

Supporting Information

Rh(I)-Catalyzed Alkylation of *ortho* C-H Bonds in Aromatic Amides with Maleimides

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I. General Information.

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECS-400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ with tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm (δ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, brs = broad singlet, and m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. In some cases, some peaks in the ¹³C NMR spectra cannot be analyzed because of overlapping peaks. Infrared spectra (IR) were obtained using a JASCO FT/IR-4200 spectrometer; absorptions are reported in reciprocal centimeters with the following relative intensities: s (strong), m (medium), or w (weak). Mass spectra and high resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained using a JEOL JMS-700 spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a Yamato melting point apparatus. Column chromatography was performed with SiO₂ (Silicycle SiliaFlash F60 (230-400 mesh)). Some compounds were purified by LC-908 HPLC (GPC).

II. Materials.

Toluene (Kanto Chemical) was purified by passage through activated alumina using a GlassContour Solvent Dispensing System. 8-Aminoquinoline (CAS 578-66-5), maleimide (CAS 541-59-3), *N*-methylmaleimide (CAS 930-88-1), *N*-ethylmaleimide (CAS 128-53-0), *N*-cyclohexylmaleimide (CAS: 1631-25-0), *N*-phenylmaleimide (CAS: 941-69-5), *N*-benzylmaleimide (CAS: 1631-26-1), 2-methylbenzoic acid (CAS: 118-90-1) were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl]₂ (CAS: 52462-29-0) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. [Rh(OAc)(cod)]₂ was prepared according to literature procedures.¹

III. Synthesis of Starting Materials.

All amides bearing an 8-aminoquinoline moiety were prepared by reacting the corresponding acid or the corresponding acid chlorides with 8-aminoquinoline.²

General Procedure for the Preparation of Starting Amides.

(1) Synthesis of amides from acid chlorides.

The acid chloride (15 mmol) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). After cooling the reaction mixture to 0 °C, a solution of 8-aminoquinoline (15 mmol) and triethylamine (36 mmol) in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt and was then stirred overnight. The crude mixture was then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (3x20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 1 M HCl aq. (20 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solution taken to dryness. The resulting crude amide was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes/EtOAc = 5/1).

¹ Chatt, J.; Venanzi, L. M. *J. Chem. Soc.* **1957**, 4735.

² Shibata, K.; Chatani, N. *Org. Lett.* **2014**, 16, 5148.

(2) Synthesis of amides from carboxylic acid.

To a stirred solution of carboxylic acid (15 mmol) and DMF (5 drops) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), (COCl)₂ (1.5 mL, 18 mmol) was added dropwise. The solution was magnetically stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was then eliminated under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL). After cooling the reaction mixture to 0 °C, a solution of 8-aminoquinoline (15 mmol) and triethylamine (36 mmol) in 10 mL of the same solvent were added dropwise. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The crude product was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL), and CH₂Cl₂ (3x20 mL). The organic phase was washed with 1 M HCl aq. (20 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent removed by evaporation of the solvent. The resulting crude amide was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexanes/EtOAc = 5/1).

IV. Synthesis of Alkylation Products.

(1) General procedure for the Rh(I)-catalyzed alkylation of aromatic amides with *N*-methylmaleimide.

To an oven-dried 5 mL screw-capped vial, 2-methyl-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**1a**) (78.7 mg, 0.3 mmol), *N*-methylmaleimide (39.6 mg, 0.36 mmol), [Rh(OAc)(cod)]₂ (4.1 mg, 0.0075 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 12 hours at 160 °C and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1) and further purified through GPC to afford the alkylation product **2a** (93.0 mg, 83%) as a white powder.

(2) General procedure for the Ru(II)-catalyzed alkylation of aromatic amides with *N*-methylmaleimide.

To an oven-dried 5 mL screw-capped vial, 2-methyl-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**1a**) (78.7 mg, 0.3 mmol), *N*-methylmaleimide (39.6 mg, 0.36 mmol), 2-methylbenzoic acid (40.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), [RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)]₂ (4.6 mg, 0.0075 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 12 hours at 160 °C and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL), and EtOAc (3x20 mL); then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1) and further purified through GPC to afford the alkylation product **2a** (75.1 mg, 67%) as a white powder.

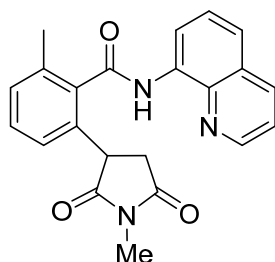
(3) A gram scale reaction

To an oven-dried 40 mL screw-capped vial, 2-methyl-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**1a**) (1049.2

mg, 4.0 mmol), *N*-methylmaleimide (132.1 mg, 1.2 mmol), [Rh(OAc)(cod)]₂ (54.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (14 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 12 hours at 160 °C and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad and then concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexane/EtOAc= 1.5:1) to afford the alkylation product **2a** (1401.1 mg, 94%) as a white powder.

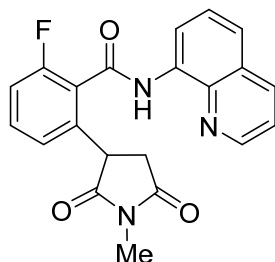
V. Spectroscopic Data.

