# **Supporting Information**

# **Ruthenium-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of 2-Alkynylanilides:** Synthesis of 3-Substituted Indoles by 1,2-Carbon Migration

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# **1. General Information**

Reagents were commercially available and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts were reported in delta units ( $\delta$ ) relative to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> (7.24 ppm) for <sup>1</sup>H NMR, CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.23 ppm) for <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and external H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.0 ppm) for <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR. All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. All solvents were anhydrous. Chlorobenzene was degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles and stored under an argon atmosphere. [CpRuCl(dppe)],<sup>1</sup> [CpRuCl(dppbz)],<sup>2</sup> [IndRuCl(dppe)],<sup>3</sup> [CpRuCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>],<sup>4</sup> NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O,<sup>5</sup> and **10**<sup>6</sup> were prepared as described in the literature.

# 2.1 Synthesis of Substrates 1



## N-(2-((4-Bromophenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1e)

*N*-(2-Ethynylphenyl)acetamide<sup>7</sup> (0.478 g, 3.00 mmol), 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene (1.02 g, 3.60 mmol),  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.0421 g, 0.06 mmol), and CuI (0.0230 g, 0.12 mmol) were dissolved in THF (12 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.50 mL, 3.6 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 3.5 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:3) to give **1e** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.271 g (0.862 mmol, 29%).

mp 201.0–202.0 °C.

IR (ATR): 3106, 3049, 1706, 1605, 1582, 1567, 1558, 1488, 1450, 1384, 1350, 1331, 1300, 1273, 1226, 1186, 1156, 1141, 1069 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41–7.30 (m, 3H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.3, 139.1, 133.1, 132.1, 132.0, 130.3, 123.7, 123.5, 121.5, 119.7, 111.7, 95.5, 85.7, 25.2.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{13}NOBr$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 314.01750, found 314.01742.



#### Ethyl 4-((2-acetamidophenyl)ethynyl)benzoate (1f)

*N*-(2-Ethynylphenyl)acetamide<sup>7</sup> (0.537 g, 3.37 mmol), ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (0.67 mL, 4.0 mmol),  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.0473 g, 0.067 mmol), and CuI (0.0257 g, 0.135 mmol) were dissolved in THF (30 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.56 mL, 4.0 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:5) to give **1f** as a colorless solid. Yield: 1.00 g (3.26 mmol, 97%).

mp 157.6-158.6 °C.

IR (ATR): 3293, 2359, 1718, 1661, 1575, 1527, 1446, 1365, 1303, 1270, 1103 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.39 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (td, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.3, 166.0, 139.2, 132.1, 131.5, 130.6, 130.4, 129.9, 127.0, 123.7, 119.8, 111.5, 95.7, 87.3, 61.5, 25.2, 14.5.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 308.12812, found 308.12785.



#### *N*-(4-Methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1g)

4-Methoxy-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline<sup>8</sup> (0.893 g, 4.00 mmol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (30 mL). To the solution was added dry pyridine (0.34 mL, 4.8 mmol) and acetyl chloride (0.64 mL, 8.0 mmol) at 0 °C. The solution was warmed to room temperature and allowed to stir for 3.5 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by water and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 2.5:1) to give **1g** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.642 g (2.42 mmol, 60%).

mp 150.6-151.3 °C.

IR (ATR): 3299, 3005, 2938, 2837, 1652, 1613, 1532, 1495, 1480, 1468, 1417, 1364, 1275, 1234, 1214, 1101, 1041 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.25 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.56–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, J = 9.1, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.1, 155.5, 132.8, 131.8, 129.2, 128.8, 122.5, 121.4, 116.21, 116.16, 113.4, 96.3, 84.6, 55.8, 25.0.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}NO_2$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 266.11756, found 266.11741.



#### N-(4-Chloro-2-(phenylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1h)

4-Chloro-2-(phenylethynyl)aniline<sup>9</sup> (1.14 g, 5.00 mmol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (40 mL). To the solution was added dry pyridine (0.42 mL, 6.0 mmol) and acetyl chloride (0.81 mL, 10 mmol) at 0 °C. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 4.5 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by water and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by recrystallization (hot methylene chloride/hexane) to give **1h** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.673 g (2.49 mmol, 50%).

mp 180.4-181.1 °C.

