

High Yielding Palladium-Catalyzed Intramolecular Alkane Arylation: Reaction Development and Mechanistic Studies

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Supporting Information

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Computational Details

All DFT calculations were performed using the Gaussian 03 package.¹ Stationary points on the potential energy surface were obtained using the B3LYP exchange-correlation functional^{2,3} with the DZVP basis⁴ for the Pd atom and the TZVP basis⁵ for the other atoms. Geometry optimizations were performed with the GDIIIS optimizer.^{6,7} Preliminary calculations were performed by using the DZVP basis for all atoms. Such a combination is necessary to reduce the effects of basis set superposition errors (BSSE)⁸ in geometry and thermochemistry, and to provide a balanced description of ionic and covalent contributions to chemical bonding.⁹ Tight SCF convergence criteria (10^{-8} a.u.) were used for all calculations. The converged wave functions were tested to confirm that they correspond to the ground-state surface. Harmonic frequency calculations were used to determine the nature of the stationary points and the intrinsic reaction

¹ Frisch, M. J.; Trucks, G. W.; Schlegel, H. B.; Scuseria, G. E.; Robb, M. A.; Cheeseman, J. R.; Montgomery, J., Jr.; Vreven, T.; Kudin, K. N.; Burant, J. C.; Millam, J. M.; Lyengar, S. S.; Tomasi, J.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Cossi, M.; Scalmani, G.; Rega, N.; Petersson, G. A.; Nakatsuji, H.; Hada, M.; Ehara, M.; Toyota, K.; Fukuda, R.; Hasegawa, J.; Ishida, M.; Nakajima, T.; Honda, Y.; Kitao, O.; Nakai, H.; Klene, M.; Li, X.; Knox, J. E.; Hratchian, H. P.; Cross, J. B.; Adamo, C.; Jaramillo, J.; Gomperts, R.; Stratmann, R. E.; Yazyev, O.; Austin, A. J.; Cammi, R.; Pomelli, C.; Ochterski, J. W.; Ayala, P. Y.; Morokuma, K.; Voth, G. A.; Salvador, P.; Dannenberg, J. J.; Zakrzewski, V. G.; Dapprich, S.; Daniels, A. D.; Strain, M. C.; Farkas, O.; Malick, D. K.; Rabuck, A. D.; Raghavachari, K.; Foresman, J. B.; Ortiz, J. V.; Cui, Q.; Baboul, A. G.; Clifford, S.; Cioslowski, J.; Stefanov, B. B.; Liu, G.; Liashenko, A.; Piskorz, P.; Komaromi, I.; Martin, R. L.; Fox, D. J.; Keith, T.; Al-Laham, M. A.; Peng, C. Y.; Nanayakkara, A.; Challacombe, M.; Gill, P. M. W.; Johnson, B.; Chen, W.; Wong, M. W.; Gonzalez, C.; Pople, J. A. *Gaussian 03, Revision C.01*, Gaussian, Inc.: 2003.

² Becke, A. D., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1993**, 98, 5648.

³ Lee, C.; Yang, W.; Parr, R. G., *Phys. Rev.* **1988**, B37, 785.

⁴ Godbout, N.; Salahub, D. R.; Andzelm, J.; Wimmer, E., *Can. J. Chem.* **1992**, 70, 560-571.

⁵ Schafer, A.; Huber, C.; Ahlrichs, R., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1994**, 100, 5829-5835.

⁶ Farkas, O.; Schlegel, H. B., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1998**, 109, 7100-7104.

⁷ Farkas, O.; Schlegel, H. B., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1999**, 111, 10806-10814.

⁸ Boys, S. F.; Bernardi, F., *Mol. Phys.* **1970**, 19, 553.

⁹ Gorelsky, S. I.; Basumallick, L.; Vura-Weis, J.; Sarangi, R.; Hedman, B.; Hodgson, K. O.; Fujisawa, K.; Solomon, E. I., *Inorg. Chem.* **2005**, 44, 4947-4960.

coordinate¹⁰ scans were performed to confirm that the transition state (TS) found is connected to the reactants and the products. Gibbs free energies of the species were calculated using the unscaled frequencies and at 298 K and 1 atmosphere unless specified otherwise. The relevant optimized structures are shown in Figure 1, S1 and S2.

The phosphine ligand in the Pd species was modeled as P(CH₃)₃ and the base for proton abstraction was modeled as a coordinated acetate ion. The deuterium kinetic isotope effect (KIE) k_H/k_D for the reaction of the Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)(CD₃)₂)(O₂CCH₃) species was calculated by treating classically the motion along the reaction coordinate and using $\Delta\Delta G^\ddagger$ at 413K (the temperature of the KIE experiment), 1.04 kcal/mol (Table S1). Thus, the calculation did not include any rate enhancements due to quantum mechanical tunneling.¹¹

Atomic charges were calculated by natural population analysis (NPA)^{12, 13} as implemented in Gaussian 03. Two- and three-center Mayer bond orders (B_{AB} and B_{ABC})^{14,15,16} were obtained using the AOMix-L program.^{9, 17} To analyze molecular orbital contributions to agostic interactions¹⁸ in the species, the proton abstraction reaction in the Pd(C₆H₅)(P(CH₃)₃)(CH₄)(O₂CCH₃) species was used (Figure S3). The analysis of molecular orbitals (MOs) in terms of fragment orbital

¹⁰ Gonzalez, C.; Schlegel, H. B., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1989**, 90, 2154.

¹¹ Garrett, B. C.; Truhlar, D. G., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1980**, 72, 3460.

¹² Reed, A. E.; Weinstock, R. B.; Weinhold, F., *J. Chem. Phys.* **1985**, 83, 735-746.

¹³ Reed, A. E.; Curtiss, L. A.; Weinhold, F., *Chem. Rev.* **1988**, 88, 899-926.

¹⁴ Mayer, I., *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1983**, 97, 270-274.

¹⁵ Sannigrahi, A. B.; Kar, T., *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1990**, 173, 569-572.

¹⁶ Giambiagi, M.; Giambiagi, M. S.; Mundim, K. C., *Struct. Chem.* **1990**, 1, 123.

¹⁷ Gorelsky, S. I. *AOMix: Program for Molecular Orbital Analysis*, version 6.35; University of Ottawa: Ottawa, Canada, 2007.

¹⁸ Brookhart, M.; Green, M. L. H.; Parkin, G., *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* **2007**, 104, 6908-6914.

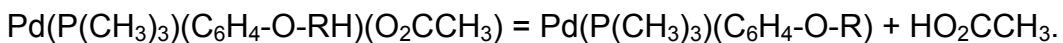
(FO) contributions and the construction of the FO interaction diagram (Figure S4) were carried out using the AOMix-CDA program.^{17, 19}

Solvent effects were evaluated at the single-point calculations of the solvation energies using the gas-phase geometries. Solvation energies in benzene were calculated using the PCM model²⁰ with the united atom topological model (UAHF). Gibbs free energies in the solution were estimated by addition of the solvation energy ΔG_{solv} to gas-phase Gibbs free energies (Table S1).