2-methyl-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**2a**)



93.0 mg, 83% yield (Rh(I)-catalyzed); 75.1 mg, 67% yield (Ru(II)-catalyzed). *R_f* 0.23 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). White powder. M.p. 103.4-103.9 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.88-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.91 (dd, *J* = 5.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 10.19 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 19.97, 25.24, 38.28, 44.41, 116.93, 121.94, 122.55, 125.00, 127.33, 128.11, 130.14, 130.29, 134.13, 134.87, 135.66, 136.41, 138.10, 138.62, 148.71, 167.82, 176.32, 177.97; IR (ATR) 3337 w 2951 w 1776 w 1699 s 1669 m, 1596 w, 1520 s, 1483 m, 1425 m, 1383 m, 1325 w, 1281 m, 1120 w, 758 m; MS *m/z* (relative intensity, %) 373 (*M*⁺, 23), 231 (12), 230 (82), 229 (100), 160 (20), 145 (52), 144 (81), 117 (12), 115 (11); HRMS Calcd for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₃: 373.1426; Found: 373.1423.

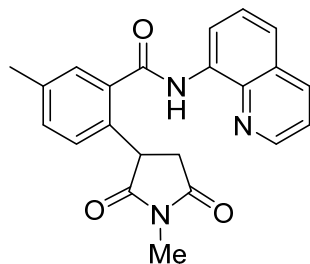
2-fluoro-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**2b**)



67.2 mg, 60% yield. *R_f* 0.34 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1). White powder. M.p. 75.8-76.1 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 2.94-3.01 (m, 1H), 3.00 (s, 3H), 3.29 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.81-8.83 (m, 2H), 10.51 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 25.29, 38.22, 44.91, 116.15 (d, *J* = 22.9 Hz), 116.85, 121.96, 122.62, 124.71 (d, *J* = 17.2 Hz), 125.41, 127.35, 128.10, 132.23 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 134.26, 136.42, 138.60, 138.86, 148.67, 159.89 (d, *J* = 247.9 Hz), 162.60, 176.19, 177.69; IR (ATR) 3340 w, 3016 w, 2945 w,

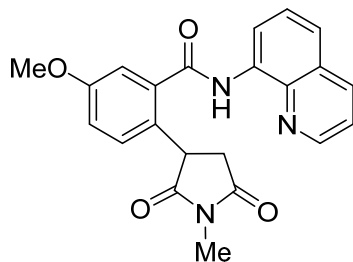
1176 w, 1698 s, 1667 m, 1612 w, 1576 w, 1524 s, 1485 m, 1427 m, 1384 m, 1327 m, 1281 m, 1120 m, 827 w, 791 m, 752 s, 692 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 377 (M^+ , 20), 234 (24), 233 (14), 149 (21), 145 (17), 144 (100); HRMS Calcd for $C_{21}H_{16}FN_3O_3$: 377.1176; Found: 377.1174.

5-methyl-2-(1-methyl-2, 5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (2c)



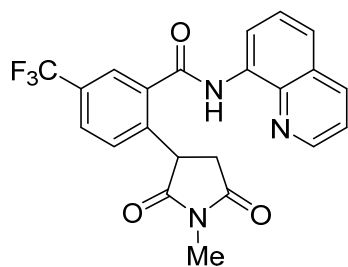
92.8 mg, 83% yield. R_f 0.25 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). Yellow powder. M.p. 116.6-116.8 °C. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.94 (dd, J = 18.1, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.29 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.78-8.83 (m, 2H), 10.43 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 21.27, 25.19, 38.49, 44.78, 116.58, 121.88, 122.21, 127.42, 128.10, 128.51, 130.23, 132.20, 133.78, 134.62, 135.83, 136.48, 138.45, 138.73, 148.52, 167.55, 176.75, 178.62. IR (ATR) 3343 w, 3015 w, 2950 w, 1176 w, 1698 s, 1667 m, 1597 w, 1573 w, 1522 s, 1482 m, 1425 m, 1383 m, 1326 m, 1281 m, 1119 m, 1041 w, 953 m, 827 m, 792 m, 751 s, 693 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 373 (M^+ , 14), 230 (50), 229 (100), 188 (20), 160 (25), 145 (29), 144 (65), 130 (10), 117 (10), 115 (10); HRMS Calcd for $C_{22}H_{19}N_3O_3$: 373.1426; Found: 373.1427.

5-methoxy-2-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (2d)



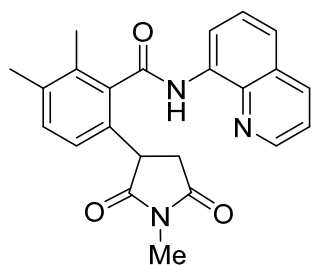
63.0 mg, 54% yield. R_f 0.18 (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1). Pale yellow powder. M.p. 81.2-81.6 °C. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 2.93 (dd, J = 18.3, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 3.28 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 4.44 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (m, 2H), 10.44 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 25.20, 38.53, 44.47, 55.78, 114.05, 116.33, 116.61, 121.93, 122.32, 127.40, 128.09, 128.52, 131.56, 134.52, 136.48, 137.02, 138.72, 148.56, 159.25, 167.14, 176.76, 178.75; IR (ATR) 3341 w, 3012 w, 2947 w, 2360 m, 2340 w, 1776 w, 1697 s, 1670 m, 1606 w, 1576 w, 1525 s, 1482 m, 1425 m, 1383 m, 1326 m, 1281 m, 1223 m, 1119 m, 1041 w, 955 w, 826 m, 792 m, 751 s, 694 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 389 (M^+ , 13), 246 (22), 245 (100), 204 (29), 176 (10), 144 (17); HRMS Calcd for $C_{22}H_{19}N_3O_4$: 389.1376; Found: 389.1378.

