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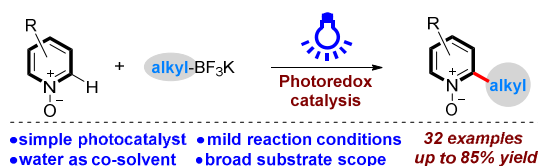
Visible-Light-Induced C2 Alkylation of Pyridine *N*-oxides

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ABSTRACT: A photoredox catalytic method has been developed for the direct C2 alkylation of pyridine *N*-oxides. This reaction is compatible with a range of synthetically relevant functional groups for providing efficient synthesis of a variety of C2-alkylated pyridine *N*-oxides under mild conditions. Mechanistic studies are consistent with the generation of a radical intermediate along the reaction pathway.

INTRODUCTION

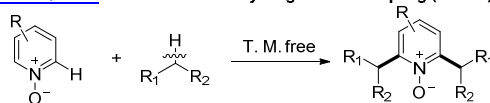
Pyridine *N*-oxides and their functionalized derivatives are abundant structural components of biologically active and medicinally important compounds.¹ In recent years, considerable efforts have been devoted to developing new methods for the functionalization of pyridine *N*-oxides.²⁻⁵ However, examples of the direct C2 alkylation of these pyridine *N*-oxides are limited thus far.⁶ Almqvist and Olsson achieved 2-substituted pyridine *N*-oxides through the addition of Grignard reagents to pyridine *N*-oxides (Scheme 1a).^{6a} In 2009, Li and Itami reported the cross-dehydrogenative-coupling (CDC) of pyridine *N*-oxides and cycloalkanes in the presence of *t*-BuOO-*t*-Bu under transition-metal free conditions.^{6b} However, this transformation faces

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4 limitations, such as poor region-selectivity and harsh reaction conditions (Scheme 1b). In 2013, Fu
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6 and co-workers described an elegant palladium-catalysed alkylation of pyridine *N*-oxides with
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8 non-activated alkyl bromides (Scheme 1c).^{6c} The most important and notable feature of the work
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10 demonstrated by Li, Itami and Fu is that *both approaches involve the generation of an alkyl*
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12 *radical as the key intermediate*. This implies that the generation methods of alkyl radicals in
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14 reactions can significantly influence the outcome.
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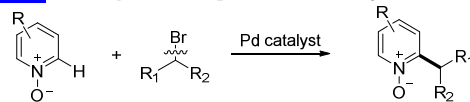
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19 a. [Almqvist & Olsson, 2007](#): alkylation from Grignard reagents (ref. 6a)



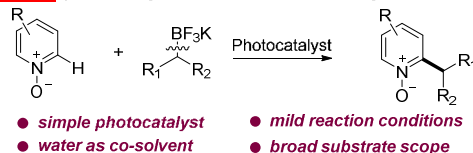
b. [Li & Itami, 2009](#): radical cross-dehydrogenative-coupling (ref. 6b)



c. [Fu, 2013](#): Pd-catalyzed radical generation from alkyl bromides (ref. 6c)



d. [This work](#): photocatalytic radical deboronative alkylation



Scheme 1. C–H Alkylation of Pyridine *N*-oxides

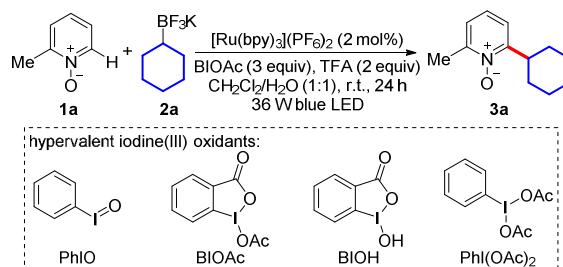
Thanks to the pioneering studies of Akita and Koike,⁷ followed by the work of Molander⁸ and Chen,⁹ photoredox catalysis has emerged as an attractive alternative for the generation of alkyl radicals from potassium alkyltrifluoroborates *via* single-electron transfer (SET) processes.¹⁰ Inspired by these impressive advances and as a continuation of our studies on photocatalytic radical reactions,¹¹ we now report an unprecedented direct C2 alkylation of pyridine *N*-oxides *via* visible-light photoredox catalysis (Scheme 1d).¹² Our new reaction uses a readily available simple photocatalyst and shows good functional-group compatibility, thus enabling efficient synthesis of

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4 a variety of C2-alkylated pyridine *N*-oxides (32 examples). Moreover, the usefulness of the new
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6 method has also been demonstrated by the successful synthesis of the drug molecule ciclopirox.
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8 9 **RESULTS AND DISSCUSION**

