

Nickel-Catalyzed N-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine and Related Ammonium Salts with (Hetero)aryl (Pseudo)halides at Room Temperature

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15 (Pseudo)halides at Room Temperature
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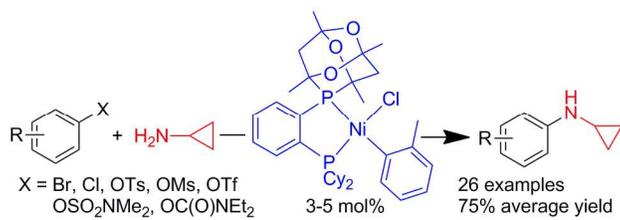
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3 **ABSTRACT.** Whereas the metal-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine with
4 aryl electrophiles represents an attractive route to pharmaceutically relevant *N*-
5 arylcyclopropylamines, few catalysts that are capable of effecting such transformations have
6 been identified. Herein, the nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine and
7 related nucleophiles, including ammonium salts, with (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides is reported for
8 the first time, with the demonstrated scope of reactivity exceeding that displayed by all
9 previously reported catalysts (Pd, Cu, or other). Our preliminary efforts to effect the *N*-arylation
10 of cyclopropylamine with (hetero)aryl chlorides at room temperature by use of (L)NiCl(*o*-tolyl)
11 pre-catalysts (L = PAd-DalPhos, **C1**; L = JosiPhos CyPF-Cy, **C2**) were unsuccessful, despite the
12 established efficacy of **C1** and **C2** in transformations of other primary alkylamines. However,
13 systematic modification of the ancillary ligand (L) structure enabled success in such
14 transformations, with crystallographically characterized (L)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) pre-catalysts
15 incorporating *o*-phenylene-bridged bisphosphines featuring either phosphatrioxadamantane and
16 PCy₂ (L = **L3**, CyPAD-DalPhos; **C3**), P(*o*-tolyl)₂ and P(*t*-Bu)₂ (L = **L4**; **C4**), or PCy₂ and P(*t*-
17 Bu)₂ (L = **L5**; **C5**) donor pairings proving to be particularly effective. In employing the air-stable
18 pre-catalyst **C3** in cross-couplings of cyclopropylamine, substituted electrophiles encompassing
19 an unprecedentedly broad range of heteroaryl (pyridine, isoquinoline, quinoline, quinoxaline,
20 pyrimidine, purine, benzothiophene, and benzothiazole) and (pseudo)halide (chloride, bromide,
21 mesylate, tosylate, triflate, sulfamate, and carbamate) structures were employed successfully, in
22 the majority of cases under mild conditions (3 mol% Ni, 25 °C). Preliminary studies also
23 confirmed the ability of **C3** to effect the *N*-arylation of cyclopropanemethylamine hydrochloride
24 and cyclobutylamine hydrochloride under similar conditions. A notable exception in this
25 chemistry was observed specifically in the case of electron-rich aryl chlorides, where the use of
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3 **C4** in place of **C3** proved more effective. In keeping with this observation, catalyst inhibition by
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5 4-chloroanisole was observed in the otherwise efficient cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine and
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8 3-chloropyridine when using **C3**. Competition studies involving **C3** revealed a (pseudo)halide
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10 reactivity preference (Cl > Br, OTs).
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17 **KEYWORDS:** nickel, C-N cross-coupling, cyclopropylamine, amination, ligand design
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1. Introduction

N-Arylcyclopropylamines¹ are an important core structure in several commercially available pharmaceuticals including fluoroquinone antibiotics² (e.g. ciprofloxacin) as well as reverse transcriptase inhibitors³ (e.g. nevirapine), and can serve as effective mechanistic probes in biological⁴ and organic⁵ reactions. Because cyclopropyl halides are poorly reactive toward nucleophilic substitution by aromatic amines,⁶ the development of alternative methods for preparing *N*-arylcyclopropylamines under mild conditions represents an important challenge. The reaction of 1-bromo-1-ethoxycyclopropane or (1-ethoxycyclopropoxy)trimethylsilane with anilines, followed by the reduction of the corresponding hemiaminals,⁷ as well as the base-mediated, Smiles rearrangement of 2-aryloxy-*N*-cyclopropylacetamides,⁸ each furnish *N*-arylcyclopropylamines, but these approaches employ harsh conditions in two-step procedures. Whereas the application of ubiquitous copper⁹ or palladium¹⁰ catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling methods employing cyclopropylamine and (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides as substrates would appear to be well-suited to the assembly of *N*-arylcyclopropylamines, successful examples of such transformations are quite rare (Figure 1). Only a single entry in each of four isolated publications¹¹ employing copper catalysis with (hetero)aryl bromides and iodides have been disclosed (Figure 1A),¹² and prior to 2016, the scope of such transformations achieved by use of palladium-catalysis was rather limited.¹³ Indeed, the first broadly useful palladium-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine with (hetero)aryl bromides (at room temperature) and chlorides (110 °C) was documented only recently by Colacot and co-workers (Figure 1B).¹⁴

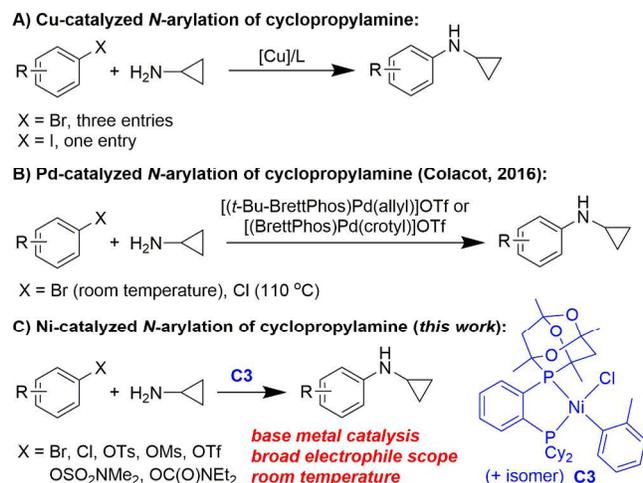


Figure 1. Copper- and palladium-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine (A and B), as well as the new nickel-catalyzed transformations (C) reported in this work.

Despite the utility of palladium-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling methods, the high cost and low abundance of palladium has prompted the development of related catalytic methodologies employing comparatively inexpensive, Earth-abundant metals.¹⁵ Consequently, nickel-based catalyst systems have emerged as suitable alternatives,¹⁶ exhibiting comparable or superior performance versus palladium-based systems for C(*sp*²)-N bond formation, especially in transformations of phenol-derived electrophiles (e.g., sulfonates, sulfamates, and carbamates).¹⁷ However, the growing number of reports of nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N and related cross-couplings has not been met with concomitant effort toward the rational design of ancillary ligands for use specifically with nickel. Indeed, the majority of successful nickel-based catalyst systems for C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling that have been identified to date rely on the ‘repurposing’ of ligands that were developed and optimized for use with palladium, with little regard to the subtle, yet distinct, characteristics of nickel versus palladium.¹⁸ As part of our effort to address this deficiency, our group recently developed the PAd-DalPhos (**L1**, Chart 1) ancillary ligand for use in nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N bond formation.¹⁹ Whereas electron-rich phosphine ligands are employed almost exclusively in palladium-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling to facilitate

challenging $C(sp^2)$ -X oxidative additions,¹⁰ the sterically demanding design of **L1** was intended primarily to facilitate $C(sp^2)$ -N reductive elimination, given the ease with which nickel can participate in oxidative addition chemistry.²⁰ Accordingly, the air-stable pre-catalyst (**L1**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C1**) has been shown to effect the monoarylation of a diverse and challenging set of nitrogen-based nucleophiles, including ammonia, primary alkylamines, anilines, primary amides, and lactams, using (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides under mild conditions.^{19,21}

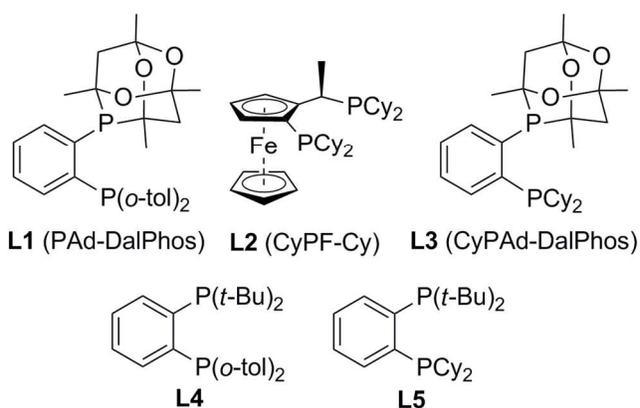


Chart 1. Ancillary ligands examined in this investigation.

The success of PAd-DalPhos (**L1**) in nickel-catalyzed $C(sp^2)$ -N cross-coupling has prompted us to investigate the application of this and related ancillary ligands in transformations of other challenging amine nucleophiles, with the dual aims of providing useful synthetic advances, and furthering our understanding of the ancillary ligand designs²² that give rise to superior catalytic performance. Given the lack of effective base metal-catalyzed procedures for the synthesis of *N*-arylcyclopropylamines (*vide supra*), we targeted cyclopropylamine as a candidate for such studies; in particular, we were interested in establishing broadly useful transformations that proceed at room temperature, in light of the low boiling point of cyclopropylamine (49-50 °C).