IR (ATR): 3301, 3058, 2220, 1901, 1658, 1601, 1572, 1521, 1492, 1472, 1442, 1399, 1367, 1306, 1253, 1149, 1113, 1086, 1071, 1025 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 3H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.3, 137.7, 131.8, 131.3, 129.9, 129.5, 128.9, 128.4, 122.0, 120.7, 113.6, 97.6, 83.2, 25.1.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{13}NOC1$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 270.06802, found 270.06801.



## Ethyl 4-acetamido-3-(phenylethynyl)benzoate (1i)

Ethyl 4-amino-3-(phenylethynyl)benzoate<sup>9</sup> (0.929 g, 3.50 mmol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (28 mL). To the solution was added dry pyridine (0.30 mL, 4.2 mmol) and acetyl chloride (0.56 mL, 7.0 mmol) at 0 °C. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by water and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 3:1) to give **1i** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.912 g (2.97 mmol, 85%). mp 119.9–120.3 °C.

IR (ATR): 3309, 2987, 1714, 1666, 1579, 1523, 1493, 1467, 1418, 1364, 1310, 1282, 1262, 1227, 1154, 1135, 1112, 1092, 1028 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.51 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.00 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.36 (m, 3H), 4.35 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.38 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.6, 165.7, 142.5, 133.4, 131.8, 131.4, 129.5, 128.9, 125.6, 122.1, 118.6, 111.8, 97.3, 83.5, 61.3, 25.3, 14.6.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 308.12812, found 308.12804.



#### N-(2-(o-Tolylethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1j)

*N*-(2-Ethynylphenyl)acetamide<sup>7</sup> (0.637 g, 4.00 mmol), 2-iodotoluene (0.60 mL, 4.8 mmol),  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.0562 g, 0.0800 mmol), and CuI (0.0305 g, 0.160 mmol) were dissolved in THF (20 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (4 mL), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 14 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:4) to give **1j** as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 0.877 g (3.52 mmol, 88%).

mp 133.5-134.0 °C.

IR (ATR): 3293, 3057, 1684, 1661, 1577, 1530, 1491, 1449, 1369, 1305, 1257, 1042 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.39 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.18 (m, 4H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  168.3, 139.8, 138.9, 132.1, 131.8, 129.9, 129.8, 129.2, 126.1, 123.6, 122.4, 119.5, 112.3, 95.5, 88.5, 25.1, 21.2.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}NO([M + H]^+)$ : 250.12264, found 250.12223.



#### *N*-(2-((2,6-Dimethylphenyl)ethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1k)

*N*-(2-Ethynylphenyl)acetamide<sup>7</sup> (0.716 g, 4.50 mmol), 2-iodo-1,3-dimethylbenzene (0.78 mL, 5.4 mmol),  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.0632 g, 0.09 mmol), CuI (0.0345 g, 0.18 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (0.0472 g, 0.18 mmol) were dissolved in NEt<sub>3</sub> (25 mL). The resulting mixture was refluxed for 16 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 5:1) to give **1k** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.836 g (3.17 mmol, 71%).

mp 129.4–129.7 °C.

IR (ATR): 3295, 2963, 2914, 1660, 1577, 1538, 1480, 1464, 1448, 1367, 1308, 1281, 1260, 1038 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.03 (m, 4H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 2.21 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.3, 140.0, 138.7, 131.8, 129.8, 128.6, 127.2, 123.6, 122.5, 119.5, 112.6, 94.3, 93.0, 25.1, 21.6.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{18}H_{18}NO([M + H]^+)$ : 264.13829, found 264.13872.



#### *N*-(2-(Hex-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)benzamide (1m)

2-(Hex-1-yn-1-yl)aniline<sup>10</sup> (0.480 g, 2.77 mmol) was dissolved in THF (9 mL). To the solution was added NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.77 mL, 5.5 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.39 mL, 3.3 mmol) at 0 °C. The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for

16 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by water and extracted with methylene chloride. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:2) to give **1m** as a pale yellow oil. Yield: 0.726 g (2.62 mmol, 94%).