2-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide (2e)



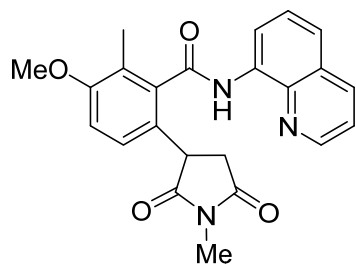
84.5 mg, 66% yield. R_f 0.20 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). White powder. M.p. 84.9-85.4 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.97 (dd, J = 18.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 3.33 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, J = 9.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (q, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.79 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.76 (dd, J = 6.4, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.83 (m, 1H), 10.49 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 25.30, 38.11, 45.02, 116.81, 120.77 (q, J = 270.2 Hz), 122.06, 122.76, 124.86 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 127.32, 128.11, 130.48 (q, J = 33.0 Hz), 130.98, 131.03, 134.19, 136.53, 136.95, 138.67, 140.60, 148.77, 166.01, 175.96, 177.55; IR (ATR) 3333 w, 3016 w, 2945 m, 1778 m, 1700 s, 1672 m, 1525 s, 1484 m, 1429 m, 1384 m, 1333 m, 1282 m, 1172 m, 1124 s, 1085 w, 955 w, 916 w, 756 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 427 (M^+ , 11), 199 (11), 171 (10), 145 (15), 144 (100); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{FN}_3\text{O}_3$: 427.1144; Found: 427.1142.

2,3-dimethyl-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (2f)



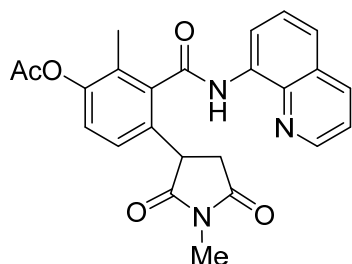
116.1 mg, 100% yield. R_f 0.24 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). White powder. M.p. 104.2-104.7 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd, J = 18.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.79 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.91-8.94 (m, 1H), 10.16 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 17.03, 20.20, 25.20, 38.28, 44.25, 116.91, 121.93, 122.52, 124.67, 127.32, 128.10, 131.45, 132.19, 133.94, 134.17, 136.38, 137.52, 138.38, 138.60, 148.68, 168.44, 176.42, 178.10; IR (ATR) 3338 w, 3014 w, 2948 w, 1777w, 1697 s, 1669 m, 1597 w, 1577 w, 1520 s, 1483 m, 1425 m, 1384 m, 1326 m, 1281 m, 1119 m, 827 w, 793 w, 753 m, 692 w; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 387 (M^+ , 17), 245 (11), 244 (71), 243 (100), 174 (21), 159 (21), 144 (16); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 387.1583; Found: 387.1588.

3-methoxy-2-methyl-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (2g)



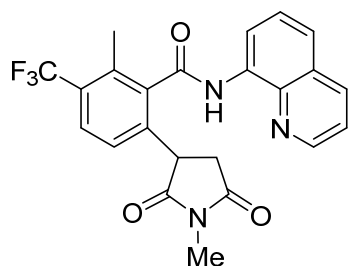
120.6 mg, 99% yield. R_f 0.33 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1). Pale yellow powder. M.p. 97.9-98.3 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.91 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd, J = 18.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 4.20 (dd, J = 9.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.87-8.91 (m, 1H), 10.16 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 13.39, 25.15, 38.35, 44.00, 55.78, 111.41, 116.84, 121.92, 122.50, 124.41, 126.15, 126.28, 127.30, 128.08, 134.10, 136.36, 138.57, 139.14, 148.65, 157.49, 167.64, 176.46, 178.30. IR (ATR) 3337 w, 3014 w, 2946 w, 1776 w, 1697 s, 1671 m, 1583 w, 1521 s, 1482 m, 1429 m, 1384 m, 1326 m, 1273 m, 1118 w, 1096 m, 826 w, 793 w, 752 m, 692 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 403 (M^+ , 16), 260 (41), 259 (100), 218 (31), 190 (17); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_4$: 403.1532; Found: 403.1527.

2-methyl-4-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-3-(quinolin-8-ylcarbamoyl)phenyl acetate (2h)



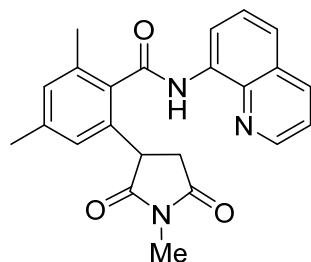
122.9 mg, 95% yield. R_f 0.24 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1). Pale pink powder. M.p. 105.2-105.4 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.88-2.92 (m, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 3.21 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (qd, J = 4.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dt, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.80-8.81 (m, 1H), 8.89 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 10.20 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 13.70, 20.91, 25.22, 38.11, 44.10, 116.97, 121.99, 122.71, 123.91, 126.20, 127.23, 128.06, 128.24, 132.49, 133.95, 136.35, 138.56, 139.72, 148.78, 149.11, 166.69, 169.08, 176.04, 177.55. IR (ATR) 3332 w, 3018 w, 2939 w, 1761 w, 1698 s, 1670 m, 1595 w, 1521 s, 1483 m, 1427 m, 1383 m, 1326 m, 1281 m, 1200 m, 1119 m, 898 w, 827 w, 793 w, 749 s; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 431 (M^+ , 16), 289 (12), 288 (70), 287 (78), 246 (23), 245 (100), 244 (10), 204 (63), 176 (24), 171 (10), 161 (21), 145 (18), 144 (55); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5$: 431.1481; Found: 431.1481.