¹⁹ Gorelsky, S. I.; Ghosh, S.; Solomon, E. I., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 278-290.

²⁰ Barone, V.; Cossi, M.; Tomasi, J., *J. Comput. Chem.* **1998**, 19, 404-417.

Table S1. Activation barriers (electronic energy difference (ΔE^\ddagger) and Gibbs free energy at 298K (ΔG_{298K}^\ddagger), 3-center Pd-C-H bond order indices (B_{PdCH}) for the transition states and the reaction free energy change ($\Delta G_{r,298K}$) for the Pd^{II} palladation-deprotonation reaction step in the Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-R)(O₂CCH₃) complexes



The free energies in the C₆H₆ solvent are shown in parenthesis.

RH ^{a, b}	ΔE^\ddagger kcal/mol	ΔG_{298K}^\ddagger kcal/mol	B_{PdCH}	$\Delta G_{r,298K}$ Kcal/mol
CH ₂ CH ₃	31.5	32.6 (33.8)	0.116	20.6 (19.1)
C(CH ₃) ₃	30.5	29.4 ^c (27.7)	0.102	16.3 (13.1)
C(CH ₃) ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₃)	30.3	28.8 (27.0)	0.100	15.6 (11.3)
C(CH ₃) ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₃) ^d	30.4	29.4 (27.5)	0.102	16.5 (12.0)
C(CH ₃) ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₃)	35.0	34.2 (32.5)	0.102	15.5 (10.8)
C(CH ₃) ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₃) ^d	37.4	35.7 (34.5)	0.106	16.4 (11.9)
C(CH ₃) ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₃)	36.0	34.9 (33.1)	0.112	21.9 (17.8)

a) **H** indicates the abstracted H atom, see Figure S2 for the corresponding structures.

b) see Figures 1 and S2 for the structures.

c) ΔG_{413K}^\ddagger is 30.44 kcal/mol and 31.48 kcal/mol for Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)(CD₃)₂)(O₂CCH₃) and Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)(CD₃)₂)(O₂CCH₃), respectively.

d) the second isomer, see Figure S2.

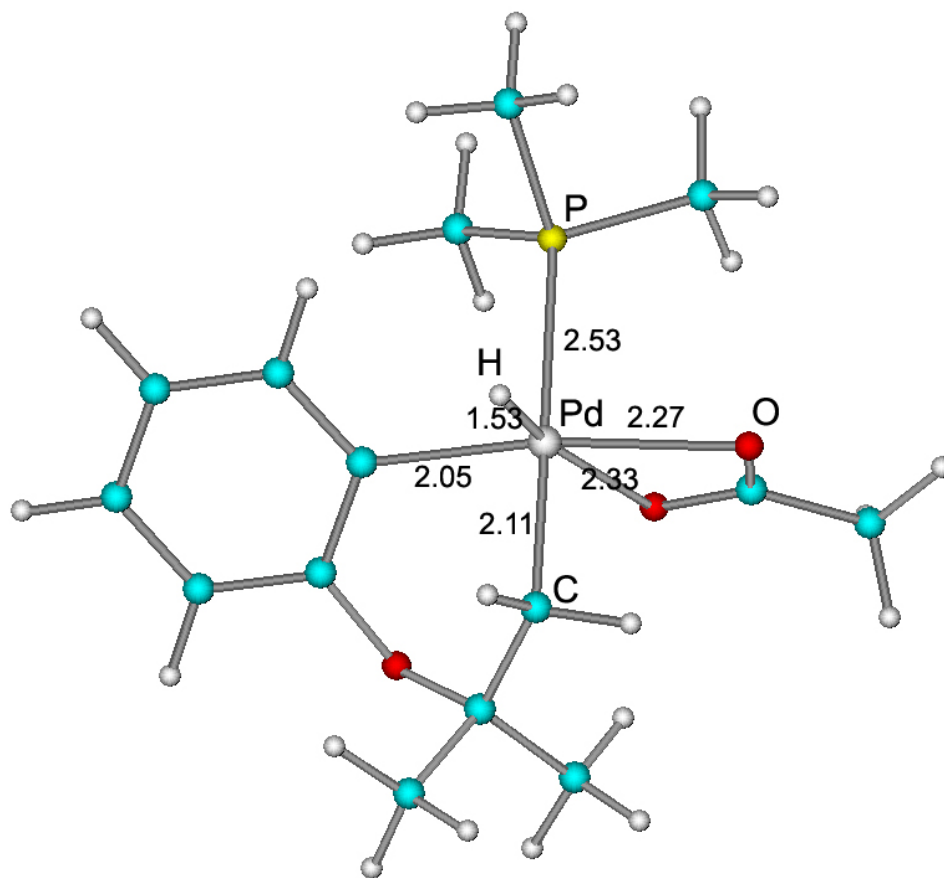


Figure S1. The structure of the Pd^{IV} intermediate (a local energy minimum) for the palladation-deprotonation reaction of the Pd(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)₃)(P(CH₃)₃)(O₂CCH₃) complex (at the B3LYP/DZVP level). Relevant bond distances (Å) are shown.