IR (ATR): 3394, 2958, 2931, 1683, 1579, 1523, 1495, 1450, 1310, 1251 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.83 (s, 1H), 8.58 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.57–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (td, J = 7.1, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 1.67–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.35 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 165.2, 139.1, 135.1, 132.0, 131.6, 129.0, 128.9, 127.1, 123.4, 119.0, 113.1, 98.4, 76.1, 31.0, 22.2, 19.4, 13.7.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{20}NO([M + H]^+)$ : 278.15394, found 278.15386.



# *N*-(2-(Cyclopentylethynyl)phenyl)benzamide (1n)

*N*-(2-Iodophenyl)benzamide<sup>11</sup> (1.13 g, 3.50 mmol), cyclopentylacetylene (0.53 mL, 4.6 mmol),  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.197 g, 0.28 mmol), and CuI (0.107 g, 0.56 mmol) were dissolved in THF (20 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (2.9 mL, 21 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 15:1) to give **1n** as a pale brown solid. Yield: 0.935 g (3.23 mmol, 92%).

mp 89.6–90.6 °C.

IR (ATR): 3303, 2959, 2868, 1655, 1576, 1531, 1493, 1447, 1309 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.85 (1H, s), 8.57 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.56 (1H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.49 (2H, t, J = 7.3 Hz), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.33 (1H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.03 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.96–2.89 (1H, m), 2.10–1.99 (2H, m), 1.83–1.58 (6H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ165.3, 139.2, 135.3, 132.1, 131.6, 129.2, 129.0, 127.2, 123.5, 119.0, 113.2, 102.8, 75.7, 34.3, 31.1, 25.3.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}NO$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 290.15394, found 290.15383.



# N-(2-(3-Oxo-3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)acetamide (1p)

*N*-(2-(3-Hydroxy-3-phenylprop-1-yn-1-yl)phenyl)acetamide<sup>12</sup> (0.795 g, 3.00 mmol) were dissolved in methylene chloride (50 mL). After the addition of activated  $MnO_2$  (2.09 g, 24.0 mmol), the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:6) and recrystallization (methylene chloride / hexane) to give **1p** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.230 g (0.872 mmol, 29%).

mp 134.0-135.0 °C.

IR (ATR): 3271, 2194, 1661, 1634, 1577, 1525, 1447, 1315, 1297 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.43 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.21–8.16 (m , 2H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.68–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.12 (td, J = 7.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 177.7, 168.7, 141.4, 136.8, 134.7, 133.4, 132.8, 129.7, 129.1, 123.9, 120.3, 108.9, 94.2, 88.5, 25.2.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{14}NO_2$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 264.10191, found 264.10190.



#### Ethyl 3-(2-acetamidophenyl)propiolate (1q)

*N*-(2-Iodophenyl)acetamide<sup>13</sup> (0.131 g, 0.500 mmol), 3,3,3-triethoxyprop-1-yne<sup>14</sup> (0.129 g, 0.750 mmol), [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (0.0175 g, 0.0250 mmol), and CuI (0.0095 g, 0.050 mmol) were dissolved in THF (5 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated in *vacuo*. The residue was passed through a pad of silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate / NEt<sub>3</sub> 70:30:1). The crude product was dissolved in THF (6 mL), and cooled at 0 °C. After the addition of 1 drop of water and TsOH·H<sub>2</sub>O (0.0037 g, 0.020 mmol), the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min. The reaction mixture was washed with brine, dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography

over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate / NEt<sub>3</sub> 75:25:3) and recrystallization (methylene chloride / hexane) to give **1q** as a colorless solid. Yield: 0.0219 g (0.0195 mmol, 19%). mp 120.7–122.2 °C.

IR (ATR): 3276, 2979, 2217, 1707, 1666, 1579, 1538, 1531, 1447, 1299, 1217, 1193 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.39 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.83 (1H, s), 7.51 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.44 (1H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.06 (1H, t, J = 7.3 Hz), 4.30 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.24 (3H, s), 1.35 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.6, 153.8, 141.1, 133.4, 132.5, 123.8, 120.1, 108.3, 87.9, 81.6, 62.6, 25.1, 14.3.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{14}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 232.09682, found 232.09674.



