

**Cu-catalyzed mild C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H functionalization assisted by carboxylic acids en route to hydroxylated arenes**

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**General considerations.** Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere in resealable screw-cap test tubes using standard Schlenk techniques for the manipulation of solvents and reagents. Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was purchased from Aldrich, [PhCO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (wet, 25% H<sub>2</sub>O) from Alfa Aesar and HFIP from Fluorochem. All chemicals were used as received. All other reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used also as received. All benzoic acids were prepared via oxidation of the benzaldehydes,<sup>1</sup> hydrolysis of the corresponding ester derivative<sup>2</sup> and Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reactions<sup>3</sup> and purified by regular column chromatography.

**Analytical methods.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and melting points (where applicable) are included for all compounds. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz and a Bruker 500 MHz at 20 °C. All <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield of TMS and were measured relative to the signals for CHCl<sub>3</sub> (7.27 ppm). All <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were reported in ppm relative to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> (77 ppm) and were obtained with <sup>1</sup>H decoupling. Coupling constants, J, are reported in hertz. Melting points were measured using open glass capillaries in a Buchi B540 apparatus. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27. Mass spectra were recorded on a Waters LCT Premier spectrometer. Gas chromatographic analyses were performed on Hewlett-Packard 6890 gas chromatography instrument with a FID detector using 25m x 0.20 mm capillary column with cross-linked methyl siloxane as the stationary phase. High Pressure Liquid Chromatographic (HPLC) analyses were performed on Agilent Technologies Model 1260 Infinity HPLC chromatography instrument equipped with Agilent Eclipse Plus C18 (3.5 μm, 4.6 x 100 mm) column and UV/Vis detector. Flash chromatography was performed with EM Science silica gel 60 (230-400 mesh). The yields reported in Tables 2, Table 3 and Table 4 refer to isolated yields and represent an average of at least two independent runs. The procedures described in this section are representative. Thus, the

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<sup>1</sup> Fleckenstein, C. A.; Plenio, H. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 2701

<sup>2</sup> Wang, C.; Rakshit, S.; Glorius, F. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 14006

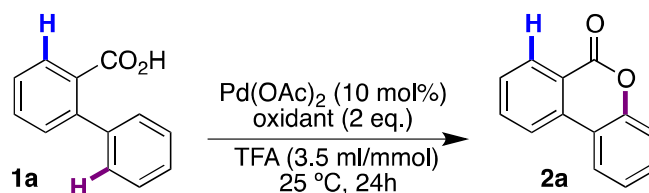
<sup>3</sup> Barder, T. E.; Walker, S. D.; Martinelli, J. R.; Buchwald, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 4685.

yields may differ slightly from those given in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

### **Optimization Details**

**Using Pd as catalyst:**

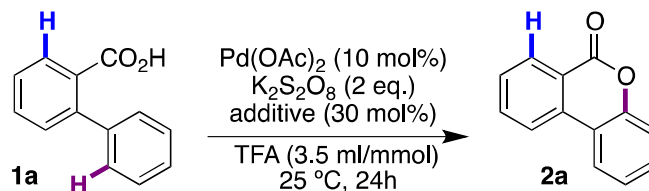
(1) Oxidant effect<sup>a</sup>



| Entry | Oxidant                          | GC yield |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1     | Oxone                            | 47       |
| 2     | $\text{MnO}_2$                   | 0        |
| 3     | $\text{O}_2$                     | 0        |
| 4     | Selectfluor                      | 43       |
| 5     | $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ | 60       |
| 6     | NFSI                             | 16       |

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%), oxidant (2 equiv.), TFA (3.5 mL/mmol) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield using dodecane as an internal standard.

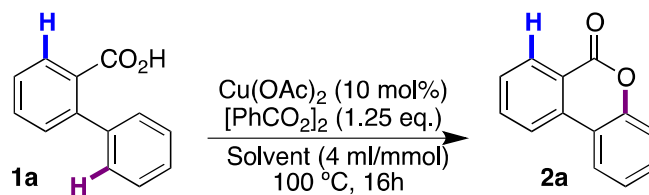
(2) Additive effect<sup>a</sup>



| Entry | Additive                                                          | Gc yield  |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1     | PivOH                                                             | 58        |
| 2     | $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$                       | 43        |
| 3     | $\text{MesCO}_2\text{H}$                                          | 62        |
| 4     | $\text{AdCO}_2\text{H}$                                           | 58        |
| 5     | N-Ac-Alanine                                                      | 50        |
| 6     | N-Ac-Isoleucine                                                   | 62        |
| 7     | N-Ac-Norleucine                                                   | 52        |
| 8     | <b>2-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H</b>               | <b>70</b> |
| 9     | 2-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H | 45        |
| 10    | Phenanthroline                                                    | 44        |
| 11    | Neocuproine                                                       | 10        |
| 12    | Benzoquinone                                                      | 38        |

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%),  $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$  (0.50 mmol), additive (30 mol%), TFA (3.5 mL/mmol) at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield using dodecane as an internal standard.

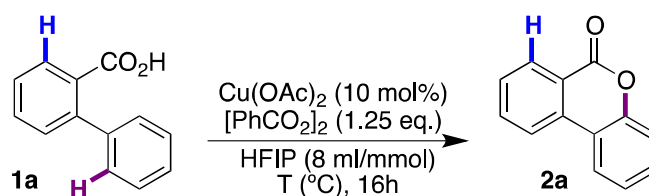




| Entry | Solvent                           | Gc conv.   | Gc yield  |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1     | DCE                               | 49         | 15        |
| 2     | 1,4-Dioxane                       | 61         | 21        |
| 3     | Anisole                           | 100        | 51        |
| 4     | PhCl                              | 55         | 47        |
| 5     | $\text{PhCF}_3$                   | 45         | 20        |
| 6     | $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ | 49         | 30        |
| 7     | <b>HFIP</b>                       | <b>100</b> | <b>80</b> |
| 8     | $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$            | 100        | 67        |
| 9     | PhF                               | 100        | 18        |

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%),  $[\text{PhCO}_2]_2$  (1.25 equiv.), solvent (4mL/mmol) at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . <sup>b</sup> GC yield using decane as an internal standard.

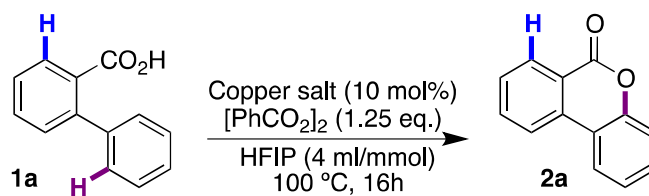
#### (4) Temperature effect<sup>a</sup>



| Entry | $T(^\circ\text{C})$ | Gc conv.   | Gc yield  |
|-------|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1     | 25                  | 100        | 73        |
| 2     | 50                  | 100        | 73        |
| 3     | <b>75</b>           | <b>100</b> | <b>95</b> |
| 4     | 110                 | 100        | 88        |
| 5     | 125                 | 100        | 93        |

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  (10 mol%),  $[\text{PhCO}_2]_2$  (1.25 equiv.), HFIP (8mL/mmol). <sup>b</sup> GC yield using decane as an internal standard.