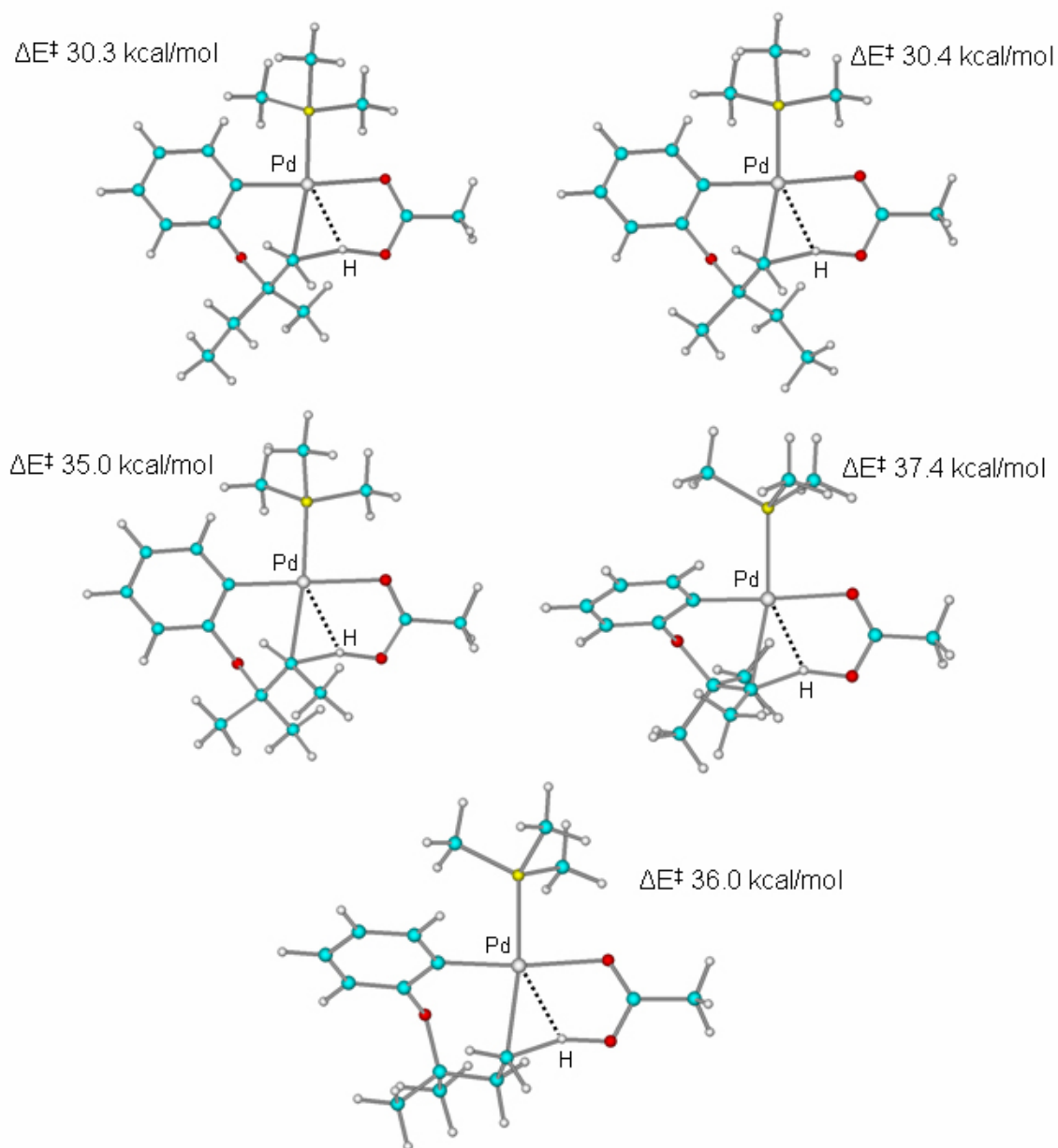


Figure S2. The transition state structures of the Pd^{II} palladation-deprotonation reactions of the $\text{Pd}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-O-C}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3))(\text{P}(\text{CH}_3)_3)(\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_3)$ complex.

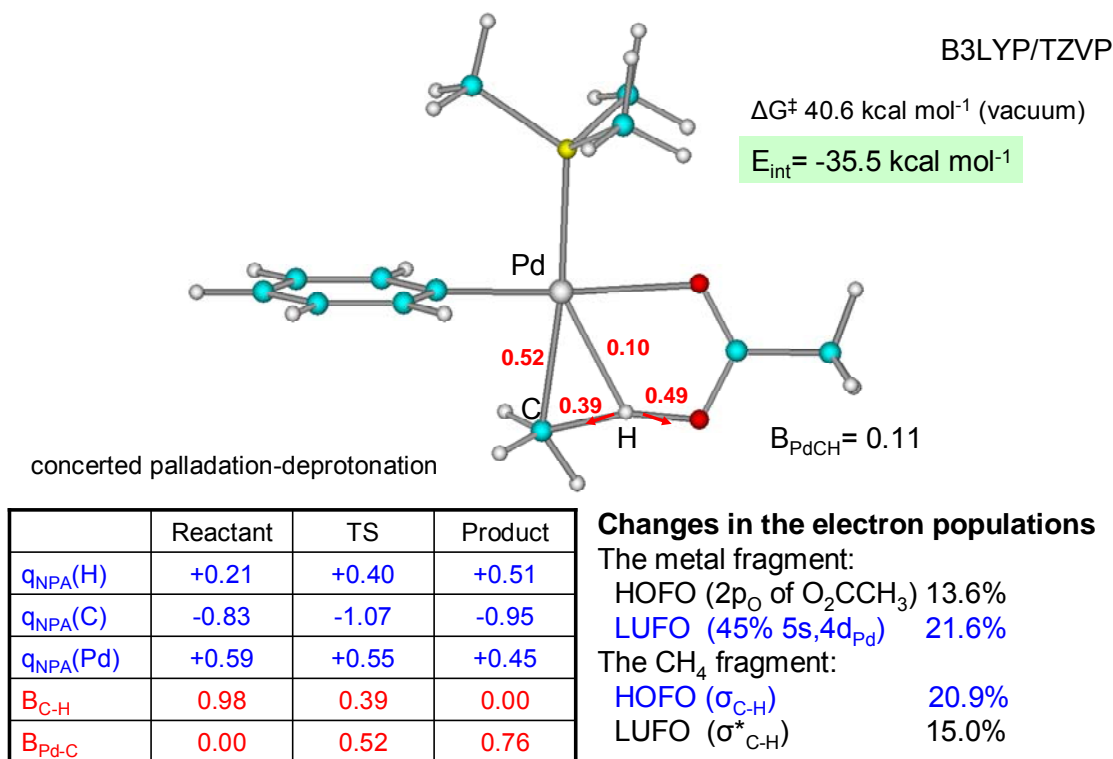


Figure S3. The transition state (TS) structure of the Pd^{II} palladation-deprotonation reaction of methane using Pd(C₆H₅)(P(CH₃)₃)(O₂CCH₃). The Mayer 2-center bond orders for the TS structure are shown in red. The NPA-derived atomic charges and Mayer 2-center bond orders for the reactant and the product species are shown in the Table.

