# A Copper-Catalyzed Regiospecific Synthesis of *N*-

# Alkyl Benzimidazoles

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## **Experimental Section**

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#### **General Considerations**

All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere in a Schlenk tube, with a stir bar and capped with a Teflon screw-cap. EtOAc was purchased from Mallinckrodt (ACS grade) and used as received. Anhydrous *t*-BuOH, DMF, and 1,4-dioxane were purchased from Aldrich in a Sure/Seal<sup>TM</sup> bottle, used as received and stored under Argon. Anhydrous granular K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> was purchased from Fluka. K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> powder (~325 mesh), NaO*t*-Bu and LHMDS (1M solution in THF) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was a gift from Chemetall. Bulk quantities of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> were stored in a nitrogen-filled glovebox. Small portions (1-2 g) were removed from the glovebox in glass vials and stored in a desiccator filled with anhydrous calcium sulfate. 4Å molecular sieves (purchased from Aldrich, activated powder, 5 μm) were activated by heating under vacuum prior to use.

 $Pd(OAc)_2$  was a gift from Englehard.  $Pd_2(dba)_3$  and CuI were purchased from Strem. Diamine ligands, N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine (**L3**) and rac-trans-N,N'-dimethyleyclohexane-1,2-diamine (**L2**), were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. 2-(Diphenylphosphino)-2'-(N,N-di-methylamino)biphenyl (**L1**) was synthesized following a published procedure.

2-Bromo-*N*-methylaniline **13**, 2-bromoacetanilide **1**, and 2-bromo-4-methylacetanilide were purchased from Aldrich. 2-Bromo-4-trifluoromethylacetanilide was purchased from Acros. 2-Iodo-(4-trifluoromethyl)aniline was purchased from Alfa Aesar. The rest of starting materials were purchased from either Aldrich or Acros and used as received unless specified otherwise. n-Hexylamine was purified by distillation over CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored in a nitrogen-filled Schlenk tube. 2-Iodotrifluroacetanilide  $\mathbf{8}^2$  and labeled n-hexylamine<sup>3</sup> were prepared based on reported procedures. 2-Iodoacetanilide  $\mathbf{6}^4$  was synthesized using a published procedure. n-

All new compounds were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and IR spectroscopy, in addition to elemental analysis performed by Atlantic Microlabs Inc., Norcross, GA and/or low resolution mass spectroscopy. For starting materials, copies of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are attached for those compounds of which a satisfactory elemental analysis was not obtained. Copies of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are attached for all products. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 300 or Varian Inova 500 instrument. All <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments are reported in δ units, parts per million (ppm) and were measured relative to the signals for residual chloroform (7.27 ppm) and methanol (3.31 ppm) in the deuterated solvents. All <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (obtained with <sup>1</sup>H decoupling) are reported in ppm relative to deuterochloroform (77.23 ppm) and deuterodimethyl sulfoxide (39.51 ppm). Infrared spectra were recorded using a Perkin-Elmer 2000 FT-IR. Melting points (uncorrected) were obtained on a Mel-Temp capillary melting point apparatus. Gas chromatography analyses were performed on an Agilent 6890 instrument with a FID detector and an Agilent DB-1 column (10 m x 0.1 mm i.d.). Flash column chromatography was performed manually or using a Biotage SP4 Flash Purification System with KP-Sil silica cartridges (methylene chloride was used to transfer the crude product onto the silica gel samplet).

The yields for products (9, 12a-d, 15, and 18a-h) are isolated yields (average of two runs). Yields for the preparation of starting materials refer to a single experiment. All compounds isolated were estimated to be  $\geq 95\%$  pure as determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and GC analysis and/or combustion analysis.

*N*-phenylacetamide  $d_1^6$  (Scheme 1, 3) An oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with Pd<sub>2</sub>dba<sub>3</sub> (9.2 mg, 0.01 mmol, 4.0 mol % Pd), L1 (0.04 mmol, 8 mol %), and 2-bromoacetanilide 1 (107.1 mg, 0.5 mmol). The Schlenk tube was capped with a rubber septum and then evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 cycles). LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 1.5 mL) was added to the Schlenk tube through the septum via syringe at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. Then 2,2-dideuterohexylamine (86 μL, 0.65 mmol) was added to the Schlenk tube through the septum via syringe. The septum was replaced with a Teflon screw cap, and the Schlenk tube was sealed and put into a pre-heated oil bath at 65 °C. After stirring for 18 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to 0 °C. 1N HCl (1.5 mL)

was added dropwise. 10 min later, saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (2 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (4 mL x 3). The combined EtOAc layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The EtOAc extracts were analyzed by GC first (113  $\mu$ L of dodecane was added as an internal standard) and then concentrated under vacuum. The residual was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 2/1, and then 1.5/1 hexanes/EtOAc) to provide **3** (26.2 mg, 39 %, 88% D).

