JOC The Journal of Organic Chemistry

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J. Org. Chem., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.6b02096 • Publication Date (Web): 26 Sep 2016

ACS Publications

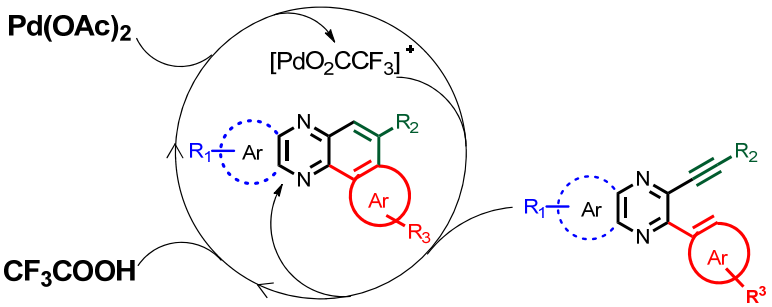
The Journal of Organic Chemistry is published by the American Chemical Society.
1155 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Palladium-Catalyzed Intramolecular Fujiwara-Hydroarylation: Synthesis of Benzo[*a*]phenazines Derivatives

*Sonu Kumar, Rakesh K. Saunthwal, Mohammad Mujahid, Trapti Aggarwal and Akhilesh K. Verma**

Synthetic Organic Chemistry Research Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, Delhi, 110007, India

averma@acbr.du.ac.in

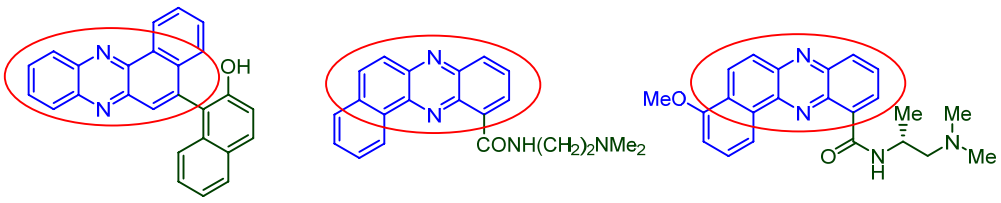


ABSTRACT: An atom-economical Pd-catalyzed approach for the synthesis of benzophenazine derivatives using substituted 2-aryl-3-(aryl/alkylethynyl) quinoxaline in the presence of trifluoroacetic acid at 65 °C has been described. The chemistry involves in situ generation of cationic Pd(II) species, which functionalized the aromatic C−H bonds via electrophilic metalation followed by concomitant intramolecular trans-insertion of C-C triple bond to aryl-Pd complex. The results were supported by various control experiments including with electron–deficient arenes and deuterium labeling studies. The deuterium labeling studies supports electrophilic palladation of aromatic C-H over activation of C-C triple bond of alkyne. The

structure of synthesized compounds was further confirmed by X-ray crystallography studies. This catalytic protocol has been efficiently applied for novel synthesis of highly functionalized benzo fused phenazines.

INTRODUCTION

Fused heterocycles and their analogues are pharmaceutically important scaffolds.[1] Among various heterocycles phenazines and their derivatives are significant motifs in pharmaceutical and agricultural chemistry and are used as key building blocks in natural product synthesis.[2] Some of the phenazine derivatives show ant-malarial (Figure i),[3] anti-plasmodial activity,[4a] antibacterial,[4b] antifungal,[4c] antitumor,[4d] cancer chemopreventive,[5] neuroprotective,[6a] and anti Chagas[6b] agent. The nucleus of benzophenazine derivatives (II) act as dual inhibitors of topoisomerase I and II and in the cell cycles[7] topology of DNA affected by key enzymes while some act as anticancer and antitumor agents (Figure ii and iii).[7a,b] The application of Fluorescent phenazine derivatives has been considered as photo-sensitizers in photodynamic therapy (PDT)[8] in which the combination of light and photo-sensitizer creates highly reactive oxygen species near the tumor to selectively destroy the targeted tissue.