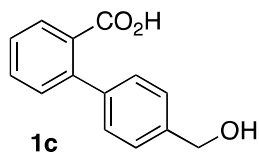
#### (5) Copper salt effect<sup>a</sup>



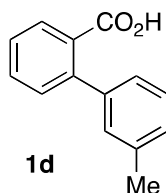
| Entry | Copper Salt                      | Gc conv. | Gc yield |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1     | Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub><br>(5 mol%) | 100      | 97       |
| 2     | Cu(OTf) <sub>2</sub>             | 100      | 21       |
| 3     | CuBr <sub>2</sub>                | 100      | 79       |
| 4     | CuOAc                            | 100      | 88       |

<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.25 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), [PhCO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1.25 equiv.), HFIP (4mL/mmol) at 75 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield using decane as an internal standard.

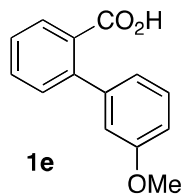
### Starting Materials



**4'-(hydroxymethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1c)** White Solid. M.p. = 144-146 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.81 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.29 (m, 2H), 4.67 (s, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.3, 144.1, 142.6, 142.6, 134.1, 133.0, 132.7, 131.4, 130.4, 129.0, 128.6, 65.9 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3355, 3009, 1687, 1682, 1670, 1406, 1135, 759. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3\text{-H}^+$ ): 227.0708, found 227.0714.

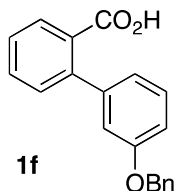


**3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1d)** White solid. M.p. = 97-98 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 7.13 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.4, 144.4, 143.5, 139.6, 134.0, 132.9, 132.8, 132.6, 131.0, 129.8, 129.7, 128.9, 127.5, 22.4 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

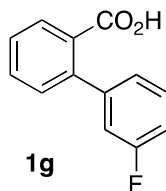


**3'-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1e)** White solid. M.p. = 91-93 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.80 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56

(td,  $J = 7.6, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.40 (m, 1H), 6.93 (m, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  173.3, 161.7, 144.8, 144.1, 134.2, 132.9, 132.5, 131.2, 131.0, 129.1, 122.8, 116.1, 114.7, 56.5 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

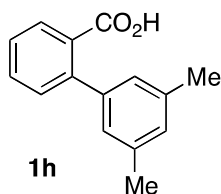


**3'-(benzyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1f)** White Solid. M.p. = 105-106 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td,  $J = 7.7, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.25 (m, 2H), 7.05-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.96-6.92 (m, 1H), 5.08 (s, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.3, 160.9, 144.9, 144.0, 139.5, 134.1, 132.9, 132.5, 131.2, 131.0, 130.3, 129.7, 129.5, 129.1, 123.2, 117.1, 115.6, 71.9 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2922, 2858, 2224, 2063, 1689, 1675, 1580, 1566, 1344, 1276. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_3\text{-H}^+$ ): 303.1021 found 303.1027.

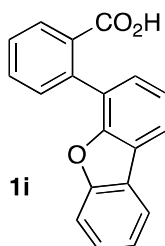


**3'-fluoro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1g)** White Solid. M.p. = 128-130 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.86 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.09 (dd,  $J = 9.4, 1.2$  Hz, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  172.6, 165.7-163.8 (d,  $J = 246$  Hz), 146.1, 146.0, 143.2, 143.2, 133.8, 133.2, 132.5, 131.6, 131.6, 129.6, 126.4, 126.4, 117.3, 117.2, 115.8, 115.6 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

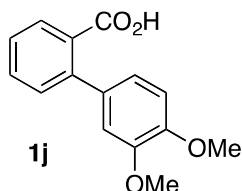
<sup>4</sup> Hoovera, J. R. E.; Chow, A.W.; Stedman, R., J.; Hall, N. M.; Greenberg, H. M.; Dolan, M. M.; Ferlauto, R. J. *J. Med. Chem.* **1964**, 7, 245.



**3',5'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1h)** White solid. M.p. = 109-111 °C.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.77 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.97 (s, 2H), 2.35 (s, 6H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.5, 144.5, 143.4, 139.5, 134.1, 132.8, 132.5, 131.1, 130.6, 128.8, 128.2, 22.2 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3009, 2919, 2856, 2651, 1682, 1406, 1291, 1267. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_2\text{-H}^+$ ): 225.0916, found 225.0921.

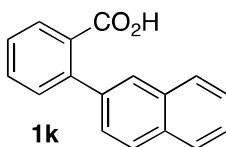


**2-(dibenzo[b,d]furan-4-yl)benzoic acid (1i)** Light yellow solid. M.p. = 179-180 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.04 (m, 2H), 8.02 (dd,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (m, 3H), 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.37 (td,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  172.4, 158.2, 155.8, 139.2, 134.2, 133.7, 133.4, 132, 129.8, 129.2, 128.3, 126.4, 125.9, 124.9, 124.8, 122.6, 121.7, 113.4 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3063, 3038, 2922, 2854, 1737, 1606, 1308, 1282. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3\text{-H}^+$ ): 287.0708, found 287.0711.

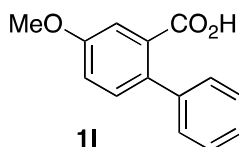


**3',4'-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1j)** White solid. M.p. = 165-166 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta$  (500 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  7.70 (dd,  $J$  = 7.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (td,  $J$  = 7.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J$

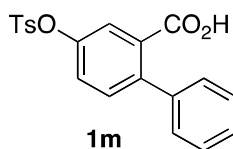
= 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd,  $J$  = 10.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (s, 3H), 4.61 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  171.1, 149.2, 149.2, 141.3, 134.2, 133.6, 131.5, 131.2, 129.6, 127.7, 121.5, 113.2, 112.5, 56.5, 56.4 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>



**2-(naphthalen-2-yl)benzoic acid (1k)** White Solid. M.p. = 190-192 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.95-7.86 (m, 4H), 7.85-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.68-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 5H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.1, 144.5, 141.2, 135.6, 134.9, 134.1, 133.2, 133.0, 131.6, 129.9, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>



**4-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1l)** White Solid. M.p. = 117-119 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.46-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.13 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.0, 160.9, 143.3, 136.7, 134.9, 133.9, 130.5, 129.8, 128.7, 118.6, 116.5, 56.8 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>6</sup>

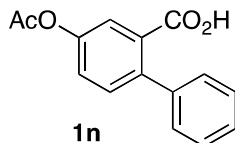


**4-(tosyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1m)** White Solid. M.p. = 140-142 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.27 (m, 7H), 7.20 (dd,  $J$  = 8.4, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  171.2, 150.6, 148.3, 143.4, 142.2, 135.3,

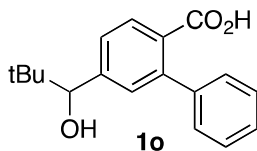
<sup>5</sup> Ciske, F.; Winton, J. *Synthesis*, **1995**, 8, 1195.

