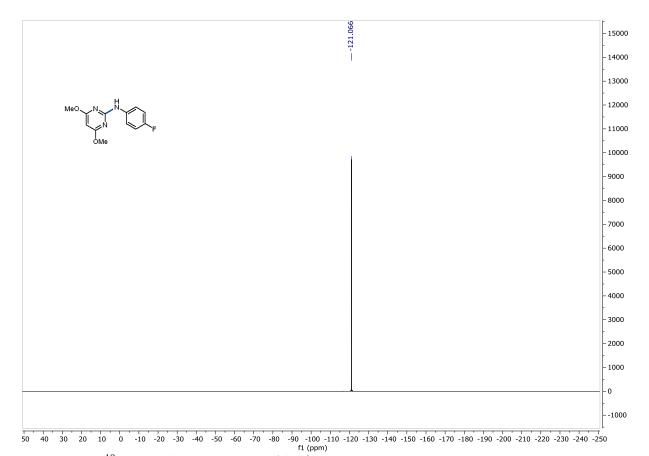


Figure S50. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 8.

--2000 --4000





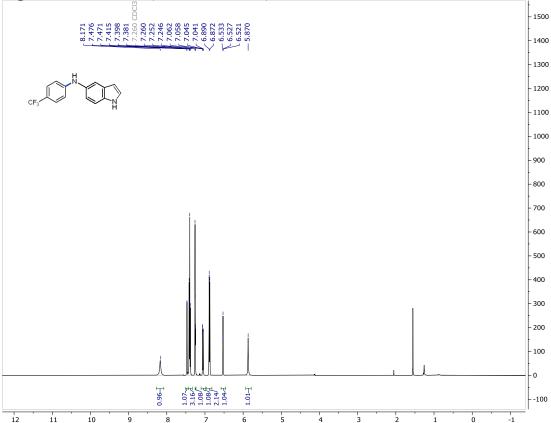


Figure S52. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of **9**.

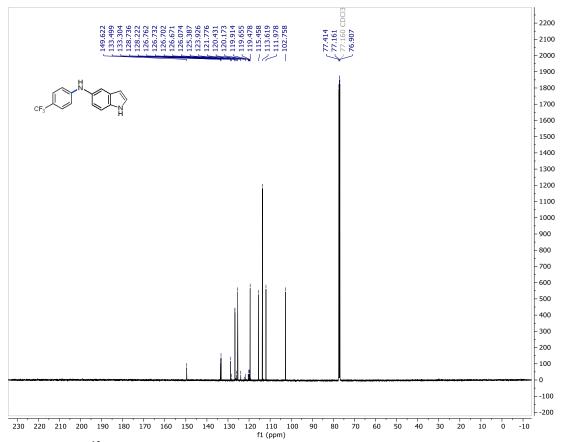
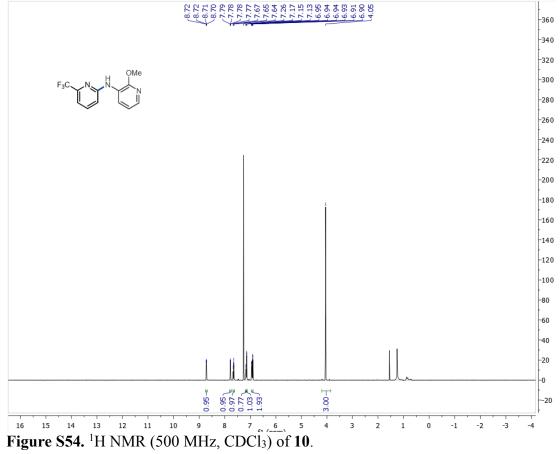
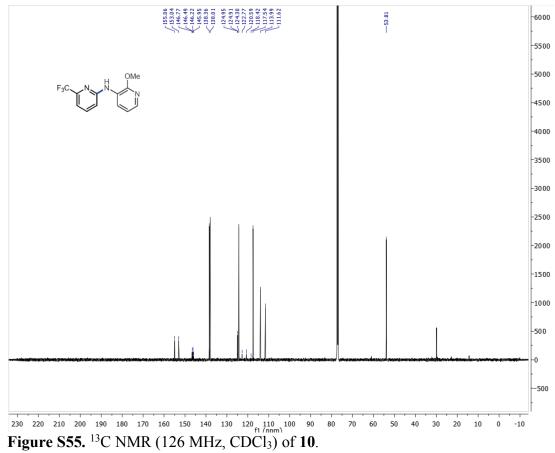
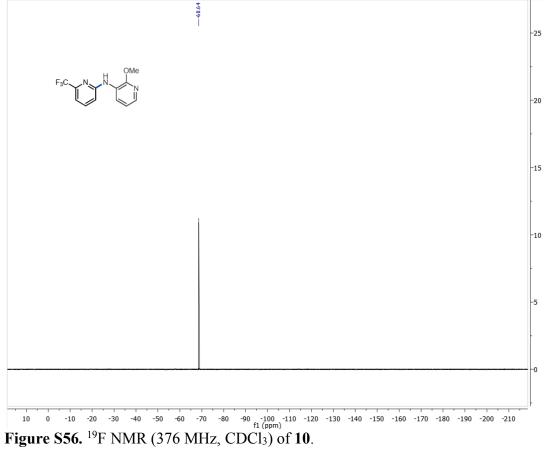


Figure S53. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **9**.