2-methyl-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)benzamide (2i)



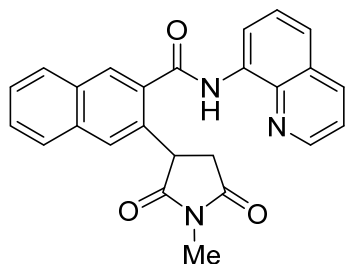
119.5 mg, 90% yield. R_f 0.26 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). White powder. M.p. 93.7-94.2 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.85-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 3.25 (dd, J = 18.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 8.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.73 (d, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.82 (dd, J = 4.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.90 (dd, J = 6.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 10.23 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 16.57, 25.38, 37.92, 44.38, 117.19, 122.12, 123.03, 124.03 (d, J = 272.6 Hz), 125.12, 125.40, 127.31, 127.58 (d, J = 5.7 Hz), 128.15, 129.63 (q, J = 29.5 Hz), 133.79, 134.89, 136.52, 138.55, 140.54, 148.89, 166.65, 175.72, 177.16; IR (ATR) 3329 w, 3020 w, 2943 w, 1778 w, 1699 s, 1670 m, 1598 w, 1522 s, 1484 m, 1427 m, 1384 m, 1319 m, 1281 m, 1184 w, 1121 m, 1110 m, 898 m, 793 m, 753, m, 695 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 441 (M^+ , 16), 298 (27), 213 (27), 145 (16), 144 (100); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 441.1300; Found: 441.1299.

2,4-dimethyl-6-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (2j)



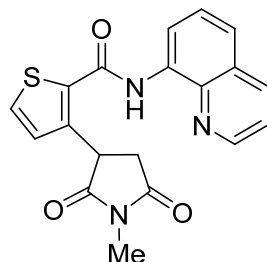
109.1 mg, 94% yield. R_f 0.20 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). Yellow powder. M.p. 86.4-86.7 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.87-2.94 (m, 1H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 3.23 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.44 (qd, J = 4.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.60 (m, 2H), 8.16 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.89 (q, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 10.16 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 19.90, 21.35, 25.20, 38.31, 44.33, 116.77, 121.88, 122.38, 125.60, 127.29, 128.06, 131.02, 134.18, 134.87, 135.37, 135.49, 136.34, 138.56, 140.13, 148.62, 168.01, 176.40, 178.10; IR (ATR); 3339 w, 3014 w, 1776 w, 1697 s, 1668 m, 1610 w, 1520 s, 1483 m, 1425 m, 1383 m, 1325 m, 1281 m, 1117 m, 827 w, 763 w, 751 s, 680 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 387 (M^+ , 10), 245 (12), 244 (82), 243 (100), 174 (23), 159 (43), 144 (26); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 387.1583; Found: 387.1577.

3-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)-2-naphthamide (2k)



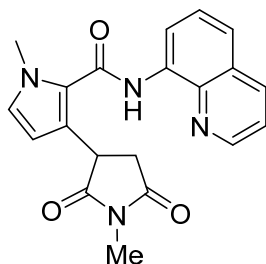
62.0 mg, 51% yield. R_f 0.24 (hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1). Pale yellow powder. M.p. 216.0-216.5 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 3.04-3.10 (m, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, J = 18.1, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (dd, J = 9.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.63 (m, 4H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (s, 1H), 8.82-8.84 (m, 2H), 10.61 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 25.25, 38.49, 45.47, 116.61, 121.92, 122.29, 127.40, 127.47, 127.74, 128.16, 128.36, 128.47, 128.53, 130.70, 132.17, 133.22, 133.56, 134.29, 134.73, 136.53, 138.79, 148.56, 167.62, 176.72, 179.60. IR (ATR) 3342 w, 3015 w, 2948 w, 1776 w, 1697 s, 1668 m, 1597 w, 1522 s, 1484 m, 1427 m, 1384 m, 1326 w, 1281 m, 1120 w, 827 w, 793 w, 752 m, 695 w; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 409 (M^+ , 15), 266 (40), 265 (100), 224 (15), 196 (20), 181 (11), 153 (10), 152(11), 144 (17); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 409.1426; Found: 409.1428.

3-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)thiophene-2-carboxamide (2l)



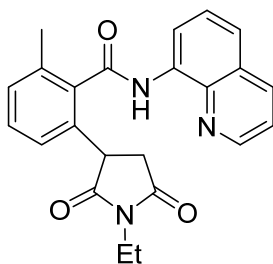
78.8 mg, 72% yield. R_f 0.23 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1). Brown powder. M.p. 187.4-187.8 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.86 (dd, J = 18.3, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.31 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd, J = 9.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.49 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.55 (m, 2H), 8.17 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (dd, J = 5.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 8.84 (dd, J = 4.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 10.49 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 25.27, 37.41, 41.30, 116.75, 121.89, 122.12, 127.39, 127.93, 128.03, 130.12, 132.61, 134.32, 136.48, 138.57, 141.94, 148.53, 160.27, 176.52, 177.75; IR (ATR) 3310 w, 3015 w, 2945 w, 1777 w, 1697 s, 1658 m, 1596 w, 1523 s, 1484 m, 1424 m, 1383 m, 1327 m, 1281 m, 1215w, 1118 m, 956 w, 792 m, 752 m, 752 s, 691 m, 665 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 365 (M^+ , 31), 222 (21), 221 (24), 180 (15), 145 (17), 144 (100), 137 (21); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$: 365.0834; Found: 365.0836.