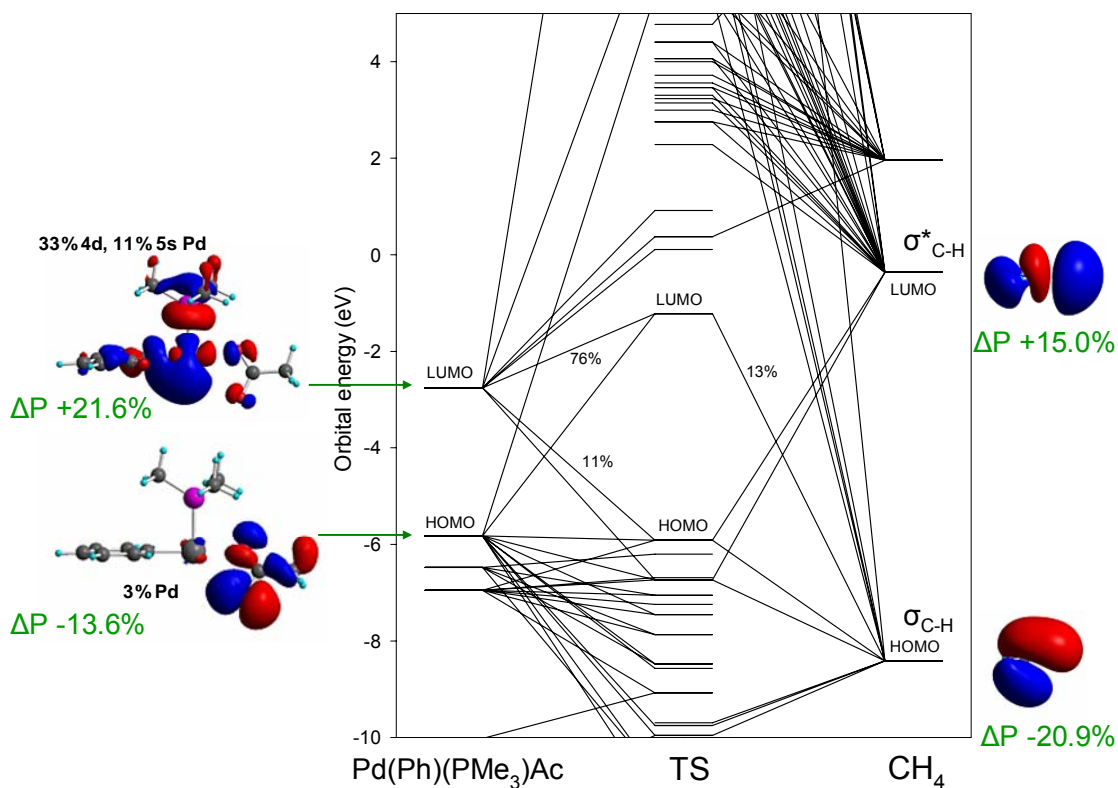


Figure S4. The molecular orbital diagram for the transition state of the Pd^{II} palladation-deprotonation reaction of methane using Pd(C₆H₅)(P(CH₃)₃)(O₂CCH₃). The MOs of the metal and CH₄ fragments are shown on the left and on the right sides, respectively. Changes in the fragment orbital populations (ΔP) are shown in green.

The optimized XYZ coordinates (Å) of the Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)₃)(O₂CCH₃) complex (the reactant)

Pd	0.989598	0.015511	-0.322831
C	-3.332584	-1.403881	-1.938149
C	-2.181985	-1.714986	-2.652925
C	-0.935574	-1.345539	-2.147559
C	-0.824990	-0.643338	-0.948259
C	-1.989478	-0.315504	-0.243912
C	-3.235678	-0.714711	-0.733668
O	-1.878159	0.313140	0.981080
H	-4.305330	-1.703957	-2.308877
H	-2.247709	-2.249725	-3.593097
H	-0.042949	-1.599167	-2.708524
H	-4.125644	-0.494196	-0.159115
C	-2.250234	1.728220	1.148978
C	-1.403849	2.175506	2.339382
H	-0.342674	2.096058	2.100511
H	-1.626053	3.212237	2.599354
H	-1.611867	1.550531	3.210083
C	-1.918606	2.552663	-0.093620
H	-0.862313	2.485079	-0.354814
H	-2.504304	2.230201	-0.955464
H	-2.157925	3.600768	0.098911
C	-3.740336	1.826168	1.491177
H	-3.984869	1.163809	2.323537
H	-3.992402	2.849159	1.780022
H	-4.365643	1.561494	0.638118
P	1.118816	-1.881165	0.954745
C	2.388534	-1.612546	2.266019
C	1.732335	-3.359795	0.038042
C	-0.347403	-2.512971	1.869500
H	2.595392	-2.537347	2.808587
H	3.301978	-1.236403	1.806319
H	2.026900	-0.856106	2.962314
H	1.872992	-4.205077	0.714894
H	1.010103	-3.630315	-0.731964
H	2.680186	-3.119385	-0.442980
H	-0.054910	-3.328253	2.534191
H	-0.791825	-1.701303	2.443132
H	-1.091454	-2.868940	1.158520
O	2.899162	1.105684	0.021886
C	2.535958	2.014323	-0.789124
O	1.405845	1.957217	-1.360417
C	3.469343	3.157200	-1.098661
H	4.021100	2.922218	-2.012335
H	2.903409	4.070976	-1.275952
H	4.184576	3.298411	-0.290035

The optimized XYZ coordinates (Å) of the Pd(P(CH₃)₃)(C₆H₄-O-C(CH₃)₃)(O₂CCH₃) complex (the transition state)

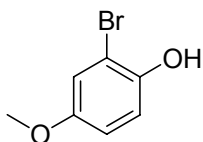
Pd	-0.497475	0.076629	-0.329222
C	4.238428	1.049475	-0.320532
C	3.408256	1.811486	-1.134734
C	2.035775	1.553621	-1.160276
C	1.480962	0.535088	-0.387930
C	2.334775	-0.261779	0.379861
C	3.703005	0.007064	0.429300
O	1.837453	-1.295682	1.134024
H	5.301859	1.252622	-0.280479
H	3.819426	2.607666	-1.744410
H	1.403394	2.161611	-1.798150
H	4.330972	-0.614172	1.056592
C	1.286497	-2.454639	0.410311
C	0.496531	-3.199782	1.482459
H	-0.320769	-2.581340	1.853503
H	0.074931	-4.122178	1.079326
H	1.147722	-3.450662	2.321618
C	0.398116	-2.048800	-0.773194
H	0.990509	-1.607414	-1.574440
H	0.041280	-2.981268	-1.229751
C	2.475352	-3.301003	-0.066980
H	3.107964	-3.584875	0.777028
H	2.123540	-4.211386	-0.556872
H	3.082675	-2.745912	-0.784107
P	-0.991051	2.257790	0.441075
C	0.266536	3.124858	1.474569
C	-2.487154	2.263613	1.522363
C	-1.417384	3.499483	-0.860005
H	-0.119394	4.082371	1.830038
H	0.517033	2.493574	2.327090
H	1.174494	3.283838	0.895589
H	-2.754484	3.281411	1.813813
H	-3.310328	1.795371	0.986141
H	-2.284101	1.674500	2.416891
H	-1.695863	4.455788	-0.412422
H	-0.563109	3.650601	-1.519140
H	-2.249678	3.121434	-1.453501
H	-1.052390	-2.044774	-0.547810
O	-2.695993	-0.304189	-0.315221
C	-3.039777	-1.506062	-0.384392
O	-2.205150	-2.468459	-0.463646
C	-4.502474	-1.874693	-0.380563
H	-4.746388	-2.388976	-1.311693
H	-4.700302	-2.571195	0.435434
H	-5.124533	-0.989346	-0.274987

General Methods:

All experiments were carried out under an atmosphere of argon. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR were recorded in CDCl_3 solutions using a Bruker AVANCE 400 spectrometer. High-resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Kratos Concept IIH. Infra-Red analysis was performed with a Bruker EQUINOX 55. HPLC Grade Et_2O and hexane were employed. Mesitylene was degassed with Argon prior to every use. Palladium sources were stored in a dessicator and were weighed out to air unless otherwise specified. All other reagents and solvents were used as is from commercial sources. Unless noted below, all other compounds have been reported in the literature or are commercially available.

Synthesis of Cyclization Precursor

3-bromo-4-hydroxyanisole



The 2-bromophenol was prepared following literature preparation²¹ and exhibited the same spectral data as previously reported (99%).

²¹ Zaja, M.; Connon, S.J.; Dunne, A.M.; Rivard, M.; Buschmann, N.; Jiricek, J.; Blechert, S. *Org. Lett.*, **2004**, 6, 457.