# *N*-(2-((1*H*-Indol-5-yl)ethynyl)phenyl)acetamide (1r)

*N*-(2-Ethynylphenyl)acetamide<sup>7</sup> (0.159 g, 1.00 mmol), 5-iodoindole (0.267 g, 1.1 mmol) ,  $[PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2]$  (0.0351 g, 0.05 mmol), and CuI (0.0190 g, 0.10 mmol) were dissolved in THF (10 mL). After addition of NEt<sub>3</sub> (0.42 mL, 3.0 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 18 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (methylene chloride / ethyl acetate 40:1) to give **1r** as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 0.214 g (0.782 mmol, 78%).

mp 162.3–163.8 °C.

IR (ATR): 3296, 2202, 1637, 1618, 1575, 1531, 1479, 1450 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.40 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 8.31 (1H, s), 8.08 (1H, s), 7.85 (1H, s), 7.49 (1H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 7.42–7.25 (4H, m), 7.05 (1H, t, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 6.59–6.56 (1H, m), 2.24 (3H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.5, 130.0, 136.0, 131.7, 129.4, 128.1, 125.7, 125.6, 124.9, 123.6, 119.3, 113.6, 112.7, 111.6, 103.2, 98.5, 82.1, 25.3.

HR-MS (ESI-TOF) calcd for  $C_{18}H_{14}N_2ONa$  ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>): 297.0998, found 297.1011.

# 2.2 Table 1. Ruthenium-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization2-Aminodiphenylacetylene (1a) and Related Compounds

**General procedure.** A mixture of **1** (0.50 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol) in anhydrous PhCl (2.5 mL) was stirred at 110 °C under Ar. The reaction was monitored by TLC. The solvent was removed by evaporation, and the crude mixture was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel.



# 2-Phenyl-1*H*-indole<sup>10</sup> (2a) and 3-phenyl-1*H*-indole<sup>15</sup> (3a)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $1a^7$  (96.6 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 10:1, then 7:1) to give a mixture of 1a and 2a (70.6 mg, 0.365 mmol, 73%), and 3a (19.2 mg, 0.0994 mmol, 20%) as a brown solid. Since 1a and 2a were inseparable, the recovery of 1a and the yield of 2a was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the mixture.



General procedure was followed using alkyne **1a** (96.6 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 10:1, then 7:1) to give **2a** (25.6 mg, 0.132 mmol, 26%) as a pale yellow solid and **3a** (60.4 mg, 0.313 mmol, 63%) as a brown solid.



# Phenyl(3-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)methanone<sup>16</sup> (3b)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $1b^{17}$  (149 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 2.5:1, then 1.5:1) to give **3b** as a colorless solid. Yield: 55.2 mg (0.186 mmol, 34%). Starting material (**1b**) was also isolated (87.9 mg, 0.296 mmol, 59%).



# 1-(3-Phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>18</sup> (3c)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $1c^{17}$  (118 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 8:1) to give **3c** as a colorless solid. Yield: 114 mg (0.483 mmol, 97%).



# 2.3 Table S1. Screening of the Catalyst

The catalysts were screened under similar reaction conditions described in Table 1. The dppbz complex was less reactive and gave 3c in 61% yield, together with 1c (29% recovery, entry 2). The 2-phenylindole (2c) was also isolated as a minor product (6% yield). [IndRuCl(dppe)] was a much less reactive catalyst, and 3c was obtained in 24% yield, together with 1c (67% recovery, entry 3). [CpRuCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] gave neither 3c nor 2c (entry 4).



# 1-(2-Phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>19</sup> (2c) and 1-(3-Phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3c)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1c** (118 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppbz)] (9.7 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 8:1, then 3:1) to give **2c** (7.0 mg, 0.030 mmol, 6%) as a colorless oil and **3c** (72.0 mg, 0.306 mmol, 61%) as a colorless solid. Compound **1c** was recovered (33.9 mg, 0.144 mmol, 29%).



General procedure was followed using alkyne 1c (118 mg, 0.500 mmol), [IndRuCl(dppe)] (9.8 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 8:1, then 3:1) to give 3c (28.4 mg, 0.121 mmol, 24%) as a colorless solid. Compound 1c was recovered (79.1 mg, 0.336 mmol, 67%).