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11 We initially examined the C2 alkylation reaction of 2-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (**1a**) with
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13 potassium cyclohexyltrifluoroborate (**2a**) as a model substrate using [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ as the
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15 photocatalyst. The desired product (**3a**) was obtained in 78% yield with [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ (2
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17 mol%), 1-acetoxy-1,2-benziodoxol-3-(1H)-one (BIOAc) (3.0 equiv), TFA (2.0 equiv) in
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19 CH₂Cl₂/H₂O at room temperature under a nitrogen atmosphere and 36 W blue LEDs
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21 irradiation for 24 h (Table 1, entry 1). Replacing BIOAc with a variety of other hypervalent
22
23 iodine(III) oxidants,¹³ including BIOH and PhIO, as well as with a strong oxidant, K₂S₂O₈,
24
25 leads to significantly lower yields (Table 1, entries 2–5). When oxygen (1 atm) was employed
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27 in place of BIOAc, the reaction was completely shut down (Table 1, entry 6). Interestingly,
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29 the effect of TFA as an acidic additive was dramatic, because other acids (e.g., TsOH, TfOH,
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31 HOAc and H₃PO₄) or basic additives (e.g., Na₂CO₃ and DBU) only resulted in moderate to
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33 low yields (Table 1, entries 7–13). Use of other solvents such as dioxane, CH₃CN, HFIP,
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35 acetone, NMP and toluene can also cause the reaction, but the yields were inferior (Table 1,
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37 entries 14–19). The control reactions did not furnish the desired product in the absence of
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39 [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ and/or light, thus confirming the role of photoexcited species derived from
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41 the photocatalyst in the reaction (Table 1, entries 20–22).
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51 **Table 1. Standard and control reactions^a**
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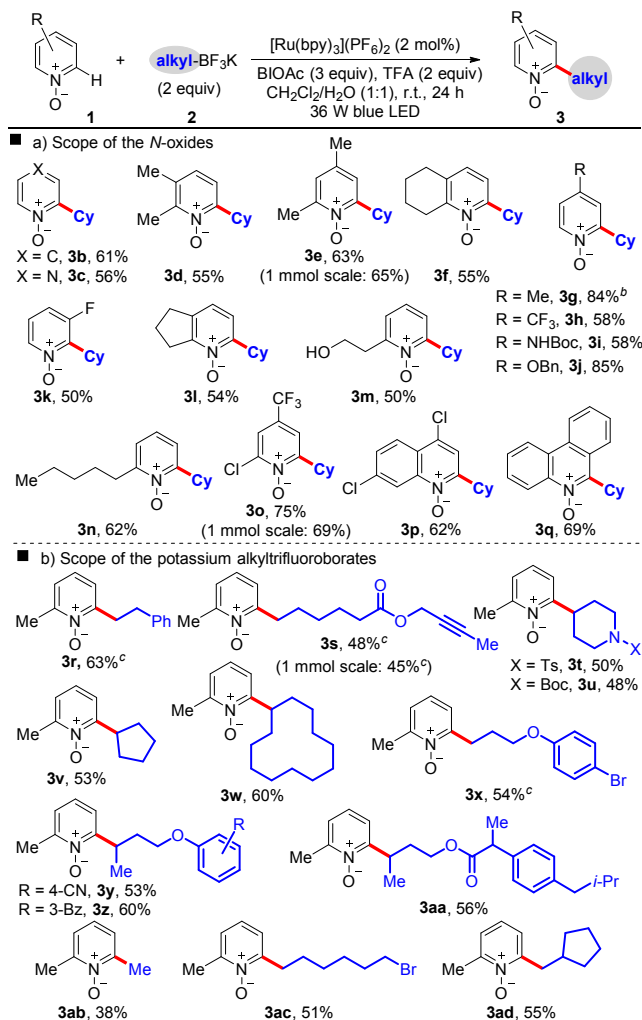
Entry	Variation from the standard conditions	Yield (%) ^b
1	none	78
2	BIOH instead of BIOAc	41
3	PhI(OAc) ₂ instead of BIOAc	<5
4	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ instead of BIOAc	18
5	PhIO instead of BIOAc	trace
6	O ₂ (1 atm) instead of BIOAc	0
7	no TFA	34
8	TsOH instead of TFA	50
9	TfOH instead of TFA	38
10	H ₃ PO ₄ instead of TFA	44
11	HOAc instead of TFA	37
12	Na ₂ CO ₃ instead of TFA	21
13	DBU instead of TFA	<2
14	dioxane instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	33
15	CH ₃ CN instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	19
16	HFIP instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	41
17	acetone instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	47
18	NMP instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	8
19	toluene instead of CH ₂ Cl ₂	14
20	no light	<4
21	no $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2$	0
22	no light and no $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2$	0

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.4 mmol, 2 equiv), $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2$ (0.004 mmol, 2 mol%), oxidant (0.6 mmol, 3 equiv), additive (2 equiv), $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2 mL, v : v = 1 : 1), under a N₂ atmosphere, 24 h at room temperature with 2 × 36 W blue LEDs irradiation, unless otherwise stated. ^b GC yields with 1,1'-biphenyl as an internal standard added after the reaction (averages of two runs).

With an optimized set of reaction conditions, we next investigated the scope of the photocatalytic C2 alkylation process (Table 2a) and found that a variety of pyridine *N*-oxides can be successfully transformed to the desired product in modest to good yields (up to 85%). The reaction can well tolerate many synthetically important functional groups, including ether (**3j**), amide (**3i**), trifluoromethyl (**3o**, **3h**), and even unprotected aliphatic alcohol (**3m**).

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4 Moreover, arene rings carrying fluoro (**3k**), chloro (**3o–p**), and *ortho*-methyl (**3d–e**)
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6 substituents are compatible with the reaction, thus providing additional handles for further
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8 functionalization at the halogenated and C(sp³)–H positions using cross-coupling techniques.
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10 It is notable that other *N*-containing heterocyclic substrates (**3c**, **3p–q**) could also be used in
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12 the reaction. With regard to the scope of potassium alkyltrifluoroborate (Table 2b), both
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14 acyclic (**3r–s**, **3x–z**, **3aa–ad**) and cyclic (**3t–w**) alkyltrifluoroborates are good substrates. Boc-
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16 and Ts-protected piperidine-containing compounds (**3t–u**) could be used in the C2 alkylation
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18 reaction. Moreover, functional groups such as ester (**3s**, **3aa**), alkyne (**3s**), aryl and alkyl
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20 bromides (**3x**, **3ac**), ether (**3x–z**), cyano (**3y**), and ketone (**3z**) can be tolerated in the
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22 transformation. To further demonstrate the synthetic utility of the current reaction, we
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24 conducted reactions on a 1 mmol scale with **1e**, **1o** and **1s** the corresponding product **3e**, **3o**
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26 and **3s** were isolated in 65%, 69% and 45% yields, respectively.
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35 **Table 2. Substrate Scope** ^a
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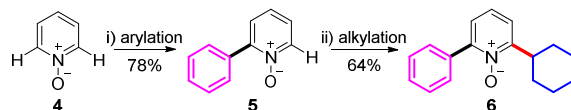


^a The reactions were carried out for 24 h on a 0.2 mmol scale, isolated yields based on pyridine *N*-oxides. For details, please see the Supporting Information. ^b 2,6-disubstituted product was obtained in 55% yield with 4 equiv of **2a**. ^c 3 equiv of potassium alkyltrifluoroborates, 48 h.

Moreover, the current photocatalytic system can be applied to sequential C–H arylation/alkylation of pyridine *N*-oxide, as exemplified by the reaction in Scheme 2. According to the pioneering investigation by Fagnou and co-workers,^{2a} the palladium-catalysed C–H arylation of pyridine *N*-oxide (**4**) with bromobenzene was achieved in 78% yield, and subsequent treatment of the resulting *N*-oxide (**5**) under our present standard conditions delivered the final alkylated product **6** in 64% yield.