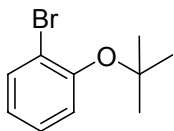
General Procedure A:

To a solution of phenol (5.8mmol) in dichloromethane (6.5mL) at -78°C was added liquefied isobutylene (5mL). To this vigorously stirred solution was added slowly trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (0.46mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred for an additional 4h at -78°C. Triethylamine was then added (0.46mmol) and the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature. The solvents were then evaporated and the products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ether/hexanes mixtures.

General Procedure B:

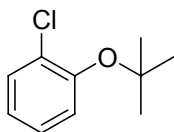
To a flask containing a suspension of potassium hydride (2.5mmol) in THF (3mL) at 0°C was added slowly the corresponding tertiary alcohol (2.5mmol) and the solution was stirred for 10mins. The newly generated tertiary alkoxy was then added slowly to a solution of 2-bromo-1-fluoro-4-nitrobenzene (2.3mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (11mL) at 0°C. The solution was then allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for 2h. Saturated aqueous ammonium chloride was then added and the solution was extracted with DCM and dried over magnesium sulfate. The products were then purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ether/hexanes mixtures.

2-*tert*-butoxybromobenzene



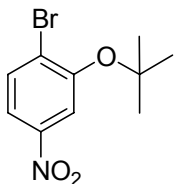
The compound was prepared following the general procedure A (99%): R_f = 0.51 (SiO_2 , 6% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2979, 1470, 1165; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.43 (9H, s), 6.91 (1H, td, $J=7.9$, 1.6Hz), 7.11 (1H, dd, $J=8.2$, 1.6Hz), 7.19 (1H, td, $J=8.2$, 1.6Hz), 7.55 (1H, dd, $J=7.9$, 1.6Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 29.0, 81.3, 119.2, 123.9, 124.2, 127.8, 133.4, 153.3; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{OBr}$ (M^+) 228.0150; found: 228.0132.

2-tert-butoxychlorobenzene



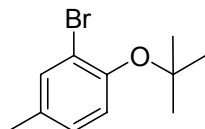
The compound was prepared following the general procedure A (98%): R_f = 0.43 (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2982, 1473, 1165; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.41 (9H, s), 6.98 (1H, ddd, $J=7.9$, 7.1, 1.9Hz), 7.09-7.17 (1H, m), 7.36 (1H, dd, $J=8.0$, 1.6Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 28.9, 81.2, 124.0, 124.7, 127.0, 129.2, 130.3, 152.1; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{OCl}$ (M^+) 184.0655; found: 184.0656.

1-tert-butoxy-2-bromo-5-nitrobenzene



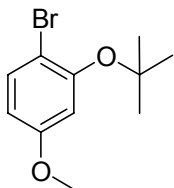
The compound was prepared following the general procedure B but employing potassium *tert*-butoxide (84%): $R_f = 0.35$ (SiO₂, 10% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2982, 1580, 1518, 1474, 1344, 1283, 1155; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.54 (9H, s), 7.20 (1H, d, $J=9.1$ Hz), 8.12 (1H, dd, $J=9.1, 2.8$ Hz), 8.44 (1H, d, $J=2.8$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 28.9, 83.4, 117.5, 119.9, 123.7, 129.0, 142.2, 159.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₂O₃NBr (M⁺) 273.0001; found: 273.0017.

1-*tert*-butoxy-2-bromo-4-methylbenzene



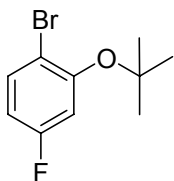
The compound was prepared following the general procedure A (99%): $R_f = 0.25$ (SiO₂, 2% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2978, 1485, 1161; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.41 (9H, s), 2.27 (3H, s), 6.98-6.99 (2H, m), 7.36 (1H, s); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 20.4, 29.0, 80.9, 118.9, 123.8, 128.4, 133.6, 134.1, 150.8; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₅OBr (M⁺) 242.0306; found: 242.0290.

3-*tert*-butoxy-4-bromoanisole



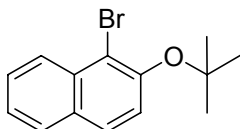
The compound was prepared following the general procedure A (99%): R_f = 0.25 (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2977, 1599, 1487, 1366, 1264, 1217, 1163, 1038; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.39 (9H, s), 3.76 (3H, d, $J=1.2\text{Hz}$), 6.75 (1H, dd, $J=8.9, 3.1\text{Hz}$), 7.02 (1H, d, $J=8.9\text{Hz}$), 7.09 (1H, d, $J=3.1\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 28.9, 55.6, 80.9, 113.6, 118.0, 119.5, 124.6, 146.8, 155.6; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_2\text{Br}$ (M^+) 258.0255; found: 258.0221.

1-tert-butoxy-2-bromo-5-fluorobenzene



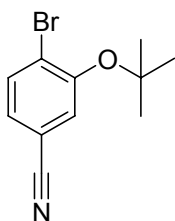
The compound was prepared following the general procedure A (93%): mp = 52-53°C(ether); R_f = 0.29 (SiO_2 , 2% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2974, 1600, 1475, 1151; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.45 (9H, s), 6.68 (1H, ddd, $J=8.8, 7.8, 2.9\text{Hz}$), 6.86 (1H, dd, $J=10.2, 2.9\text{Hz}$), 7.48 (1H, dd, $J=8.8, 6.4\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 28.9, 82.1, 110.9 (d, $J=17.6\text{Hz}$), 111.2 (d, $J=16.6\text{Hz}$), 113.3 (d, $J=3.9\text{Hz}$), 133.4 (d, $J=9.6\text{Hz}$), 154.3 (d, $J=10.5\text{Hz}$), 161.9 (d, $J=246.7\text{Hz}$); ^{19}F NMR (377MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): -118.16; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_9\text{BrF}$ (M^+) 246.0056; found: 246.0060.

2-tert-butoxy-1-bromonaphthalene



The compound was prepared following the general procedure A using 30 mL of DCM instead (98%): $R_f = 0.27$ (SiO₂, 2% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2980, 1474, 1165; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.49 (9H, s), 7.32 (1H, d, $J=8.9$ Hz), 7.41 (1H, ddd, $J=8.1, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz), 7.54 (1H, ddd, $J=8.3, 6.9, 1.1$ Hz), 7.69 (1H, d, $J=8.9$ Hz), 7.77 (1H, d, $J=8.1$ Hz), 8.26 (1H, d, $J=8.3$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 29.4, 81.8, 117.1, 123.6, 125.0, 127.1, 127.3, 127.9, 127.9, 131.1, 133.2, 151.5; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₅OBr (M⁺-C₂H₆) 247.9837; found: 247.9810.