### **Ligand Screening for Copper-catalyzed Amination of** *ortho-***Iodoanilides (Scheme 3)**

A representative procedure for screening no added ligand, 2-isobutyrylcyclohexanone, and *N*-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)pyrrolidine is as follows: an oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5.0 mol % Cu), *ortho*-iodoacetanilide **6** (261 mg, 1 mmol), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (652 mg, 2.0 mmol) (*N*-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)pyrrolidine was added here). The Schlenk tube was capped with a rubber septum and then evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 cycles). Ligand (0.20 mmol, 20 mol%), *n*-hexylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol), and DMF (0.5 mL) were added through the septum via syringe. The septum was replaced with a Teflon screw cap, and the Schlenk tube was sealed and stirred at rt or 70 °C for 12 h.

A representative procedure for screening ethylene glycol is as follows: an oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with CuI (19.0 mg, 0.10 mmol, 10 mol % Cu), *ortho*-iodoacetanilide **6** (261 mg, 1 mmol), and K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (425 mg, 2.0 mmol). The Schlenk tube was capped with a rubber septum and then evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 cycles). Ethylene glycol (0.11 mL, 2 mmol), *n*-hexylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol), and *i*-PrOH (1 mL) were added through the septum via syringe. The septum was replaced with a Teflon screw cap, and the Schlenk tube was sealed and stirred at 70 °C for 12 h.

1-hexyl-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole<sup>7</sup> (Scheme 3, 9) To an oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar were added CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5.0 mol % Cu), *ortho*-iodotrifluroacetanilide 8 (315 mg, 1 mmol), and preactivated 4Å molecular sieves (150 mg). The tube was evacuated and transferred to a nitrogen-filled glovebox. Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (652 mg, 2 mmol), *n*-hexylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol) and DMF (0.50 mL) were added. The Schlenk tube was removed from the glove box and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (4 mL) and then filtered through Celite with the aid of EtOAc. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude mixture that was dissolved in AcOH (1 mL). The formed solution was heated to 50 °C and stirred at 50 °C for 2 h. After cooling to room temperature, AcOH was removed by vacuum. The residual material was partitioned between dichloromethane (3 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>

solution (3 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted by dichloromethane (3 mL x 2). The combined dichloromethane layers were dried over  $Na_2SO_4$  and concentrated under vacuum. The residual was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Biotage, 3-28% ethyl acetate in hexanes gradient) to provide the title compound as a brown oil (235 mg, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.89 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.34 (m, 3H), 4.29 (t, J = 7.9Hz, 2H), 1.93-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.46-1.27 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 141.3, 140.5 (q, J = 38.4 Hz), 135.5, 125.3, 123.6, 121.7, 119.3 (q, J = 271.2 Hz), 110.6, 45.3, 31.3, 30.0, 26.5, 22.5, 13.9.

# General Procedures for Cu-Catalyzed Synthesis of N-Alkyl Benzimidazoles (Scheme 4 and Scheme 5)

Procedure A: an oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5.0 mol % Cu), *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline (1 mmol), amide (1.2 mmol), and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (652 mg, 2.0 mmol). The Schlenk tube was capped with a Teflon screw cap and then evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 cycles). *N*,*N*'-Dimethylethylenediamine **L3** (11  $\mu$ L, 0.1 mmol, 10 mol%) was added via syringe to the Schlenk tube followed by the addition of 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) under a positive flow of Ar. The Schlenk tube was sealed and put into a preheated oil bath at 110 °C. After stirring for 17 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature.

Procedure B: an oven-dried Schlenk tube containing a stir bar was charged with CuI (9.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 5.0 mol % Cu), *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline (1 mmol), amide (1.2 mmol), and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (652 mg, 2.0 mmol). The Schlenk tube was capped with a Teflon screw cap and then evacuated and backfilled with argon (3 cycles). *rac-trans-N,N'*-Dimethylcyclohexane-1,2-diamine **L2** (32  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol, 20 mol%) was added via syringe to the Schlenk tube followed by the addition of 1,4-dioxane (1 mL) under a positive flow of Ar. The Schlenk tube was sealed and put into a pre-heated oil bath at 90 °C. After stirring for 2 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature.