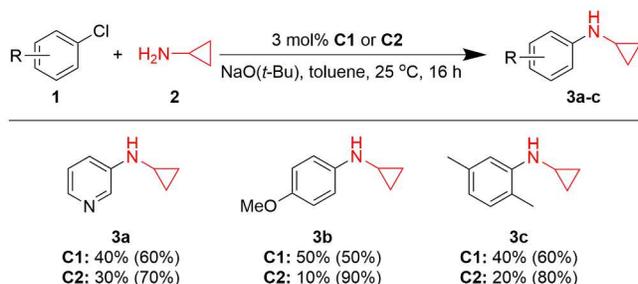
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4 We anticipated two major obstacles that could discourage the successful cross-coupling
5 of cyclopropylamine with (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides using nickel catalysis. Firstly, the
6 cyclopropylaminyl radical is known to undergo rapid ring opening,²³ which, given the propensity
7 for nickel to engage in radical chemistry,^{16b, c} could lead to unwanted side reactions rather than
8 the desired cross-coupled product. Additionally, the nickel-catalyzed ring opening of substituted
9 cyclopropanes is well-documented,²⁴ further restricting the potential use of cyclopropylamine in
10 this reaction. Notwithstanding such challenges, we anticipated that unwanted reactivity might be
11 circumvented through the application of an appropriately tailored ancillary ligand. Herein, we
12 report the first examples of the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine and related
13 nucleophiles including ammonium salts with (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides, which is enabled by
14 use of the air-stable, nickel pre-catalyst **C3** (Figure 1C) that incorporates the CyPAd-DalPhos
15 ligand (**L3**, Chart 1). Notably, the catalytic performance of **C3** is competitive with the best
16 catalysts known for such transformations, whereby a broad spectrum of substrates is
17 accommodated at room temperature, including the first examples of transformations involving
18 mesylate, tosylate, triflate, sulfamate, and carbamate (hetero)aryl electrophiles.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Screening of Pre-Catalysts **C1** and **C2** in the Nickel-Catalyzed *N*-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine

45 Pre-catalysts (**L1**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C1**)¹⁹ and (**L2**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C2**)²⁵ were selected for use
46 in a preliminary screen of the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine (Scheme 1)²⁶
47 employing three challenging (hetero)aryl chlorides, under mild conditions (3 mol% Ni, 25 °C)
48 that had previously proven effective for the cross-coupling of other primary alkylamines (e.g.,
49 furfurylamine) with **C1** or **C2**. Notably, in each case only modest conversion to the desired *N*-
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(hetero)arylcyclopropylamine ($\leq 50\%$ conversion to **3a-c**) was achieved. However, the observation of negligible by-product formation in these test reactions suggested that unwanted side-reactions (e.g., cyclopropane ring-opening, *vide supra*) are not dominant under the reaction conditions employed.



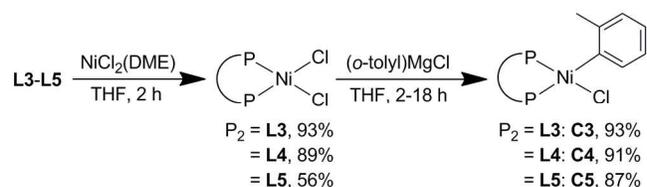
Scheme 1. Pre-catalyst screen of **C1** and **C2** in the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine.^a General conditions: (hetero)aryl chloride (1.0 equiv), cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), in toluene. Conversions to product are estimated on the basis of calibrated GC data, reported as % **3a-c** (% **1a-c** remaining).

2.2. Synthesis of Pre-catalysts C3-C5

Encouraged by the clean, though modest, conversion to the desired *N*-(hetero)arylcyclopropylamine (**3a-c**) that was achieved by use of **C1** and **C2** in the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine (Scheme 1), we questioned if variants of **C1** and **C2**, incorporating modified ancillary ligands similar to **L1** or **L2**, might promote the desired transformations more effectively. As such, a selection of alternative ancillary ligands featuring pairings of sterically demanding, yet electronically varied, phosphine donor fragments were targeted (**L3-L5**, Chart 1). Substitution of the sterically hindered, but relatively electron poor, di-*o*-tolylphosphino donor fragment in **L1** for the similarly bulky, but comparatively more electron-releasing, dicyclohexylphosphino group gives rise to CyPAd-DalPhos (**L3**).¹⁹ Alternatively, replacement of the phosphatrioxadamantane moiety in **L1** with the more electron-rich and sterically similar²⁷ di-*tert*-butylphosphino group affords **L4**.¹⁹ Finally, exchange of the phosphatrioxadamantane cage in **L3** for a di-*tert*-butylphosphino group results in **L5**, whereby

both phosphine donors are bulky and strongly electron-releasing, similar to **L2**. While **L3** and **L4** had previously been synthesized,¹⁹ **L5** had not been prepared prior to this work. Ligand **L5** was prepared via lithiation of (2-bromophenyl)di-*tert*-butylphosphine²⁸ followed by quenching with ClPCy₂. Notably, whereas **L3** and **L4** are air-stable in the solid state, **L5** was found to be air-sensitive, requiring handling under inert atmosphere.

Given the established efficacy of nickel pre-catalysts of the form L_nNiCl(aryl) in cross-coupling applications,²⁶ including C(*sp*²)-N bond formation, we wished to develop (L)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) pre-catalysts incorporating **L3-L5** in order to assess their catalytic competency in the *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine. The desired complexes (**L3**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C3**), (**L4**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C4**), and (**L5**)NiCl(*o*-tolyl) (**C5**) were prepared in a two-step procedure adapted from the literature (Scheme 2).¹⁹ Combination of each of **L3-L5** with NiCl₂(DME) (DME = 1,2-dimethoxyethane) in THF afforded the corresponding (L)NiCl₂ species, the identities of which were confirmed via spectroscopic and microanalytical analysis. Subsequent treatment with *o*-tolylmagnesium chloride in THF afforded after workup **C3-C5** as air-stable solids that were structurally characterized, including by use of single-crystal X-ray techniques (Figure 2). In all cases a distorted square planar geometry is observed ($\sum\angle \approx 360^\circ$), and the Ni-P distance *trans* to the aryl group is longer than the analogous distance *trans* to chloride.



Scheme 2. Synthesis of pre-catalysts **C3-C5**.

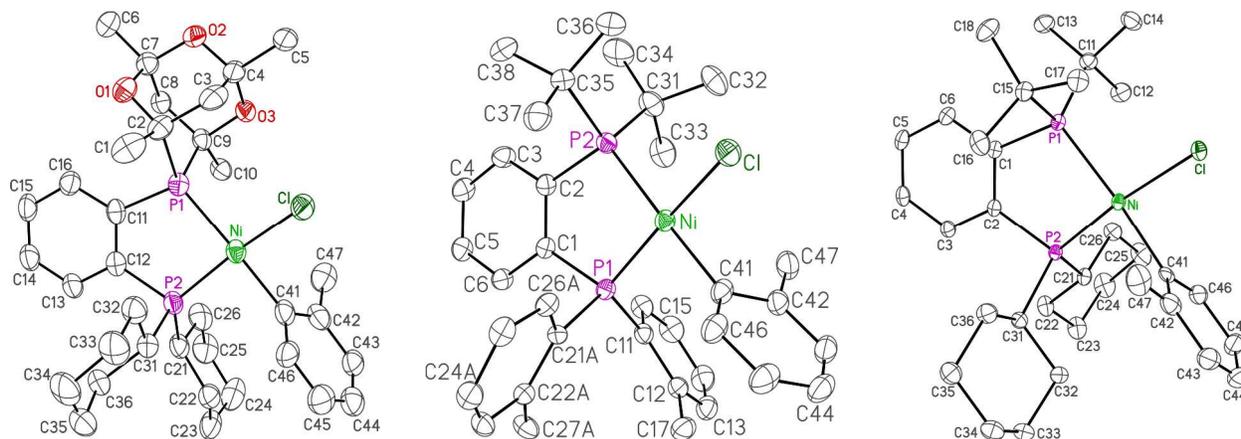


Figure 2. Single-crystal X-ray structures of **C3** (left), **C4** (middle), and **C5** (right), represented with thermal ellipsoids at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected interatomic distances (Å): for **C3** Ni-P1 2.2504(12), Ni-P2 2.1575(11), Ni-Cl 2.2019(11), Ni-C(41) 1.953(4); for **C4** Ni-P1 2.1380(5), Ni-P2 2.2789(5), Ni-Cl 2.2056(6), Ni-C(41) 1.941(2); for **C5** Ni-P1 2.2603(5), Ni-P2 2.1452(5), Ni-Cl 2.2142(5), Ni-C(41) 1.9759(17).