1-methyl-3-(1-methyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-N-(quinolin-8-yl)-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxamide (2m)



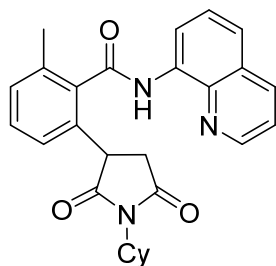
88.4 mg, 82% yield. R_f 0.28 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:1). Brown powder. M.p. 67.0-67.2 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.90 (dd, J = 18.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 3.37 (dd, J = 18.3, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 4.63 (dd, J = 9.4, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.75-8.80 (m, 2H), 10.35 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 25.30, 36.84, 37.70, 39.16, 106.23, 117.57, 121.81, 122.15, 123.14, 126.43, 127.36, 127.46, 128.21, 134.74, 136.54, 139.09, 148.54, 160.04, 176.63, 178.62; IR (ATR) 3347 w, 3014 w, 2950 w, 1776 w, 1697 s, 1658 m, 1521 s, 1482 m, 1425 m, 1383 m, 1326 m, 1281 m, 1119 m, 956 w, 887 w, 827 w, 792 w, 753 m, 689 w; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 362 (M^+ , 20), 219 (27), 218 (100), 177 (54), 134 (17); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}_3$: 362.1379; Found: 362.1384.

2-(1-ethyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-6-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (3a)



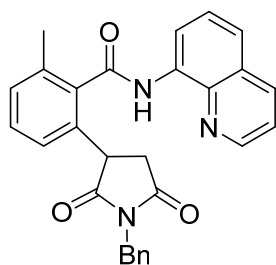
99.9 mg, 86% yield. R_f 0.17 (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1). White powder. M.p. 82.1-82.5 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 1.14 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.87 (dd, J = 18.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (dd, J = 18.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (qd, J = 4.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.61 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dt, J = 8.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.79-8.80 (m, 1H), 8.93 (m, 1H), 10.18 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 13.12, 19.97, 34.12, 38.38, 44.20, 116.98, 121.92, 122.53, 124.68, 127.32, 128.12, 130.17, 130.22, 134.15, 135.16, 135.65, 136.39, 138.17, 138.66, 148.69, 167.82, 176.09, 177.65; IR (ATR) 3334 w, 2951 w, 2876 w, 2360 w, 1772 w, 1701 s, 1673 m, 1522 s, 1483 m, 1400 m, 1326 m, 1224 m, 1126 m, 789 m, 773 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 387 (M^+ , 11), 245 (11), 244 (77), 243 (100), 174 (11), 146 (12), 145 (49), 144 (53), 130 (10), 117 (11), 115 (11); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 387.1583; Found: 387.1578.

2-(1-cyclohexyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-6-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (4a)



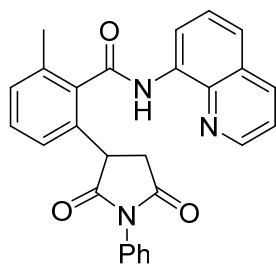
95.1 mg, 72% yield. R_f 0.29 (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1). White powder. M.p. 102.8-103.3 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 1.15-1.29 (m, 3H), 1.15-1.63 (m, 3H), 1.71-1.86 (m, 2H), 2.10-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.80 (dd, J = 18.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 18.7, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97-4.01 (m, 1H), 4.21 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.60 (m, 2H), 8.18 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.80 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.93 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 10.19 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 19.97, 25.03, 25.85, 28.83, 38.26, 43.73, 52.05, 117.02, 121.90, 122.50, 124.35, 127.29, 128.10, 130.11, 130.16, 134.16, 135.54, 135.58, 136.39, 138.17, 138.63, 148.65, 167.85, 176.38, 177.88; IR (ATR) 3338 w, 3016 w, 2932 w, 2856 w, 1773 w, 1696 s, 1671 m, 1596 w, 1521 s, 1483 m, 1424 m, 1373 m, 1325 m, 1261 w, 1188 m, 1143 w, 897 w, 826 w, 752 s, 666 w; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 441 (M^+ , 14), 298 (44), 297 (100), 217 (10), 216 (78), 215 (47), 146 (20), 145 (49), 144 (36), 117 (12), 115 (10); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 441.2052; Found: 441.2057.

2-(1-benzyl-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-6-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (5a)



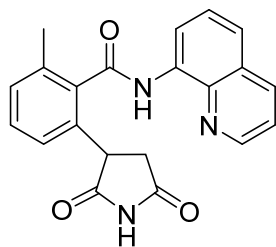
98.5 mg, 73% yield. R_f 0.33 (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1). White powder. m.p. 86.4-86.9 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.86 (dd, J = 18.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, J = 18.7, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.36 (m, 6H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.61 (m, 2H), 8.17 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (dd, J = 4.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.90 (dd, J = 5.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 10.18 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 19.97, 38.35, 42.72, 44.12, 116.99, 121.95, 122.55, 124.57, 127.32, 128.01, 128.08, 128.69, 128.86, 130.17, 130.21, 134.10, 135.05, 135.60, 135.81, 136.40, 138.14, 148.66, 167.77, 175.81, 177.51; IR (ATR) 3339 w, 3018 w, 2939 w, 1776 w, 1701 s, 1669 m, 1596 w, 1521 s, 1483 m, 1425 m, 1392 m, 1325 m, 1167 m, 827 s, 754 m, 701 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 449 (M^+ , 17), 307 (10), 306 (55), 305 (95), 145 (20), 144 (34), 91 (100); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 449.1739; Found: 449.1735.