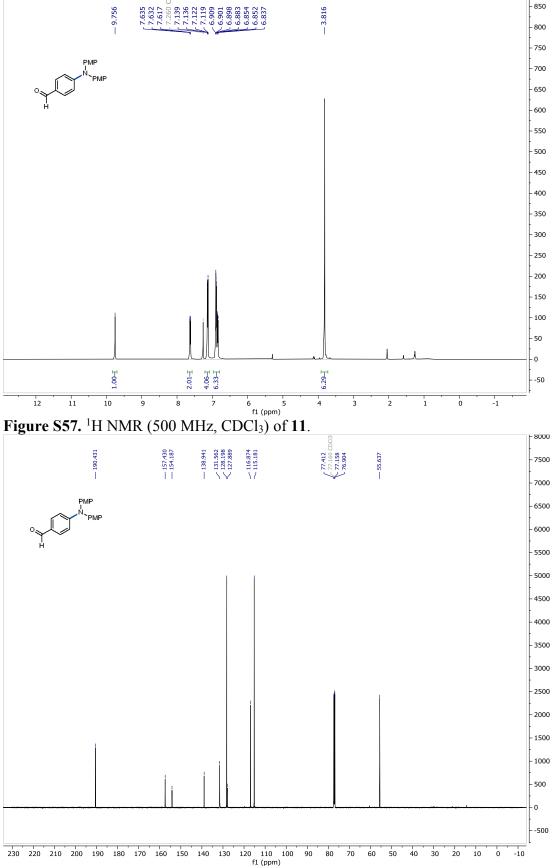


Figure S58. 13 C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 11.

900

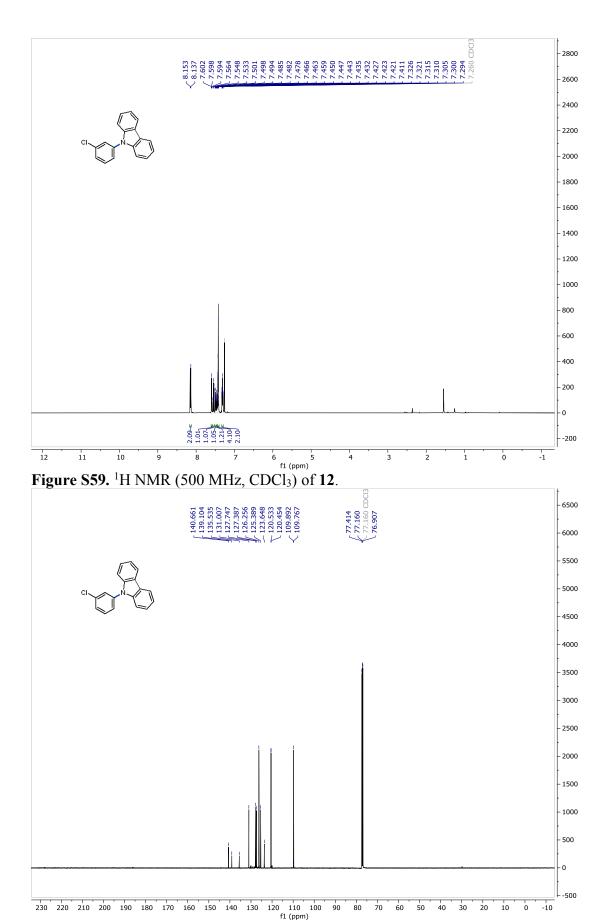


Figure S60. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 12.

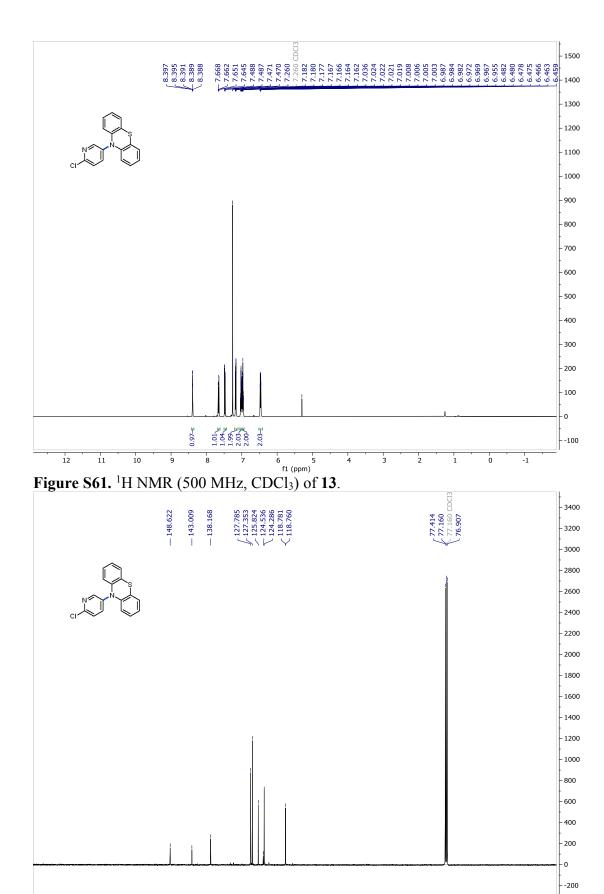
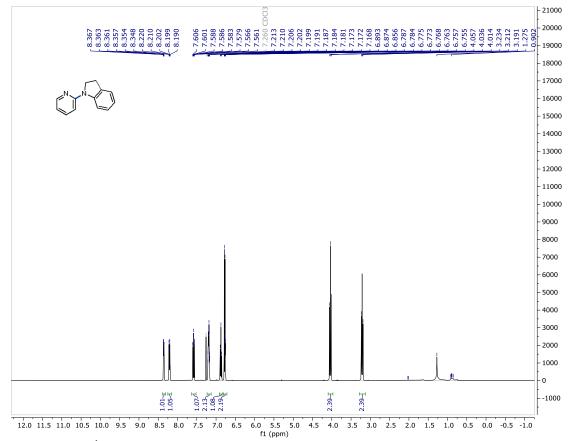
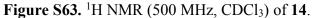


Figure S62. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **13**.