Scheme 2. Sequential C(sp²)-H Arylation/Alkylation of Pyridine *N*-oxide

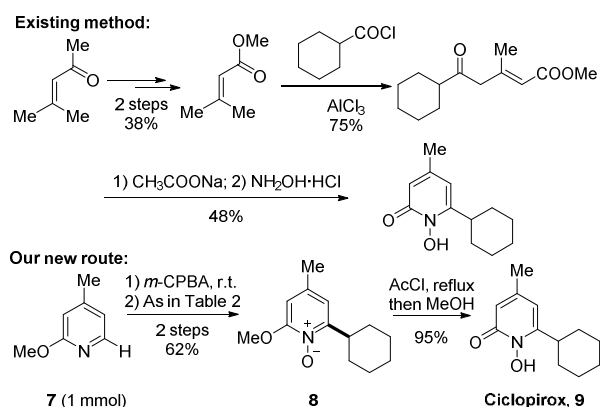
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Reagents and conditions: (i) Arylation, PhBr, Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol%), P(tBu)₃-HBF₄ (20 mol%), K₂CO₃ (2 equiv), toluene, 110 °C; 78%; (ii) Alkylation, CyBF₃K, [Ru(bpy)₃(PF₆)₂] (2 mol%), BIOAc (3 equiv), TFA (2 equiv), CH₂Cl₂/H₂O (1:1), r.t., 36 W blue LED; 64%.

To demonstrate further the synthetic utility with this newly developed protocol, we examined a new route for the preparation of ciclopirox (**9**), a disease-modifying antifungal drug that can be used to treat superficial mycoses such as tinea versicolor and tinea pedis.¹⁴ As shown in Scheme 3, we successfully prepared **9** on a laboratory-scale in three steps with more than 59% overall yield starting from commercially available 2-methoxy-4-methylpyridine (**7**), compared with the existing method, which resulted in less than 14% overall yield after five steps.¹⁵

Scheme 3. Synthetic Application to the Drug Molecule Ciclopirox



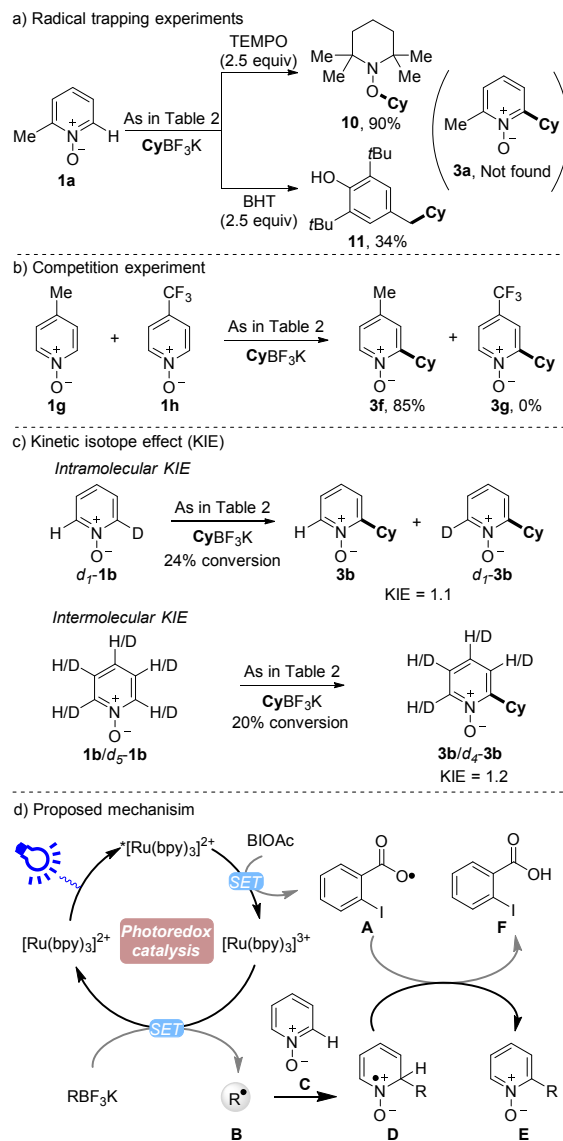
To obtain more insight into the mechanism of this photocatalytic reaction, we conducted radical-trapping experiments using 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-*N*-oxyl (TEMPO) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT) as radical scavengers. In both cases, no C2-alkylated product **3a** was detected. Meanwhile, the alkyl-TEMPO adduct **10** as well as the alkyl-BHT adduct **11** could be isolated in 90% and 34% yield, respectively (Scheme 4a). These above observations suggested that the intermediate of an alkyl radical may be generated in the photocatalytic reaction. Furthermore, potassium cyclohexyltrifluoroborate (**2a**) was reacted in the

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4 presence of both electron-rich 4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (**1g**) and electron-deficient
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6 4-trifluoromethylpyridine *N*-oxide (**1h**) under the standard conditions (Scheme 4b). In this case,
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8 the only product detected using GC analysis of the reaction mixture was **3f**, arising from reaction
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10 of the more electron-rich pyridine *N*-oxide, thus indicating that the reaction is compatible with an
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12 S_EAr mechanism.^{1a} We also determined the intramolecular ($k_H/k_D = 1.1$) and intermolecular (k_H/k_D
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14 = 1.2) kinetic isotopic effect by ¹H NMR analysis (Scheme 4c). These results suggest that the C–H
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16 bond cleavage might not be the rate determining step in the photocatalytic process.¹⁶ In addition,
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18 the reaction's quantum yield Φ was measured to be 3.7 (please see the Supporting Information),
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20 indicating a mechanism involving a chain reaction.¹⁷
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26 Based on the above experiments and previous reports,^{8,9} we propose the possible mechanism
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28 depicted in Scheme 4d. Initially, the photocatalyst [Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺ is activated by visible-light
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30 irradiation to give the reducing excited-state catalyst *[Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺, which is oxidatively quenched
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32 by BIOAc to provide the oxidized catalyst [Ru(bpy)₃]³⁺ and a radical species **A**. Then SET from
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34 the alkyltrifluoroborate to [Ru(bpy)₃]³⁺ to form the alkyl radical **B** and regenerating the
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36 [Ru(bpy)₃]²⁺ catalyst. Sequentially, addition of this alkyl radical **B** to pyridine *N*-oxide **C**
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38 produces radical cation **D**, which is reoxidized by radical **A**, delivering the desired product **E** and
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40 2-iodobenzoic acid **F**.
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46 **Scheme 4. Mechanism Investigations**

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CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have reported the first example of a photocatalytic C2 alkylation reaction of pyridine *N*-oxides. This reaction affords the desired C2-alkylated pyridine *N*-oxides under mild conditions. The present reaction has broad substrate scope, including ester, amide, ether, cyano, ketone, alkyne, and halides. A series of mechanistic studies is consistent with this C–H alkylation reaction proceeding through the proposed radical pathway. We are currently investigating of new transformations of alkyl boron reagents *via* photoredox catalysis.