2-(2,5-dioxo-1-phenylpyrrolidin-3-yl)-6-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (6a)



118.1 mg, 90% yield. R_f 0.21 (hexane/EtOAc = 2:1). Pale yellow powder. M.p. 91.0-91.4 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.51 (s, 3H), 3.10 (dd, J = 18.5, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.40 (dd, J = 18.5, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, J = 9.7, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.44 (m, 8H), 7.58-7.59 (m, 2H), 8.16 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.75 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 8.93 (dd, J = 6.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 10.21 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 20.16, 38.40, 44.72, 117.04, 121.94, 122.58, 125.46, 126.61, 127.33, 128.13, 128.67, 129.17, 130.29, 130.54, 132.05, 134.12, 135.06, 135.84, 136.41, 137.91, 138.66, 148.70, 167.87, 175.25, 176.79; IR (ATR) 3338 w, 3015 w, 2941 w, 1779 w, 1711 s, 1666 m, 1596 w, 1521 s, 1483 m, 1424 m, 1382 s, 1326 m, 1269 w, 1179 m, 838 w, 751 s, 695 m, 664 m; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 435 (M^+ , 25), 293 (12), 292 (71), 291 (100), 222 (10), 171 (10), 145 (81), 144 (54), 116 (10), 115 (15); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 435.1583; Found: 435.1588.

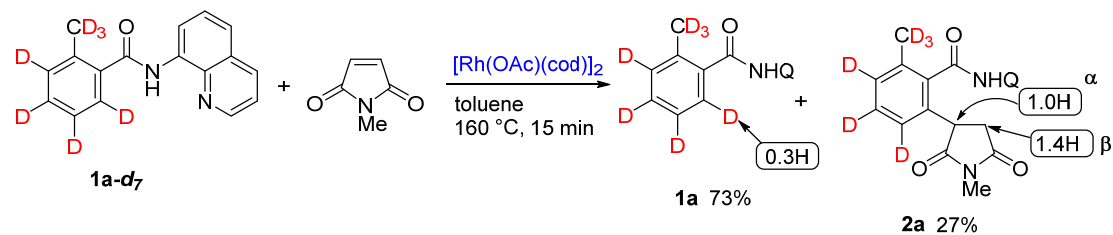
2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-3-yl)-6-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (7a)



100.6 mg, 93% yield. R_f 0.43 (hexane/EtOAc = 1:2). White powder. M.p. 163.7-164.2 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.94 (dd, J = 18.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 18.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.60 (m, 2H), 8.17-8.19 (m, 2H), 8.79 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.92 (dd, J = 5.5, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 10.18 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 20.02, 39.39, 45.67, 117.12, 122.01, 122.65, 124.82, 127.43, 128.20, 130.27, 130.48, 134.19, 134.45, 135.81, 136.47, 138.23, 138.70, 148.76, 167.84, 175.82, 177.81; IR (ATR) 3333 w, 3074 w, 2987 w, 1775 w, 1705 s, 1669 m, 1596 w, 1521 s, 1483 m, 1425 m, 1384 m, 1326 m, 1244 m, 1177 w, 1126 w, 1045 w, 828 w, 792 w, 696 w; MS m/z (relative intensity, %) 359 (M^+ , 13), 216 (7), 145 (37), 144 (100); HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3$: 359.1270; Found: 359.1271.