Depending on the amides used, two procedures were developed for the cyclodehydration step.

Procedure C: when benzamide and (E)-cinnamamide were used, the Schlenk tube was opened under a positive Ar flow.  $K_3PO_4$  (318 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added followed by the addition of t-BuOH (1 mL). The Schlenk tube was resealed and put into a pre-heated oil bath at 110  $^{\circ}$ C. After stirring for 4 h or 8 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. The reaction mixture was first diluted with dichloromethane (4 mL) and then filtered through Celite with the aid of dichloromethane. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced presure. The residual material was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel.

Procedure D, in the case of cyclohexanecarboxamide and hexanamide, the reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (4 mL) first. Then, the resulting mixture was filtered through Celite with the aid of dichloromethane. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual material was dissolved in AcOH (1 mL) and then heated to 75 °C. After stirring for 2 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature. AcOH was removed under vacuum. The residual material was partitioned between dichloromethane (3 mL) and saturated aqueous NaHCO $_3$  solution (3 mL) (if an emulsion formed, 2 mL of brine was added to aid in the separation). The aqueous layer was separated and extracted by dichloromethane (3 mL x 2). The combined dichloromethane layers were dried over Na $_2$ SO $_4$  and

concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

**1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-phenyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 4, 12a**) Following procedure A, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **10** (240 mg, 0.76 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (111 mg, 0.91 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (243 mg of  $K_3PO_4$ , 0.8 mL of *t*-BuOH, 4 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/EtOAc) to provide the title compound as a red solid (150 mg, 68%). mp 97-98 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.85-7.82 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.29 (m, 2H), 4.12 (d, J = 7.5Hz, 2H), 1.85-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.55 (m, 3H), 1.45 (d, J = 12.8Hz, 2H), 1.11-0.99 (m, 3H), 0.81-0.74 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 154.3, 143.1, 135.9, 131.1, 129.60, 129.57, 128.7, 122.6, 122.3, 120.0, 110.7, 50.9, 38.1, 30.8, 26.1, 25.6. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3061, 2925, 2851, 1448, 1390, 1356, 1327, 1273, 774, 742, 699. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{22}N_2$ : C, 82.72; H, 7.64. Found: C, 82.45; H, 7.63.

**1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(***E***)-2-phenylethenyl]-1***H***-benzimidazole (Scheme 4, 12b) Following procedure A,** *ortho***-iodo-***N***-alkylaniline <b>10** (218 mg, 0.69 mmol) was coupled with (*E*)-cinnamamide (122 mg, 0.83 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (220 mg of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.7 mL of *t*-BuOH, 4 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 5/1, and then 4/1 hexanes/EtOAc) to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (131 mg, 60%). mp 165-167 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.02 (d, J = 15.8Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.78 (m, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.4Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, J = 15.8Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 7.4Hz, 2H), 1.94-1.85 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.69 (m, 5H), 1.24-1.05 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 151.1, 143.2, 137.0, 136.2, 136.0, 129.1, 129.0, 127.4, 122.6, 122.5, 119.4, 113.4, 109.9, 49.9, 39.1, 31.3, 26.2, 25.8. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 3059, 2926, 2852, 1635, 1500, 1449, 1405, 1329, 967, 755, 741, 700.

**1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-pentyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 4**, **12c**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **10** (204 mg, 0.65 mmol) was coupled with hexanamide (89.6 mg, 0.78 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Biotage, 8-66% ethyl acetate

in hexanes gradient) to provide the title compound as a brown oil (160 mg, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.76-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H), 3.92 (d, J = 7.4Hz, 2H), 2.84 (dd, J = 7.9, 8.0Hz, 2H), 1.98-1.80 (m, 3H), 1.75-1.62 (m, 5H), 1.50-1.34 (m, 4H), 1.24-0.98 (m, 5H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 155.6, 142.8, 135.6, 121.8, 121.6, 119.2, 109.7, 50.1, 38.7, 31.9, 31.2, 27.7, 27.6, 26.3, 25.8, 22.6, 14.2. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2926, 2853, 1615, 1508, 1458, 1409, 1328, 1285, 740. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{18}N_2$ : C, 80.23; H, 9.92. Found: C, 79.97; H, 9.92.