The behavior of **C3** and **C4** in solution was more complex than initially anticipated, and warrants further discussion (Figure 3). The solution $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of bulk (as-prepared, amorphous) **C3** exhibits four pairs of doublets (Figure 3A), corresponding to four distinct species (**C3A-C3D**), as confirmed on the basis of ^{31}P - ^{31}P COSY data (see Figure S12 in the Supporting Information). Conversely, the solution $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of crystalline **C3** (Figure 3B) features only two pairs of doublets ($\sim 3:1$ ratio) – a pattern that is similar to that of **C1**.¹⁹ Given that the crystal structure of **C3** features the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl fragment *trans* to the chiral (racemic) phosphatrioxadamantane cage (Figure 2), we ascribe the two pairs of doublets observed in Figure 3B as arising from the presence of two Ni-C(aryl) rotational isomers (**C3A** and **C3B**) that differ on the basis of the relative orientation of the methyl group of the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl fragment above or below the square plane of the molecule. The emergence over time of the remaining two sets of doublets (**C3C** and **C3D**) in the solution $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR

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4 spectrum of dissolved crystalline **C3** (see Figure S13 in the Supporting Information) suggests
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6 that **C3C** and **C3D** are structurally related to **C3A** and **C3B**. On the basis of these collective
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8 observations, the proposed identities of **C3A-D** are depicted in Figure 3: **C3A** and **C3B** are
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10 complexes in which the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl group is *trans* to the phosphatrioxadamantane
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12 cage, while **C3C** and **C3D** are isomeric complexes in which the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl group is
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14 *trans* to the PCy₂ moiety. The chiral (racemic) nature of the phosphatrioxadamantane cage,
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16 when paired with the relative orientation of the methyl group of the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl
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18 fragment above or below the square plane, arising from hindered Ni-C(aryl) rotation, affords
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20 four diastereomers in keeping with the solution ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectrum of bulk **C3** (Figure 3A).
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22 Variable-temperature solution NMR experiments suggest that **C3A/B** to **C3C/D** isomerization is
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24 slow on the NMR timescale, with only slight changes in the relative ³¹P{¹H} NMR peak
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26 intensities of **C3A-D** observed at elevated temperatures (see Figure S14 in the Supporting
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28 Information). This notion is further supported by ³¹P{¹H} NMR saturation transfer experiments,
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30 in which chemical exchange was not observed between **C3A/B** and **C3C/D** at room temperature
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32 (see Figure S15 in the Supporting Information). Though we did not conduct experiments to
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34 determine the mechanism for this isomerization process, the interconversion of **C3A/B** to **C3C/D**
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36 might occur through tetrahedral intermediates, or through dissociation of one phosphine donor
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38 atom of **L3** followed by rearrangement and subsequent re-chelation. Notably, only two
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40 diastereomers likely arising from rotamers of the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl group are observed in
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42 solution for **C1**.¹⁹ At first glance, it is tempting to rationalize the differing ancillary ligand
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44 binding selectivity within each of **C1** and **C3** as being attributable to the more closely matched
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46 *trans*-directing ability of the dialkylphosphino donor fragments in **C3** (leading to poor
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48 selectivity), versus the phosphatrioxadamantane (superior) and P(*o*-tolyl)₂ (inferior) pairing in
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C1. However, the somewhat complex solution NMR behavior of **C4** (*vide infra*), featuring P(*o*-tolyl)₂ and P(*t*-Bu)₂ donors in analogy to **C1**, when contrasted with the observation of a *single* diastereomer in solution for **C5** which features two dialkylphosphino donors similar to **C3**, suggests that the observed equilibrium distribution of isomers in pre-catalysts of this type may result from a complex interplay of factors.

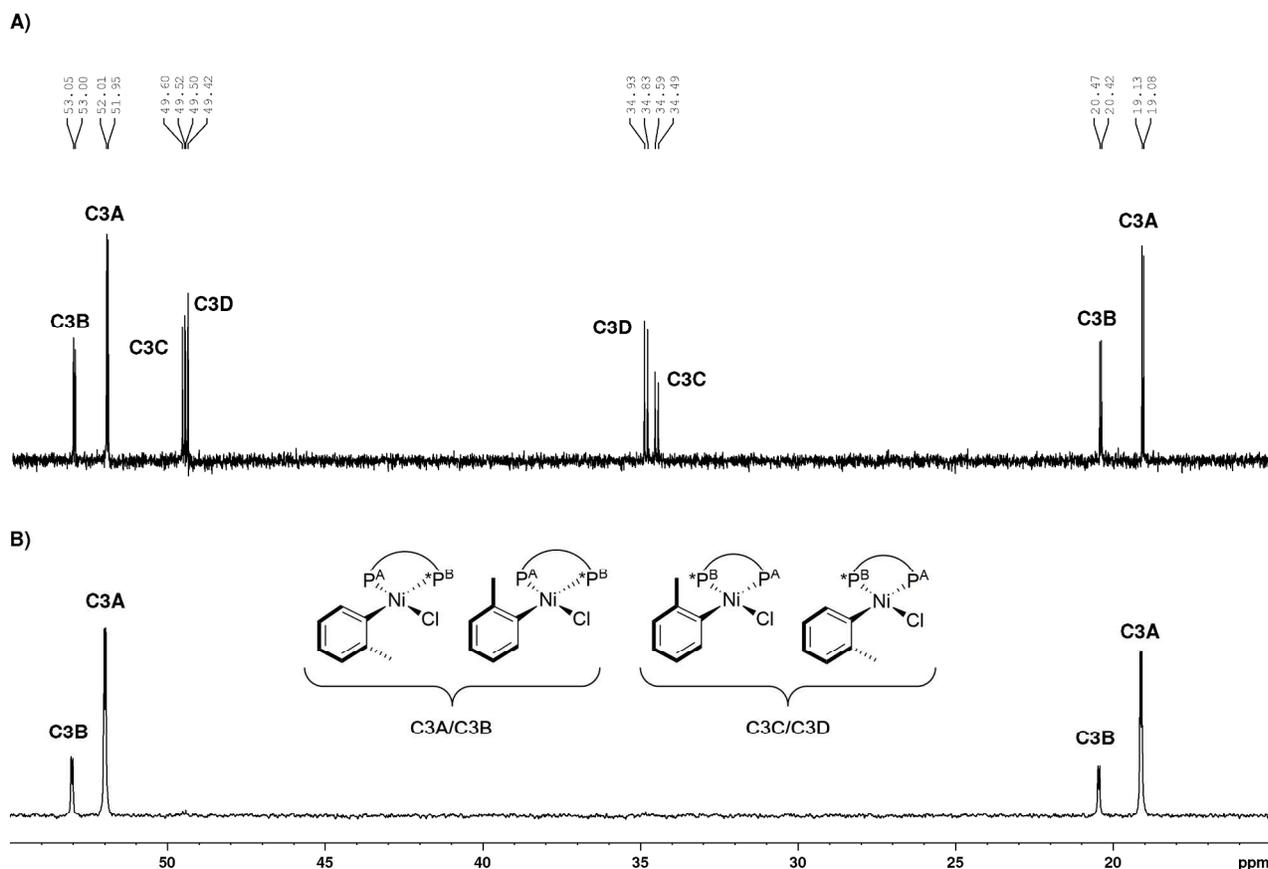


Figure 3. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) of A) bulk and B) recrystallized **C3**, with the proposed four diastereomers **C3A-D** depicted ($\text{P}^{\text{A}} = \text{PCy}_2$; $\text{*P}^{\text{B}} =$ chiral phosphatrioxaadamantane cage).

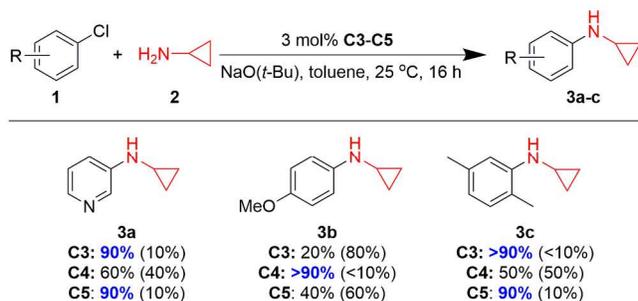
The solution $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of **C4** (see Figure S21 in the Supporting Information) exhibits four distinct resonances that exhibit varying degrees of line-broadening. Compound **C4** is distinct from **C3** in that the orientation of the methyl group of the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl fragment above or below the square plane is rendered enantiotopic (rather than

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3 diastereotopic, as in **C3**) in the absence of a secondary chiral element. Variable-temperature
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5 solution $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR studies of **C4** revealed coalescence to two broad signals at elevated
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7 temperatures (see Figure S22 in the Supporting Information). On this basis, we tentatively assign
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9 the four $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR resonances observed for **C4** as corresponding to two geometric isomers
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11 in which the nickel-bound *o*-tolyl group is *trans* to either the $\text{P}(o\text{-tolyl})_2$ or $\text{P}(t\text{-Bu})_2$ fragment.
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13 However, isomerism arising from hindered rotation involving the $\text{P}(o\text{-tolyl})_2$ and $\text{Ni}(o\text{-tolyl})$
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15 moieties, in addition to possible equilibria involving tetrahedral and square planar species,²⁹ is
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17 also likely contributing to the observed line broadening behavior. In keeping with such a
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19 scenario, the solution ^1H NMR spectrum of **(L4)** NiCl_2 is consistent with a C_1 -symmetric
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21 structure arising from hindered rotation phenomena, whereas a C_S -symmetric structure is evident
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23 for **(L5)** NiCl_2 .
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29 **2.3. Screening of Pre-Catalysts C3-C5 in the Nickel-Catalyzed *N*-Arylation of** 30 31 **Cyclopropylamine** 32 33