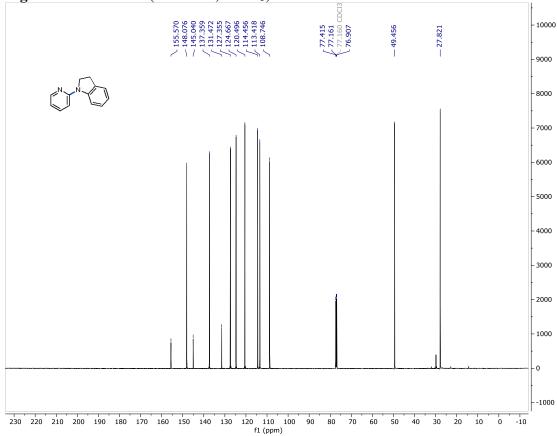


Figure S64. 13 C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 14.

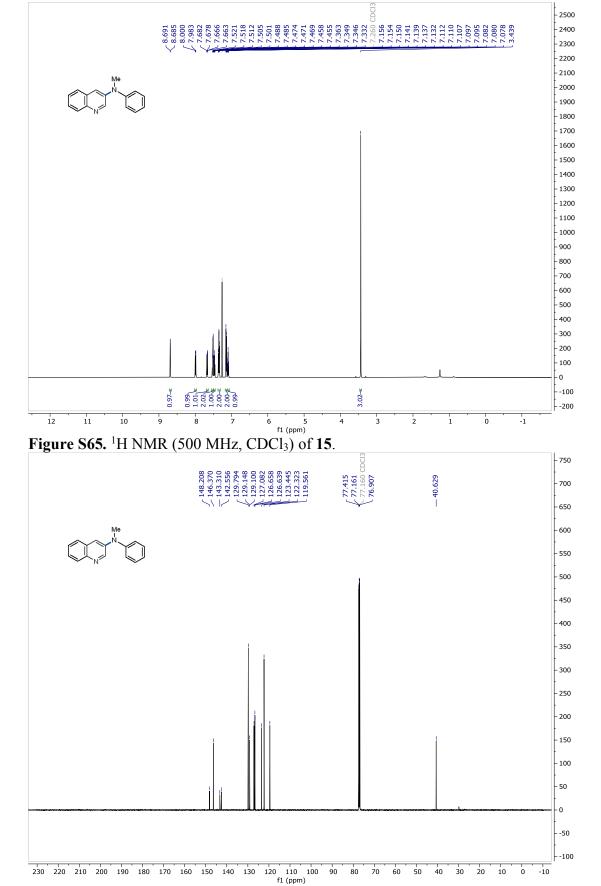


Figure S66. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 15.

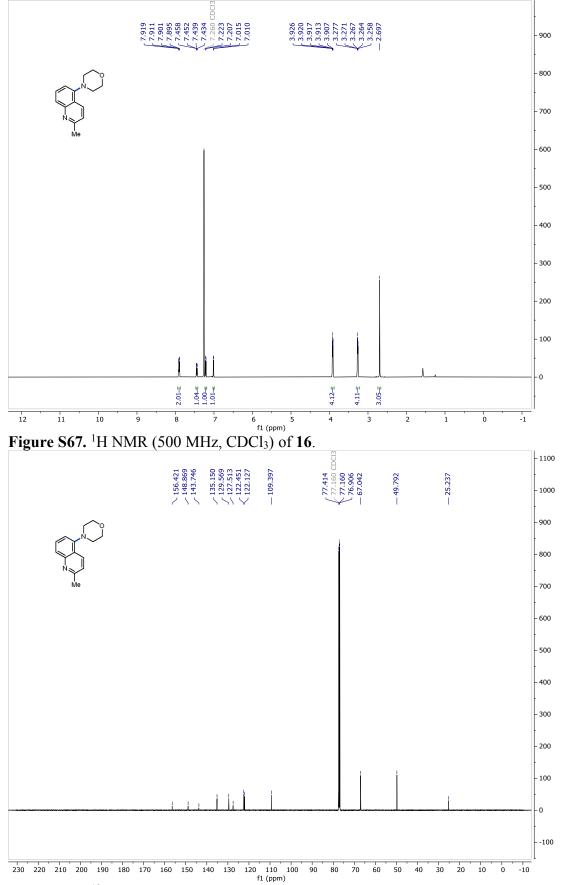


Figure S68. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **16**.

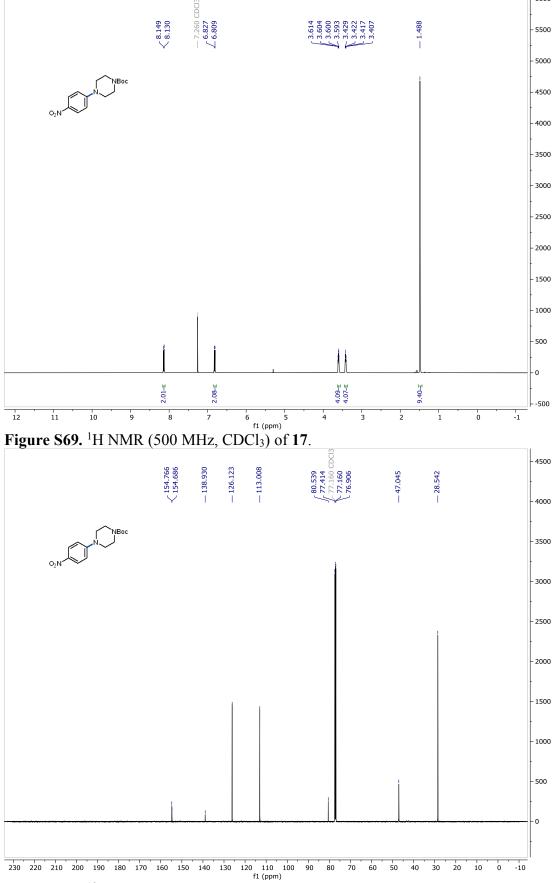


Figure S70. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **17**.