<sup>6</sup> Wang, D.-H.; Mei, T.-S.; Yu, J.-Q. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 17676.

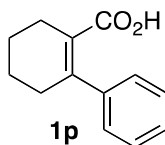
134.2, 134.2, 132.0, 130.5, 130.4, 123.0, 129.4, 126.8, 125.2, 22.5 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3036, 1703, 1681, 1597, 1371, 785. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_5\text{S}-\text{H}^+$ ): 367.0640 found 367.0643.



**4-acetoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1n)** White Solid. M.p. = 155-157 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.57 (dd,  $J$  = 2.5, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 7H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  171.9, 171.8, 151.9, 142.7, 142.0, 134.9, 133.8, 130.5, 130.4, 129.9, 129.2, 126.3, 124.7, 21.7 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3068, 2924, 1757, 1689, 1482, 1194. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_5\text{S}-\text{H}^+$ ): 255.0657 found 255.060.

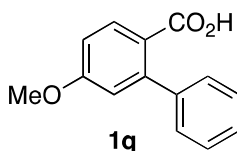


**5-(1-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1o)** White Solid. M.p. = 163-165 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 4H), 4.45 (s, 1H), 0.97 (s, 9H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  173.1, 148.4, 143.8, 143.6, 132.3, 132.2, 130.7, 130.4, 129.9, 128.9, 128.5, 83.3, 37.4, 27.4 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3410, 2954, 2908, 2867, 1688, 1297, 1266, 1232, 1053. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3-\text{H}^+$ ): 283.1334 found 283.1337.

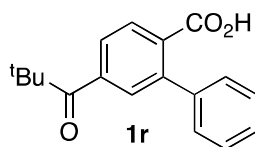


**3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1p)** White Solid. M.p. = 129-131 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.36-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.14 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.29 (m, 4H), 1.87-1.59 (m, 4H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  174.5, 146.8, 145.5, 130.1, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 34.5,

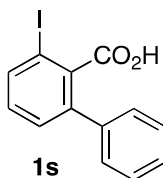
28.8, 24.5, 24.0 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>



**5-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1q)** White Solid. M.p. = 171-173 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.23 (m, 5H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 172.3, 164.1, 147.5, 143.9, 134.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.0, 125.3, 118.4, 114.1, 56.8 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup>



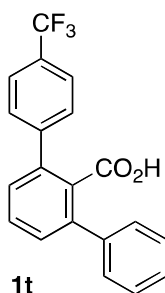
**5-pivaloyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1r)** White Solid. M.p. = 160-161 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.33 (m, 5H), 1.36 (s, 9H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 211.7, 172.3, 144.1, 143.3, 142.7, 136.0, 131.5, 131.2, 130.3, 130.1, 129.5, 127.9, 46.2, 29.0 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2958, 2923, 2853, 2659, 1687, 1672, 1295, 1279. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-H<sup>+</sup>): 281.1178 found 281.1183.



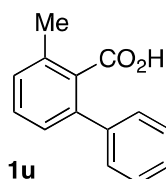
**3-iodo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1s)** White Solid. M.p. = 172-173 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 173.3, 142.9, 142.7, 141.9, 140.0, 132.3, 131.5, 130.4,

<sup>7</sup> Parham, W.E.; Moulton, W.E.; Zuckerbraun, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1956**, *21*, 72.

130.3, 130.2, 129.8, 93.4 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

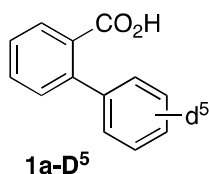


**4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carboxylic acid (1t)** White solid. M.p. = 183-186 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 7H), 7.52-7.36 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 173.7, 146.9, 142.6, 142.2, 140.5, 136.0, 131.7 (d, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 131.6, 131.4 (d, *J* = 32.7 Hz), 131.3, 131.3, 130.6, 130.5, 130.2, 129.6, 127.7 (d, *J* = 272 Hz), 127.0 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 127.0 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 125.5 (d, *J* = 272 Hz). IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2920, 2851, 2643, 1698, 1322, 1275, 1164, 1119, 1066, 775. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-H<sup>+</sup>): 341.0795 found 341.0797.

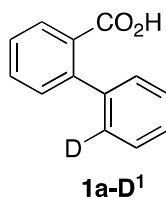


**3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (1u)** White Solid. M.p. = 138-139 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.33 (m, 4H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 174.5, 143.0, 141.5, 136.5, 136.5, 131, 130.9, 130.4, 130.4, 130.1, 129.3, 129.2, 22.6 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Tilly, D.; Samanta, S. S.; Castanet, A.-S.; De, A.; Mortier, J. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 2006, 174.



**2-(D<sub>5</sub>-phenyl)benzoic acid (1a-D<sup>5</sup>)** White Solid. M.p. = 108-109 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.82 (ddd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 1.3, 0.5 Hz, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 173.2, 144.3, 143.3, 134.0, 133.0, 132.6, 131.4, 130.2-129.2, 129.0, 128.8-128.3 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>



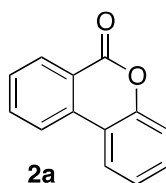
**2-(D-phenyl)benzoic acid (1a-D<sup>1</sup>)** White Solid. M.p. = 110-111 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.82 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.31 (m, 5H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 173.2, 144.3, 143.4, 133.9, 133.0, 132.6, 131.4, 130.4, 130.2 (C-D), 129.9, 129.8, 129.0, 129.0 ppm. The deuterium incorporation was found to be 87%. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Denney, D. B.; Klemchuk, P. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1958**, *80*, 3285.

### **Synthesis of benzo[c]chromenones (tables 2 and 3)**

**General procedure A for the synthesis of benzo[c]chromenones (Table 2 and 3).** An oven-dried screw-cap test tube containing a stirring bar was charged with the benzoic acid derivative (0.50 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  (4.5 mg, 5 mol%), benzoyl peroxide (202 mg, 0.625 mmol) and evacuated three times. Then, HFIP (4 mL) was added by syringe under a positive argon atmosphere. The mixture was stirred in a pre-heated oil bath (75 °C) for 12 h. The mixture was then allowed to warm to room temperature and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting solid was washed with a saturated solution of  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and extracted with AcOEt (3 x 15 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated to yield the final benzolactone, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluting with hexanes/ethyl acetate mixtures).