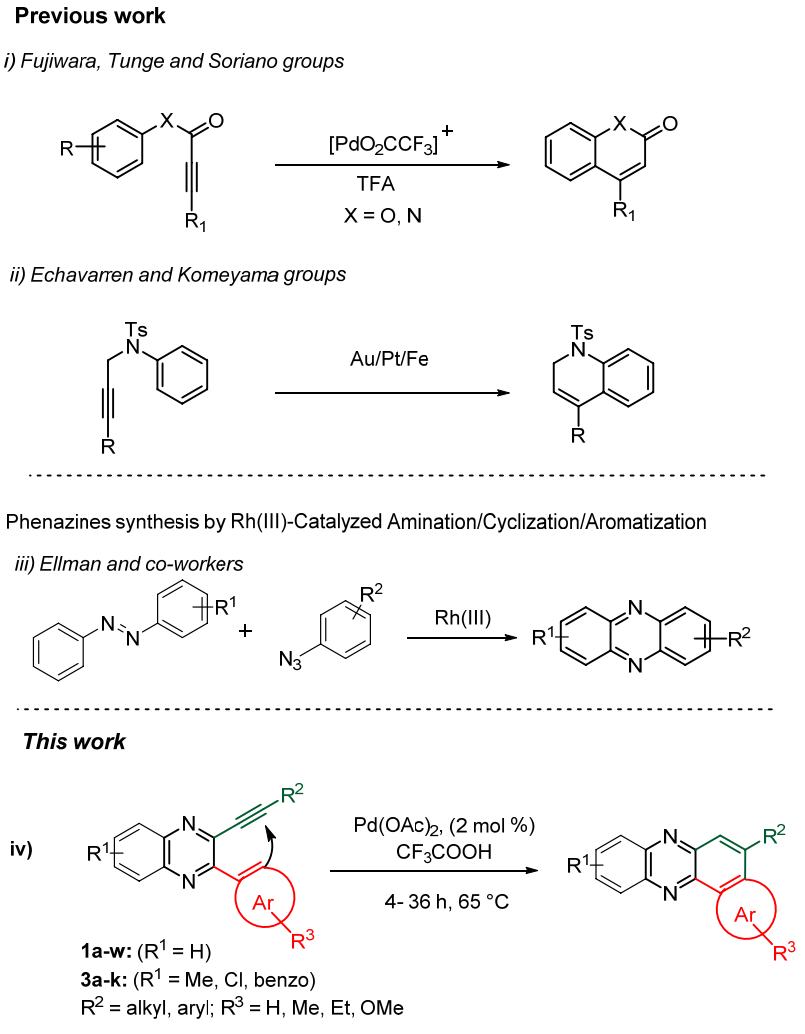
i) Antimalarial ii) Anticancer iii) Antitumor

Figure 1. Biologically active phenazine derivatives

Metal-catalyzed hydroarylation of aryl ring has emerged as a significant tool for the construction of heterocycles and carbocycles[9]. In particular, Pd-catalyzed selective arylation for

the synthesis of polyheterocycle still remain challenging. Pioneering work on hydroarylation has been reported by Fujiwara in 2000[10] using Pd-catalyst under acidic environment via C-H activation (Scheme 1, i). In 2005, Tunge[11] has described the hydroarylation of arylalkynes with Pd-catalyst via electrophilic aromatic substitution. Later, Soriano[12] explained the mechanism of metal-catalyzed hydroarylation of alkynes and allenes (Scheme 1 i). Further, Au/Pt/Fe were also employed for electrophilic cylization to synthesized fused heterocycles (Scheme 1 ii).[13]