34 With the desired new pre-catalysts in hand, we set out to screen **C3-C5** for activity in the
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36 nickel-catalyzed $C(sp^2)$ -N cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine (3 mol% Ni, 25 °C; Scheme 3),
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38 employing the same three challenging (hetero)aryl chlorides for which **C1** and **C2** had performed
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40 poorly (Scheme 1). Gratifyingly, both **C3** and **C5** demonstrated excellent performance in two of
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42 these test transformations, with almost quantitative conversion being observed when utilizing the
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44 heteroaryl or *ortho*-substituted aryl chloride **1a** or **1c** (leading to **3a** and **3c**, respectively). While
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46 **C4** performed comparatively poorly in transformations of **1a** or **1c**, this pre-catalyst proved
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48 superior to **C3** or **C5** in the test transformation of electron-rich 4-chloroanisole (**1b**) leading to
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50 **3b**. Substituting weaker bases such as Cs_2CO_3 or K_3PO_4 for $\text{NaO}(t\text{-Bu})$ resulted in minimal
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52 conversion to the desired product (<5% conversion to **3a** when using **C3**). Furthermore, reducing
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the catalyst loading of **C3** below 3 mol% resulted in poorer conversions (e.g., 65% conversion to **3a** at 1 mol% catalyst loading). Given the similar reactivity profile of **C3** and **C5**, we opted to carry forward with **C3** (and where appropriate, **C4**) in subsequent catalytic applications on the basis of the practical consideration that **L3** (unlike **L5**) is not air-sensitive.



Scheme 3. Pre-catalyst screen of **C3-C5** in the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine.^a General conditions: (hetero)aryl chloride (1.0 equiv), cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), in toluene. Conversions to product are estimated on the basis of calibrated GC data, reported as % **3a-c** (% **1a-c** remaining).

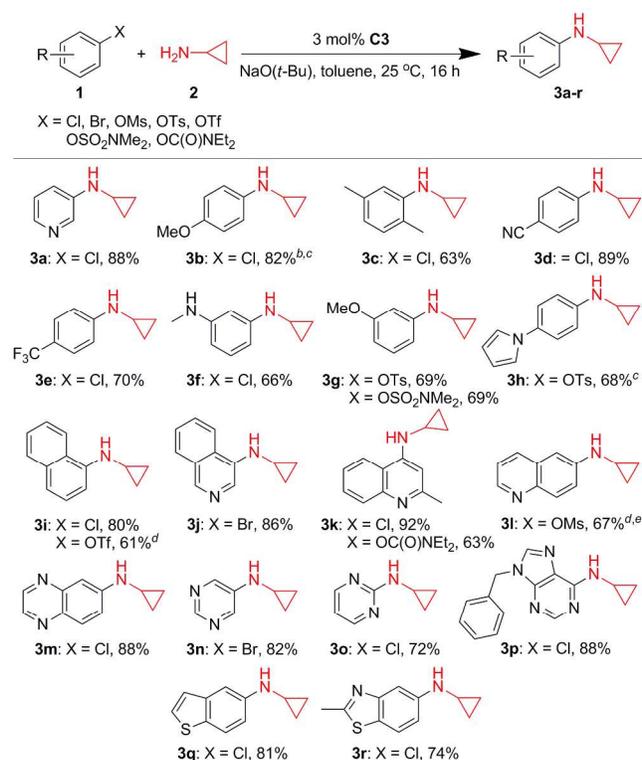
From an ancillary ligand design perspective,²² the similar performance of **C3** and **C5** in the successful formation of **3a** and **3c** indicates that the phosphatrioxadamantane and P(*t*-Bu)₂ groups are interchangeable in terms of engendering desirable nickel catalysis in these particular transformations. Knowing that the phosphatrioxadamantane cage is a poorer electron-donor versus P(*t*-Bu)₂, but that the two fragments possess a similar steric profile,²⁷ suggests that the selection of appropriate ancillary ligand sterics, rather than electronics, is a key design consideration in this particular reaction setting. However, such simple conclusions do not translate to the transformation leading to **3b**, whereby poor conversion to product was noted with the PAd-DalPhos (**L1**)-derived pre-catalyst **C1** featuring phosphatrioxadamantane and P(*o*-tolyl)₂ ancillary ligand donor pairings, yet excellent conversion was achieved with the analogous pre-catalyst **C4**, which features P(*t*-Bu)₂ in place of the phosphatrioxadamantane moiety. It is plausible that the successful formation of **3b** by use of **C4** may arise in part from the more

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3 electron-rich nature of **L4** versus **L1**, resulting in more facile C(*sp*²)-Cl activation of the
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5 electronically deactivated 4-chloroanisole substrate. However, the poor performance of **C2** or **C5**
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7 in the formation of **3b**, each featuring strongly electron-releasing phosphine donor fragments,
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9 supports the notion that a subtle balance of ancillary ligand steric and electronic properties must
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11 be achieved in order to engender desirable performance in nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-
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13 coupling of particular nucleophile and electrophile pairings. Indeed, while **L1** and **L2** proved
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15 inferior to **L3** and **L4** in the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine under examination
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17 herein, the inverse trend has been observed for the monoarylation of ammonia.^{19, 25a} It must also
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19 be recognized that in contrast to the Pd(0)/Pd(II) cycle traversed in palladium-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N
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21 cross-coupling, the mechanistic scenario is likely more complex for nickel, whereby the ancillary
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23 ligand and substrates employed influence partitioning between Ni(0)/Ni(II) and Ni(I)/Ni(III)
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25 reaction manifolds of differing productivity.³⁰
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31 32 **2.4. Scope of the Nickel-Catalyzed *N*-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine**

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34 We then surveyed the electrophile scope in the C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling of
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36 cyclopropylamine using **C3** (Scheme 4). A variety of (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide coupling
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38 partners were successfully employed in this reaction, including those with electron-withdrawing
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40 (**3d-g**) or *ortho*-substituents (**3c**, **3i-k**). Heterocyclic electrophiles were also well-tolerated,
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42 including those featuring pyridine (**3a**), isoquinoline (**3j**), quinaldine (**3k**), quinoline (**3l**),
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44 quinoxaline (**3m**), pyrimidine (**3n-o**), purine (**3p**), benzothiophene (**3q**), or benzothiazole (**3r**)
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46 frameworks. In conducting such transformations on an 8.5 mmol scale in (hetero)aryl chloride by
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48 use of **C3** (3 mol%), each of **3a** (1.004 g, 88%) and **3d** (1.223 g, 91%) were obtained in excellent
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50 yield. However, aryl electrophiles containing carbonyl moieties (e.g., ketone or ester) proved to
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52 be ineffective coupling partners. The use of **C3** enabled the *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine
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3 using (hetero)aryl chlorides, bromides, and phenol-derived electrophiles (tosylate, sulfamate, and
4 carbamate) at room temperature (3 mol% **C3**), as well as aryl triflate and aryl mesylate coupling
5 partners, albeit at higher catalyst loadings (5 mol% **C3**) and elevated temperatures (110 °C). Use
6 of **C4** in place of **C3** allowed the coupling of an electron-rich aryl chloride (**3b**) and aryl tosylate
7 (**3h**) at room temperature. Control experiments performed in the absence of nickel showed no
8 conversion to **3d** or **3i**, and only 10% conversion to **3p** (as determined on the basis of GC
9 analysis), highlighting the essential nature of the pre-catalyst in promoting this transformation.
10 Notably, the transformations depicted in Scheme 4 represent the first examples of room
11 temperature C(*sp*²)-N cross-couplings of cyclopropylamine employing (hetero)aryl chlorides, as
12 well as the first examples of such cross-couplings involving phenol-derived electrophiles under
13 any conditions. Collectively, the scope of reactivity demonstrated herein can be viewed as
14 exceeding that displayed by all previously reported catalysts (Pd, Cu, or other) for the *N*-
15 arylation of cyclopropylamine.
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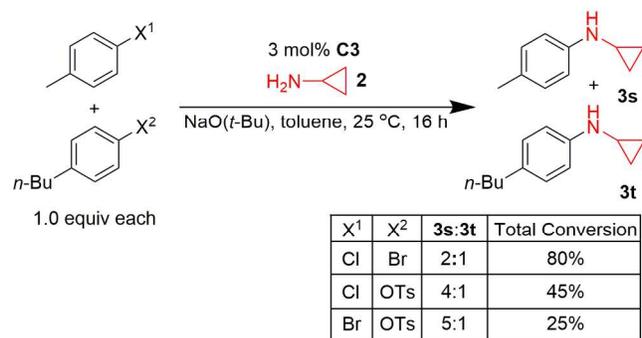
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Scheme 4. Scope of the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine.^a General conditions: (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide (1.0 equiv), cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), in toluene. Isolated yields reported. ^bIsolated as the corresponding *N*-acyl derivative. ^cConducted using 3 mol% **C4**. ^dConducted using 5 mol% **C3** and K₃PO₄ (3.0 equiv) at 110 °C. ^e1,4-dioxane used as solvent.