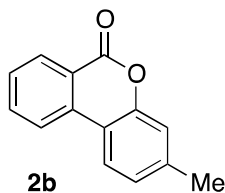
**General procedure B for the synthesis 2'-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid:** following a modified procedure in the literature,<sup>10</sup> the crude lactone (0.25 mmol) and LiOH monohydrate (252 mg, 6 mmol, 24 equiv.) was charged to a 25 mL flask. To this mixture was then added MeOH (4 mL), THF (2 mL), and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL). The reaction was then stirred for 24 h at room temperature and followed the course of the reaction by TLC until completion. The MeOH and THF was then removed in vacuo, and the resulting residue was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (15mL), ice and EtOAc (20 mL). After acidification with 2 M HCl (pH 4-5), the solution was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic extract was washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. The crude was washed with AcOEt furnishing the final hydroxyacids without further purification.



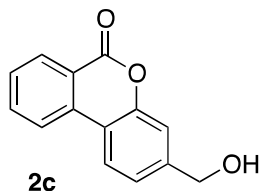
**6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2a)** Following general procedure A, [1,1'-biphenyl]-2 carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 95 mg (97% yield). M.p. = 88-89 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.42 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (ddt, *J* = 8.1, 1.1, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, *J* = 8.0, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.2, 151.3, 134.9, 134.8, 130.6, 130.5, 128.9, 124.6, 122.8, 121.7, 121.3, 118.1, 117.8 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Leow, D.; Li, G.; Mei, T.-S.; Yu, J.-Q. *Nature* **2012**, 486, 518.

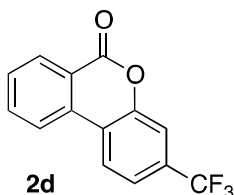
<sup>11</sup> Vishnumurthy, K.; Makriyannis, A. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2010**, 12, 664.



**3-methyl-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2b)** Following general procedure A, 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 95 mg (90% yield). M.p. = 153-154 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.45-8.32 (m, 1H), 8.15-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.7, 151.6, 141.6, 135.3, 135.1, 130.8, 128.6, 126.0, 122.8, 121.7, 121.2, 118.2, 115.7, 21.8 ppm. The spectroscopic data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup>

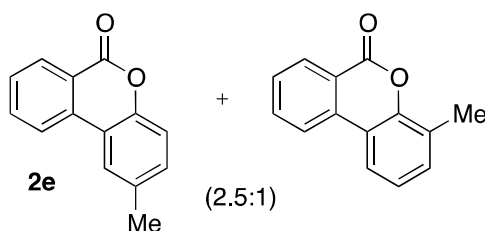


**3-(hydroxymethyl)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2c)** Following general procedure A, 4'-(hydroxymethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 66 mg (58% yield). M.p. = 176-177 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 8.47-8.28 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.30 (m, 2H), 4.74 (s, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 163.9, 153.5, 147.5, 137.3, 137.1, 132.0, 130.8, 125.2, 125.0, 124.1, 122.9, 119.0, 117.1, 65.1 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3294, 2920, 2850, 1732, 1608, 1307, 1267, 1049, 1030. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+H<sup>+</sup>): 228.0708, found 228.0732.



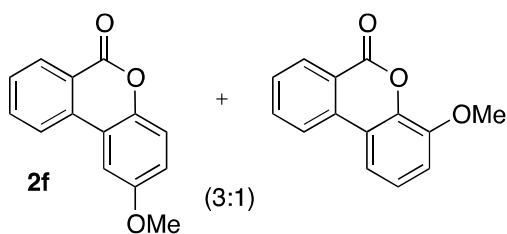
<sup>12</sup> Brown, B. P. M.; Russell, J.; Wylie, A. G. *J. Chem. Soc (C)* **1968**, 842.

**3-(trifluoromethyl)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2d)** Following general procedure A, 4'-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 90:10. White solid; yield: 30 mg (22 % yield). M.p. = 123.1-124.1 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.43 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.23-8.12 (m, 2H), 7.89 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.4, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.6, 151.3, 135.5, 133.7, 132.7 (q,  $J$  = 32 Hz), 132.5, 131.2, 130.5, 124.7 (q,  $J$  = 275 Hz), 124.0, 122.5, 122.0, 121.5, 115.6 (q,  $J$  = 4 Hz) ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1727, 1702, 1323, 1267, 1108. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2 + \text{H}^+$ ): 264.0398, found 264.0399

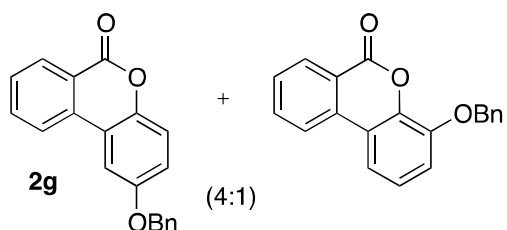


**2-methyl-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2e)** Following general procedure A, 3'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2 carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 84 mg (81 % yield; 2.5:1 regioisomeric mixture).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.43 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, major + minor isomer), 8.15 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, major + minor), 8.01-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.90-7.72 (m, major + minor isomer), 7.59 (d,  $J$  = 1.1 Hz, major + minor isomer), 7.41-7.32 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.18 (m, major + minor isomer), 2.52 (s, major isomer, 3H), 2.48 (s, minor isomer, 1.18H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.6, 161.5, 149.9, 149.6, 135.4, 135.1, 135.0, 135.0, 134.4, 132.0, 131.6, 130.8, 130.7, 128.9, 128.9, 127.3, 124.3, 123.0, 122.1, 121.9, 121.5, 121.3, 120.6, 117.9, 117.9, 117.7, 21.4, 16.3 ppm. The spectroscopic data of the major regioisomer corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Zhou, Q.; Worm, K.; Dolle, R. E., *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, 69, 5147.



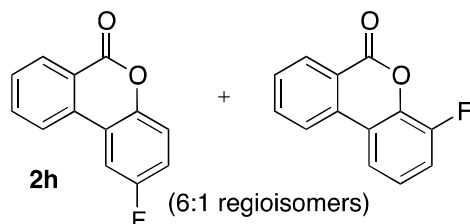
**2-methoxy-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2f)** Following general procedure A, 3',5'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.5 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 88 mg (78 % yield; 3:1 regioisomeric mixture).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.43 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (td,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (td,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J$  = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.07 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.5, 160.8, 156.6, 148.3, 145.8, 141.3, 135.2, 135.0, 135.0, 134.9, 130.9, 130.8, 129.2, 129.2, 124.5, 122.4, 122.0, 121.6, 121.5, 119.0, 118.9, 118.8, 117.4, 114.4, 112.5, 106.6, 56.5, 56.1 ppm. The spectroscopic data of the major isomer corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>14</sup>



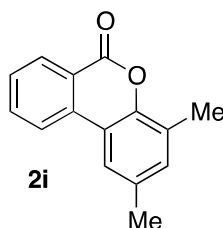
**2-(benzyloxy)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2g)** Following general procedure A, 3'-(benzyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 148 mg (98 % yield; 4:1 regioisomeric mixture).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.40-8.30 (m, major + minor isomer), 8.11 (dd, major + minor isomer,  $J$  = 8.3, 1.4 Hz), 8.01-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.83-7.70 (m, major + minor isomer), 7.50-7.44 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (s, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.2, 161.6, 161.0, 155.7, 147.2, 146.0, 141.9, 136.8, 136.8, 135.2, 135.0, 134.8, 134.0, 130.9, 130.8, 130.5, 129.6, 129.2, 129.2, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 124.4, 122.4, 122.0, 121.6,

<sup>14</sup> Bowman, W. R.; Mann, E.; Parr, J. J. *Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1*, **2000**, 17, 2991

121.5, 119.3, 118.9, 118.9, 118.2, 114.9, 114.9, 108.0, 71.5, 71.0. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3063, 3028, 2928, 2874, 1728, 1684, 1450, 1417, 1318, 1292, 1069. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3 + \text{H}^+$ ): 303.1021, found 303.1022.