2-cyclohexyl-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole (Scheme 4, 12d) Following procedure *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline (156 0.49 10 mg, mmol) was cyclohexanecarboxamide (75.4 mg, 0.59 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH, 12 h at 75 °C instead of the standard 2 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Biotage, 5-40% ethyl acetate in hexanes gradient) to provide the title compound as an off-white solid (122 mg, 83%). mp 90-91 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.76-7.73 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 3.94 (d, J = 7.5Hz, 2H), 2.81 (tt, J = 11.6, 3.4Hz, 1H), 1.95-1.63 (m, 13H), 1.47-1.37 (m, 3H), 1.24-1.14 (m, 3H), 1.09-1.01 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 159.7, 142.9, 135.3, 121.8, 121.7, 119.4, 109.9, 49.9, 38.9, 36.6, 32.3, 31.3, 26.7, 26.4, 25.96, 25.95. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2927, 2852, 1503, 1459, 1420, 1347, 1272, 742.

**1-methyl-2-phenyl-1***H***-benzimidazole**<sup>8</sup> (**Scheme 4, 15**) Following procedure A, 2-Bromo-*N*-methylaniline **13** (123 μL, 1.0 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (145 mg, 1.2 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (318 mg of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mL of *t*-BuOH, 4 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 1.5/1, 1/1, and then 1/1.5 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide **15** as a brown solid (171 mg, 82 %). mp 97-99 °C (lit. 92-94 °C).<sup>8</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.88-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.50 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.30 (m, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 153.8, 143.0, 136.6, 130.3, 129.8, 129.5, 128.7, 122.8, 122.5, 119.9, 109.7, 31.7. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 80.74; H, 5.81. Found: C, 80.48; H, 5.84.

**1-ethyl-5-methyl-2-pentyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5**, **18a**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16a** (242 mg, 0.93 mmol) was coupled with hexanamide (128 mg, 1.1 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH). The

crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 2/1, and then 1.5/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a light yellow solid (166 mg, 78%). mp 48-50 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 2.84 (t, J = 7.9Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 1.94-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 154.8, 143.2, 132.8, 131.2, 123.2, 119.1, 108.6, 38.3, 31.8, 27.7, 27.5, 22.5, 21.6, 15.2, 14.1. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 2956, 2931, 2871, 1508, 1456, 1410, 1324, 1277, 1107, 967, 791, 605. Anal. Calcd for C¹5H₂2N₂: C, 78.21; H, 9.63. Found: C, 78.30; H, 9.63.

**1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-pentyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5**, **18b**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16b** (231 mg, 0.88 mmol) was coupled with hexanamide (122 mg, 1.1 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 2/1, and then 1.5/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a brown solid (133 mg, 65%). mp 48-49 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.60 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6Hz, 1H), 4.14 (q, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 2.84 (t, J = 7.9Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 1.94-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.33 (m, 4H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 154.4, 141.0, 135.0, 131.8, 123.2, 118.8, 109.2, 38.3, 31.9, 27.7, 27.6, 22.6, 21.9, 15.2, 14.1. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2956, 2930, 2860, 1515, 1471, 1413, 1332, 1282, 1097, 967, 808, 606. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{22}N_2$ : C, 78.21; H, 9.63. Found: C, 78.46; H, 9.82.

**1-ethyl-5-methyl-2-phenyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5, 18c**) Following procedure B, *ortho*iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16a** (168 mg, 0.61 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (88.6 mg, 0.73 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (194 mg of  $K_3PO_4$ , 0.6 mL of *t*-BuOH, 8 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 3/1, and then 2/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (120 mg, 79%). mp 90-92 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.75-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.6Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 153.4, 143.5, 133.5, 131.9, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.7, 124.1, 119.7, 109.5, 39.6, 21.6, 15.3. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2976, 1471, 1446, 1386, 1348, 1325, 1153, 793, 771, 700. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{16}N_7$ : C, 81.32; H, 6.82. Found: C, 81.18; H, 6.88.

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**1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-phenyl-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5**, **18d**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16b** (165 mg, 0.63 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (91.6 mg, 0.76 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (201 mg of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.6

mL of *t*-BuOH, 8 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a white solid (126 mg, 85%). mp 161-162 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.74-7.72 (m, 3H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 3H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.48 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 153.1, 141.5, 135.7, 132.7, 130.8, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 124.0, 119.6, 110.0, 39.6, 22.1, 15.4. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2981, 1467, 1399, 1356, 1330, 1269, 1098, 802, 782, 706, 699, 606. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 81.32; H, 6.82. Found: C, 81.21; H, 6.84.