Scheme 1. Previous Synthetic Approaches



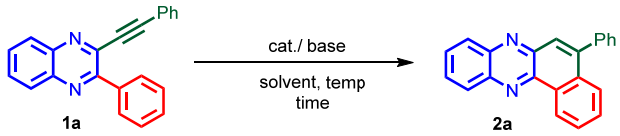
In 2013, Ellman group has reported the Rh-catalyzed domino approach to synthesize phenazine derivatives via amination followed by cyclization (Scheme 1 iii).[14] Other groups[15] also made significant contributions for the synthesis of heterocycles in the presence of strong acids. However; the chemistry has been explored with limited substrates scope. In continuation of our interest for the construction of fused heterocyclic scaffolds from alkynes[16] herein, we report the synthesis of medicinally important functionalized benzophenazines and quinoxaline analogues by intramolecular hydroarylation from easily accessible 2-aryl 3- ethynylquinoxalines and pyrazines, respectively (Scheme 1 iv).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To find the optimal reaction condition, 2-phenyl-3-(phenylethynyl)quinoxaline **1a** was chosen as model substrates with different catalysts in various solvents (Table 1). We commenced our study with Fujiwara's conditions[10] of $Pd(OAc)_2$ (3 mol%) in TFA/DCM at 25 °C for 5 h, and the desired product **2a** was obtained in 40% yield (entry 1). On further increasing the reaction temperature from 45°C to 65 °C for 24 h, the product **2a** was formed in 52 and 60% yield, respectively (entries 2-3). Interestingly, when the reaction was performed in TFA without co-solvent at 65 °C for 24 h, 70% yield of the desired product was obtained (entry 4). Lower yield was obtained at elevated temperature (entries 5-6). However, on decreasing the catalyst loading from 3 to 2 mol %, (**2a**) was obtained in best yield (entry 7). While, further decreasing the catalyst loading, **2a** was observed in 64% yield in 36 h (entry 8). No significant results were obtained with high catalyst loading (entries 9-10). The reaction with $Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$ afforded the 68% yield of desired product **2a** (entry11). Inferior results were obtained with other Pd catalyst like $PdCl_2$, $Pd(CH_3CN)_4(BF_4)_2$ and $Pd_2(dba)_2$ (entry 12-14). No product formation was observed, when CH_3COOH, DCE, DMF and DMSO were used as solvent (entries 15–18). When reaction was

performed using Komeyama[13b] condition, i.e. 10 mol % of $Fe(OTf)_3$ in DCE at 80 °C for 24 h, only 20% yield of the desired product was achieved (entry 19). After screening various conditions, we next examined other acetate salts of Fe and Cu in TFA at 65 °C for 24 h, however we failed to obtained the desired product (entries 20-21). In order to understand the role of metal, we performed the reaction in the absence of catalyst, no reaction was observed (entry 22).

Table 1. Optimization of Reaction Conditions[a]



entry	catalyst/mol %	solvent	temp(°C)/ time (h)	yield (%)
1	$Pd(OAc)_2$/3	TFA/DCM(4:1)	25/5	40
2	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	TFA	45/24	52
3	$Pd(OAc)_2$/3	TFA/DCM(4:1)	65/24	60
4	$Pd(OAc)_2$/3	TFA	65/24	70
5	$Pd(OAc)_2$/3	TFA	70/24	65
6	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	TFA	85/24	62
7	**$Pd(OAc)_2$/2**	**TFA**	**65/24**	**70**
8	$Pd(OAc)_2$/1	TFA	65/36	64
9	$Pd(OAc)_2$/5	TFA	65/24	61
10	$Pd(OAc)_2$/10	TFA	65/24	56
11	$Pd(OCOCF_3)_2$/2	TFA	65/24	68