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Given that a variety of (hetero)aryl electrophiles proved to be viable coupling partners when using **C3**, we conducted a brief (pseudo)halide competition study with limiting cyclopropylamine to assess the relative preference of this pre-catalyst (Scheme 5). The aryl components of the electrophiles employed in our competition study were purposefully chosen to be sterically and electronically similar in order to minimize any reactivity bias, while still enabling rational analysis of the product mixtures. When an aryl chloride and bromide were used as competing cross-coupling partners, a modest preference for the aryl chloride was observed, with an overall 80% combined conversion to both products (**3s** and **3t**). In the case of the aryl chloride or bromide versus the aryl tosylate, a sizeable preference for the aryl halide was

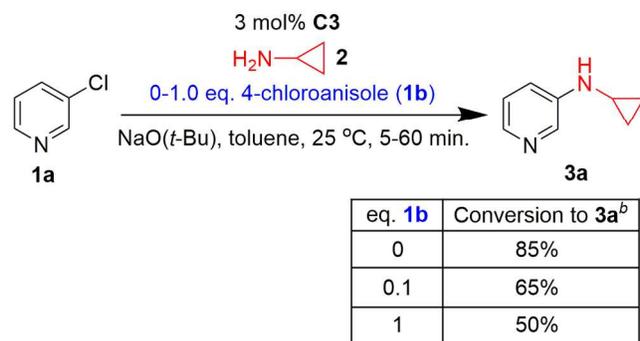
observed. However, the total conversion to **3s** and **3t** under these conditions was significantly lower (< 50%), suggesting a potential inhibitory effect when the aryl tosylate engages with **C3**. Pre-catalyst **C2** displayed a similar intolerance to certain aryl electrophiles in the cross-coupling primary alkylamines.^{25a}



Scheme 5. (Pseudo)halide competition study employing **C3**.^a ^aGeneral conditions: cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), in toluene. Reported product distributions and total conversions to **3s** and **3t** were estimated on the basis of calibrated GC data.

In our initial set of screening reactions using **C3** as a pre-catalyst for the room temperature cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine, the amination of 3-chloropyridine (**1a**) proceeded in high conversion to afford **3a** (Scheme 3). Conversely, the analogous cross-coupling using 4-chloroanisole (**1b**) afforded only modest amounts of the target *N*-arylcyclopropylamine (**3b**) along with significant quantities (~80%) of unreacted **1b**. It is plausible that the poor performance of **1b** can be attributed to the inability of catalytic species derived from **C3** to engage in oxidative addition to the rather electron-rich and thus deactivated **1b**, and/or to subsequent catalyst inhibition pathways (e.g., slow transmetalation or reductive elimination; deleterious redox chemistry). In a preliminary examination of such phenomena, the otherwise successful cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine and **1a** to give **3a** by using **C3** was monitored over time in the presence of varying amounts of added **1b** (Scheme 6 and Figure S1 in the Supporting Information). Evaluation of the conversion to **3a** after 40 minutes reaction time

revealed that increasing the concentration of **1b** diminished the ability of **C3** to effect the otherwise facile conversion of **1a** to **3a**, and throughout, negligible amounts of **3b** were detected by use of GC methods. These preliminary observations suggest that **1b** engages with catalytic species derived from **C3** in such a way as to lead to suppression of catalytic activity.

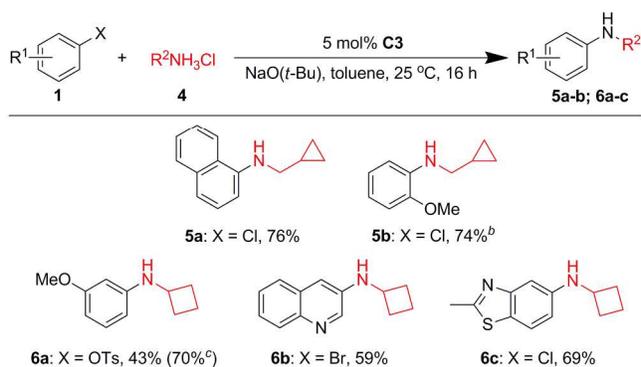


Scheme 6. Reaction monitoring of the formation of **3a** using **C3** with varying amounts of **1b**.^a ^aGeneral conditions: **1a** (1.0 equiv) cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), in toluene. Conversion to **3a** determined on the basis of calibrated GC data. ^bAfter 40 minutes reaction time.

2.5. Nickel-Catalyzed *N*-Arylation of Cyclic Alkyl Ammonium Salts

The utility of **C3** in the nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine prompted us to explore its application in reactions involving other small, cyclic alkylamines. Like cyclopropylamine, both cyclopropanemethylamine and cyclobutylamine have only seldom been utilized in palladium- and copper-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N bond-forming processes,³¹ and analogous nickel-catalyzed transformations were unknown prior to our work herein. Given that both amines are sensitive to air and moisture, we opted to employ the more conveniently handled and commercially available hydrochloride salts of these substrates in our catalytic survey. Notably, the use of alkyl ammonium salts in C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling chemistry is restricted to three reports concerning transformations of methylamine or ethylamine hydrochloride exclusively, employing palladium³² or nickel^{19, 33} catalysis.

Adapting the conditions employed for the *N*-arylation of cyclopropylamine (Scheme 4), we assessed the performance of **C3** in the *N*-arylation of cyclopropanemethylamine hydrochloride and cyclobutylamine hydrochloride with some representative (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides (Scheme 7). Desired amination products derived from electrophiles featuring *ortho*-substituents (**5a**, as well as **5b** using **C4**), an electron-withdrawing group (**6a**), or heterocyclic frameworks (**6b** and **6c**) were obtained successfully in this reaction, spanning (hetero)aryl chloride, bromide, and tosylate coupling partners. Notably, these transformations represent the first examples of the metal-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-coupling of alkyl ammonium salts at room temperature.



Scheme 7. The nickel-catalyzed *N*-arylation of cyclopropanemethylamine hydrochloride and cyclobutylamine hydrochloride.^a General conditions: (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide (1.0 equiv), amine hydrochloride (1.1 equiv), NaO(*t*-Bu) (2.5 equiv), in toluene. Isolated yields reported.^b Conducted using 5 mol% **C4**.^c Yield estimated on the basis of calibrated GC data.

3. Conclusion

In summary, we have developed the first nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N cross-couplings of cyclopropylamine, cyclopropanemethylamine hydrochloride, and cyclobutylamine hydrochloride, with an unprecedented scope of (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides. Subtle electronic modifications in the ancillary ligand framework were shown to be crucial for obtaining a highly effective pre-catalyst for such challenging transformations. In this regard, the reported protocol makes use of the new, air-stable CyPAd-DalPhos pre-catalyst **C3**, in the majority of cases under

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3 mild conditions (3 mol% Ni, 25 °C), with the demonstrated electrophile scope spanning a diverse
4 range of heteroaryl (pyridine, isoquinoline, quinoline, quinoxaline, pyrimidine, purine,
5 benzothiophene, and benzothiazole) and (pseudo)halide (chloride, bromide, mesylate, tosylate,
6 triflate, sulfamate, and carbamate) motifs. Whereas **C3** was found to be less effective in
7 combination with electron-rich aryl chlorides, pre-catalyst **C4**, featuring P(*o*-tolyl)₂ and P(*t*-Bu)₂
8 donor pairings, proved to be useful in promoting cross-couplings of these particular substrates.
9
10 This reactivity trend was found to be consistent with our observation of catalyst inhibition in the
11 otherwise efficient cross-coupling of cyclopropylamine and 3-chloropyridine using **C3**, upon
12 addition of 4-chloroanisole. Competition studies involving **C3** revealed a (pseudo)halide
13 reactivity preference (Cl > Br, OTs). Overall, this report highlights the utility of rationally
14 optimized ancillary ligand design for application in nickel-catalyzed C(*sp*²)-N bond formation, as
15 a means of establishing new and synthetically useful base metal-catalyzed amination reactions.
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17 Our efforts to apply these and other ancillary ligand design strategies in the development of new
18 nickel-catalyzed transformations will be the focus of future reports.
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36 **4. Experimental Section**