**1-ethyl-2-pentyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5, 18e**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16c** (230 mg, 0.73 mmol) was coupled with hexanamide (101 mg, 0.88 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a gray solid (163 mg, 78%). mp 41-43 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.6Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 2.88 (t, J = 7.9Hz, 2H), 1.95-1.89 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.44 (t, J = 7.3Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H).  $^{13}$ C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 157.1, 142.4, 136.8, 125.1 (q, J = 271.6Hz), 124.2 (q, J = 32.1Hz), 118.9 (q, J = 3.5Hz), 116.9 (q, J = 4.0Hz), 109.5, 38.7, 31.8, 27.6, 27.5, 22.5, 15.2, 14.1. IR (neat, cm $^{-1}$ ): 2959, 2874, 1515, 1444, 1405, 1329, 1158, 1142, 1117, 1050, 929, 807. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{19}F_3N_2$ : C, 63.37; H, 6.74. Found: C, 63.29; H, 6.75.

$$F_3C$$
 $N$ 
 $n$ -pent

**1-ethyl-2-pentyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5, 18f**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16d** (240 mg, 0.76 mmol) was coupled with hexanamide (105 mg, 0.91 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure D (1 mL of AcOH). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as an off-white solid (189 mg, 87%). mp 57-59 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.79 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 0.8Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, J = 7.9Hz, 2H), 1.96-1.90 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.37 (m, 4H), 1.46 (t, J = 7.3Hz, 3H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 157.6, 145.2, 134.2, 125.1 (q, J = 271.6Hz), 124.1 (q, J = 32.1Hz), 119.5, 118.8 (q, J = 3.6Hz), 106.7 (q, J = 4.2Hz), 109.5, 38.6, 31.8, 27.5, 27.4, 22.5, 15.2, 14.0. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2959, 2934, 2874, 1512, 1460, 1345, 1308, 1284, 1160, 1117, 1050, 823, 666. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{19}F_3N_2$ : C, 63.37; H, 6.74. Found: C, 63.32; H, 6.77.

**1-ethyl-2-phenyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5, 18g**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16d** (116 mg, 0.37 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (53.4 mg, 0.44 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (117 mg of  $K_3PO_4$ , 0.4 mL of *t*-BuOH, 8 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a white solid (99.9 mg, 94%). mp 108-110 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.75-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.50 (m, 5H), 4.33 (q, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 1.49 (t, J = 7.3Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 155.6, 142.8, 137.5, 130.3, 130.0, 129.3, 129.0, 125.0 (q, J = 271.8Hz), 124.9 (q, J = 32.1Hz), 119.7 (q, J = 3.5Hz), 117.7 (q, J = 4.2Hz), 110.5, 40.0, 15.3. IR (neat, cm⁻¹): 1620, 1436, 1385, 1331, 1234, 1147, 1115, 1050, 885, 813, 775, 707. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 66.20; H, 4.51. Found: C, 66.34; H, 4.55.

$$F_3C$$
 $N$ 
 $N$ 
 $N$ 

**1-ethyl-2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1***H***-benzimidazole** (**Scheme 5**, **18h**) Following procedure B, *ortho*-iodo-*N*-alkylaniline **16d** (149 mg, 0.47 mmol) was coupled with benzamide (68.8 mg, 0.57 mmol). The cyclodehydration step was accomplishing using procedure C (151 mg of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 mL of *t*-BuOH, 8 h). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: 4/1, and then 3/1 hexanes/ ethyl acetate) to provide the title compound as a white solid (114 mg, 83%). mp 141-143 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.91 (dd, J = 8.6, 0.7Hz, 1H), 7.77-7.73 (m, 2H), 7.72 (t, J = 0.8Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 4H), 4.36 (q, J = 7.3Hz, 2H), 1.52 (t, J = 7.3Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 156.1, 145.5, 135.0, 130.4, 130.0, 129.4, 129.0, 125.0 (q, J = 272.0Hz), 124.9 (q, J = 32.1Hz), 120.5, 119.5 (q, J = 3.5Hz), 107.8 (q, J = 4.4Hz), 40.0, 15.5. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1467, 1400, 1345, 1309, 1158, 1113, 869, 821, 780, 711, 700, 664. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 66.20; H, 4.51. Found: C, 66.08; H, 4.51.