# 2.4 Table 2. Synthesis of 3-Substituted Indoles by the Ruthenium-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of 2-Alkynylanilides



1-(3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3d)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $1d^6$  (133 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 2 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 5:1) to give 3d as a pale yellow solid. Yield: 128 mg (0.482 mmol, 96%).

mp 115.2–116.1 °C.

IR (ATR): 1705, 1510, 1454, 1384, 1354, 1274, 1244, 1231, 1029 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz , CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.39 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.8, 159.4, 136.5, 129.5, 129.3, 125.9, 125.7, 124.1, 123.9, 121.6, 120.1, 117.0, 114.6, 55.6, 24.3.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}NO_2$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 266.11756, found 266.11780.



# 1-(3-(4-Bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3e)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1e** (157 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 6 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:5) to give **3e** as a colorless solid. Yield: 130 mg (0.414 mmol, 83%).

mp 152.6–153.3 °C.

IR (ATR): 1706, 1450, 1384, 1351, 1331, 1274, 1226 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.53–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.41 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.7, 136.5, 132.5, 132.3, 129.7, 128.9, 125.9, 124.3, 123.1, 122.4, 121.7, 119.8, 117.1, 24.3.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{13}NOBr$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 314.01750, found 314.01774.



#### Ethyl 4-(1-acetyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)benzoate (3f)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1f** (154 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 12 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 7:1, then 4:1) to give **3f** as a colorless solid. Yield: 139 mg (0.453 mmol, 91%).

mp 147.5–147.8 °C.

IR (ATR): 1705, 1609, 1448, 1385, 1356, 1278, 1228 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.50 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.8, 166.6, 138.2, 136.6, 130.4, 129.6, 128.8, 127.9, 126.0, 124.4, 123.2, 123.0, 120.0, 117.1, 61.3, 24.3, 14.6.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 308.12812, found 308.12828.



1-(5-Methoxy-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>19</sup> (2g) and 1-(5-methoxy-3-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>20</sup> (3g) General procedure was followed using alkyne **1g** (133 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 8.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 10:1, then 5:1) to give **2g** (17.5 mg, 0.066 mmol, 13%) as a pale brown oil and **3g** (111 mg, 0.418 mmol, 84%) as a colorless solid.



# 1-(5-Chloro-3-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>20</sup> (3h)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1h** (135 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 8.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 6.5:1) to give **3h** as a colorless solid. Yield: 118 mg (0.438 mmol, 88%).



#### Ethyl 1-acetyl-3-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylate (3i)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1i** (154 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 9.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 6:1) to give **3i** as a colorless solid. Yield: 138 mg (0.450 mmol, 90%).

mp 146.2-147.2 °C.

IR (ATR): 2361, 1705, 1449, 1383, 1350, 1330, 1273, 1225 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.53 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.38 (m, 1H), 4.39 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.8, 167.0, 139.0, 132.9, 129.3, 129.1, 128.3, 128.1, 127.0, 126.5, 124.7, 123.3, 122.3, 116.7, 61.2, 24.3, 14.6.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 308.12812, found 308.12843.



## 1-(3-(o-tolyl)-1H-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3j)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1j** (125 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (30.0 mg, 0.050 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (56.1 mg, 0.060 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 9:1) to give **3j** as a colorless solid. Yield: 116 mg (0.466 mmol, 93%).

mp 84.5-85.2 °C.

IR (ATR): 1697, 1449, 1383, 1354, 1340, 1265, 1227 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.49 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42–7.25 (m, 8H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.8, 137.2, 135.8, 132.6, 130.74, 130.66, 130.58, 128.2, 126.0, 125.6, 124.0, 123.8, 123.2, 120.5, 116.9, 24.3, 20.7.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{16}NO([M + H]^+)$ : 250.12264, found 250.12275.



# 1-(3-(2,6-Dimethylphenyl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3k)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1k** (132 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (30.0 mg, 0.050 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (56.1 mg, 0.060 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 24 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 9:1, then 3:1) to give the **3k** (71.3 mg, 0.271 mmol, 54%) as a pale brown solid. Compound **1k** was recovered (46.3 mg, 0.176 mmol, 35%).

mp 120.3–121.1 °C.