EXPERIMENT SECTION

General Information

Chemicals and solvents were used as received. ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded on a 600 MHz spectrometer at the ambient temperature, using TMS as an internal standard (chemical shifts in δ). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublet, dt = doublet of triplet, etc.), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. Gas chromatographic (GC) analyses were performed on a GC equipped with a flame-ionization detector and an Rtx@-65 (30 m \times 0.32 mm ID \times 0.25 μm df) column using biphenyl as an internal standard, added during reaction workup. GC-MS analyses were performed on a GC-MS with an EI mode. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a HRMS-TOF spectrometer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) performed on pre-coated silica gel plates. After elution, plate was visualized under UV illumination at 254 nm for UV active materials. Organic solutions were concentrated under reduced pressure on a rotary evaporator. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh) by standard techniques eluting with solvents as indicated.

General Procedure for the Preparation of Pyridine *N*-oxides 1c-q

To a stirred solution of pyridine (10 mmol) in CHCl_3 (20 mL) was added 70% *m*-CPBA (10 mmol), portion wise at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, at which time complete consumption of starting material was observed by TLC. The reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl_3 , and solid K_2CO_3 (4.0 equiv) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for an additional 10 min. The mixture was washed with water for three times. The organic layer was separated and dried with MgSO_4 ,

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3 filtered and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to afford the
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6 pyridine *N*-oxides.¹⁸
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8 9 **Procedure for the Preparation of Alkyltrifluoroborates**

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11 **Procedure A (2v–w and 2ac):** Alkene (10.0 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) was added dropwise to a solution
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13 of BH₃•THF (20 mL, 20 mmol, 1 M solution in THF) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 2 h at room
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15 temperature and H₂O (2.0 mL) was slowly added. After stirring for additional 3 h at room temperature,
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17 the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo, diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), and washed with
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19 saturated aqueous bicarbonate (20 mL) and brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium
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21 sulfate, filtered, and concentrated to approximately 5 mL. Petroleum ether was then added. The
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23 resultant precipitate was washed with petroleum ether and dried under vacuum to afford the
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25 alkylboronic acid as white solid or thick oil. A 100 mL round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar
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27 was charged with the alkylboronic acid and MeOH (20 mL). To the flask was added KHF₂ (15 mL,
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29 3.91 g, 50 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 h and then concentrated to dryness.
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31 The residue, a white solid, was extracted with hot acetone (3 × 30 mL), and the combined filtered
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33 extracts were concentrated to approximately 5 mL. Ether was added and the resultant precipitate was
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35 collected and dried to afford the potassium trifluoroborate as a white solid.^{9a}
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44 **Procedure B (2r, 2t–u, 2x–z, 2aa and 2ad):** CuI (190 mg, 1.0 mmol), PPh₃ (341 mg, 1.3 mmol),
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46 LiOMe (760 mg, 20 mmol), and bis(pinacolato)diboron (3.8 g, 15.0 mmol) were added to a 100 mL
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48 round-bottomed flask equipped with a stir bar. The vessel was evacuated and filled with nitrogen gas
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50 three times. DMF (40 mL) and the alkyl bromide (10 mmol) were added by syringe under a nitrogen
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52 atmosphere. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 25 °C for 18 h. The reaction
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54 mixture was diluted with EtOAc and filtered through silica gel. Then the mixture was washed with
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4 saturated aqueous brine (3×100 mL). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered,
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6 concentrated and purified by column chromatography to afford the pinacol ester. To the solution of
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8 alkylboronic acids or esters in methanol was added saturated aqueous KHF_2 (5.0 equiv). The resulting
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10 suspension was stirred for 2 h and then concentrated to dryness. The residue, a white solid, was
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12 extracted with hot acetone (3×30 mL), and the combined filtered extracts were concentrated to
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14 approximately 5 mL. Diethyl ether was added and the resultant precipitate was collected and dried to
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16 afford the potassium trifluoroborate as a white solid.¹⁹

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21 **Procedure C (2s):** To a stirred solution of but-2-yn-1-ol (0.54 mL, 7.2 mmol),
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23 6-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)hexanoic acid (1.15 g, 4.8 mmol) and DMAP (33.6 mg,
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25 0.276 mmol) in anhydrous DCM (10 mL) was added DCC (1.09 g, 5.2 mmol) separately at room
26
27 temperature. After stirring for 12 h, the mixture was filtered and washed with 1 M HCl, saturated
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29 NaHCO_3 aqueous and brine, respectively. After dried over Na_2SO_4 , the crude product was concentrated
30
31 and purified by flash column chromatography to afford pinacol ester as yellow oil. To the solution of
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33 alkylboronic acids or esters in methanol was added saturated aqueous KHF_2 (5.0 equiv). The resulting
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35 suspension was stirred for 2 h and then concentrated to dryness. The residue, a white solid, was
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37 extracted with hot acetone (3×30 mL), and the combined filtered extracts were concentrated to
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39 approximately 5 mL. Diethyl ether was added and the resultant precipitate was collected and dried to
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41 afford the potassium trifluoroborate as a white solid.²⁰

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 **General Procedure for Visible-Light-Induced C2 Alkylation of Pyridine *N*-oxides**

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50 Method A: To a 10 mL Schlenk tube was sequentially added alkyltrifluoroborates (0.4 mmol),
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52 $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2$ (3.8 mg, 2 mol%), BIOAc (183.6 mg, 0.6 mmol). The tube was evacuated and
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54 backfilled with N_2 for three times. Then, pyridine *N*-oxides (0.2 mmol), CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL), H_2O (1 mL)
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4 and TFA (30 μ L, 0.4 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature
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6 with blue LEDs (2 \times 36 W) irradiation. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with
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8 CH_2Cl_2 , and solid K_2CO_3 (138.2 mg, 5.0 equiv) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for
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10 an additional 5 min. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with
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12 CH_2Cl_2 (2 \times 5 mL). Then organic layer was combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered,
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14 concentrated and purified by column chromatography (silica gel) yielded the desired product.
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18 Method B: To a 10 mL Schlenk tube was sequentially added alkyltrifluoroborates (0.6 mmol),
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20 $[\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3](\text{PF}_6)_2$ (3.8 mg, 2 mol%), BIOAc (183.6 mg, 0.6 mmol). The tube was evacuated and
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22 backfilled with N_2 for three times. Then pyridine *N*-oxides (0.2 mmol), CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL), H_2O (1 mL) and
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24 TFA (30 μ L, 0.4 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature
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26 with blue LEDs (2 \times 36 W) irradiation. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was diluted with
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28 CH_2Cl_2 , and solid K_2CO_3 (138.2 mg, 5.0 equiv) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for
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30 an additional 5 min. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with
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32 CH_2Cl_2 (2 \times 5 mL). Then organic layer was combined, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered,
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34 concentrated and purified by column chromatography (silica gel) yielded the desired product.
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41 **2-cyclohexyl-6-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (3a):** Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
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43 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
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45 (0.2 mmol scale: 28.3 mg, 74% yield). Compound **3a** has been previously reported.²¹ **^1H NMR** (600
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47 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.05 (dt, J = 6.6, 5.2 Hz, 3H), 3.56 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.99 (d, J = 11.9 Hz,
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49 2H), 1.79 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (ddd, J = 16.2, 11.5, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 1.24 –
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51 1.18 (m, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.6, 149.0, 125.0, 123.4, 120.5, 37.5, 33.6, 31.0, 26.4,
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56 18.6. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%) $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}$: C 75.35, H 8.96, N 7.32. Found: C 75.21, H 9.07, N 7.18.
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4 **2-cyclohexylpyridine N-oxide (3b):** Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by
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6 flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol
7
8 scale: 21.6 mg, 61% yield). Compound **3b** has been previously reported.^{6f} **¹H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃)
9
10 δ 8.32 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (dt, J = 18.0, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (dd, J = 9.3, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (t, J =
11
12 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.86 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (q, J =
13
14 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (ddd, J = 13.2, 10.6, 4.5 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.1, 139.9,
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16 126.9, 123.3, 123.0, 37.2, 30.9, 26.4, 26.3.