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38 **General Considerations.** Unless otherwise indicated, all experimental procedures were
39 conducted in a nitrogen-filled, inert atmosphere glovebox using oven-dried glassware, with
40 work-up procedures carried out on the benchtop in air. Toluene, and pentane used in the
41 synthesis of **L5**, were purged with nitrogen, passed through a double column purification system
42 containing alumina and copper-Q5 reactant, and stored over 4Å molecular sieves in bulbs with
43 Teflon taps prior to use. Diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), and 1,4-dioxane were dried over
44 Na/benzophenone, distilled under a nitrogen atmosphere, and stored in bulbs with Teflon taps
45 over 4Å molecular sieves. Dichloromethane (DCM) used in the synthesis of **L5** was purged with
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3 nitrogen, and stored over 4Å molecular sieves in a bulb with a Teflon tap. C₂D₂Cl₄ was freeze-
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5 pump-thaw degassed three times and stored over 4Å molecular sieves in a bulb with a Teflon tap
6
7 in the glovebox. K₃PO₄ was dried under vacuum at 180 °C for 24 h, and stored under nitrogen in
8
9 the glovebox prior to use. (2-bromophenyl)di-*tert*-butylphosphine,²⁸ **L3**,¹⁹ **L4**,¹⁹ **C1**,¹⁹ **C2**,^{25a} 3-
11 methoxyphenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate,³⁴ quinolin-6-yl methanesulfonate,³⁴ naphthalene-1-yl
13 trifluoromethanesulfonate,³⁵ 3-methoxyphenyl dimethylsulfamate,³⁶ 2-methylquinolin-4-yl
15 diethylcarbamate,^{25b} and 9-benzyl-6-chloropurine³⁷ were prepared according to established
17 literature procedures. Otherwise, all other solvents, reagents, and materials were used as received
19 from commercial sources. For **General Procedures A and B**, automated flash
21 chromatography was carried out on a Biotage Isolera One automated flash purification system
23 using 10 g Biotage SNAP KP-SIL (particle size 30-90 μm) or 12 g Silicycle SiliaSep (particle
25 size 40–63 μm, 230–400 mesh) silica flash cartridges with a typical gradient of 2-4-2 column
27 volumes and a flow rate of 10 mL/min. For **General Procedure C**, flash chromatography was
29 carried out on silica gel using Silicycle SiliaFlash 60 silica (particle size 40–63 μm; 230–400
31 mesh). Unless otherwise indicated, NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 300 MHz or
33 Bruker AV 500 MHz spectrometer at 300 K, with chemical shifts (in ppm) referenced to residual
35 protio solvent peaks (¹H), deuterated solvent peaks (¹³C{¹H}), or external 85% H₃PO₄ (³¹P{¹H}).
37 Splitting patterns are indicated as follows: br, broad; app, apparent; s, singlet; d, doublet; t,
39 triplet; q, quartet; sept, septet; dd, doublet of doublets; td, triplet of doublets; m, multiplet, with
41 all coupling constants (*J*) reported in Hertz (Hz). In some cases, fewer than expected carbon
43 resonances were observed despite prolonged acquisition times. Elemental analyses were
45 performed by Galbraith Laboratories, Inc., Knoxville, TN. Mass spectra were obtained using ion
47 trap electrospray ionization (ESI) instruments operating in positive mode. Gas chromatography
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(GC) data were obtained on an instrument equipped with a SGE BP-5 column (30 m, 0.25 mm i.d.).

Synthesis of di-*tert*-butyl(2-(dicyclohexyl)phosphino)phenyl)phosphine (L5). *All manipulations, including work-up, were performed in an inert atmosphere glovebox.* A glass vial was charged with (2-bromophenyl)di-*tert*-butylphosphine (0.138 g, 0.458 mmol), Et₂O (2 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, and the vial was placed in a –33 °C freezer for 20 min. After this time, the vial was removed from the freezer, magnetic stirring was initiated, and *n*-BuLi (275 μL of a 2.5 M solution in hexanes, 0.687 mmol) was added dropwise to the cooled, stirring solution, yielding a clear yellow solution. The solution was then allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 min., after which time a cold (–33 °C) solution of ClPCy₂ (106 μL, 0.481 mmol) in Et₂O (1 mL) was added dropwise to the stirring solution, yielding a cloudy yellow mixture upon complete addition. The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 18 h (unoptimized), after which time DCM (3 mL) was added, and the mixture was filtered through a Celite/silica plug (~1:1), eluting with DCM (2 x 1 mL). The volatiles were removed from the clear, yellow filtrate under reduced pressure yielding a yellow-orange oil, which solidified under vacuum after several hours. The solid residue was then washed with cold (–33 °C) pentane (3 x 1 mL), and was dried under reduced pressure to afford **L5**. Yield: 26.2 mg (14%). Additional **L5** could be isolated by removing the volatiles from the retained pentane washings, washing the resulting yellow solid with cold (–33 °C) pentane (2 x 1 mL), and drying under reduced pressure. Yield: 33.5 mg (17%). Combined Yield: 59.7 (31%). ¹H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ ¹H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.54 (br d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.05 (m, 40H, overlapping Cy and *t*-Bu resonances, with the latter at 1.21, d, *J*_{PH} = 11.4 Hz). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.3-145.6 (overlapping m), 135.7, 133.1 (d, *J*_{PC} = 6.9 Hz), 127.8,

