# TfOH-Promoted Decyanative Cyclization toward the Synthesis of 2,1-Benzisoxazoles

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# ■ INTRODUCTION

97% isolated yield.

2,1-Benzisoxazoles (anthranils) are useful building blocks for the synthesis of drug molecules,<sup>1</sup> 2-aminoarylketons,<sup>2</sup> and fused heterocyclic molecules such as benzazepines,<sup>3</sup> indoles,<sup>4</sup> quinolines,<sup>5</sup> and acridines.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, derivatives of benzisoxazoles have been found to show antimicrobial,<sup>7</sup> antitubulin,<sup>8</sup> antifungal,9 and antitumor activities.10 A number of methods for the synthesis of benzisoxazoles have been developed (Scheme 1). The condensation of nitrobenzenes and arylacetonitriles  $(1)^{11}$  and the transition-metal-catalyzed heterocyclization of (2-amino/nitro)phenylacetylenes  $(2)^{12}$ are limited to the synthesis of 3-aryl-2,1-benzisoxazoles and 3-acyl-2,1-benzisoxazoles, respectively. General methods for the synthesis of 2,1-benzisoxazoles involve the reductive heterocyclization of 2-nitroacylbenzenes (3a),<sup>13</sup> thermolysis or metal-catalyzed cyclization of 2-azidoacylbenzenes (3b), and acid- or base-catalyzed dehydrative cyclization of 2nitrobenzyl compounds (4).<sup>15</sup> Among these, the latter method seems to be the most versatile to access variously substituted 2,1-benzisoxazoles. However, the requirement of prolonged heating of the acid-catalyzed reaction  $^{15a-c}$  limits the functional group tolerance. As part of our recent interest toward the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds via C-N and C-O bond formation under transition-metal-free conditions,<sup>16</sup> we herein report a TfOH-promoted, solvent-free, room temperature, instant decyanative cyclization approach for the synthesis of 2,1-benzisoxazoles.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2-(2-Nitrophenyl)acetonitrile **1a** was used as a substrate for the optimization of reaction conditions. In sharp contrast with literature reports,  $^{15a-c}$  the reaction was complete instantly in the presence of 8 equiv of TfOH at ambient temperature in dichloromethane (DCM), which resulted in the formation of 2,1-benzisoxazole-3-carboxylate **2a** in an 85% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 1). No reaction occurred in other solvents tested (entries 2–5). To our delight, **2a** could be isolated in a 91% yield in the absence of the solvent (entry 6). Next, other acids were inspected under solvent-free conditions (entries 7– Scheme 1. Comparation of Previous and Present Methods for the Synthesis of 2,1-Benzisoxazoles

instant reaction broad substrate scope



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	Ta			
entry	acid (equiv)	solvent	temp. (°C)	yield <sup>a</sup> (%)
1	TfOH (8.0)	DCM	r.t.	85
2	TfOH (8.0)	MeOH	r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
3	TfOH (8.0)	THF	r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
4	TfOH (8.0)	DMF	r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
5	TfOH (8.0)	MeCN	r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
6	TfOH (8.0)		r.t.	91
7	conc. HCl (8.0)		r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
8	MsOH (8.0)		r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
9	TFA (8.0)		r.t.	0 <sup>b</sup>
10	conc. $H_2SO_4$ (8.0)		r.t.	trace
11	TfOH (7.0)		r.t.	85
12	TfOH (9.0)		r.t.	89
13	TfOH (8.0)		0	81
<sup><i>a</i></sup> Isolated yield. <sup><i>b</i></sup> No reaction, starting material recovered.				

10). Only trace amount of the desired 2a was obtained when conc.  $H_2SO_4$  was used, while no reaction occurred with other acids. Variation of the equivalent of TfOH (entries 11 and 12) or lowering the reaction temperature (entry 13) did not improve the yield of 2a.