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21 **2-cyclohexylpyrazine N-oxide (3c):** Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by
22
23 flash chromatography (PE : EA = 2 : 1 to PE : EA = 1 : 1) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
24
25 (0.2 mmol scale: 20.0 mg, 56% yield). Compound **3c** has been previously reported.²¹ **¹H NMR** (600
26
27 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (d, J
28
29 = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (d, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dt, J = 25.9, 8.0 Hz, 2H),
30
31 1.33 (dddd, J = 20.0, 13.0, 9.8, 3.3 Hz, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.8, 145.7, 144.6, 133.9,
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33 35.7, 30.1, 26.3, 26.1.

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39 **6-cyclohexyl-2,3-dimethylpyridine N-oxide (3d):** Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
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41 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
42
43 (0.2 mmol scale: 22.6 mg, 55% yield). **¹H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.01 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,
44
45 J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.02 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, 2H), 1.83 (d,
46
47 J = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dt, J = 16.1, 11.5 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 3H).
48
49 **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.2, 148.4, 131.5, 127.2, 119.3, 37.7, 31.2, 26.6, 26.4, 19.5, 14.5.
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51
52 **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₃H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺: 206.1539; found: 206.1540.
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57 **2-cyclohexyl-4,6-dimethylpyridine N-oxide (3e):** Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
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4 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
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6 (0.2 mmol scale: 25.9 mg, 63% yield, 1 mmol scale: 133.5 mg, 65% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz,
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8 CDCl_3) δ 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 3.55 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.02 (d, J =
9
10 12.2 Hz, 2H), 1.83 (d, J = 13.4 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.54 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.30 – 1.22 (m,
11
12 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.9, 148.3, 140.1, 124.3, 121.5, 37.5, 31.3, 26.5, 26.4, 20.6,
13
14 18.6. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 206.1539; found: 206.1542.
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19 **2-cyclohexyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroquinoline N-oxide (3f)**: Following the Method A, the resulting
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21 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1:1 to EA) to give the desired product as a
22
23 colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 25.5 mg, 55% yield). Compound **3f** has been previously reported.²¹ ^1H
24
25 **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.98 (dd, J = 18.6, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.54 (t, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (t, J = 6.6
26
27 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (d, J = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 1.91 – 1.83 (m, 3H), 1.83 – 1.72 (m, 3H),
28
29 1.51 (qd, J = 13.1, 3.1 Hz, 2H), 1.31 – 1.25 (m, 4H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.9, 148.6,
30
31 132.9, 125.9, 119.2, 37.5, 31.1, 28.6, 26.6, 26.4, 25.3, 22.2, 21.8.
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36 **2-cyclohexyl-4-methylpyridine N-oxide (3g)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
37
38 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
39
40 (0.2 mmol scale: 32.1 mg, 84% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.15 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s,
41
42 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.56 – 3.47 (m, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.03 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (d, J =
43
44 13.4 Hz, 2H), 1.78 (d, J = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.55 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.27 (dd, J = 12.7, 3.3 Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$
45
46 (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.1, 139.1, 123.9, 123.7, 37.0, 31.0, 26.4, 26.3, 20.7. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd
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48 for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 192.1383; found: 192.1383.
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53 **2-cyclohexyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine N-oxide (3h)**: Following the Method A, the resulting
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55 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 2 : 1 to PE : EA = 1 : 1) to give the desired
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4 product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 28.4 mg, 58% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.31 (d,
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6 $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.47 (t, $J = 11.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.06 (d, $J = 11.8$ Hz,
7
8 2H), 1.85 (dd, $J = 26.6, 13.1$ Hz, 3H), 1.52 (dd, $J = 25.8, 12.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.29 (dd, $J = 23.4, 11.2$ Hz, 3H).
9
10 $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 140.0, 126.5 (q, $J = 34.9$ Hz), 122.6 (q, $J = 273.7$ Hz), 119.9 (q,
11
12 $J = 3.7$ Hz), 119.5 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 37.2, 30.4, 26.1, 26.0. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{F}_3\text{NO}$
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14 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 246.1100; found: 246.1102.
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19 **4-((*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-2-cyclohexylpyridine *N*-oxide (3i)**: Following the Method A, the
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21 resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (EA to EA : MeOH = 10 : 1) to give the
22
23 desired product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 33.9 mg, 58% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ
24
25 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 3.49 (t, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.03 (d, $J =$
26
27 11.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (dd, $J = 41.0, 13.0$ Hz, 3H), 1.51 – 1.40 (m, 10H), 1.32 – 1.18 (m, 4H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$
28
29 (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.9, 152.4, 139.7, 112.2, 111.8, 81.6, 37.5, 31.0, 28.3, 26.4, 26.1. **HRMS** (ESI)
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31 m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 293.1860; found: 293.1860.
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37 **4-(benzyloxy)-2-cyclohexylpyridine *N*-oxide (3j)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
38
39 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a yellow solid
40
41 (0.2 mmol scale: 48.2 mg, 85% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.61 –
42
43 7.27 (m, 5H), 6.80 (d, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, $J = 7.1, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 3.51 (t, $J = 12.0$ Hz,
44
45 1H), 2.04 (d, $J = 12.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.83 (d, $J = 13.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.78 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.49 (q, $J = 13.0$
46
47 Hz, 2H), 1.26 – 1.17 (m, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.9, 157.5, 140.6, 135.1, 128.9, 128.7,
48
49 127.7, 109.9, 109.4, 70.8, 37.5, 31.0, 26.3, 26.2. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:
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51 284.1645; found: 284.1645.
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57 **2-cyclohexyl-3-fluoropyridine *N*-oxide (3k)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
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4 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
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6 (0.2 mmol scale: 19.5 mg, 50% yield). **¹H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (dt,
7
8 *J* = 13.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (t, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (dt, *J* = 28.1, 16.4 Hz,
9
10 6H), 1.42 (dd, *J* = 25.7, 12.7 Hz, 2H), 1.34 – 1.22 (m, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.0 (d, *J*
11
12 = 248.9 Hz), 136.5, 121.9 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 113.9 (d, *J* = 25.4 Hz), 107.5, 35.8, 28.4, 26.6, 25.9. **HRMS**
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14 = 248.9 Hz), 136.5, 121.9 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz), 113.9 (d, *J* = 25.4 Hz), 107.5, 35.8, 28.4, 26.6, 25.9. **HRMS**
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16 (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₅FNO [M+H]⁺: 196.1132; found: 196.1132. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%)
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18 C₁₁H₁₄FNO: C 67.67, H 7.23, N 7.17. Found: C 67.73, H 7.45, N 7.09.
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22 **2-cyclohexyl-6,7-dihydro-5H-cyclopenta[b]pyridine *N*-oxide H (3l)**: Following the Method A, the
23
24 resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
25
26 product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 23.5 mg, 54% yield). **¹H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06 (d,
27
28 *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* =
29
30 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.15 (p, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 2.02 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 2H), 1.83 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.77 (d, *J* =
31
32 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dt, *J* = 13.0, 6.4, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 1.29 – 1.21 (m, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ
33
34 154.7, 153.0, 138.5, 122.4, 120.9, 36.9, 31.5, 31.4, 30.2, 26.5, 26.4, 22.4. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* calcd for
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36 C₁₄H₂₀NO [M+H]⁺: 218.1539; found: 218.1538.
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41 **2-cyclohexyl-6-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyridine *N*-oxide (3m)**: Following the Method A, the resulting
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43 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (EA : MeOH = 10 : 1) to give the desired product as a
44
45 colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 22.1 mg, 50% yield). **¹H NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 1H),
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47 7.15 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 4.06 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 3.33 – 3.21
48
49 (m, 2H), 2.05 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.85 (d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dd, *J* =
50
51 25.9, 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.32 – 1.24 (m, 3H). **¹³C NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.3, 151.6, 127.3, 124.1,
52
53 121.6, 63.4, 37.8, 35.4, 31.0, 26.4, 26.3. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 222.1489;
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found: 222.1492.