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3 126.7, 35.9 (dd, $J_{PC} = 17.1, 5.0$ Hz), 33.6 (dd, $J_{PC} = 26.6, 4.1$), 31.1 (d, $J_{PC} = 14.7$), 30.8 (d, $J_{PC} =$
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5 16.2 Hz), 29.7 (d, $J_{PC} = 9.4$ Hz), 27.6-27.5 (overlapping d), 26.6. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz,
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7 CDCl_3): δ 17.9 (d, $J_{PP} = 156.0$ Hz), -9.9 (d, $J_{PP} = 156.0$ Hz). HRMS-ESI (m/z): Calc'd for
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9 $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{45}\text{P}_2$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 419.2996. Found: 419.2991.
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14 **Synthesis of (L3)NiCl₂**. A glass vial was charged with NiCl₂(DME) (85.7 mg, 0.390 mmol), L3
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16 (200.0 mg, 0.409 mmol), THF (2 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. Stirring was initiated, affording
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18 initially a clear, dark orange solution. A red-brown precipitate formed after several minutes. The
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20 resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours, after which time the solid was
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22 collected on a glass filter frit in air and washed with cold (~0 °C) pentane (2 x 2 mL). The
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24 remaining solid was then dissolved off the frit using DCM (10 mL), and the clear, dark red
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26 solution thus formed was collected. The volatiles were removed from the collected eluent
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28 solution under reduced pressure, yielding the target complex as a dark red-brown solid. Yield:
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30 0.224 g (93%). ^1H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.32 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz,
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32 1H), 7.68-7.62 (m, 2H), 4.02 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.74-2.65 (m, 3H), 2.53 (d, $J = 13.4$ Hz, 1H),
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34 2.31 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.11 (overlapping m, 31H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR
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36 (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 141.2, 139.0, 134.9, 132.4 (two signals), 131.8, 97.1 (d, $J_{PC} = 64.7$ Hz),
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38 74.7, 53.6, 41.1, 40.2, 38.5, 37.3, 29.9 (d, $J_{PC} = 13.6$ Hz), 29.5, 28.9 (d, $J_{PC} = 7.9$ Hz), 27.6, 27.3-
39
40 27.1 (m, overlapping signals), 26.8, 26.4, 25.8 (d, $J_{PC} = 6.1$ Hz). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz,
41
42 CDCl_3): δ 75.8 (br s), 46.4 (br s). Anal. Calc'd. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{42}\text{Cl}_2\text{NiO}_3\text{P}_2$: C, 54.40; H, 6.85; N, 0.
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44 Found: C, 54.76; H, 6.72; N, <0.5.
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53 **Synthesis of (L3)NiCl(*o*-tolyl), C3**. A glass vial was charged with (L3)NiCl₂ (150.0 mg, 0.243
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55 mmol), THF (2.5 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, yielding a clear, dark orange solution. Stirring
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3 was initiated, then (*o*-tolyl)MgCl (277 μ L of a 0.920 M solution in THF, 0.255 mmol) was
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5 added dropwise (\sim 30 s/drop) to the stirring solution over \sim 1-2 min., yielding a hazy, orange
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7 mixture upon complete addition. The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 2 h,
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9 after which time the reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (2 mL) in air. The volatiles
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11 were removed from the clear, orange solution under reduced pressure, yielding a pale-orange
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13 solid, which was dried under reduced pressure for \sim 1 h (unoptimized). The solid was then
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15 dissolved in DCM (5 mL), cooled to \sim 0 $^{\circ}$ C, then filtered through Celite, eluting with cold (\sim 0
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17 $^{\circ}$ C) DCM (2 x 3 mL). The volatiles were removed from the clear, orange filtrate under reduced
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19 pressure yielding the target complex as an orange solid. Yield: 0.153 g (93%). Anal. Calc'd. for
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21 $C_{35}H_{49}ClNiO_3P_2$: C, 62.38; H, 7.33; N, 0. Found: C, 62.71; H, 7.47; N, <0.5 . A single crystal
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23 suitable for X-ray diffraction was obtained by slow evaporation of pentane into a toluene
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25 solution of **C3** at \sim 4 $^{\circ}$ C. As outlined in the text (Figure 3), complex **C3** (as prepared above)
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27 exists as four diastereomers in solution, whereas recrystallized samples, when dissolved in
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29 solution, initially feature only two of these diastereomers. Even in the latter case, the solution 1H
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31 and $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR spectra for **C3** are sufficiently complex so as to preclude meaningful
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33 assignment, given the C_1 -symmetric nature of each diastereomer of **C3**; these and related spectra
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35 are provided for reference in the Supporting Information. Bulk **C3**: $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz,
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37 $CDCl_3$): δ 53.0 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.6$ Hz), 52.0 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.5$ Hz), 49.55 (d, $J_{PP} = 20.3$ Hz), 49.47 (d, J_{PP}
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39 = 20.6 Hz), 34.9 (d, $J_{PP} = 20.8$ Hz), 34.5 (d, $J_{PP} = 20.3$ Hz), 20.4 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.6$ Hz), 19.1 (d, $J_{PP} =$
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41 10.5 Hz). Recrystallized **C3**: $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ 53.0 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.4$ Hz), 52.0
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43 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.2$ Hz), 20.4 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.4$ Hz), 19.1 (d, $J_{PP} = 10.3$ Hz). Further spectroscopic
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45 experiments conducted on **C3** include: $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ - $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ COSY (Figure S12), time-lapsed
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47 $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR spectra of recrystallized **C3** (Figure S13), elevated-temperature $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR (in
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3 C₂D₂Cl₄, Figure S14), and ³¹P{¹H} NMR saturation transfer experiments (Figure S15), which are
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5 discussed in the Results and Discussion section.
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9 **Synthesis of (L4)NiCl₂.** A glass vial was charged with THF (2.6 mL), NiCl₂(DME) (57.8 mg,
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11 0.263 mmol), L4 (200.0 mg, 0.276 mmol), and a magnetic stir bar, yielding a cloudy, purple
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13 mixture. The mixture was then stirred magnetically at room temperature for 2 hours, after which
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15 time the purple solid was collected on a glass filter frit in air and washed with cold (~0 °C)
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17 pentane (2 x 2 mL). The solid was dissolved off the frit using DCM (15 mL), and was collected.
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19 The volatiles were removed from the clear, dark purple solution under reduced pressure, yielding
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21 the target complex a dark purple solid. Yield: 0.132 g (89%). ¹H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl₃): δ
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23 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H),
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25 7.41-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz,
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27 1H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (br s, 3H), 2.55 (br s, 3H), 1.77 (br s,
28
29 9H), 1.30 (br s, 9H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 145.6, 142.9, 137.7, 136.0, 135.8,
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31 133.8, 133.3, 132.6, 132.2, 131.94, 131.87, 131.7, 128.5, 126.7, 126.3, 126.0, 41.4, 39.7, 31.8,
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33 31.0, 27.0, 23.9. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (202.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 126.6 (br s), 90.7 (br s). Anal. Calc'd. for
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35 C₂₈H₃₆Cl₂NiP₂: C, 59.61; H, 6.43; N, 0. Found: C, 59.76; H, 6.01; N, <0.5.
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43 **Synthesis of (L4)NiCl(*o*-tolyl), C4.** A glass vial was charged with (L4)NiCl₂ (40.0 mg, 0.0709
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45 mmol), THF (2 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, yielding a cloudy, purple mixture. Stirring was
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47 initiated, then (*o*-tolyl)MgCl (92.5 μL of a 0.920 M solution in THF, 0.0851 mmol) was added
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49 dropwise (~30 s/drop) to the stirring mixture, affording a clear, brown-orange solution upon
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51 complete addition. The solution was then allowed to stir at room temperature for 18 h
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53 (unoptimized), after which time the now darker-colored solution was quenched with MeOH (1.5
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3 mL) in air. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, yielding a brown-orange solid
4
5 residue, which was dried further under reduced pressure for ~1 h (unoptimized). DCM (5 mL)
6
7 was then added, and the cloudy, orange mixture was cooled to ~0 °C, and filtered through Celite,
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9 eluting with cold (~0 °C) DCM (3 x 2 mL). The volatiles were removed from the clear, orange-
10
11 brown filtrate under reduced pressure, yielding a brown-orange solid. The solid was washed with
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13 cold (~0 °C) pentane (2 x 1 mL) and dried under reduced pressure to afford the target complex.
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15 Yield: 0.040 g (91%). Anal. Calc'd. for C₃₄H₄₃ClNiP₂: C, 67.82; H, 6.99; N, 0. Found: C, 67.58;
16
17 H, 7.04; N, <0.5. A single crystal suitable for X-ray diffraction was obtained by slow evaporation
18
19 of pentane into a DCM solution of **C4** at ~4 °C. As outlined in the text, complex **C4** exists in
20
21 solution as two diastereomers, where temperature-dependent line broadening due to hindered
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23 rotation and/or dynamic equilibria involving tetrahedral and square planar species, is also
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25 apparent. As such, the solution ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra for **C4** are sufficiently complex so
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27 as to preclude meaningful assignment; these spectra, as well as variable-temperature ³¹P{¹H}
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29 NMR for **C4** (Figure S22), are provided for reference in the Supporting Information. ³¹P{¹H}
30
31 NMR (202.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 69.9 (s), 66.9 (d, *J*_{PP} = 8.9 Hz), 55.4 (br s), 49.2 (br s).
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40 **Synthesis of (L5)NiCl₂.** A glass vial was charged with NiCl₂(DME) (30.0 mg, 0.137 mmol), **L5**
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42 (60.0 mg, 0.143 mmol), THF (1.5 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. Stirring was initiated, yielding a
43
44 cloudy, red-orange mixture after several minutes. The mixture was allowed to stir at room
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46 temperature for 2 h, after which time the mixture was filtered onto a glass filter frit in air, and the
47
48 collected orange solid was washed with cold (~0 °C) pentane (2 x 1 mL). The solid was washed
49
50 off the frit using DCM (10 mL), and the volatiles were removed from the slightly hazy, red-
51
52 orange filtrate yielding an orange solid residue. The solid residue was dissolved in a minimal
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54 amount of DCM and filtered through a short Celite plug. The volatiles were removed from the
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3 clear, red filtrate yielding the target complex as an orange solid. Yield 0.044 g (56%). ^1H NMR
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5 (500.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.95 (br d, $J = 6.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.70 (br d, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.61-7.57 (m,
6
7 2H), 2.64-2.57 (overlapping m, 4H), 1.86-1.77 (overlapping m, 8H), 1.70-1.67 (m, 2H), 1.63 (d,
8
9 $J_{\text{PH}} = 13.1$ Hz, 18H), 1.57 (br s, 2H), 1.36-1.18 (overlapping m, 6H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125.8 MHz,
10
11 CDCl_3): δ 135.0, 132.2, 131.2, 130.7, 39.6 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 13.2$ Hz), 38.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 26.7$ Hz), 31.8, 30.7,
12
13 29.6, 27.5, 26.0. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 91.9 (br s), 64.4 (br s). Anal. Calc'd. for
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15 $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{44}\text{Cl}_2\text{NiP}_2$: C, 56.97; H, 8.09; N, 0. Found: C, 56.69; H, 7.83; N, <0.5.