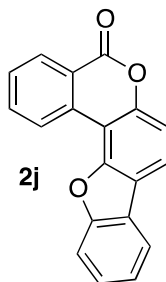


**3-fluoro-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2h)** Following general procedure A, 3',5'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 98:2. White solid; yield: 48 mg (46 % yield; 6:1 regioisomeric mixture). The spectroscopical data for the major isomer is the following:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.49-8.22 (m, 1H), 8.08-7.92 (m, 1H), 7.84 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd,  $J$  = 9.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.33 (dd,  $J$  = 9.0, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (ddd,  $J$  = 9.0, 7.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.1, 159.6 (d,  $J$  = 244.4 Hz), 147.69 (d,  $J$  = 2.1 Hz), 135.3, 134.8 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz), 131.0, 129.9, 122.2, 121.6, 119.60 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz), 119.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz) 118.00 (d,  $J$  = 24.2 Hz), 109.11 (d,  $J$  = 24.9 Hz) ppm. The spectroscopic data of the major isomer corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>12</sup>

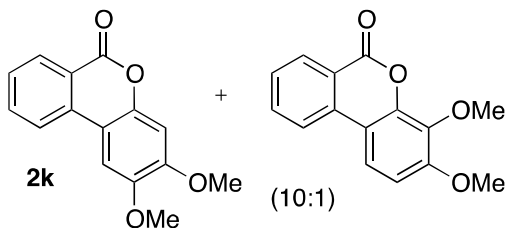


**2,4-dimethyl-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2i)** Following general procedure A, 3',5'-dimethyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 83 mg (74 % yield). M.p. = 171-173 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.42 (dd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.04 (m, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.7, 148.1, 135.5, 134.9, 133.7,

133.1, 130.8, 128.8, 127.0, 122.1, 121.4, 120.7, 117.6, 21.4, 16.2 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2919, 1714, 1600, 1279, 772. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2+\text{H}^+$ ): 225.0916, found 225.0917.

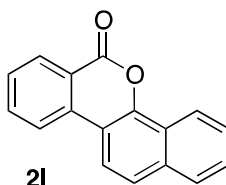


**5H-benzo[c]benzofuro[2,3-f]chromen-5-one (2j)** Following general procedure A, 2-(dibenzo[b,d]furan-4-yl)benzoic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 9:1. Yellowish solid; yield: 102 mg (71 % yield). M.p. = 189-191 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.64 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.3, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (td,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.8, 156.5, 152.2, 150.7, 135.1, 132.8, 130.3, 128.9, 127.1, 126.5, 123.7, 123.2, 121.3, 121.0, 120.9, 120.4, 112.9, 111.9, 105.5 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2922, 2852, 1730, 1606, 1460, 1042. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_3+\text{H}^+$ ): 287.0708, found 287.07012.

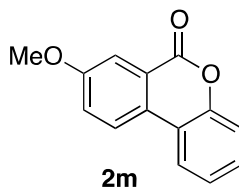


**2,3-dimethoxy-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2k)** Following general procedure A, 3',4'-dimethoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.5 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 76 mg (59 % yield); 10:1 regioisomeric mixture)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.26 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.69 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.9, 151.7, 146.8, 146.6, 135.4, 135.0, 130.9, 128.0, 121.3, 120.5, 110.2, 104.2,

101.1, 56.7, 56.5 ppm. The data of the major isomer corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>15</sup>

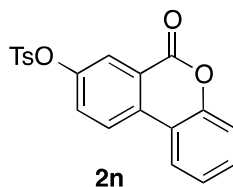


**6H-dibenzo[c,h]chromen-6-one (2l)** Following general procedure A, 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)benzoic acid (0.5 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 102 mg (83 % yield); M.p. = 181-182 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.60-8.46 (m, 1H), 8.46-8.34 (m, 1H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.69 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.52 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.5, 147.4, 135.6, 135.2, 134.5, 130.9, 128.9, 128.1, 127.9, 127.3, 124.7, 124.1, 122.6, 122.3, 121.4, 119.4, 113.2. The data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

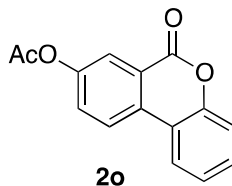


**8-methoxy-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2m)** Following general procedure A, 4-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 9:1. White solid; yield: 96 mg (86 % yield). M.p. = 149-151 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.30 (m, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.7, 160.4, 150.8, 129.7, 128.5, 124.9, 124.6, 123.8, 122.8, 122.5, 118.5, 118.0, 111.6, 56.2 ppm. The data correspond to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>10</sup>

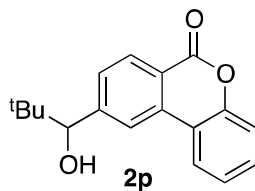
<sup>15</sup> Beugelmans, R.; Bois-Chonssy, M.; Chastanet, J.; Gleuher, M.; Zhu, J. P. *Heterocycles* **1993**, *36*, 2737.



**6-oxo-6H-benzo[c]chromen-8-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (2n)** Following general procedure A, 4-(tosyloxy)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 9:1. White solid; yield: 98 mg (54 % yield).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.07-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.85 (d,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.36 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.46 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  160.2, 151.4, 149.8, 146.4, 133.9, 132.1, 131.3, 130.4, 129.9, 128.8, 125.2, 124.1, 123.8, 123.2, 122.7, 118.1, 117.4, 22.1 ppm. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_5\text{S}+\text{Na}$ ): 389.0460, found 389.0465.