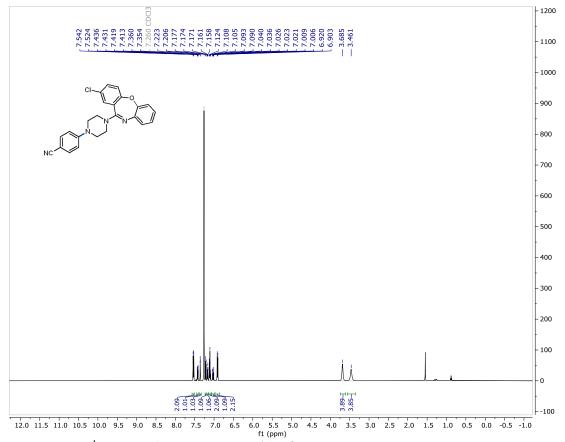


Figure S71. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of **18**.

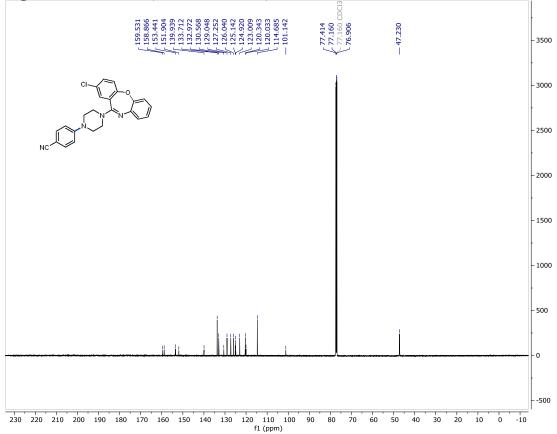


Figure S72. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 18.

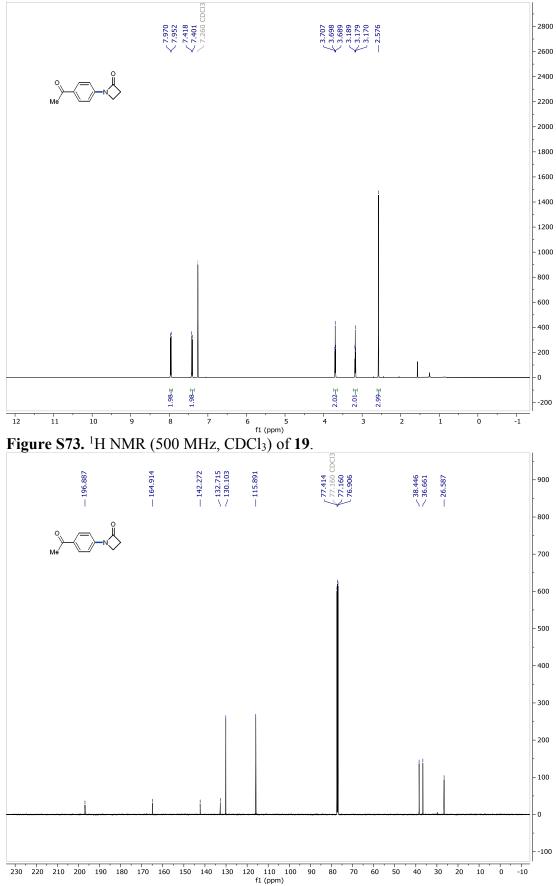


Figure S74. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 19.

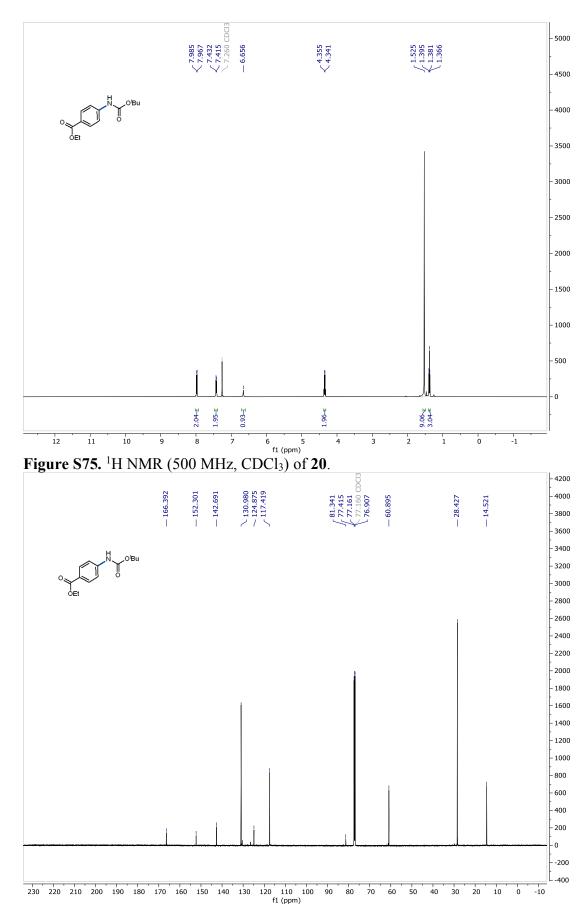


Figure S76. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **20**.