2-cyclohexyl-6-pentylpyridine N-oxide (3n): Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 30.7 mg, 62% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.14 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 3.56 (t, $J = 11.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.91 (d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.05 (d, $J = 11.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.84 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.78 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.75 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.50 (d, $J = 12.9$ Hz, 2H), 1.41 – 1.35 (m, 3H), 1.32 – 1.19 (m, 4H), 0.90 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.9, 152.8, 125.1, 122.3, 120.4, 37.7, 31.8, 31.1, 29.8, 26.5, 26.4, 26.1, 22.6, 14.1. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 248.2009; found: 248.2012.

2-chloro-6-cyclohexyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine N-oxide (3o): Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 5 : 1 to PE : EA = 2 : 1) to give the desired product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 42.0 mg, 75% yield, 1 mmol scale: 193 mg, 69% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.42 (m, 1H), 2.06 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.87 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 2H), 1.80 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H), 1.54 – 1.45 (m, 2H), 1.27 (ddd, $J = 24.3, 12.1, 8.2$ Hz, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 143.1, 125.8 (q, $J = 35.3$ Hz), 122.3 (q, $J = 272.4$ Hz), 120.7 (q, $J = 3.9$ Hz), 117.4 (q, $J = 3.6$ Hz), 38.5, 30.5, 26.2, 26.1. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClF}_3\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 280.0711; found: 280.0709.

4,7-dichloro-2-cyclohexylquinoline N-oxide (3p): Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 5 : 1) to give the desired product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 36.7 mg, 62% yield). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.09 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 2.85 (tt, $J = 12.0, 2.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.00 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 2H), 1.89 (d, $J = 13.1$ Hz, 2H), 1.78 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.59 (qd, $J = 12.6, 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.50 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.36 –

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4 1.27 (m, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 168.2, 149.2, 142.6, 136.3, 128.4, 127.6, 125.4, 123.7,
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6 120.2, 47.4, 32.7, 26.5, 26.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{Cl}_2\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 296.0603; found:
7
8 296.0602.
9

10 **6-cyclohexylphenanthridine N-oxide (3q)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
11 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 5 : 1) to give the desired product as a yellow solid (0.2
12 mmol scale: 38.3 mg, 69% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.65 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, J =
13 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.82 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H),
14 7.60 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (t, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (t, J = 12.3 Hz, 2H), 1.97 (dd, J = 19.0, 8.3 Hz,
15 3H), 1.85 (d, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.67 – 1.53 (m, 3H), 1.44 (dd, J = 24.9, 11.9 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (151
16 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.4, 133.1, 130.0, 128.5, 127.2, 126.2, 125.7, 124.8, 123.4, 122.7, 121.9, 42.1, 32.4,
17 27.0, 26.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 278.1539; found: 278.1541.
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26 **2-methyl-6-phenethylpyridine N-oxide (3r)**: Following the Method B, the resulting mixture was
27 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
28 (0.2 mmol scale: 26.8 mg, 63% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.11
29 (m, 4H), 7.08 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 3.25 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.11 – 3.03 (m, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR
30 (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.6, 149.4, 141.1, 128.6, 128.5, 126.2, 124.9, 124.2, 123.5, 33.3, 32.3, 18.4.
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HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 214.1226; found: 214.1225.
2-(6-(but-2-yn-1-yloxy)-6-oxohexyl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3s): Following the Method B, the
resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 26.4 mg, 48% yield, 1 mmol scale: 123.9 mg, 45% yield).
 ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.14 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 4.62 (q, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (s,
2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.35 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 3H), 1.72 (dtd, J = 22.9, 15.3, 7.6 Hz,
4H), 1.45 (dt, J = 15.4, 7.7 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 173.0, 152.5, 149.5, 125.1, 124.0,
123.0, 83.2, 73.4, 52.7, 34.0, 30.9, 29.0, 26.0, 24.7, 18.4, 3.7. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_3$