IR (ATR): 3001, 2921, 1706, 1449, 1378, 1352, 1334, 1256, 1222, 1183, 1143, 1035 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.48 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.23–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 6H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR

(76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.7, 138.2, 135.9, 132.0, 130.5, 128.0, 127.5, 125.5, 123.9, 122.9, 122.4, 120.1, 116.8, 24.2, 20.9.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{18}H_{17}NNaO$  ([M + Na]<sup>+</sup>): 286.12024, found 286.11923.



# 1-(2-Butyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>21</sup> (2l) and 1-(3-Butyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>18</sup> (3l)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $11^{22}$  (108 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppbz)] (32.4 mg, 0.050 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (56.1 mg, 0.060 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 20:1) to give 2l (35.8 mg, 0.166 mmol, 33%) as a colorless solid and 3l (64.8 mg, 0.301 mmol, 60%) as a pale yellow solid.

## (3-Butyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3m)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1m** (137 mg, 0.492 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppbz)] (31.9 mg, 0.049 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (55.2 mg, 0.059 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 2 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 7:1, then 3:1) to give **3m** as a pale yellow oil. Yield: 119 mg (0.428 mmol, 87%).

IR (ATR): 2955, 2928, 1683, 1453, 1374, 1333, 1261 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.36 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H), 7.59–7.49 (m, 4H), 7.40–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 2.65 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.70–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.46–1.32 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.6, 136.7, 135.2, 131.8, 131.5, 129.3, 128.8, 125.1, 124.0, 123.8, 123.2, 119.3, 116.8, 31.5, 24.8, 22.8, 14.1.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{20}NO$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 278.15394, found 278.15390.



#### (3-Cyclopentyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)(phenyl)methanone (3n)

General procedure was followed at using alkyne **1n** (145 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppbz)] (32.4 mg, 0.050 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (56.1 mg, 0.060 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 30:1) to give **3n** as a pale yellow oil. Yield: 134 mg (0.462 mmol, 92%).

IR (ATR): 2952, 2867, 1682, 1451, 1370, 1332, 1260 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.34 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.71 (2H, d, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 7.59 (2H, t, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.51 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.38–7.26 (2H, m), 7.03 (1H, s), 3.21–3.13 (1H, m), 2.17–2.05 (2H, m), 1.81–1.56 (7H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 168.7, 137.0, 135.2, 131.9, 131.3, 129.3, 128.8, 127.3, 125.1, 123.8, 122.6, 119.9, 116.8, 36.8, 32.7, 25.4.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{20}NO([M + H]^+)$ : 290.15394, found 290.15373.



# 1-(3-Benzoyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl)ethan-1-one<sup>23</sup> (3p)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1p** (132 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture was heated at 110 °C for 1.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 4:1) to give **3p** as a colorless solid. Yield: 122 mg (0.464 mmol, 93%).



### Ethyl 1-acetyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylate (3q)

The glasswares for this reaction were flame dried. Before starting the reaction, NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O was treated with anhydrous toluene (2.5 mL) and the mixture was evaporated (three times). General procedure was followed using alkyne **1q** (117 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (15.0 mg, 0.025 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (28.0 mg, 0.030 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 1 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / ethyl acetate 5:1) to give **3q** as a colorless solid. Yield: 91.5 mg (0.396 mmol, 79%).

mp 94.7–95.3 °C.

IR (ATR): 2979, 1709, 1557, 1444, 1380, 1194 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.40 (1H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.12 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.2, 2.1 Hz), 8.07 (1H, s), 7.41–7.32 (2H, m), 4.40 (2H, q, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.66 (3H, s), 1.42 (3H, t, *J* = 7.1 Hz).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ168.9, 164.2, 136.1, 131.3, 127.5, 126.1, 125.0, 121.8, 116.7, 114.3, 60.8, 24.1, 14.6.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{13}H_{14}NO_3$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 232.09682, found 232.09704.