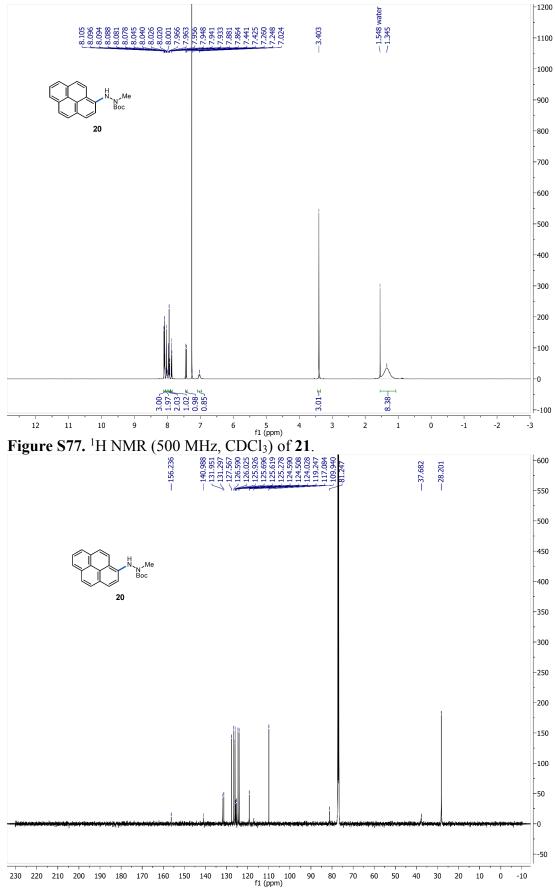


Figure S78. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 21.

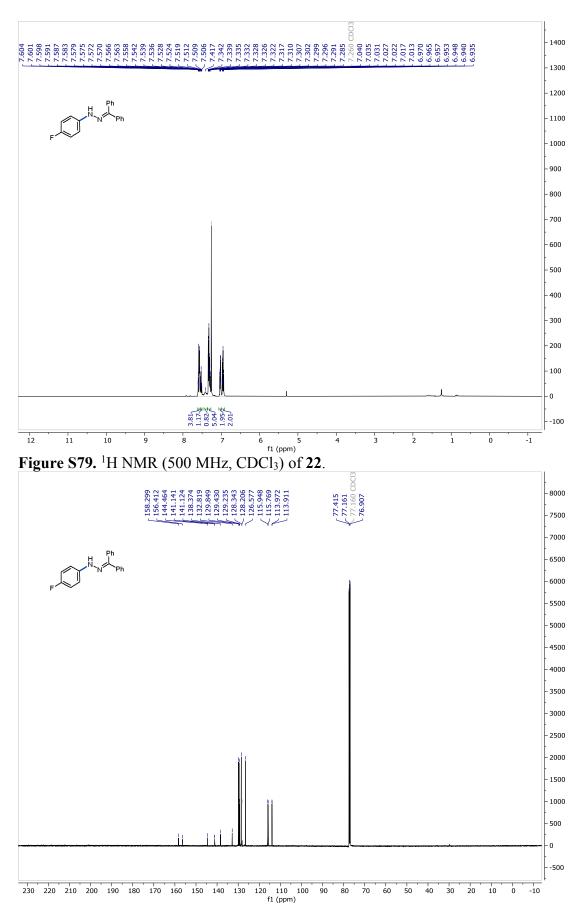


Figure S80. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 22.

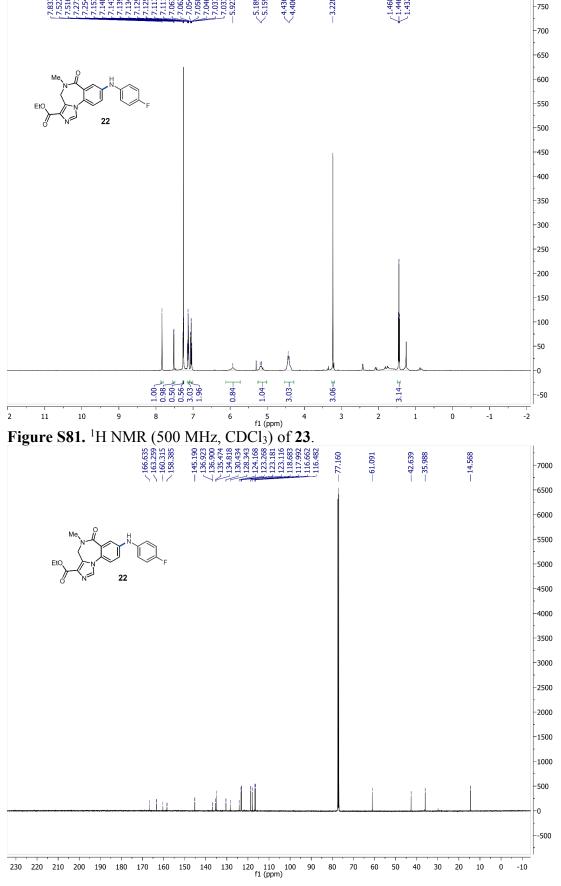


Figure S82. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 23.

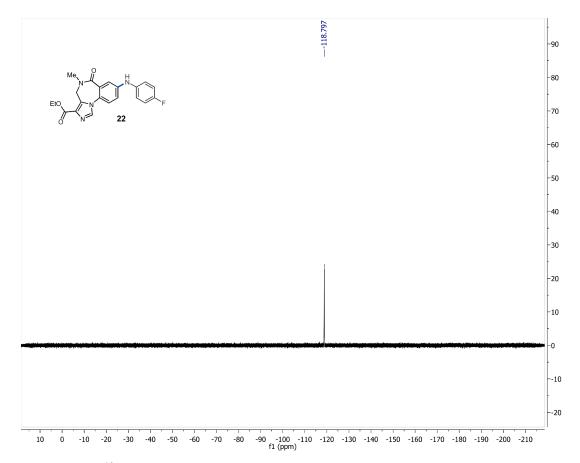
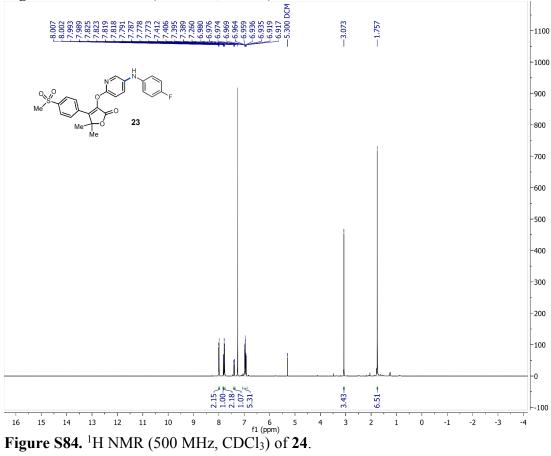


Figure S83. 19 F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of 23.