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4 [M+H]⁺: 276.1594; found: 276.1594.
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6 **2-methyl-6-(1-tosylpiperidin-4-yl)pyridine N-oxide (3t)**: Following the Method A, the resulting
7
8 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a
9
10 yellow solid (0.2 mmol scale: 34.6 mg, 50% yield). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,
11
12 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 7.09 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 3.94 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 2H),
13
14 2.45 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.41 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 2H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 2H),
15
16 1.67 (qd, *J* = 12.5, 3.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.1, 149.5, 143.7, 133.0, 129.8,
17
18 127.8, 125.4, 124.3, 120.6, 46.7, 35.4, 29.3, 21.6, 18.5. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₈H₂₃SN₂O₃
19
20 [M+H]⁺: 347.1424; found: 347.1424. Elemental analysis calcd (%) C₁₈H₂₂SN₂O₃: C 62.40, H 6.40, N
21
22 8.09, S 9.25. Found: C 62.27, H 6.55, N 8.13, S 9.21.
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28 **2-(1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)piperidin-4-yl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3u)**: Following the Method A,
29
30 the resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
31
32 product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 28.1 mg, 48% yield). Compound **3u** has been previously
33
34 reported.²¹ ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 – 7.02 (m, 1H), 4.25 (dd, *J* =
35
36 56.5, 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (s, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.03 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 1.46
37
38 (s, 9H), 1.24 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.9, 154.8, 149.4, 125.4, 124.1, 120.6, 79.6,
39
40 43.8, 36.2, 29.8, 28.5, 18.6.
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46 **2-cyclopentyl-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3v)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
47
48 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
49
50 (0.2 mmol scale: 18.8 mg, 53% yield). Compound **3v** has been previously reported.²¹ ¹H NMR (600
51
52 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.15 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 2H), 3.86 – 3.77 (m, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.25 – 2.18 (m,
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4 2H), 1.89 – 1.67 (m, 4H), 1.61 – 1.52 (m, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.4, 149.4, 125.0,
5
6 123.6, 120.6, 39.7, 31.2, 25.4, 18.6.

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8
9 **2-cyclododecyl-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3w)**: Following the Method A, the resulting mixture was
10
11 purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless oil
12
13 (0.2 mmol scale: 33.1 mg, 60% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.13 – 7.09 (m, 3H), 3.56 (ddd, J
14
15 = 12.0, 7.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.04 (d, J = 12.1 Hz, 3H), 1.97 – 1.81 (m, 4H), 1.78 (d, J = 13.1
16
17 Hz, 3H), 1.50 (qd, J = 13.0, 9.8 Hz, 4H), 1.41 – 1.15 (m, 8H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.9,
18
19 149.2, 124.9, 123.5, 120.7, 37.7, 31.2, 26.6, 26.4, 18.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$:
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21 276.2322; found: 276.2324.

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26 **2-(3-(4-bromophenoxy)propyl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3x)**: Following the Method B, the
27
28 resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
29
30 product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 34.8 mg, 54% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 –
31
32 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.16 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.78 – 6.72 (m, 2H), 3.99 (t, J = 6.1
33
34 Hz, 2H), 3.16 – 3.10 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.24 (dd, J = 8.1, 6.8 Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3)
35
36 δ 158.1, 151.5, 149.5, 132.3, 125.0, 124.3, 123.5, 116.4, 112.9, 67.5, 28.2, 25.9, 18.4. HRMS (ESI)
37
38 m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{BrNO}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 322.0437; found: 322.0436.

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44 **2-(4-(4-cyanophenoxy)butan-2-yl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3y)**: Following the Method A, the
45
46 resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
47
48 product as a colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 29.9 mg, 53% yield). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.53 (d,
49
50 J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (s, 3H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.12 – 4.04 (m, 2H), 3.95 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.8 Hz,
51
52 1H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.29 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (dd, J = 13.7, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.38 (d, J = 7.0 Hz,
53
54 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.2, 155.8, 149.6, 134.0, 125.3, 124.1, 121.1, 119.3, 115.2,
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4 103.9, 66.9, 34.0, 30.9, 29.8, 18.6. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{17}H_{19}N_2O_2$ $[M+H]^+$: 283.1441; found:
5
6 283.1441.
7

8
9 **2-(4-(3-benzoylphenoxy)butan-2-yl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3z)**: Following the Method A, the
10
11 resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired
12
13 product as a yellow solid (0.2 mmol scale: 43.4 mg, 60% yield). **1H NMR** (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.78 (d,
14
15 $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (s, 3H),
16
17 6.87 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.16 – 4.07 (m, 2H), 3.97 (dd, $J = 13.6, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.31 (td, $J =$
18
19 13.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (td, $J = 13.4, 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.40 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3H). **^{13}C NMR** (151 MHz,
20
21 $CDCl_3$) δ 195.6, 162.6, 156.1, 149.6, 138.4, 132.6, 131.9, 130.1, 129.8, 128.2, 125.1, 124.0, 121.2,
22
23 114.1, 107.4, 66.7, 34.0, 31.0, 18.6, 14.3. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{23}H_{24}NO_3$ $[M+H]^+$: 362.1751;
24
25 found: 362.1750.
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31 **2-(4-((2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propanoyl)oxy)butan-2-yl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3aa)**: Following
32
33 the Method A, the resulting mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to
34
35 give the desired product as a yellow solid (0.2 mmol scale: 37.7 mg, 56% yield). **1H NMR** (600 MHz,
36
37 $CDCl_3$) δ 7.20 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.14 – 7.04 (m, 4H), 7.00 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 – 4.08 (m, 1H), 4.07 –
38
39 4.00 (m, 1H), 3.78 – 3.69 (m, 1H), 3.66 – 3.60 (m, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.43 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.14 –
40
41 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.84 (ddd, $J = 19.7, 13.3, 6.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.45 (dd, $J = 7.1, 2.4$ Hz, 3H), 1.24 (dd, $J = 17.8,$
42
43 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 6H). **^{13}C NMR** (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 174.7, 155.7, 149.5, 140.5, 137.8,
44
45 129.3, 127.2, 125.2, 124.0, 121.3, 63.2, 45.1, 32.9, 31.1, 30.8, 30.2, 22.4, 18.5, 18.2. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z
46
47 calcd for $C_{23}H_{32}NO_3$ $[M+H]^+$: 370.2377.; found: 370.2377.
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54 **2,6-dimethylpyridine N-oxide (3ab)**: Following the Method B (5.0 equiv BIOAc), the resulting
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56 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a
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58
59
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4 colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 9.4 mg, 38% yield). Compound **3ab** has been previously reported.¹⁸ ¹H
5
6 **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 – 7.03 (m, 1H), 2.49 (s, 6H). ¹³C **NMR** (151
7
8 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.2, 125.3, 124.1, 18.3. **Elemental analysis** calcd (%) C₇H₉NO: C 68.27, H 7.37, N
9
10 11.37. Found: C 68.18, H 7.66, N 11.32.