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21 **Synthesis of (L5)NiCl(*o*-tolyl), C5.** A glass vial was charged with (L5)NiCl₂ (35.0 mg, 0.0638
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23 mmol), THF (1 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, yielding a cloudy, red-orange mixture. Stirring was
24
25 initiated and (*o*-tolyl)MgCl (72.9 μL of a 0.920 M solution in THF, 0.0670 mmol) was then
26
27 added dropwise (~ 30 s/drop) to the stirring solution, yielding a clear, orange solution upon
28
29 complete addition. After several minutes, a yellow precipitate formed. The resulting cloudy,
30
31 yellow mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 18 h (unoptimized), after which time the
32
33 reaction was quenched with MeOH (2 mL) in air. The volatiles were removed under reduced
34
35 pressure, yielding a yellow solid residue, which was dried further under vacuum for ~ 1.5 h. To
36
37 the residue was added DCM (5 mL), and the hazy, yellow mixture was cooled to ~ 0 $^\circ\text{C}$, and
38
39 filtered through Celite, eluting with cold (~ 0 $^\circ\text{C}$) DCM (2 x 3 mL). The volatiles were removed
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41 from the clear, orange-yellow filtrate, yielding the target complex as an orange-yellow solid.
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43 Yield: 0.034 g (87%). A single crystal suitable for X-ray diffraction was obtained by slow
44
45 evaporation of a THF solution of C5 at room temperature. ^1H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl_3): δ
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47 8.05-8.03 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (overlapping m with CHCl_3 ,
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49 1H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 1H), 6.79-6.75 (m, 2H), 3.13-3.11 (m, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.58 (m, 1H),
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51 2.22-2.14 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.77 (m, 3H), 1.72-1.69 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.58 (m, 10H), 1.53-1.49 (m,
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3 14H), 1.43-1.40 (m, 1H), 1.20-1.00 (m, 6H), 0.41-0.33 (m, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$ NMR (125.8 MHz,
4
5 CDCl_3): δ 144.1, 142.1, 135.4, 135.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 12.1$ Hz), 131.5 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 14.3$ Hz), 130.2, 129.6,
6
7 127.9, 124.3, 122.5, 37.5 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 7.9$ Hz), 37.1, 36.9, 33.8, 33.6, 32.1, 34.8 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.2$ Hz),
8
9 31.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.4$ Hz), 28.5, 27.7-27.5 (overlapping d), 26.3, 26.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 11.4$ Hz). $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$
10
11 NMR (202.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 69.3 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 15.5$ Hz), 49.0 (d, $J_{\text{PP}} = 15.3$ Hz). Anal. Calc'd. for
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13 $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{51}\text{ClNiP}_2$: C, 65.64; H, 8.51; N, 0. Found: C, 65.27; H, 8.24; N, <0.5.
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19 **General Procedure for Pre-catalyst Screening.** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, pre-catalyst
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21 (0.0036 mmol, 3 mol%), NaO(*t*-Bu) (17.3 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.5 equiv), (hetero)aryl chloride (0.12
22
23 mmol, 1.0 equiv), toluene (1 mL), and cyclopropylamine (12.5 μL , 0.18 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were
24
25 consecutively added to a 1 dram, screw-capped vial, followed by a magnetic stir bar. The vial
26
27 was then sealed with a cap containing a PTFE septum and the reaction mixture was allowed to
28
29 stir at room temperature for 16 h (unoptimized). After this time, the vial was removed from the
30
31 glovebox, and an aliquot of the reaction mixture was filtered through a short Celite/silica plug,
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33 diluted with EtOAc (~1.5 mL), and subjected to GC analysis.
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39 **General Procedure for the *N*-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine Using (Hetero)aryl**
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41 **(Pseudo)halides at Room Temperature (GPA).** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, pre-catalyst (3
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43 mol%), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.5 equiv), (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide (1.0 equiv), toluene, and
44
45 cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv) were consecutively added to a 4 dram, screw-capped vial,
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47 followed by a magnetic stir bar. The vial was then sealed with a cap containing a PTFE septum
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49 and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 16 h (unoptimized). After
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51 this time, the vial was removed from the glovebox, and the crude reaction mixture was diluted
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53 with EtOAc or DCM (10 mL) and filtered through Celite, eluting with additional solvent (2 x 10
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3 mL). The volatiles were removed from the filtrate under reduced pressure, and the resulting
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5 residue was purified by use of automated flash chromatography.
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9 **General Procedure for the *N*-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine Using (Hetero)aryl**
10 **(Pseudo)halides at Elevated Temperatures (GPB).** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, **C3** (25.2
11 mg, 0.0375 mmol, 5 mol%), K₃PO₄ (3.0 equiv), (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide (1.0 equiv), 1,4-
12 dioxane or toluene, and cyclopropylamine (1.5 equiv) were consecutively added to a 4 dram,
13 screw-capped vial, followed by a magnetic stir bar. The vial was then sealed with a cap
14 containing a PTFE septum, removed from the glovebox, and placed in a temperature-controlled,
15 aluminum heating block set to 110 °C. The mixture was stirred this temperature for 16 h
16 (unoptimized), after which time the vial was removed from the heat source and allowed to cool
17 to room temperature. The crude reaction mixture was then diluted with DCM (10 mL) and
18 filtered through Celite, eluting with additional DCM (2 x 10 mL). The volatiles were removed
19 from the filtrate under reduced pressure, and the resulting residue was purified by use of
20 automated flash chromatography.
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38 **General Procedure for the *N*-Arylation of Small Cyclic Ammonium Salts Using Aryl**
39 **(Pseudo)halides (GPC).** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, pre-catalyst (5 mol%), NaO(*t*-Bu) (2.5
40 equiv), solid (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halide (1.0 equiv), amine hydrochloride (1.1 equiv), and
41 toluene were consecutively added to a 4 dram, screw-capped vial, followed by a magnetic stir
42 bar. Liquid (hetero)aryl (pseudo)halides were added after the amine hydrochloride. The vial was
43 then sealed with a cap containing a PTFE septum and allowed to stir at room temperature for 16
44 h (unoptimized). After this time, the vial was removed from the glovebox, and the crude reaction
45 mixture was diluted with EtOAc or DCM (10 mL) and filtered through Celite, eluting with
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3 additional solvent (2 x 10 mL). The volatiles were removed from the filtrate under reduced
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5 pressure and the resulting residue was purified by use of flash chromatography on silica gel.
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9 **General Procedure for the (Pseudo)halide Competition Studies.** In a nitrogen-filled
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11 glovebox, **C3** (2.4 mg, 0.0036 mmol, 3 mol%), NaO(*t*-Bu) (17.3 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1.5 equiv), aryl
12
13 halide 1 (1.0 equiv), aryl (pseudo)halide 2 (1.0 equiv), toluene (1 mL), and cyclopropylamine
14
15 (12.5 μ L, 0.18 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were consecutively added to a 1 dram, screw-capped vial,
16
17 followed by a magnetic stir bar. The vial was then sealed with a cap containing a PTFE septum
18
19 and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 16 h (unoptimized). After
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21 this time, the vial was removed from the glovebox, and a 367 μ L aliquot of the reaction mixture
22
23 was filtered through a short Celite/silica plug, diluted with EtOAc (~1.5 mL), and subjected to
24
25 GC analysis.
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31 **Reaction Monitoring of the Nickel-Catalyzed *N*-Arylation of Cyclopropylamine.** In a
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33 nitrogen-filled glovebox, **C3** (10.1 mg, 0.015 mmol, 5 mol%), NaO(*t*-Bu) (72.1 mg, 0.75 mmol,
34
35 1.5 equiv), 3-chloropyridine (47.5 μ L, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), and toluene (4.17 mL) were
36
37 consecutively added to a 4 dram, screw-capped vial, followed by a magnetic stir bar. 4-
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39 Chloroanisole (100 μ L of a 0.5 M solution in toluene, 0.05 mmol, 10 mol% *or* 61.2 μ L, 0.5
40
41 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was also added at this time, as appropriate. Finally, cyclopropylamine (52.0
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43 μ L, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added, and the vial was sealed with a cap containing a PTFE
44
45 septum. The reaction was allowed to stir at room temperature for the indicated time, at which
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47 point 100 μ L aliquots of the reaction mixture were taken, diluted with EtOAc, filtered through a
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49 short Celite/silica plug, and analyzed by use of GC methods employing dodecane as an internal
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51 standard.
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3 **Large-scale Synthesis of 3a.** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 100 mL round-bottom
4 flask was charged with **C3** (171.8 mg, 0.255 mmol), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.225 g, 12.75 mmol), 3-
5 chloropyridine (808 μ L, 8.5 mmol), toluene (70 mL), and cyclopropylamine (883 μ L, 12.75
6 mmol), followed by a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, and the
7 reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 16 h (unoptimized). After this time,
8 the mixture was diluted with DCM (120 mL) in air, and filtered through Celite, eluting with
9 additional DCM (2 x 100 mL). The filtrate was concentrated to ~20 mL under reduced pressure,
10 and the resulting brown/orange mixture was purified by automated flash chromatography (100 g
11 Biotage SNAP KP-SIL cartridge, 50-100% EtOAc in hexanes, 40 mL/min flow rate), affording
12 the title compound as a white solid (1.004 g, 88%).
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28 **Large-scale Synthesis of 3d.** In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, an oven-dried 100 mL round-bottom
29 flask was charged with **C3** (171.8 mg, 0.255 mmol), NaO(*t*-Bu) (1.225 g, 12.75 mmol), 4-
30 chlorobenzonitrile (1.169 g, 8.5 mmol), toluene (70 mL), and cyclopropylamine (883 μ L, 12.75
31 mmol), followed by a magnetic stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, and the
32 reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 16 h (unoptimized). After this time,
33 the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (120 mL) in air, and filtered through Celite, eluting with
34 additional EtOAc (2 x 100 mL). The filtrate was concentrated to ~20 mL under reduced pressure,
35 and the resulting orange solution was purified by automated flash chromatography (100 g
36 Biotage SNAP KP-SIL cartridge, 0-5% EtOAc in hexanes, 25-60 mL/min flow rate), affording
37 the title compound as an off-white solid (1.223 g, 91%).
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54 AUTHOR INFORMATION

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6 **Author Contributions**

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9 The manuscript was written through contributions of J.P.T. and M.S. All authors have given
10 approval to the final version of the manuscript.
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13

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28 **Notes**

29
30
31 The authors declare the following competing financial interest(s): Dalhousie University has filed
32 patents on **L1**, **L3**, **C1**, and **C3** used in this work, from which royalty payments may be derived.
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37 **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

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40 **Supporting Information.** The Supporting Information is available free of charge at the ACS
41 Publications website.
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45 Complete crystallographic solution and refinement details, compound characterization data,
46 and NMR spectra (PDF)
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51 Deposited crystallographic data for **C3** (CCDC 1553430), **C4** (CCDC 1553431), **C5** (CCDC
52 1553432)
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