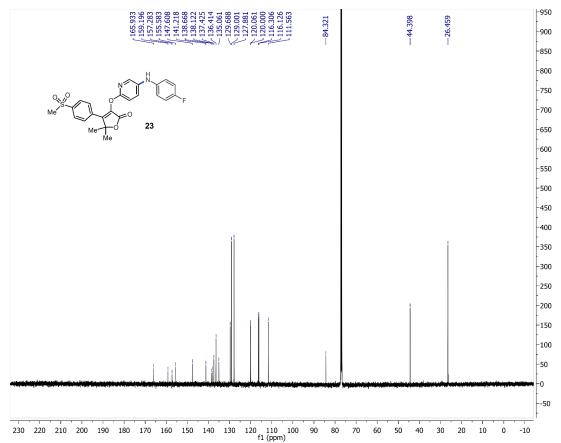


Figure S85. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 24.

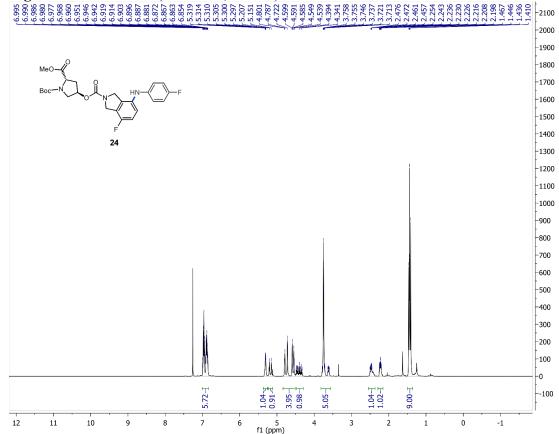


Figure S86. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 25.

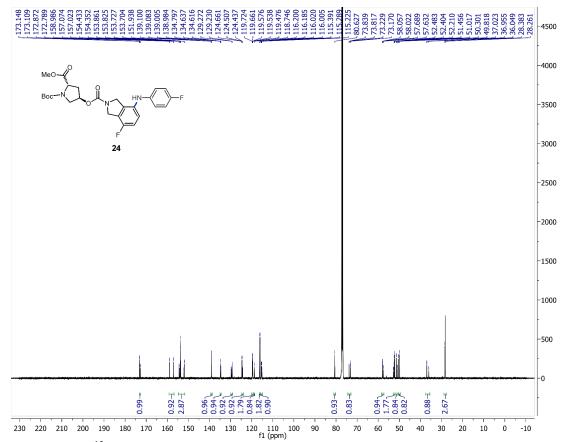


Figure S87. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 25.

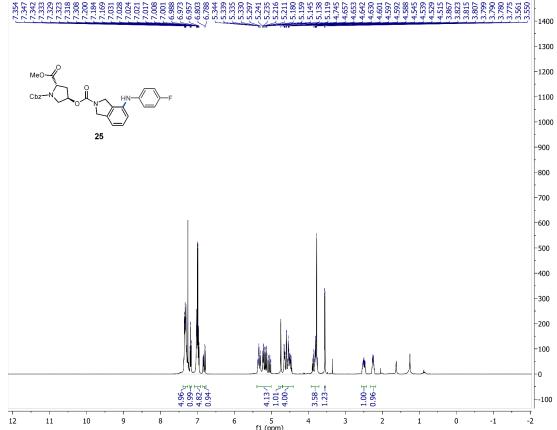


Figure S88. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 26.

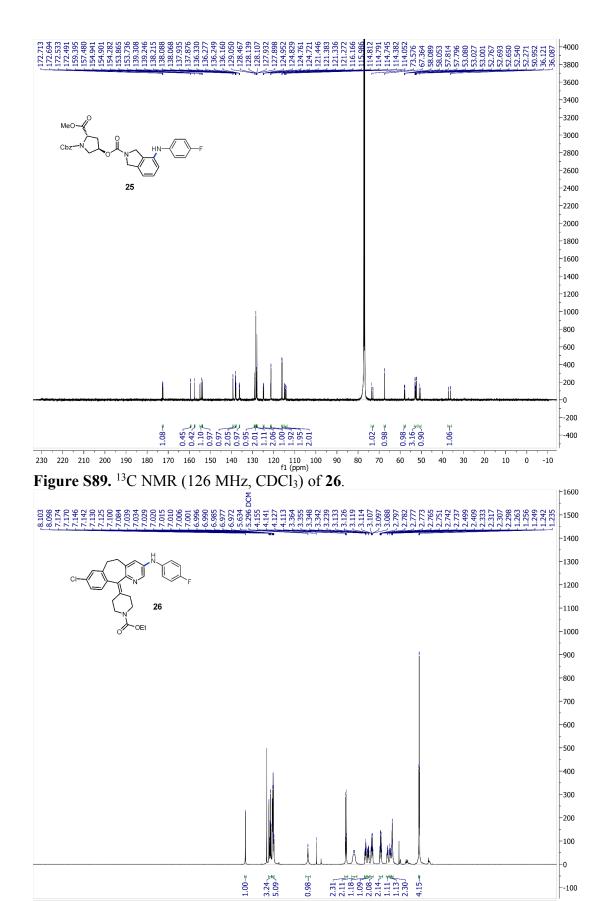
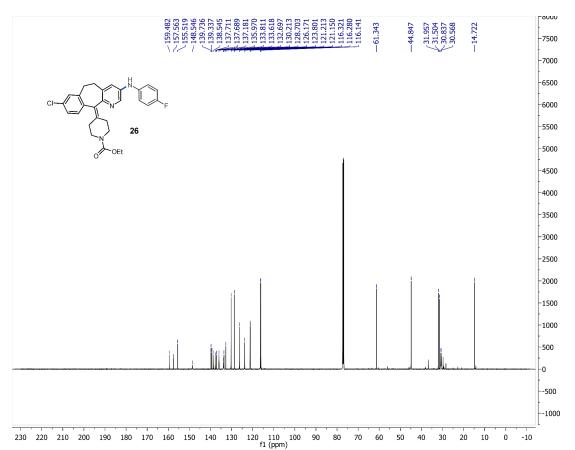
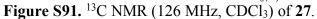