#### Procedure for the Preparation of ortho-Iodo-N-Alkylanilines 16a-d Used in Scheme 5

ortho-Iodo-N-alkylanilines **16a-d** were prepared via a three-step sequence (acetamide formation, copper-catalyzed halogen exchange, and borane reduction of acetamide) starting from the corresponding commercial available *ortho*-bromoanilines. The procedures for acetamide formation<sup>5</sup> and copper-catalyzed halogen exchange<sup>9</sup> have been previously disclosed. Full characterizations of **16a-d** are listed below.

*N*-ethyl-2-iodo-4-methylaniline (16a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.51 (d, J = 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 8.3Hz, 1H), 3.89 (bs, 1H), 3.18 (q, J = 7.1Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 145.4, 139.3, 130.1, 127.9, 110.6, 85.5, 39.1, 20.0, 14.9. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3389, 2968, 2867, 1608, 1514, 1312, 1273, 1163, 1029, 799, 664. Anal. Calcd for  $C_9H_{12}$ IN: C, 41.40; H, 4.63. Found: C, 41.68; H, 4.71.

*N*-ethyl-2-iodo-5-methylaniline (16b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.52 (d, J = 8.0Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, J = 1.7Hz, 1H), 6.29 (ddd, J = 7.9, 2.0, 0.6Hz, 1H), 3.99 (bs, 1H), 3.19 (qd, J = 7.1, 5.2Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 147.2, 139.5, 138.6, 119.6, 111.5, 81.6, 38.8, 21.6, 14.8. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3391, 2968, 2869, 1591, 1505, 1419, 1304, 1187, 1004, 786, 584. Anal. Calcd for  $C_9H_{12}$ IN: C, 41.40; H, 4.63. Found: C, 41.16; H, 4.58.

*N*-ethyl-2-iodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (16c) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.88 (d, J = 1.5Hz, 1H), 7.45 (ddd, J = 8.6, 1.4, 0.7Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 8.6Hz, 1H), 4.44 (bs, 1H), 3.25 (qd, J = 7.1, 5.2Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 149.8, 136.1 (q, J = 3.8Hz), 126.9 (q, J = 3.8Hz), 124.1 (q, J = 270.8Hz), 119.8 (q, J = 33.0 Hz), 109.2, 83.7, 38.7, 14.5. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3398, 2975, 2875, 1607, 1532, 1322, 1280, 1154, 1112, 1079, 805, 675. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>0</sub>H<sub>0</sub>F<sub>3</sub>IN: C, 34.31; H, 2.88. Found: C, 34.66; H, 2.87.

*N*-ethyl-2-iodo-5-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (16d) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.75 (dd, J = 8.1, 0.8Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.67 (ddd, J = 8.1, 2.1, 0.6Hz, 1H), 4.28 (bs, 1H), 3.24 (qd, J = 7.1, 5.2Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.1Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 147.8, 139.5, 132.1 (q, J = 32.1Hz), 124.4 (q, J = 272.4Hz), 114.6 (q, J = 4.0Hz), 106.4 (q, J = 4.0Hz), 88.8 (q, J = 1.2Hz), 38.8, 14.6. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3398, 2974, 1597, 1580, 1513, 1434, 1331, 1280, 1167, 1124, 1082, 1006, 854.

*N*-(cyclohexylmethyl)-2-iodoaniline Following a published procedure, <sup>10</sup> 2-iodoaniline (2.0 g, 9.1 mmol) and cyclohexylcarboxyaldehyde (1.2 mL, 10.0 mmol) were converted to the title compound. The crude compound was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (gradient elution: hexanes and then 50/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) to provide **10** as a light yellow oil (2.81 g, 87 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.65 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6Hz, 1H), 7.20 (td, J = 8.2, 1.5Hz, 1H), 6.55 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.3Hz, 1H), 6.42 (td, J = 7.6, 1.5Hz, 1H), 4.24 (bs, 1H), 3.00 (t, J = 6.1Hz, 2H), 1.88-1.55 (m, 6H), 1.36-1.12 (m, 3H), 1.08-0.95 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 147.6, 139.1, 129.6, 118.3, 110.6, 85.6, 51.0, 37.4, 31.5, 26.7, 26.1. IR (neat, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400, 2922, 2850, 1591, 1507, 1449, 1426, 1320, 1004, 739. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>IN: C, 49.54; H, 5.76. Found: C, 49.78; H, 5.73.

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