11
12
13 **2-(6-bromohexyl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3ac)**: Following the Method B, the resulting mixture
14
15 was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a colorless
16
17 oil (0.2 mmol scale: 27.8 mg, 51% yield). ¹H **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 3.41 (t, *J*
18
19 = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.01 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 1.88 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.80 – 1.72 (m, 2H),
20
21 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 4H). ¹³C **NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.4, 149.3, 124.9, 124.0, 122.9, 34.0, 32.7, 31.0,
22
23 28.7, 28.0, 26.1, 18.5. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₉BrNO [M+H]⁺: 272.0645.; found: 272.0645.

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28 **2-(cyclopentylmethyl)-6-methylpyridine N-oxide (3ad)**: Following the Method B, the resulting
29
30 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give the desired product as a
31
32 colorless oil (0.2 mmol scale: 21.0 mg, 55% yield). Compound **3ad** has been previously reported.²¹ ¹H
33
34 **NMR** (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 – 6.95 (m, 3H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.43 (dt, *J* =
35
36 15.3, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (s, 1H), 1.66 (dd, *J* = 14.7, 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.60 –
37
38 1.47 (m, 2H). ¹³C **NMR** (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.4, 149.3, 125.6, 123.9, 123.5, 37.3, 36.5, 32.8, 25.1,
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40 18.5.

41 42 43 44 45 46 **Sequential C(sp²)-H Arylation/Alkylation of Pyridine N-oxide**

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49 **C-H arylation step**: To a 10 mL Schlenk tube was sequentially added K₂CO₃ (276 mg, 2.0 mmol),
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51 P^tBu₃-HBF₄ (43.5 mg, 0.15 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.2 mg, 0.05 mmol). The tube was evacuated and
52
53 backfilled with N₂ for three times. Then pyridine *N*-oxide (380 mg, 4.0 mmol), bromobenzene (157 mg,
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55 1.0 mmol) and toluene (3.5 mL) were added. The mixture was then heated to 110 °C overnight. The
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4 reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography (PE : EA = 1 : 1 to EA) to give **5** as a white
5
6 solid (133.5 mg, 78% yield).
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9 **C–H alkylation step:** To a 15 mL Schlenk tube was sequentially added 2-phenylpyridine *N*-oxide
10
11 (133.5 mg, 0.78 mmol), potassium cyclohexyltrifluoroborate (297 mg, 1.56 mmol), [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂
12
13 (14.8 mg, 2 mol%), BIOAc (716 mg, 2.34 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for
14
15 three times. Then, CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL), H₂O (3 mL) and TFA (117 μL, 1.56 mmol) were added. The reaction
16
17 mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature with blue LEDs (2 × 36 W) irradiation. The reaction
18
19 mixture was purified by flash chromatography (EA to EA : MeOH = 10 : 1) to give **6** as a pale yellow
20
21 solid (85.5 mg, 64% yield).
22
23
24

25
26 **2-phenylpyridine *N*-oxide (5):** Compound **5** has been previously reported.^{2a} ¹H NMR (600 MHz,
27
28 CDCl₃) δ 8.33 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.29 (ddd, *J* =
29
30 7.8, 5.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.3, 140.5, 132.6, 129.6,
31
32 129.3, 128.3, 127.4, 125.9, 124.6.
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34

35
36 **2-cyclohexyl-6-phenylpyridine *N*-oxide (6):** Compound **6** has been previously reported.²¹ ¹H NMR
37
38 (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.24
39
40 (m, 2H), 7.20 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61 – 3.53 (m, 1H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (d, *J* =
41
42 13.4 Hz, 2H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 1.55 – 1.46 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.26 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz,
43
44 CDCl₃) δ 157.4, 149.5, 133.8, 129.6, 129.2, 128.1, 125.2, 124.5, 121.8, 37.9, 31.0, 26.6, 26.4.
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49 **Synthetic Application to the Drug Molecule Ciclopirox**

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51 **Step 1:** To a stirred solution of 2-methoxy-4-methylpyridine (**7**) (123.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) in CHCl₃ (2 mL)
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53 was added 70% *m*-CPBA (172.6 mg, 1.0 mmol), portion wise at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at room
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55 temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl₃, and solid K₂CO₃ (552.8 mg, 4
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mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for an additional 10 min. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to give the 2-methoxy-4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide as a colorless oil (128.0 mg, 92% yield).¹⁸

Step 2: To a 15 mL Schlenk tube was sequentially added potassium cyclohexyltrifluoroborate (349.6 mg, 1.84 mmol), [Ru(bpy)₃](PF₆)₂ (17.5 mg, 2 mol%), BIOAc (844.6 mg, 2.76 mmol). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with N₂ for three times. Then, 2-methoxy-4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (128.0 mg, 0.92 mmol), CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL), H₂O (3 mL) and TFA (138 μL, 1.84 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature with blue LEDs (2 × 36 W) irradiation. The reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography (EA to EA : MeOH = 10 : 1) to give 2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (**8**) as a colorless oil (138.4 mg, 68% yield).

Step 3: The 2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (**8**) (138.4 mg, 0.62 mmol) was dissolved in AcCl (3.0 mL) and refluxed for 1 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (3.0 mL) and stirred overnight at room temperature. MeOH was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with Et₂O to afford ciclopirox (**9**) as an off-white powder (123.2 mg, 95% yield).²²

2-cyclohexyl-6-methoxy-4-methylpyridine *N*-oxide (8**):** ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 4.00 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.04 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 1.49 (dd, *J* = 26.1, 13.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28 – 1.22 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.0, 156.8, 138.6, 115.6, 105.6, 57.1, 37.2, 31.0, 26.4, 26.4, 21.3. **HRMS** (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₂₀NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 222.1489; found: 222.1489.

6-cyclohexyl-1-hydroxy-4-methylpyridin-2(1H)-one (9**):** ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.39 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 11.9 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.00 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (d, *J* =

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4 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (d, $J = 13.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.47 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.25 (dddd, $J = 16.6, 13.2, 9.9, 3.2$ Hz,
5
6 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.5, 149.9, 147.1, 112.1, 106.0, 38.0, 31.4, 26.4, 26.2, 21.5.
7

8 ASSOCIATED CONTENT

9 Supporting Information.

10
11
12 Optimization data, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra and HPLC analyses. This material is available free of
13
14 charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.
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33 Notes

34
35 We declare no competing financial interest.
36
37

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