Figure S90. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 27.

11 10

12





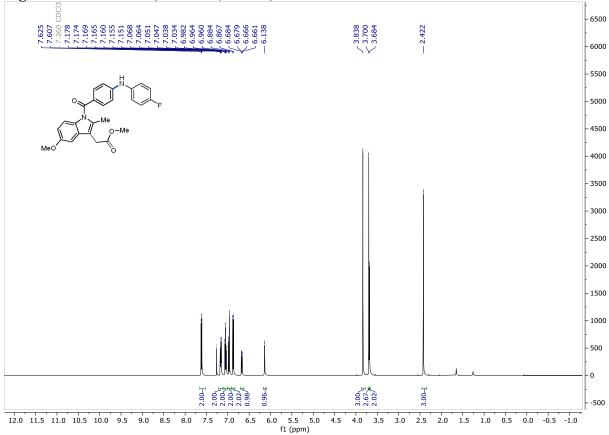


Figure S92. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 28.

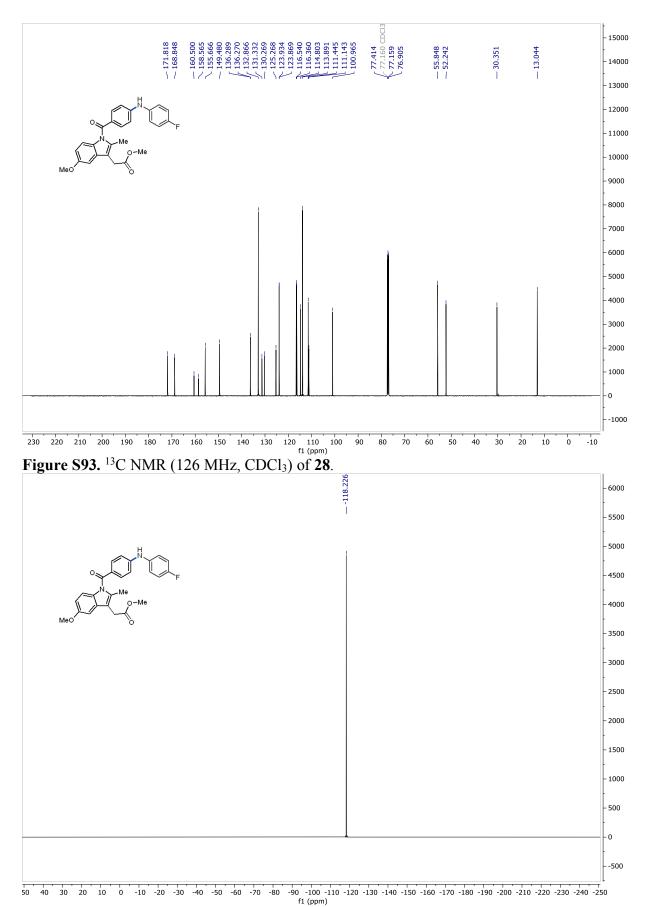
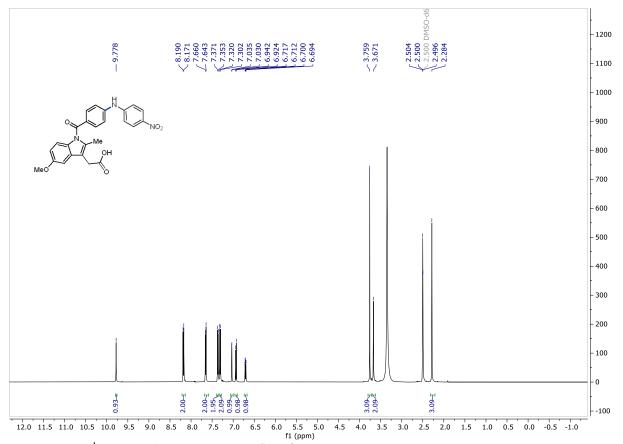
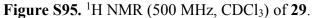


Figure S94. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) of 28.





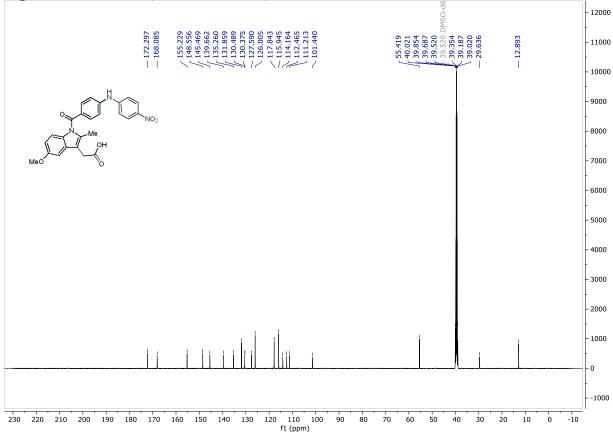


Figure S96. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of 29.