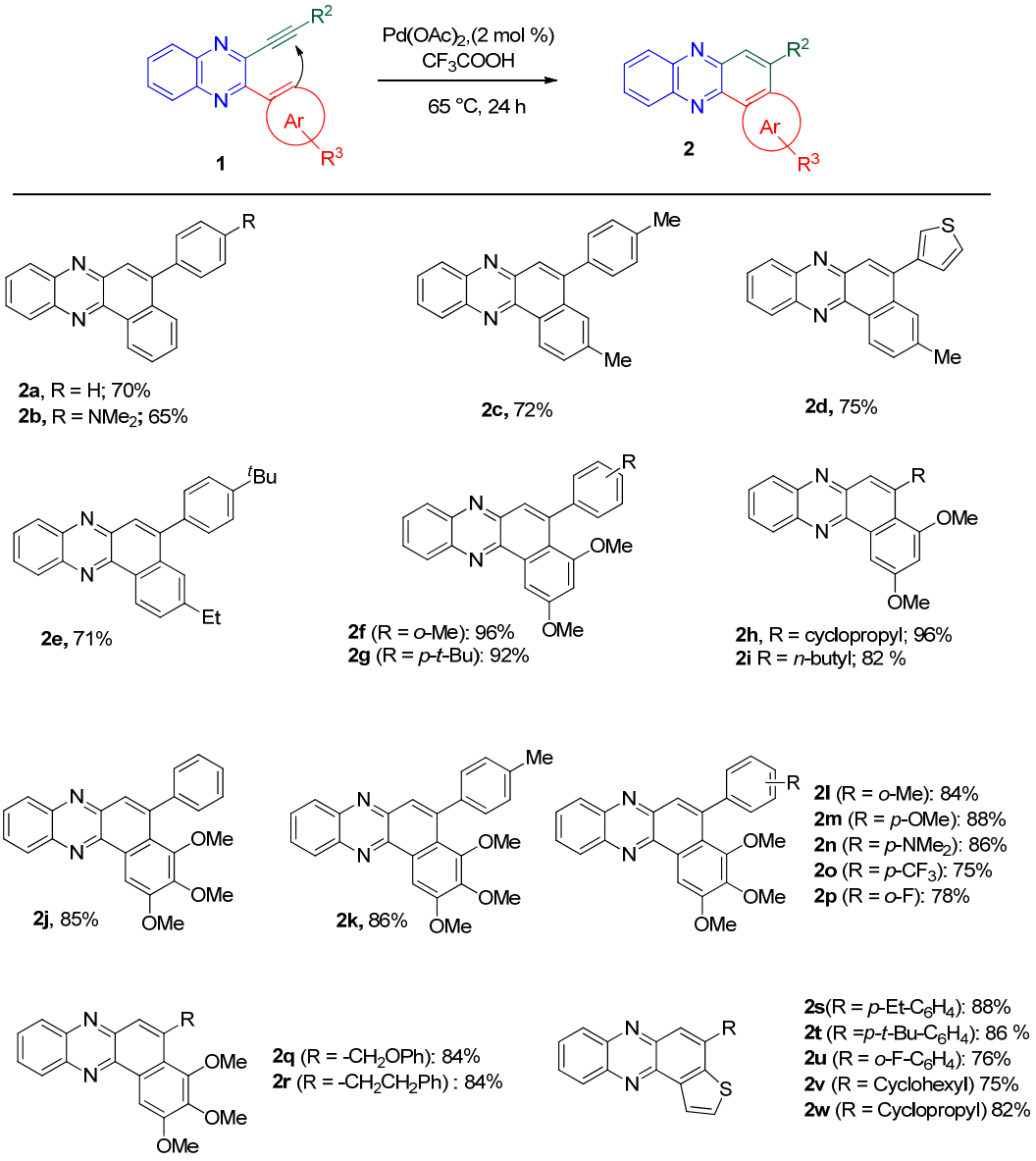
12	$PdCl_2$/2	TFA	65/24	30
13	$Pd(CH_3CN)_4(BF_4)_2$/2	TFA	65/24	28
14	$Pd_2(dba)_2$/2	TFA	65/24	20
15	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	CH_3COOH	65/24	NR
16	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	DCE	65/28	NR
17	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	DMF	65/28	NR
18	$Pd(OAc)_2$/2	DMSO	65/48	NR
19	$Fe(OTf)_3$/10	DCE	80/24	20
20	$Fe(OAc)_3$/10	TFA	65/24	NR
21	$Cu(OAc)_2$/10	TFA	65/24	NR
22	-	TFA	65/24	NR

[a]Reactions were performed using 0.5 mmol of o-alkynylaryls **1a**, catalyst in 4.0 mL of solvent. N.R. = no reaction, TFA = Trifluoroacetic acid, DCE = 1,2-Dichloroethane.

We next examined the scope and efficacy of the reaction by employing a wide range of 2-aryl-3-(aryl/alkylethynyl)quinoxalines **1a**−**w** with different electronic properties at aryl as well as alkyne substituents (Scheme 2). Reaction of 2-phenyl-3-(phenylethynyl) quinoxaline **1a** provided the fused cyclized product **2a** in 70% yield. Substrates **1b** bearing *p*-NMe_2 group to the triple bonded phenyl ring afforded the corresponding desired product **2b** in 65% yield. The reaction was well tolerated with aryl as well heteroaryl alkynes (**2c**−**e**). 3,5-Dimethoxy arenes having aromatic and aliphatic alkynes afforded the product **2f**−**i** in 96−82% yields. Quinoxalines **1j**−**r** with electron rich and electron deficient alkynes gave the corresponding product **2j**−**r** in good to excellent yields. The structure of phenazine **2j** was further supported by X-ray crystallographic

analysis (See, ESI). It is note worthy, that the 3-thienyl substituted quinoxalines were also capable to give corresponding thienophenazine **2s**−**w** in 75−88% yields.