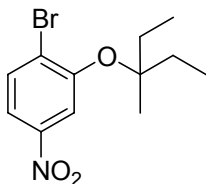
3-tert-butoxy-4-bromobenzonitrile



To a solution of 3-bromo-4-fluorobenzonitrile (0.5g, 2.5mmol, 1.0 eq.) in DMF (8mL) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (0.42g, 3.8mmol, 1.5eq.) and the solution was heated to 135°C overnight. The reaction was then quenched with water and the solution was extracted with Et₂O and dried over magnesium

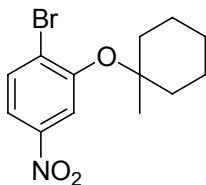
CC(C)(C)Oc1cc([N+](=O)[O-])ccc1Br

2-(3-methylpentan-3-yloxy)-1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene



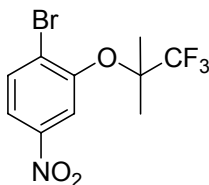
The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (76%): R_f = 0.26 (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2975, 1582, 1516, 1472, 1341, 1275; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 0.98 (6H, t, $J=7.5\text{Hz}$), 1.44 (3H, s), 1.87 (4H, m), 7.13 (1H, d, $J=9.2\text{Hz}$), 8.11 (1H, dd, $J=9.2, 2.8\text{Hz}$), 8.45 (1H, d, $J=2.8\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 8.1, 23.5, 31.5, 88.2, 116.4, 118.0, 123.7, 129.1, 141.5, 159.1; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{NBr}$ (M^+) 301.0314; found: 301.0292.

2-(1-methylcyclohexyloxy)-1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene



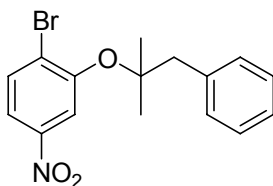
The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (69%): R_f = 0.28 (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2936, 1582, 1516, 1473, 1341, 1246; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.30-1.39 (1H, m), 1.49 (3H, s), 1.51-1.77 (7H, m), 2.15-2.19 (2H, m), 7.16 (1H, d, $J=9.2\text{Hz}$), 8.12 (1H, dd, $J=9.2, 2.8\text{Hz}$), 8.45 (1H, d, $J=2.8\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 22.0, 25.1, 25.9, 37.6, 84.3, 116.3, 117.9, 123.7, 139.1, 141.4, 158.9; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{NBr}$ (M^+) 313.0314; found: 313.0295.

2-(1,1,1-trifluoro-2-methylpropan-2-yloxy)-1-bromo-4-nitrobenzene



The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (79%): R_f = 0.25 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 3001, 1525, 1474, 1347, 1167, 1127; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.61 (6H, q, J =1.0Hz), 7.31 (1H, d, J =9.0Hz), 8.16 (1H, dd, J =9.0, 2.8Hz), 8.47 (1H, d, J =2.8Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 20.9 (q, J =1.2Hz), 82.4 (q, J =29.5Hz), 111.4, 119.0, 123.6, 125.1 (q, J =284.2Hz), 129.1, 144.1, 157.0; ¹⁹F NMR (377MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): -86.4; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₉O₃NF₃Br (M⁺) 326.9718; found: 326.9698.

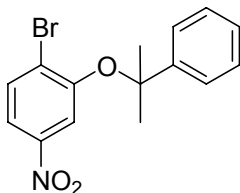
1-(2-(2-bromo-5-nitrophenoxy)-2-methylpropyl)benzene



The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (82%): R_f = 0.31 (SiO₂, 5% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2979, 1516, 1343, 1279, 1118; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.46 (6H, s), 3.13 (2H, s), 7.12 (1H, d, J =9.1Hz), 7.24-7.31 (5H, m), 8.09 (1H, dd, J =9.1, 2.8Hz), 8.45 (1H, d, J =2.8Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K,

TMS): 26.3, 48.8, 85.4, 117.5, 120.2, 123.5, 126.6, 128.0, 129.0, 130.8, 136.6, 142.2, 159.0; HRMS calcd for $C_{16}H_{16}O_3NBr$ (M+) 349.0314; found: 349.0324.

1-(2-(2-bromo-5-nitrophenoxy)propan-2-yl)benzene



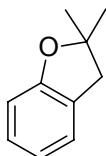
The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (83%): R_f = 0.30 (SiO_2 , 5% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2984, 1516, 1473, 1341, 1275, 1138; 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$, 293K, TMS): 1.85 (6H, s), 6.36 (1H, d, $J=9.2$ Hz), 7.28-7.41 (5H, m), 7.80 (1H, dd, $J=9.2, 2.8$ Hz), 8.42 (1H, d, $J=2.8$ Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $CDCl_3$, 293K, TMS): 29.3, 83.9, 114.5, 116.8, 123.4, 124.9, 127.8, 128.9, 128.9, 141.0, 144.1, 158.4; HRMS calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}O_3NBr$ (M+) 335.0157; found: 335.0105.

General Cyclization Procedure:

Cs_2CO_3 (0.77 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (5mol %), PCy_3-HBF_4 (10mol %) and pivalic acid (30mol %) were weighed to air and placed in a screw capped vial (4mL) with a magnetic stir bar. The reaction vessel was evacuated and backfilled with argon (x3). The cyclization precursor (0.70mmol) was then added to the reaction vessel as a solution in mesitylene (3mL). The reaction was heated to 140°C for 12 hours. Upon completion, the reaction was cooled to room temperature. The

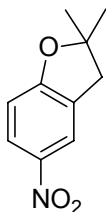
products were loaded directly onto a silica gel packed column chromatography and eluted using ether/hexane mixtures.

2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 135°C and exhibited the same spectral data as previously reported²² (97%).

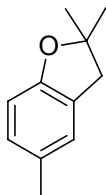
2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-5-nitrobenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (91%): mp = 67-68°C(ether); R_f = 0.22 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2974, 1596, 1507, 1337, 1281; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.53 (6H, s), 3.09 (2H,s), 6.75 (1H, d, J =8.8Hz), 8.04-8.05 (1H, m), 8.08 (1H, dd, J =8.8, 2.3Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 28.1, 41.9, 90.1, 109.3, 121.6, 125.8, 128.5, 141.5, 164.4; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₁₁O₃N (M⁺) 193.0739; found: 193.0440.

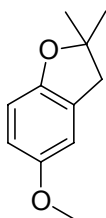
²² Kataoka, N.; Shelby, Q.; Stambuli, J.P.; Hartwig, J.F. *J. Org. Chem.*, **2002**, 67, 5553.

2,3-dihydro-2,2,5-trimethylbenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 135°C (92% contaminated with an additional 5% reduced product): $R_f = 0.40$ (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR ($\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$): 2973, 1490, 1257; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.44 (6H, s), 2.26 (3H, s), 2.95 (2H, s), 6.61 (1H, d, $J=8.1\text{Hz}$), 6.88 (1H, d, $J=8.1\text{Hz}$), 6.93 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 20.7, 28.1, 42.9, 86.3, 109.0, 125.7, 127.0, 128.2, 19.0, 156.7; HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}$ (M^+) 162.1045; found: 162.1023

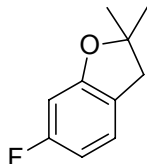
2,3-dihydro-5-methoxy-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (91%): $R_f = 0.24$ (SiO_2 , 3% ether/hexane); IR ($\nu_{\text{max}}/\text{cm}^{-1}$): 2972, 1487, 1256, 1209, 1146, 1033; ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.45 (6H, s), 2.98 (2H, s), 3.74 (3H, s), 6.61-6.66 (2H, m), 6.73 (1H, dd, $J=2.2, 1.0\text{Hz}$); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS):

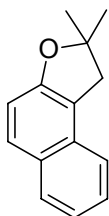
28.1, 43.3, 56.0, 86.5, 109.2, 111.5, 112.7, 128.0, 153.0, 153.7; HRMS calcd for $C_{11}H_{14}O_2$ (M^+) 178.0994; found: 178.1003.