With the optimal reaction conditions in hand, we then examined the TfOH-promoted decyanative cyclization of various 2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetonitriles for the synthesis of 2,1benzisoxazoles. As shown in Table 2, a variety of 2methoxycarbonyl-2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetonitriles reacted smoothly under the reaction conditions to provide 2,1benzisoxazole-3-carboxylates 2a-g in excellent isolated yields. Next, the reactions of the 2-aryl substituted substrates 1h-r were examined. The desired products **2h**-**o**,**q** were obtained in moderate isolated yields. In general, substrates with an electron-withdrawing-group-substituted phenyl ring gave higher product yields than those with an electron-donating-groupsubstituted phenyl ring. The reaction of 1p with a 2,6dichlorophenyl ring resulted in the formation of 2p in an excellent isolated yield. It is interesting to notice that the reaction of 1r with 2-nitrophenyl as well as 2-methyl-6nitrophenyl group gave 2r in a 64% isolated yield. No trace of the alternative product (structure not shown) resulting from heterocyclization involving the 2-nitrophenyl moiety was observed. Under the reaction conditions, 3-alkyl-substituted products 2s-u could also be obtained as expected. Finally, the reaction of 2-nitrophenylacetonitrile 1v (R = H) yielded 2,1benzisoxazole-3-carboxamide 2v in a 65% isolated yield. Compared with literature reports concerning acid-catalyzed cyclization of 2-nitrobenzyl compounds toward the synthesis of 2,1-benzisoxazoles,  $1^{5a-c}$  it implied that capturing of water molecule generated during the reaction by the cyano group might be crucial to the ease of the reaction reported herein (ambient temperature, instant reaction). Indeed, the yield of 2a dropped to 38% if 1 equiv of water was added to the mixture of 1a and TfOH (Scheme 2a). Besides, no reaction occurred when 2-(2-nitrophenyl)acetamide 3a, methyl 2-(2nitrophenyl)acetate 3b, or 1-benzyl-2-nitrobenzene 3c was subjected to the reaction conditions (Scheme 2b).

Based on the results of the experiments and literature reports,<sup>15a</sup> a plausible mechanism is depicted in Scheme 3.

Acid-promoted enolization of 1 provided A, intramolecular cyclization of which gave B. An attack of the cyanide group by the hydroxyl group resulted in the formation of C. 2a-u and 2v were formed following a retro-Diels-Alder-type reaction and an elimination pathway, respectively.

# CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have developed a novel solvent-free, TfOHpromoted decyanative cyclization approach for the synthesis of 2,1-benzisoxazoles with a broad substrate scope. The reactions are complete instantly at room temperature to yield the desired products in moderate to excellent isolated yields.

# EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Melting points were determined on a hot-stage apparatus and were uncorrected. Infrared spectra were obtained using a Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained on a 400 MHz spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Q-TOF micro spectrometer. Flash column chromatography was performed over a silica gel 200–300 mesh.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substrate 1a–r. To a suspension of potassium *tert*-butoxide (224 mg, 2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in dimethylformamide (DMF) (5 mL) at 0 °C, acetonitrile (1.2 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added over 5 min, followed by 2fluoronitrobenzene (1.0 mmol). After addition, the reaction was heated at 90 °C until completion according to thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis. The cooled mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and then concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (200–300 mesh) to give 1a–r.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substrate 1s-u. A mixture of 2-nitrophenylacetonitrile (1.0 mmol) and potassium carbonate (276 mg, 2.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in DMF (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 0.5 h. Alkyl iodine (1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred at room temperature until completion according to TLC analysis, and then cooled to 0 °C and quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and then concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (200–300 mesh) to give 1s-u.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 2,1-Benzisoxazoles 2a–v. TfOH (8.0 mmol, 8 equiv) was added to 1a-v (1.0 mmol) at room temperature. After addition, the reaction was quenched immediately with saturated aqueous sodium carbonate (20 mL), and then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to give 2a–v.

**Methyl benzo**[*c*]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2a). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*hexane/ethyl acetate = 30/1). Yellow solid (161 mg, 91%); mp 64– 65 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.6, 157.6, 153.5, 131.33, 128.1, 120.5, 120.5, 116.2, 53.0 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1731, 1313, 1197 cm<sup>-1</sup>; electrospray ionization-high-resolution mass spectrometry (ESI-HRMS): m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 178.0499, found: 178.0497.

**Methyl 7-chlorobenzo**[c]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2b). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6/1). White solid (179 mg, 85%); mp 94–95 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.83 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H),

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## Table 2. Substrate Scope



#### Scheme 2. Control Experiments



4.08 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.2, 156.1, 155.0, 130.5, 128.3, 122.3, 121.6, 119.4, 53.2 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  1715, 1268, 1213 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>3</sub>: 212.0109, found: 212.0106.

**Methyl 6-chlorobenzo**[c]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2c). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8/1). White solid (200 mg, 95%); mp

111–112 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.87 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.6, 157.2, 154.2, 137.8, 130.0, 121.9, 118.9, 114.7, 53.1 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1718, 1298, 1228, 1043 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>3</sub>: 212.0109, found: 212.0107.