Scheme 2. Scope of 2-Aryl-3-(alkynyl)quinoxalines[a]

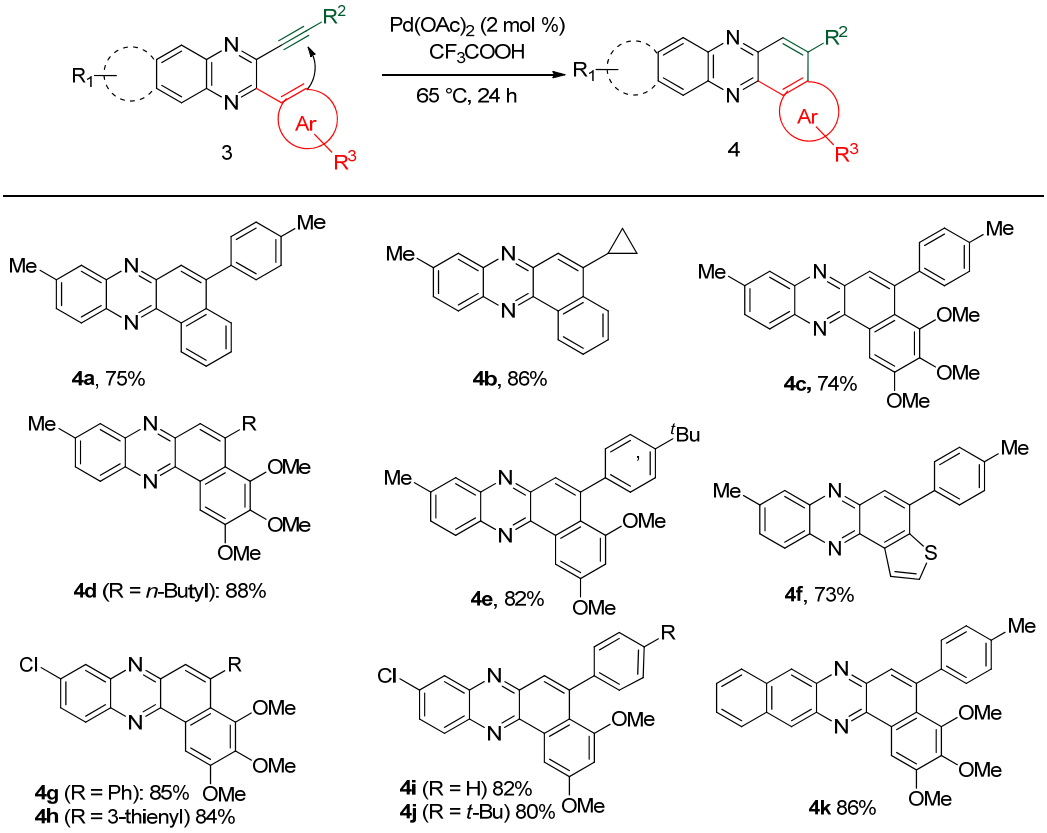


[a]Using optimized conditions (entry 7, Table 1).

We further extended the scope of the reaction with 6-methyl/chloro substituted alkynyl quinoxaline **3a**−**j** (Scheme 3). The reaction was compatible with aryl and alkyl substituent on

quinoxaline and afforded the corresponding single regioisomers **4a–j** in 73–88% yield. Both electron-rich and electron-deficient alkyne substituted quinoxalines afforded the corresponding product in good yields. The formation of regioselective product was confirmed by the X-ray crystallographic analysis of **4c** (See, ESI). The reaction condition was also successful with benzo fused quinoxaline **3k** and afforded the desired product **4k** in 86% yield.

Scheme 3. Scope of Substituted Quinoxalines[a]

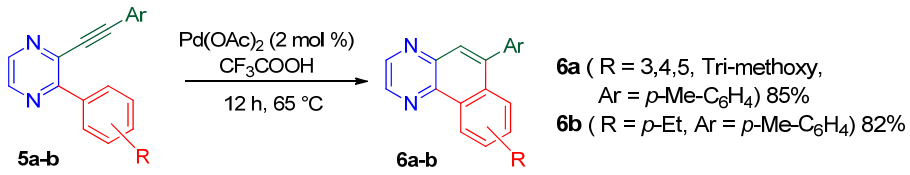


[a]Using optimized conditions (entry 7, Table 1).