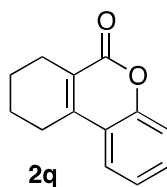


**6-oxo-6H-benzo[c]chromen-8-yl acetate (2o)** Following general procedure A, 4-acetoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 9:1. White solid; yield: 66 mg (52 % yield). M.p. = 134-136 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd,  $J$  = 2.5, 0.5 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.31 (m, 2H), 2.37 (s, 3H) ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3071, 2923, 2852, 1742, 1685, 1608, 1221, 947.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.3, 160.7, 151.4, 151.1, 132.8, 130.8, 129.3, 125.1, 123.6, 123.2, 123.0, 122.8, 118.1, 117.8, 21.4 ppm. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_4+\text{H}^+$ ): 255.0651, found 255.0651.

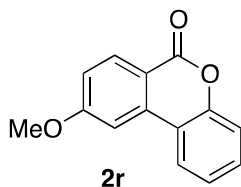


**9-(1-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2p)**

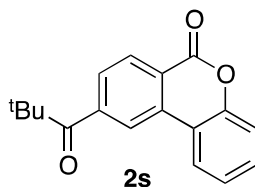
Following general procedure A, 5-(1-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 4:1. White solid; yield: 106 mg (75 % yield). M.p. = 141-142 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.03-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.98 (dd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 2H), 4.58 (s, 1H), 0.99 (s, 9H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.7, 151.5, 150.3, 134.3, 130.6, 129.9, 128.9, 124.9, 123.0, 120.7, 120.1, 118.3, 117.9, 82.2, 36.1, 26.2 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3478, 2952, 2869, 1705, 1613, 1282, 747. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3 + \text{Na}$ ): 305.1148, found 305.1155.



**7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2q)** Following general procedure A, 3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 65 mg (51 % yield). M.p. = 118-120 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  7.56 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.5, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.23 (m, 2H), 2.92- 2.74 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.51 (m, 2H), 1.95-1.71 (m, 4H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.0, 152.3, 147.3, 130.5, 124.3, 124.1, 123.4, 120.5, 117.0, 25.5, 24.4, 21.9, 21.7 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2939, 2867, 1699, 1603, 1452, 1384, 1092, 1044, 1018. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_2 + \text{Na}$ ): 223.0730, found 223.0737.

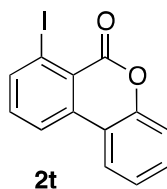


**9-methoxy-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2r)** Following general procedure A, 5-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 9:1. White solid; yield: 92 mg (78 % yield). M.p. = 117-119 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd,  $J$  = 2.7, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.14 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.1, 161.3, 151.9, 137.2, 133.2, 130.8, 124.6, 123.0, 118.3, 118.1, 116.5, 114.6, 105.4, 56.0 ppm. The spectroscopic data corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>16</sup>

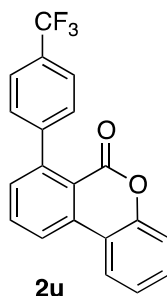


**9-pivaloyl-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2s)** Following general procedure A, 5-pivaloyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 73 mg (52 % yield). M.p. = 85-86 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.39 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.29-8.14 (m, 1H), 8.10-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.74 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.5, 7.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  209.6, 160.7, 151.7, 145.3, 135.1, 131.3, 130.7, 127.2, 125.0, 123.2, 122.5, 121.1, 118.1, 117.8, 44.8, 27.9 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2958, 2923, 2853, 1687, 1672, 1295, 1280, 966. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3 + \text{H}^+$ ): 281.1172, found 281.1177.

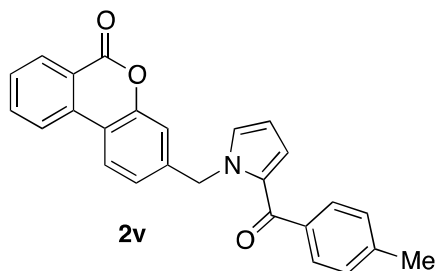
<sup>16</sup> Cook, J. W.; Dickson, G.T.; Jack, J.; Loudon, J. D.; McKeown, J.; MacMillan, J.; Williamson, W.F. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1950**, 0, 139.



**7-iodo-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2t)** Following general procedure A, 3-iodo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 116 mg (73 % yield). M.p. = 176-178 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 8.28 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 158.4, 151.2, 143.9, 137.3, 134.8, 131.3, 124.8, 123.3, 122.5, 121.9, 117.95, 117.8, 97.7 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2955, 2922, 2853, 1727, 1253, 1220, 1048, 749. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>7</sub>IO<sub>2</sub>+Na): 344.9383, found 344.9398.

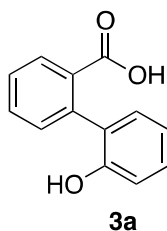


**7-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2u)** Following general procedure A, 4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carboxylic acid (0.5 mmol) was used. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 72 mg (85 % yield; <20:1 regioisomeric mixture). White solid. M.p. = 145-147 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.24 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.17-8.10 (m, 1H), 7.84 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.51 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.32 (m, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.6, 151.8, 146.0, 145.7, 136.7, 134.1, 132.4, 131.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 125.8 (d, *J* = 272 Hz), 125.2, 125.1 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 125.1 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 124.8, 123.6, 123.5, 122.2, 119.0, 118.2, 117.9 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2922, 2851, 1717, 1323, 1095, 813. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>+Na): 363.0603, found 363.0607.

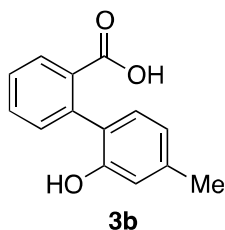


**3-((2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methyl)-6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one (2v)** Following general procedure A (0.17 mmol scale). Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 4:1. White solid; yield: 44 mg (64 % yield). M.p. = 168.5-169.1 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.37 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 8.12-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.74 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 186.3, 161.5, 151.9, 142.5, 142.2, 137.2, 135.2, 135.0, 131.1, 130.9, 130.5, 129.8, 129.1, 129.1, 123.7, 123.4, 122.0, 121.4, 117.5, 116.0, 109.4, 52.3 ppm. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1721, 1616, 1602, 1406, 1391, 1259, 1101, 765. HRMS *calcd* for (C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>+Na): 416.1263, found 416.1257.

**Synthesis of 2'-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (table 4)**

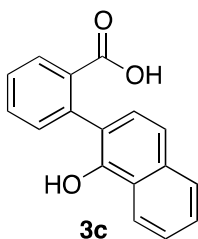


**2'-hydroxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3a)** Following general procedure B, 1,1'-biphenyl]-2 carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 50 mg (91 % yield) M.p. = 176-178 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.39-8.25 (m, 2H), 8.21 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.3, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.2, 7.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.20 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  163.5, 153.2, 137.2, 136.9, 132.5, 131.9, 130.9, 126.7, 125.1, 124.1, 122.9, 120.1, 119.2 ppm. The spectroscopical data corresponds to those previously reported in the literature.<sup>17</sup>

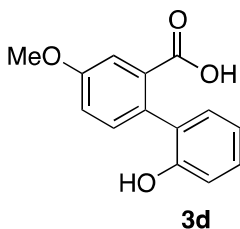


**2'-hydroxy-4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3b)** Following general procedure B, 4'-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2 carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 54 mg (84 % yield). M.p. = 131-132 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ )  $\delta$  8.30 (dd,  $J$  = 20.2, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.62 (t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.43-6.96 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  161.3, 151.6, 142.1, 136.2, 135.4, 130.6, 129.7, 126.7, 124.3, 123.3, 121.1, 118.2, 116.0, 21.8. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3063, 3038, 2922, 2854, 1737, 1606, 1459, 1308. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$ -OH): 226.0624, found 226.0631

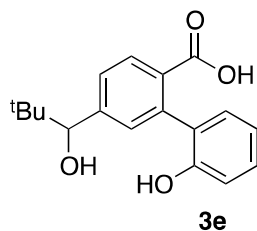
<sup>17</sup> Hey, D. H.; Saunders, F. C.; Williams, G. H. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1961**, 0, 554.