6-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran



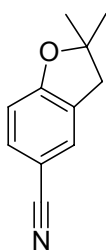
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 135°C (68%); R_f = 0.31 (SiO_2 , 2% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} / cm^{-1}): 2975, 1614, 1492, 1283, 1129, 1084; 1H NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$, 293K, TMS): 1.47 (6H, s), 2.94 (2H, s), 6.45 (1H, dd, $J=9.6$, 2.4Hz), 6.50 (1H, ddd, $J=9.6$, 8.1, 2.4Hz), 7.01 (1H, td, $J=7.0$, 1.1Hz); ^{13}C NMR (100MHz, $CDCl_3$, 293K, TMS): 28.1, 42.1, 88.4, 97.9 (d, $J=26.2$ Hz), 106.3 (d, $J=22.6$ Hz), 122.6 (d, $J=2.6$ Hz), 125.2 (d, $J=10.5$ Hz), 159.9 (d, $J=13.0$ Hz), 163.2 (d, $J=242.3$ Hz); ^{19}F NMR (377MHz, $CDCl_3$, 293K, TMS): -119.6; HRMS calcd for $C_{10}H_{11}FO$ (M^+) 166.0794; found: 166.0803.

1,2-dihydro-2,2-dimethylnaphtho[2,1-b]furan



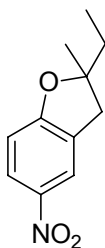
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 155°C (79% contaminated with an additional 6% reduced product): $R_f = 0.25$ (SiO₂, 2% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2972, 1631, 1465, 1261; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.53 (6H, s), 3.23 (2H, s), 7.06 (1H, d, $J=8.8$ Hz), 7.26 (1H, ddd, $J=8.1, 6.8, 1.3$ Hz), 7.42 (1H, ddd, $J=8.1, 6.8, 1.2$ Hz), 7.51 (1H, td, $J=8.3, 0.5$ Hz), 7.64 (1H, d, $J=8.8$ Hz), 7.76 (1H, d, $J=8.2$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 28.5, 4.7, 87.5, 112.4, 118.2, 122.5, 122.6, 126.5, 128.7, 128.9, 129.0, 131.1, 156.2; HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₄O (M⁺) 198.1045; found: 198.1040.

2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran-5-carbonitrile



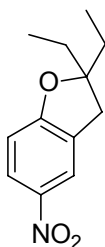
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (78%): $R_f = 0.14$ (SiO₂, 5% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2975, 2222, 1611, 1486, 1273, 1091; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.50 (6H, s), 3.04 (2H, s), 6.76 (1H, d, $J=8.2$), 7.41 (1H, s), 7.42 (1H, d, $J=8.1$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 27.9, 41.8, 88.7, 102.8, 110.2, 119.6, 128.6, 129.0, 133.3, 162.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₁ON (M⁺) 173.0841; found: 173.0821.

2-ethyl-2,3-dihydro-2-methyl-5-nitrobenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (85%): mp = 45-46°C(CHCl₃); R_f = 0.17 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2973, 1596, 1487, 1336, 1255; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 0.98 (3H, t, *J*=6.7Hz), 1.47 (3H, s), 1.81 (2H, q, *J*=6.9Hz), 2.99 (1H, d, *J*=15.9Hz), 3.15 (1H, d, *J*=15.9Hz), 6.74 (1H, d, *J*=8.5Hz), 8.04 (1H, s), 8.07 (1H, d, *J*=8.5Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 8.1, 25.7, 33.6, 39.6, 92.6, 108.9, 121.4, 125.6, 128.4, 141.3, 164.5; HRMS calcd for C₁₁H₁₃O₃N (M⁺) 207.0895; found: 207.0878.

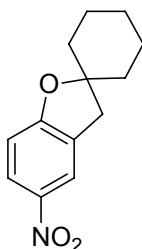
2,2-diethyl-2,3-dihydro-5-nitrobenzofuran



The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (96%): R_f = 0.21 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2972, 1514, 1334, 1267; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 0.94 (6H, t, *J*=7.5Hz), 1.77 (4H, q, *J*=7.5Hz), 3.06 (1H, s), 6.74 (1H, d, *J*=8.8Hz), 8.03 (1H, d, *J*=2.4Hz), 8.07 (1H, d, *J*=8.8, 2.4Hz); ¹³C

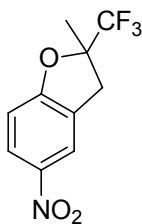
NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 7.6, 31.3, 37.1, 95.0, 108.6, 121.2, 125.6, 128.5, 141.2, 165.0; HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₁₅O₃N (M⁺) 221.1052; found: 221.1028.+

5-nitrospiro-(benzofuran-2(3H),1'-cyclohexane)



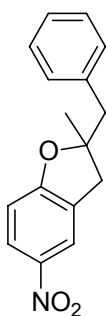
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (90%): mp = 104-106°C; R_f = 0.14 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2931, 1593, 1504, 1339; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.44-1.54 (4H, m), 1.66-1.72 (2H, m), 1.75-1.80 (2H, m), 1.83-1.87 (2H, m), 3.03 (2H, s), 6.75 (1H, d, *J*=8.8Hz), 8.02 (1H, d, *J*=2.4Hz), 8.07 (1H, dd, *J*=8.8, 2.4Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 22.7, 24.8, 36.9, 40.1, 91.9, 109.1, 121.5, 125.6, 128.2, 141.2, 164.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₃H₁₅O₃N (M⁺) 233.1052; found: 233.1049.

2-(trifluoromethyl)-2,3-dihydro-2-methyl-5-nitrobenzofuran



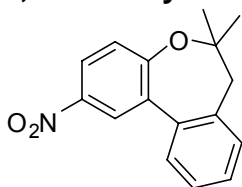
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (88%): mp = 109-112°C(ether); R_f = 0.23 (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 3097, 1514, 1348, 1177, 1146; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.71 (3H, d, J =0.8Hz), 3.21 (1H, d, J =16.8Hz), 3.62 (1H, d, J =16.8Hz), 6.91 (1H, d, J =8.8Hz), 8.10 (1H, d, J =1.1Hz), 8.15 (1H, dd, J =8.9, 2.4Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 20.9 (d, J =0.9Hz), 36.5 (d, J =1.1Hz), 87.9 (q, J =31.1Hz), 109.7, 121.2, 124.7 (q, J =282.8Hz), 126.0, 126.3, 142.7, 163.3; ¹⁹F NMR (377MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): -88.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₀H₈O₃NF₃ (M⁺) 247.0456; found: 247.0449.