Next, we explored the scope of the developed protocol for the synthesis of benzo[*f*]quinoxaline **6a−b** from pyrazines **5a−b** in 12 h, probably due to the electronic effect of the substrate (Scheme 4). The reaction afforded 85% yield of quinoxaline **6a** with trimethoxy substituted

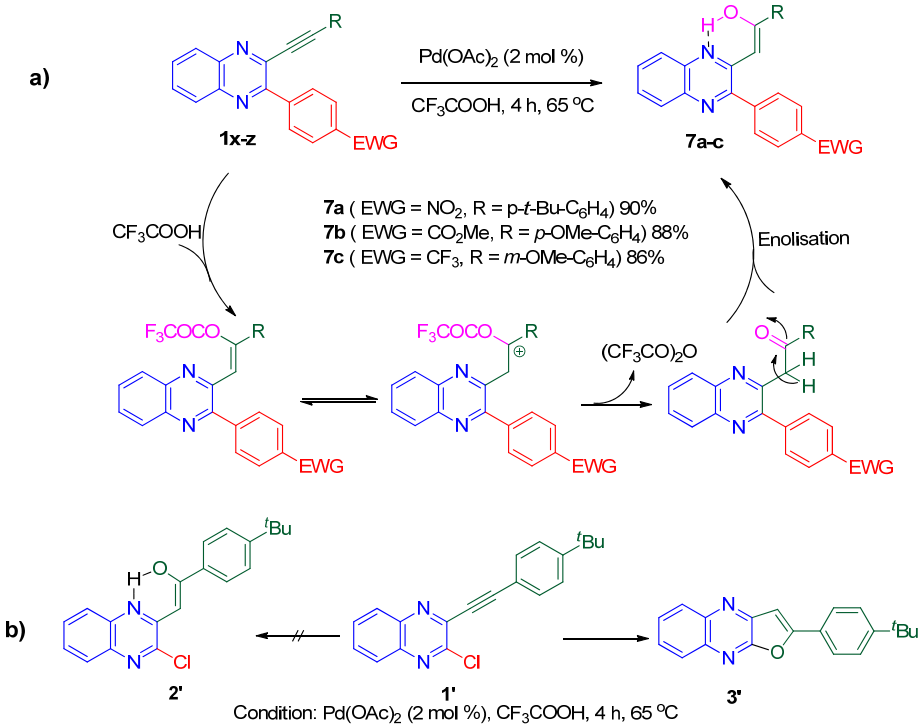
ethynylpyrazine **5a**. While pyrazine **5b** (R = *p*-Et) gave the desired hydroarylated product **6b** in 82% yield.

Scheme 4. Synthesis of Benzo[f]quinoxaline



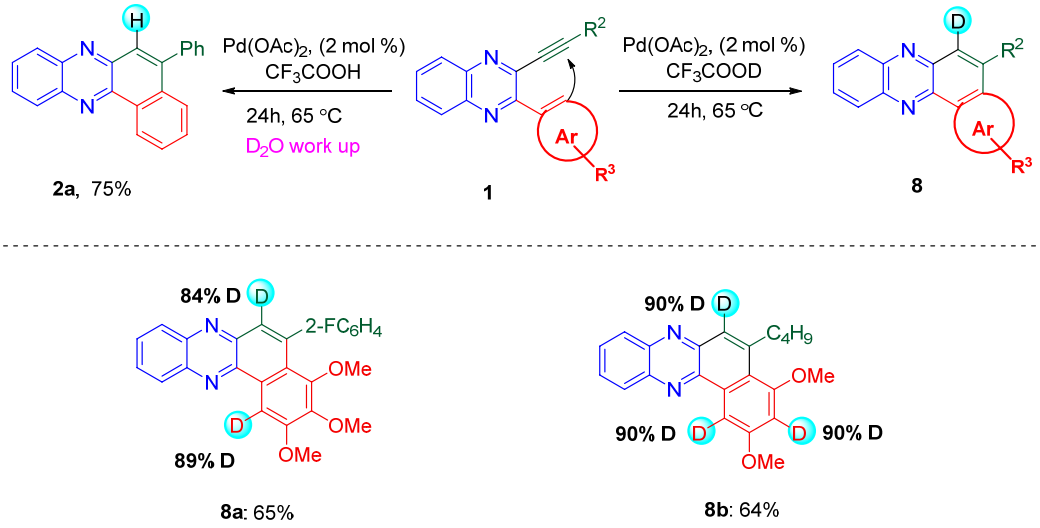
Encouraged by the above results, we next examine the scope of hydroarylation via elctrophilic metalation on electron-deficient aryl substrate **1x–z** (Scheme 5). Interestingly, an uncyclized enolic form of quinoxalines **7a–c** were obtained in 86–90% yields via hydration of C-C triple bonds of alkynes to ketones[17] which tautomerize to furnished enolic products. The product has been confirmed by X-ray crystallography (Scheme 5a).