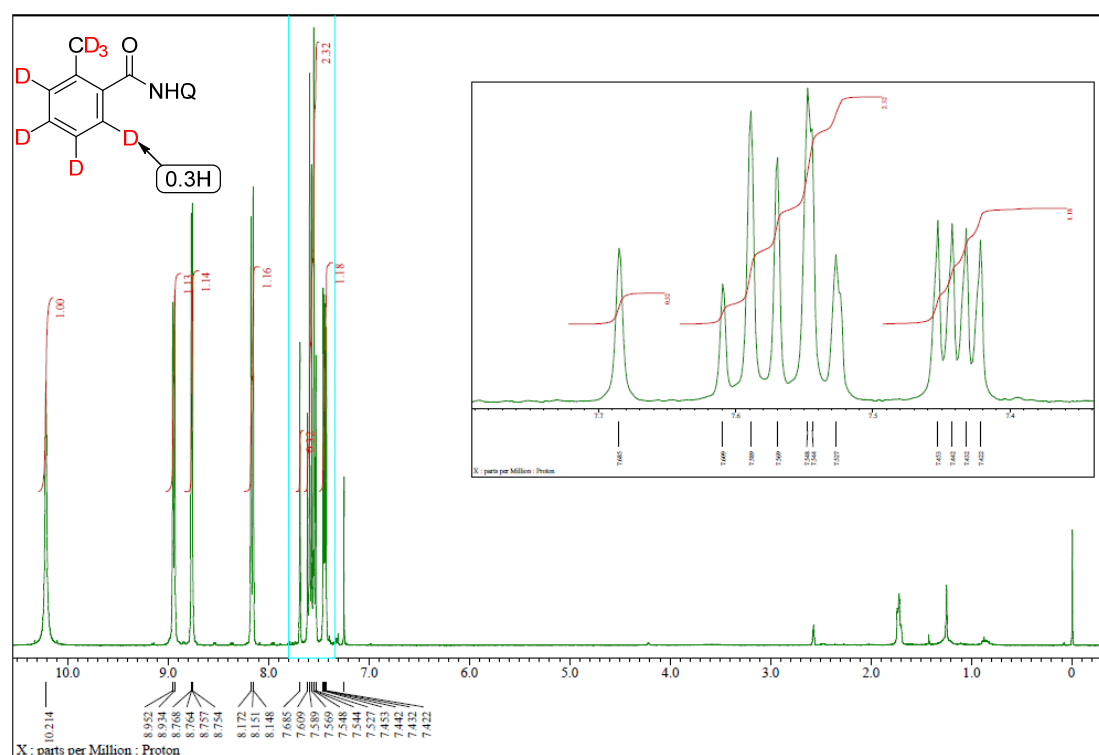
VI. Deuterium Labeling Experiments

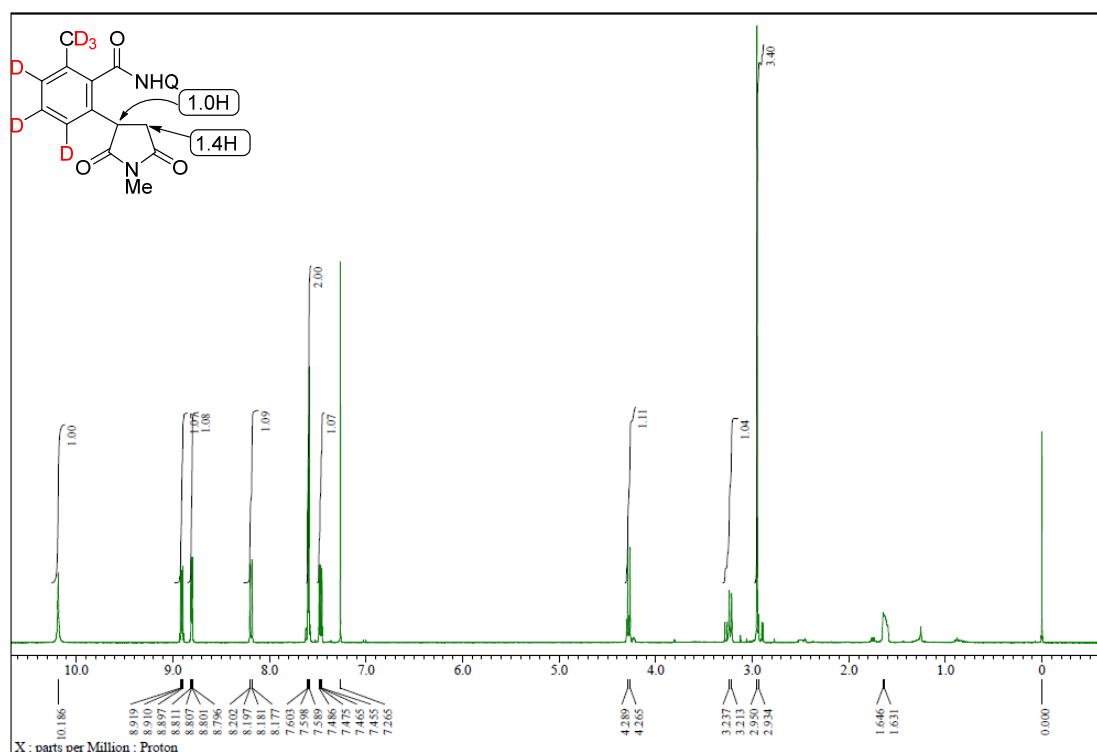
(a) Rh (I) system



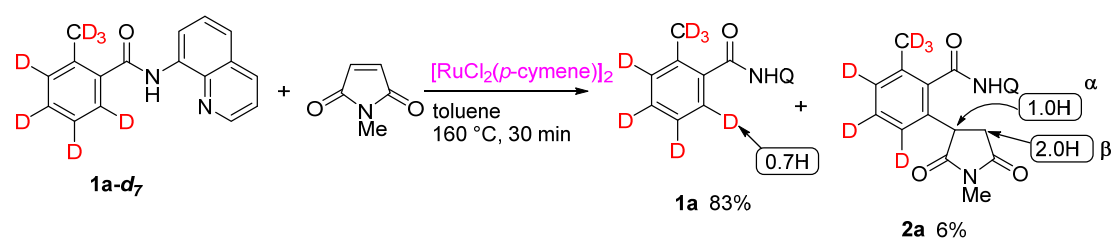
Representative procedure.

To an oven-dried 5 mL screw-capped vial, 2-methyl-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide **1a-d₇** (80.8 mg, 0.3 mmol), *N*-methylmaleimide (39.6 mg, 0.36 mmol), $[\text{Rh}(\text{OAc})(\text{cod})]_2$ (4.1 mg, 0.0075 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 15 minutes at 160 °C and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1) to afford the desired product and starting material.