#### 1-(1*H*,1'*H*-[3,5'-Biindol]-1-yl)ethan-1-one (3r)

General procedure was followed using alkyne **1r** (137 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (9.0 mg, 0.015 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (16.8 mg, 0.018 mmol). The mixture in PhCl (4 mL) was heated at 90 °C for 1.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (methylene chloride / hexane 3:1) to give **3r** as a brown amorphous solid. Yield: 126 mg (0.460 mmol, 92%).

IR (ATR): 3419, 2359, 1698, 1684, 1449, 1381, 1349 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.54 (1H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 8.29 (1H, s), 7.91 (1H, s), 7.87 (1H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.51–7.45 (3H, m), 7.45–7.38 (1H, m), 7.34 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.27–7.25 (1H, m), 6.64–6.60 (1H, m), 2.67 (3H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ168.9, 136.5, 135.6, 129.9, 128.6, 125.6, 125.5, 125.2, 125.1, 124.0, 122.7, 121.7, 120.4, 120.3, 117.0, 111.7, 103.0, 24.3.

HR-MS (APCI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{18}H_{15}N_2O$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 275.11789, found 275.11790.



# 1-Phenylchromeno[3,4-*b*]pyrrol-4(3*H*)-one (3s)

General procedure was followed using alkyne  $1s^{24}$  (131 mg, 0.500 mmol), [CpRuCl(dppe)] (15.0 mg, 0.025 mmol), and NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (28.0 mg, 0.030 mmol). The mixture was heated at 145 °C for 2.5 h. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (methylene chloride / ethyl acetate 30:1) to give **3s** as a colorless solid. Yield: 125 mg (0.477 mmol, 95%).

mp 244.8–245.4 °C.

IR (ATR): 3236, 1704, 1396, 1105 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.54 (1H, s), 7.69 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz), 7.55-7.38 (6H, m), 7.38-7.30 (2H, m), 7.12-7.06 (1H, m).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ156.4, 151.4, 134.4, 130.0, 128.9, 128.1, 127.93, 126.2, 124.3, 123.8, 122.9, 118.6, 117.7 (two signals are missing).

HR-MS (ESI-TOF) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{12}NO_2$  ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>): 262.08626, found 262.08629.

# 2.5 Scheme 2. Synthesis and Reaction of Vinylidene Complex 4



A solution of [CpRuCl(dppe)] (240 mg, 0.400 mmol), NaBAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (449 mg, 0.480 mmol), and **1b** (416 mg, 1.4 mmol) in chlorobenzene (7 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 30 min. The reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 1:1, then 1:1.3) to give **4** as a pink amorphous solid. Yield: 547 mg (0.317 mmol, 79%).

IR (ATR): 1682, 1625, 1521, 1438, 1355, 1279, 1126 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (br s, 8H), 7.49 (br s, 4H), 7.46–7.27 (m, 12H), 7.21–7.09 (m, 7H), 7.03–6.87 (m, 11H), 6.61–6.53 (m, 2H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.35 (s, 5H), 3.19–2.86 (m, 4H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (76 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  346.2 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 15.6 Hz), 165.5 (s), 161.9 (q, J = 50.3 Hz, Ar<sup>F</sup>), 135.8 (s), 135.5 (s), 135.0 (s), 134.8 (s), 134.2 (s), 133.2 (s), 132.6 (s), 132.4 (s), 132.2–131.8 (m), 131.4 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 5.2 Hz), 130.2 (s), 129.7 (s), 129.6 (s), 129.5–129.00 (m), 128.95–128.8 (m), 128.5–128.4 (m), 127.8 (s), 127.7 (s), 126.9 (s), 125.53 (s), 125.49 (s), 125.0 (s), 124.8 (q,  $J_{FC}$  = 273.1 Hz), 120.9 (s), 117.8–117.5 (m), 92.5 (s), 28.2–27.4 (m).

 ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  (121 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  75.8.

HR-MS (ESI-FT-ICR) calcd for  $C_{52}H_{44}NOP_2Ru$  ([M – BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): 862.19496, found 862.19477.



A solution of **4** (345 mg, 0.200 mmol) in chlorobenzene (2 mL) was heated at 110 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography over silica gel (hexane / methylene chloride 2.5:1) to give **3b** as a colorless solid. Yield: 51.9 mg (0.175 mmol, 87%).

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# 4. Copies of NMR Spectra











S28


















































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