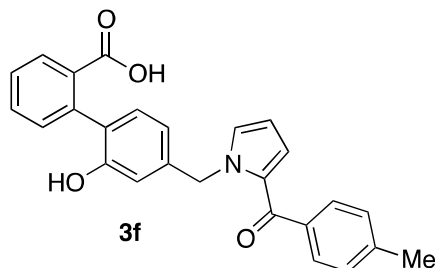
**2-(3-hydroxynaphthalen-2-yl)benzoic acid (3c)** Following general procedure B, 2-(naphthalen-2-yl)benzoic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 51 mg (66 % yield). M.p. = 193-194 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.51 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.42-8.36 (m, 2H), 8.34 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.92 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.67 (m, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  161.1, 147.3, 136.4, 135.7, 134.8, 130.7, 130.1, 128.8, 128.2, 125.3, 123.9, 123.8, 122.2, 121.5, 121.0, 113.9 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2951, 2904, 2880, 1736, 1719, 1609, 1101, 755. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3\text{-OH}$ ): 247.0754, found 247.0762.



**2'-hydroxy-4-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3d)** Following general procedure B, 4-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 45 mg (78 % yield). M.p. = 131-132 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.38 (d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d,  $J$  = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.37 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  161.0, 160.6, 150.8, 130.5, 128.5, 125.7, 125.5, 124.6, 124.0, 122.8, 118.7, 118.0, 112.1, 56.6. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3006, 2922, 2845, 1710, 1612, 1481, 1460, 1298, 1279, 1242. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_4\text{-OH}$ ): 227.0703, found 227.0714.

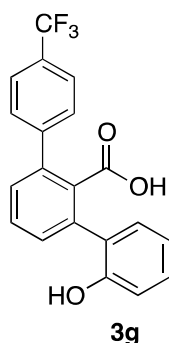


**2'-hydroxy-5-(1-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3e)** Following general procedure B, 5-(1-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 51 mg (63 % yield). M.p. = 143-145 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.39 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.40 (m, 2H), 5.60 (d,  $J$  = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d,  $J$  = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 0.93 (s, 9H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  170.6, 162.1, 161.2, 143.6, 141.0, 139.3, 139.1, 135.2, 133.8, 131.7, 129.5, 128.3, 127.7, 90.0, 45.8, 36.3 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3481, 2953, 2868, 1705, 1613, 1420, 1283, 1235, 747. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4\text{-OH}$ ): 283.1329, found 283.1337.

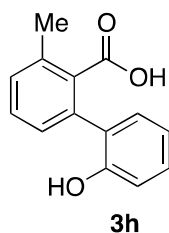


**2'-hydroxy-4'-((2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3f).** Following general procedure B, 3-((2-(4-methylbenzoyl)-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)methyl)-6H-benzo[*c*]chromen-6-one was used. White solid; yield: 40 mg (95 % yield). M.p. = 169.8-171.2 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.39 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (dd,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.02-7.91 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J$  = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dd,  $J$  = 4.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (dd,  $J$  = 4.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  185.8, 161.2, 151.7, 143.3, 142.9, 137.5, 136.4, 135.1, 133.1, 130.7, 130.2, 130.2, 130.0, 129.8, 124.9, 124.0, 123.9, 123.5, 121.4, 117.6, 116.0, 109.9,

51.9, 22.0 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3121, 1736, 1621, 1605, 1407, 1393, 1102, 744. HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3\text{-OH}$ ): 394.1438, found 394.1438.



**2-hydroxy-4''-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carboxylic acid (3g)** Following general procedure B, 4-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-2'-carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 85 mg (80 % yield). M.p. = 95-97 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  8.58 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (dd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.50 (dd,  $J$  = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.40 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  159.5, 151.7, 147.1, 144.9, 136.7, 135.3, 133.0, 131.9, 130.1, 128.4 (d,  $J$  = 31.8 Hz), 126.5 (d,  $J$  = 272 Hz), 125.6, 125.3 (q,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz), 125.0, 124.3 (d,  $J$  = 272 Hz), 123.7, 119.0, 118.6, 117.8 ppm. IR (neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3065, 2959, 2923, 1682, 1293, 1272.



**2'-hydroxy-3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (3h)** Following general procedure B, 3-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.25 mmol) was used. White solid; yield: 46 mg (81 % yield). M.p. = 100-101 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  8.22 (ddd,  $J$  = 16.2, 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.27 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ )  $\delta$  160.4, 151.6, 135.3, 133.2, 131.5, 130.2, 129.5, 125.4, 124.7, 121.5, 119.8, 118.8, 117.7, 24.3 ppm. IR

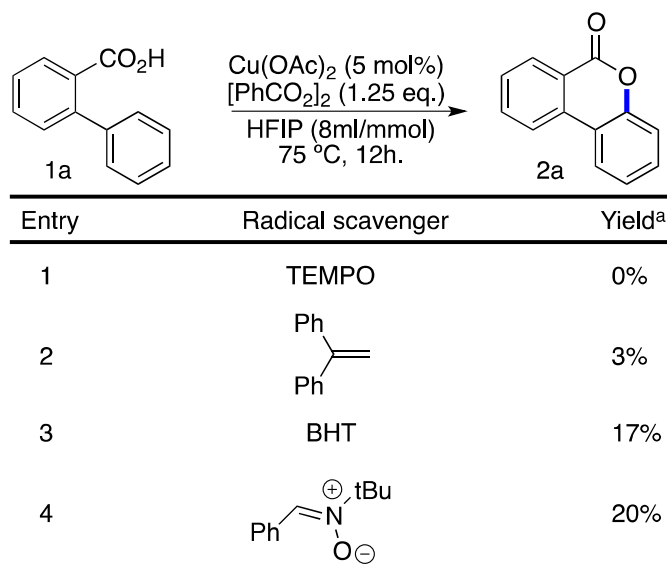
(neat,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3422, 3069, 3044, 2961, 2920, 2850, 1717, 1599, 1242, 1206.