**Methyl 5-chlorobenzo**[*c*]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2d). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8/1). White solid (188 mg, 89%); mp 111–112 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 9.4, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.3, 156.1, 153.2, 134.4, 133.4, 120.7, 119.0, 117.8, 53.1 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1728, 1279, 1193 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>3</sub>: 212.0109, found: 212.0110.

**Methyl 4-chlorobenzo**[*c*]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2e). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8/1). White solid (173 mg, 82%); mp 87–88 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.19 (m, 2H), 4.03 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 158.6, 157.1, 154.8, 131.2, 128.4, 125.4, 118.4, 115.1, 53.3 ppm; IR (neat): *v*<sub>max</sub> 1733, 1262, 1181 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO<sub>3</sub>: 212.0109, found: 212.0106.

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#### Scheme 3. Proposed Mechanism



**Methyl 6-nitrobenzo[c]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2f).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8/1). Yellow solid (200 mg, 90%); mp 153–154 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.73 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 156.9, 156.4, 155.7, 150. 2, 123.2, 121.6, 121.0, 114.4, 53.5 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1720, 1268, 1213 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>0</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: 223.0349, found: 223.0357.

**Methyl 6-methylbenzo**[*c*]isoxazole-3-carboxylate (2g). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10/1). Yellow solid (170 mg, 89%); mp 67–68 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.80 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 158.3, 157.7, 153.0, 141.9, 131.6, 119.9, 119.5, 113.6, 52.9, 22.6 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1708, 1295, 1229 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 192.0655, found: 192.0654.

**3-Phenylbenzo[c]isoxazole (2h).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 2/1). Yellow liquid (68 mg, 35%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.03–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.32 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.6 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 164.5, 157.9, 130.8, 130.4, 129.4, 128.5, 126.7, 124.7, 120.7, 115.6, 114.5 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  2924, 2852, 1632 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO: 196.0757, found: 196.0754.

**3-(2-Methoxyphenyl)benzo[c]isoxazole (2i).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10/1). Yellow liquid (77 mg, 34%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.83 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 163.5, 157.9, 156.5, 132.0, 130.6, 123.4, 122.7, 121.2, 117.8, 116.1, 115.2, 111.8, 55.7 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2924, 2854, 1251, 1021 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>: 226.0863, found: 226.0860.

**3-(2-Bromophenyl)benzo[c]isoxazole (2j).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ ethyl acetate = 10/1). Yellow liquid (120 mg, 44%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 9.40 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 9.20 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 9.17–9.11 (m, 3H), 9.07–9.02 (m, 1H), 8.97 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 165.9, 158.4, 135.2, 133.4, 133.1, 132.6, 130.3, 129.1, 126.0, 123.2, 121.8, 117.4, 115.7 ppm; IR

(neat):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2976, 2842, 1267, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS:  $m/z \,[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>79</sup>BrNO: 273.9862, found: 273.9860.

**3-(2-Chlorophenyl)benzo**[*c*]isoxazole (2k). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 25/1). Yellow solid (117 mg, 51%); mp 67–68 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 9.29–9.27 (m, 1H), 9.24–9.22 (m, 1H), 9.19–9.16 (m, 2H), 9.14–9.07 (m, 2H), 8.98 (ddd, *J* = 9.0, 6.4, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 8.68 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 164.6, 158.5, 134.0, 133.2, 132.8, 132.6, 132.0, 128.7, 128.2, 126.0, 121.9, 117.6, 115.7 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2956, 2852, 1251, 1021 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO: 230.0367, found: 230.0364.

**3-(3-Chlorophenyl)benzo**[*c*]isoxazole (2l). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ ethyl acetate = 50/1). White solid (112 mg, 49%); mp 85–86 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.90–7.88 (m, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.8, 158.0, 135.4, 130.9, 130.7, 130.3, 130.0, 126.5, 125.4, 124.7, 120.3, 115.8, 114.8 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2966, 2862, 1256, 1021 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO: 230.0367, found: 230.0364.

**3-(4-Chlorophenyl)benzo**[*c*]isoxazole (2m). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10/1). White solid (96 mg, 42%); mp 143–144 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.97–7.93 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 163.3, 158.0, 136.5, 130.9, 129.7, 127.8, 126.9, 125.1, 120.4, 115.8, 114.6 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2926, 2852, 1250, 1022 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub><sup>35</sup>ClNO: 230.0367, found: 230.0364.