2-benzyl-2,3-dihydro-2-methyl-5-nitrobenzofuran



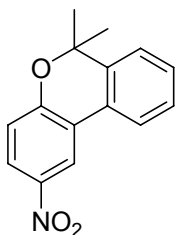
The compound was prepared following the general procedure B (57%): R_f = 0.28 (SiO₂, 5% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2928, 1514, 1335, 1273; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.52 (3H, s), 2.99 (1H, d, J =16.0 Hz), 3.07 (2H, s), 3.27 (1H, d, J =16.0 Hz), 6.80 (1H, d, J =8.8Hz), 7.22-7.34 (5H, m), 8.09 (1H, d, J =2.5Hz), 8.10 (1H, dd, J =8.8, 2.5Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 26.4, 39.7, 46.6, 91.8, 109.1, 121.4, 125.8, 126.9, 128.2, 128.3, 130.4, 135.9, 141.5, 164.3; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₁₅O₃N (M⁺) 269.1052; found: 269.1059.

6,6-dimethyl-2-nitro-6,7-dihydrodibenzo[b,d]oxepine



The compound was obtained as the minor product in the 1-(2-(2-bromo-5-nitrophenoxy)-2-methylpropyl)benzene reaction in 34% yield: $R_f = 0.24$ (SiO₂, 5% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2976, 1518, 1345, 1255, 1100; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.44 (6H, s), 2.66 (2H, s), 7.15 (1H, d, $J=8.7$ Hz), 7.26 (1H, dd, $J=7.4$, 1.0Hz), 7.38 (1H, dt, $J=7.4$, 1.5Hz), 7.44 (1H, dt, $J=7.5$, 1.5Hz), 7.51 (1H, dd, $J=7.6$, 1.4Hz), 8.20 (1H, dd, $J=8.8$, 2.8Hz), 8.36 (1H, d, $J=2.8$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 26.8, 44.3, 91.7, 124.0, 124.6, 124.7, 127.7, 128.2, 128.5, 129.6, 136.2, 136.3, 136.4, 144.4, 158.9; HRMS calcd for C₁₆H₁₅O₃N (M⁺) 269.1052; found: 269.1048.

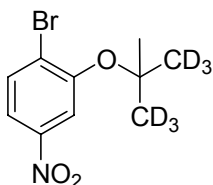
6,6-dimethyl-2-nitro-6H-benzo[c]chromene



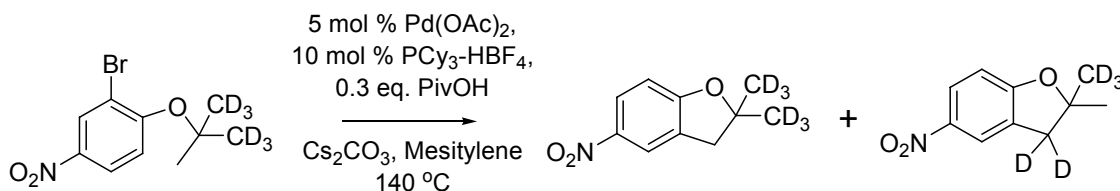
The compound was prepared following the general cyclization procedure at 140°C (89%): mp = 92-95°C(ether); $R_f = 0.23$ (SiO₂, 3% ether/hexane); IR (ν_{max} /cm⁻¹): 2982, 1518, 1339, 1266, 1106; ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 1.67 (6H, s), 7.00 (1H, d, $J=8.9$ Hz), 7.25-7.27 (1H, m), 7.36-7.43 (2H, m), 7.76-7.79 (1H, s), 8.10 (1H, dd, $J=8.9$, 2.7Hz), 8.64 (1H, d, $J=2.7$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃, 293K, TMS): 27.9, 79.5, 118.4, 118.9, 122.4, 122.5, 123.4, 124.9, 126.3, 128.2, 129.4, 138.7, 142.2, 158.2; HRMS calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₃N (M⁺) 255.0895; found: 255.0873.

Kinetic Isotope Effect Experiments

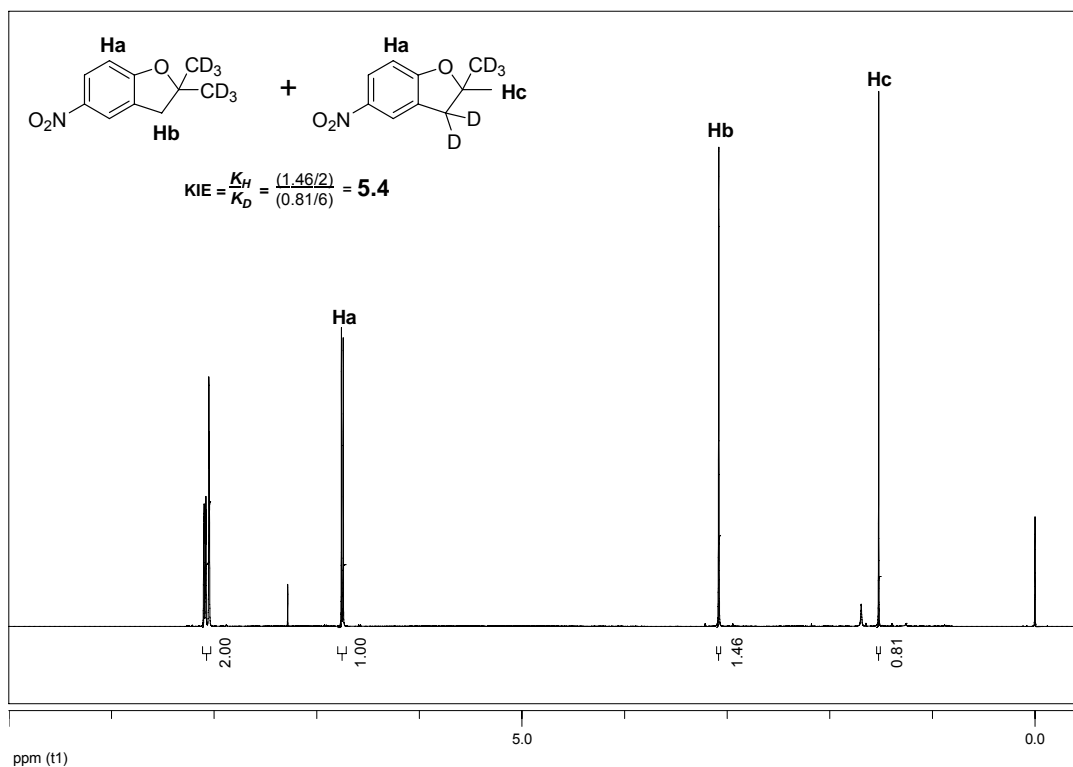
1-(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexadeuterated-2-methylpropoxy)-2-bromo-5-nitrobenzene



The compound was prepared following the general procedure B at 140°C (86%): ^1H NMR (400MHz, CDCl_3 , 293K, TMS): 1.54 (3H, s), 7.20 (1H, d, $J=9.1\text{Hz}$), 8.12 (1H, dd, $J=9.1, 2.8\text{Hz}$), 8.44 (1H, d, $J=2.8\text{Hz}$);



$$k_H/k_D = 5.4$$



NMR Spectra