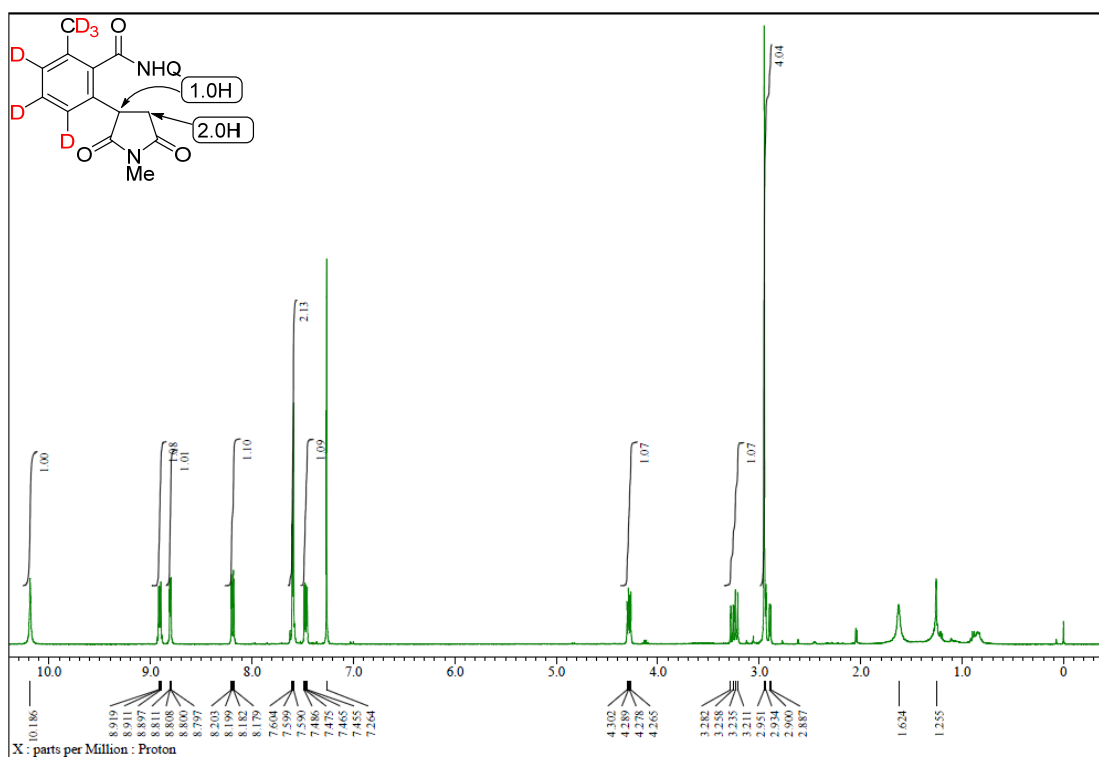
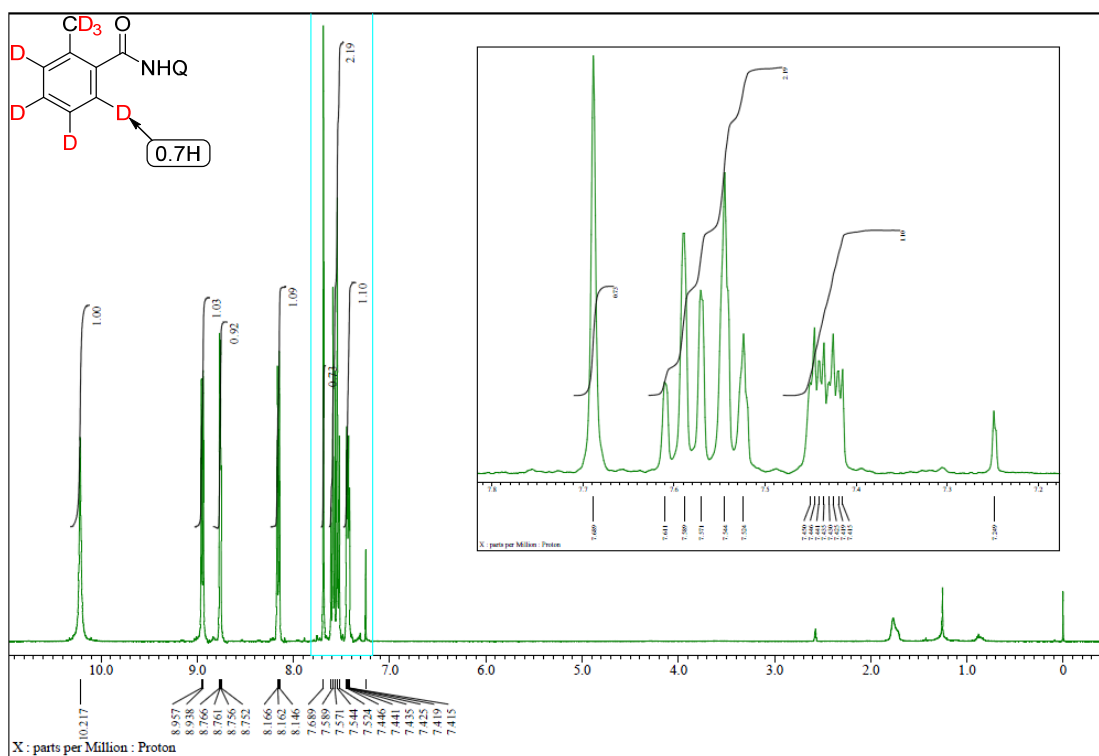


(a) Ru (II) system



Representative procedure.

To an oven-dried 5 mL screw-capped vial, 2-methyl-*N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (80.8 mg, 0.3 mmol), *N*-methylmaleimide (39.6 mg, 0.36 mmol), 2-methylbenzoic acid (40.9 mg, 0.3 mmol), $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$ (4.6 mg, 0.0075 mmol) and toluene (1 mL) were added. The mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 160 °C and then cooled to room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (20 mL), and EtOAc (3x20 mL); then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: hexane/EtOAc = 1.5:1) to afford the desired product and starting material.



VII. Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