**3-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)benzo**[*c*]isoxazole (2n). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10/1). Yellow solid (153 mg, 58%); mp 114–115 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.27 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.76–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd, *J* = 8.9, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.7, 158.1, 132.0 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 32.7 Hz), 131.0, 130.0, 129.7 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 1.2 Hz), 129.2, 126.8 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 125.7, 123.8 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 270.9 Hz), 123.4 (*J*<sub>F-C</sub> = 3.9 Hz), 120.1, 116.0, 115.0 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2960, 2923, 2848, 1318, 1107 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m/z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>9</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO: 264.0631, found: 264.0627.

**Methyl 4-(benzo[c]isoxazol-3-yl)benzoate (20).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 6/1). Yellow solid (139 mg, 55%); mp 152–153 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.23–8.20 (m, 2H), 8.11–

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8.08 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (ddd, J = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (ddd, J = 8.9, 6.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 166.4$ , 163.1, 158.0, 132.2, 131.3, 130.9, 130.6, 126.4, 125.6, 120.4, 116.0, 115.4, 52.6 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1719, 1277, 1102 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: 254.0812, found: 254.0811.

**3-(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)benzo[c]isoxazole (2p).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 15/1). Yellow solid (254 mg, 97%); mp 101–102 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.68–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.49 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.04 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 160.6, 157.2, 136.5, 132.4, 131.0, 128.7, 126.7, 124.9, 120.3, 117.7, 115.7 ppm; IR (neat): *v*<sub>max</sub> 2966, 2852, 1251, 1021 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub><sup>35</sup>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO: 263.9977, found: 263.9974.

**3-(Thiophen-3-yl)benzo[c]isoxazole (2q).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ ethyl acetate = 30/1). Yellow solid (80 mg, 40%); mp 89–90 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.98 (dd, J = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (J = 5.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (ddd, J = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (ddd, J = 8.8, 6.4, 0.7 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.3, 156.1, 153.2, 134.4, 133.4, 120.7, 119.0, 117.8, 53.1 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2922, 2850, 1250, 1021 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NOS: 202.0321, found: 202.0320.

**4-Methyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)benzo[c]isoxazole (2r).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 10/1). White solid (163 mg, 64%); mp 110–111 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.28–8.26 (m, 1H), 7.83–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 161.4, 157.9, 148.7, 133.3, 133.1, 131.8, 131.6, 130.4, 125.3, 124.3, 124.3, 117.4, 113.3, 19.3 ppm; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  2924, 2852, 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 255.0764, found: 255.0766.

**3-Methylbenzo[c]isoxazole (2s).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8/1). Colorless oil (77 mg, 58%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.51–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.25 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 165.8, 157.2, 130.9, 122.9, 120.0, 115.8, 115.0, 12.1 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2922, 2859, 1072 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: m/z [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO: 134.0600, found: 134.0596.

**3-Propylbenzo**[*c*]isoxazole (2t). The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 30/1). Yellow oil (93 mg, 58%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.52–7.49 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.25 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.94–1.85 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 169.7, 157.2, 130.9, 122.9, 120.1, 115.5, 115.1, 28.8, 21.5, 14.0 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2951, 2922, 2859, 1091 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO: 162.0913, found: 162.0910.

**1,6-Bis(benzo[c]isoxazol-3-yl)hexane (2u).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ ethyl acetate = 15/1). Yellow solid (141 mg, 44%); mp 69–70 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 7.57–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.33 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.3, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.3, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.86–1.82 (m, 4H), 1.43–1.39 (m, 4H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$  = 171.5, 158.2, 132.7, 124.2, 121.3, 116.6, 115.1, 29.7, 28.7, 27.2 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  2933, 2922, 2859, 1061 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS: *m*/*z* [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 321.1598, found: 321.1596.

**Benzo[c]isoxazole-3-carboxamide (2v).** The crude product was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (*n*-hexane/ ethyl acetate = 6/1). White solid (105 mg, 65%); mp 209–210 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, *J* = 9.1, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (ddd, *J* = 8.8, 6.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{1H} NMR

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(100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta = 157.7$ , 157.2, 157.0, 131.9, 127.1, 121.0, 118.2, 115.2 ppm; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  3380, 3170, 1698, 1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>; ESI-HRMS:  $m/z \ [M + H]^+$  calcd for  $C_8H_7N_2O_2$ : 163.0502, found: 163.0499.

### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **Supporting Information**

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.joc.1c00091.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for compounds 2a-v (PDF)

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## Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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