HRMS *calcd* for ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3\text{-OH}$ ): 211.0759, found 211.0763.

### **Mechanistic Considerations**

#### **Radical scavenger test**

Following general procedure A, [1,1'-biphenyl]-2 carboxylic acid (0.5 mmol) and radical scavenger (0.625 mmol) were used.

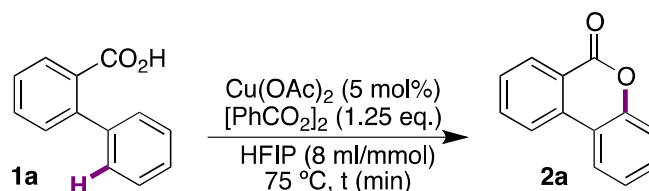


<sup>a</sup> Yield determined by HPLC using naphthalene as an internal standard. TEMPO: 2,2,6,6-Tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxy, BHT: 2,6-Di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol

### Kinetic isotope effect

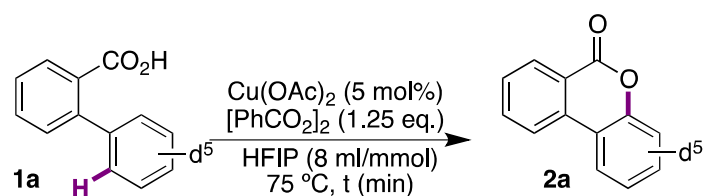
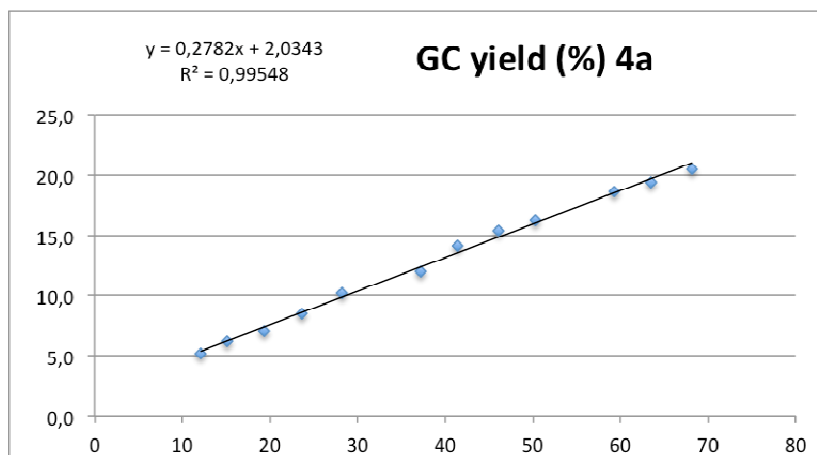
**General Procedure.** Kinetic experiments were run in a reactor tube filled with Ar. Reactions were run up to 50 % conversions. Only values up to 5-25%

were considered for measuring the kinetic isotope effect and the data (% product versus time) was analyzed using the initial rates method. Product yield from the corresponding reaction was monitored by GC analysis using decane as internal standard in the indicated interval based on the amount of 6H-benzo[c]chromen-6-one. The calculated KIE = 1.22.



| t (min) | Area (decane) | Area (4a) | GC yield (%) |
|---------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| 12,12   | 93,95         | 6,05      | 5,2          |
| 15,12   | 92,91         | 7,09      | 6,2          |
| 19,34   | 91,97         | 8,03      | 7,1          |
| 23,6    | 90,45         | 9,551     | 8,6          |
| 28,24   | 88,79         | 11,21     | 10,2         |
| 37,16   | 87,104        | 12,895    | 12,0         |
| 41,4    | 85,16         | 14,84     | 14,1         |
| 46,06   | 84,05         | 15,95     | 15,4         |
| 50,32   | 83,26         | 16,74     | 16,3         |
| 59,22   | 81,273        | 18,727    | 18,7         |
| 63,44   | 80,69         | 19,306    | 19,4         |
| 68,12   | 79,814        | 20,186    | 20,5         |

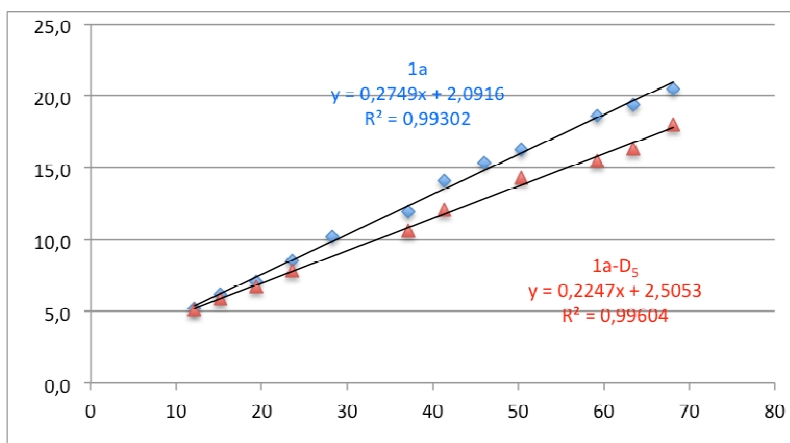
<sup>a</sup> **1a** (0.69 mmol), Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), [PhCO<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (1.25 equiv.), HFIP (8 mL/mmol) at 75 °C. <sup>b</sup> GC yield using decane as an internal standard.



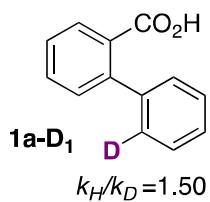
| t (min) | Area (decane) | Area (4a) | GC yield (%) |
|---------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| 12,12   | 93,98         | 6,018     | 5,2          |
| 15,12   | 93,22         | 6,7765    | 5,9          |
| 19,34   | 92,32         | 7,679     | 6,7          |
| 23,6    | 91,149        | 8,85      | 7,9          |
| 37,16   | 88,407        | 11,593    | 10,6         |
| 41,4    | 86,97         | 13,032    | 12,1         |
| 50,32   | 84,741        | 15,009    | 14,3         |
| 59,22   | 83,917        | 16,083    | 15,5         |
| 63,44   | 83,222        | 16,777    | 16,3         |
| 68,12   | 81,794        | 18,21     | 18,0         |

<sup>a</sup> **1a-D<sup>5</sup>** (0.69 mmol),  $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$  (5 mol%),  $[\text{PhCO}_2]_2$  (1.25 equiv.), HFIP (8 mL/mmol) at  $75^\circ\text{C}$ . <sup>b</sup> GC yield using decane as an internal standard.

**KIE (1a vs 1a-D<sup>5</sup>)**



### Intermolecular Isotope Effect



Following general procedure A, 5-methoxy-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-carboxylic acid (0.50 mmol) was used. The reaction was stopped at 0.5h. Column chromatography: silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc 95:5. White solid; yield: 26 mg (26 % yield). The KIE observed was 1.50.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra**