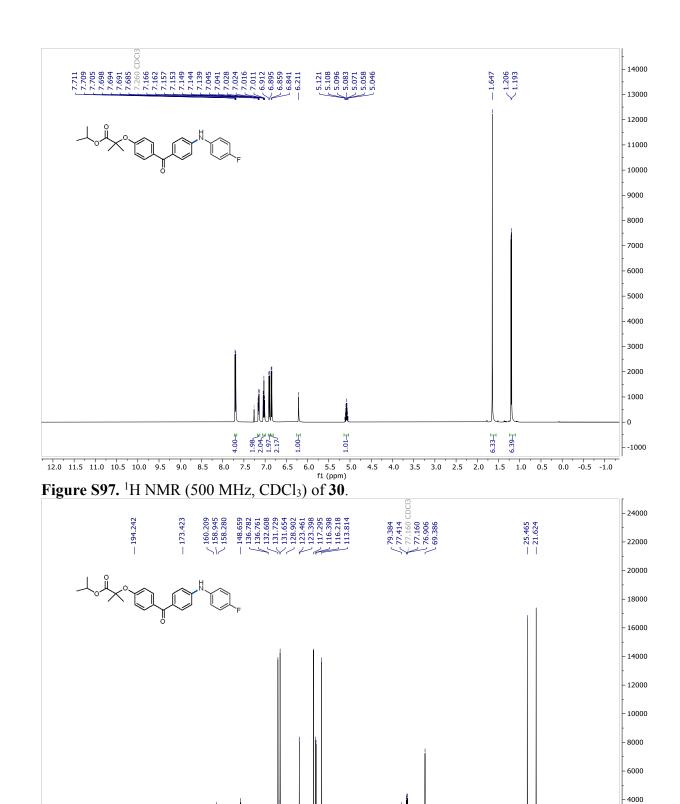


Figure S98. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) of **30**.

2000

-2000

- 0

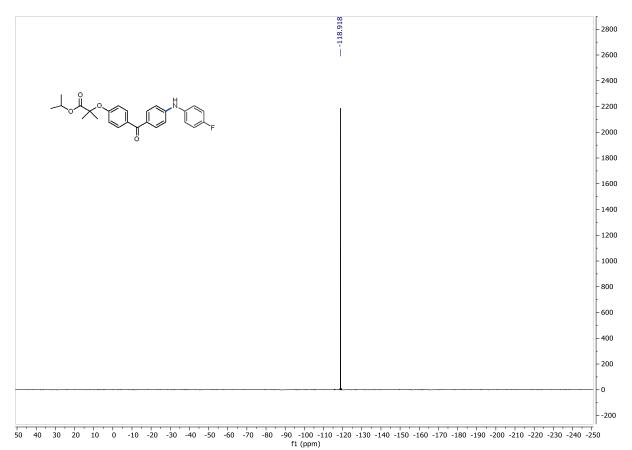


Figure S99. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) of 30.

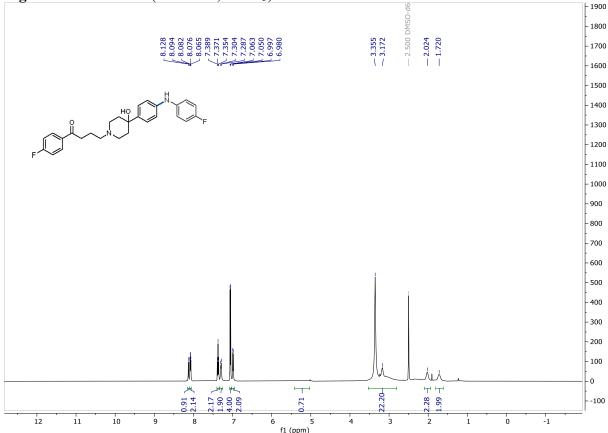


Figure S100. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of 31.

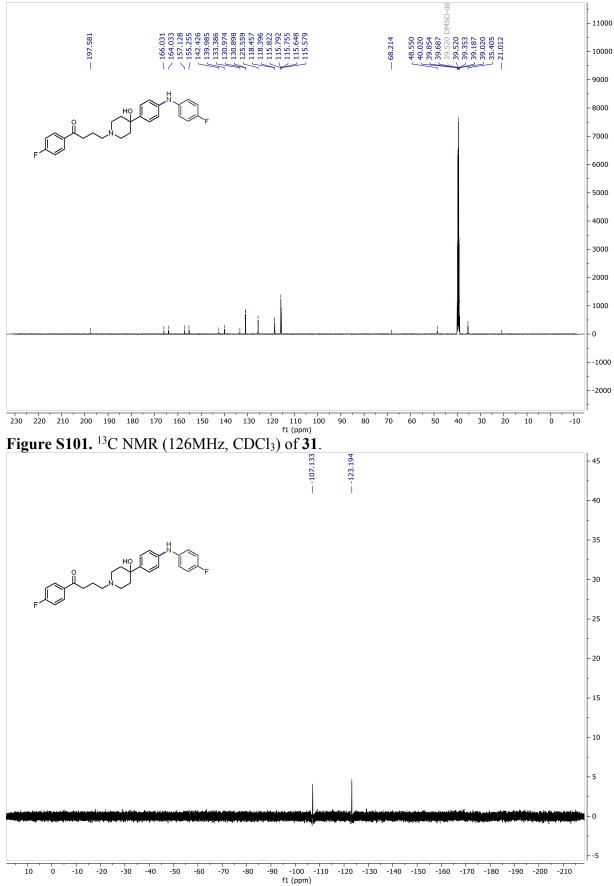


Figure \$102. 19F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) of 31.

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