Scheme 5. Unusual Hydroxylation



The probable reason might be due to the nature of electron-poor arenes which restrain electrophilic metalation on aromatic C-H bond. Later, we performed a reaction on 3-chloroquinoxaline **1'** and surprisingly we observed a cyclized product **3'** rather than **2'** which may be through the electrophilic attack of Pd-TFA complex at C-3 position of quinoxaline **1'** followed by coordination with alkyne to generate cyclized compound **3'** (Scheme 5b).

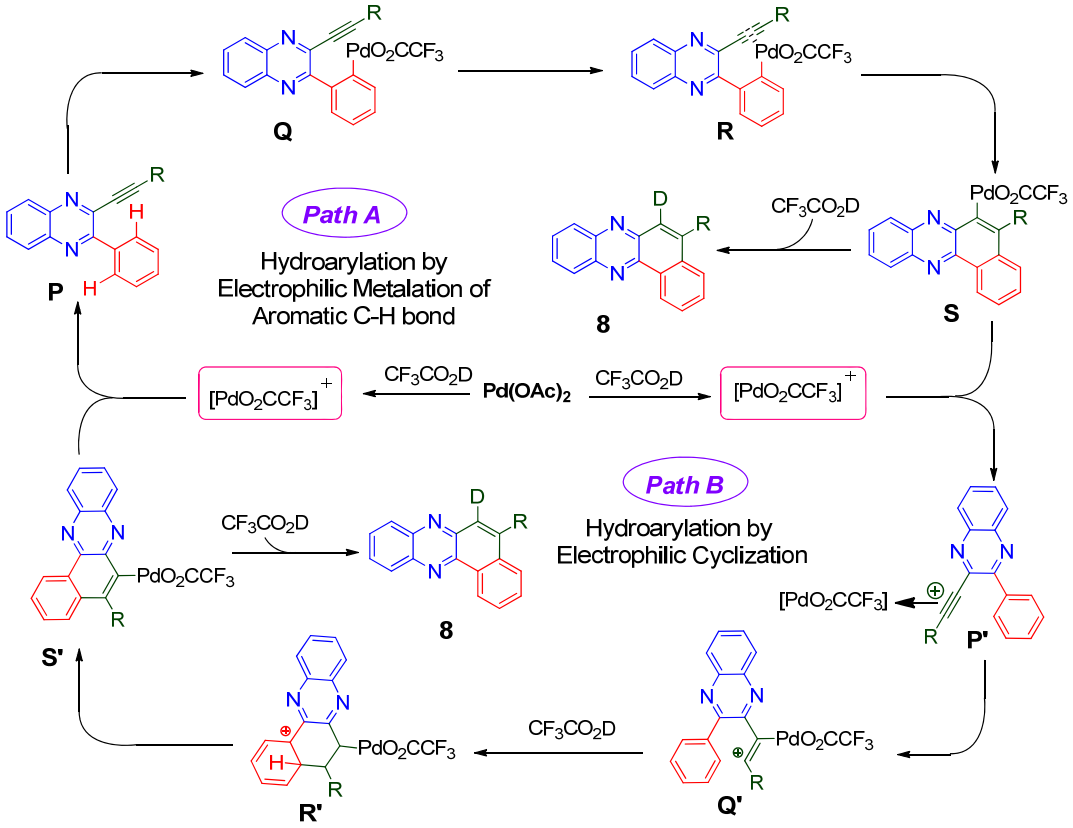
Scheme 6. Deuterium Labeling Experiments



To further validate the reaction mechanism, when quinoxaline **1** was treated with TFA under optimized reaction condition followed by work up via D_2O, no deuterium incorporation was observed in product **2a** (Scheme 6). This suggested that the exchange of proton occur *in situ* in the reaction. It is interesting to note that, when deuterated TFA was used as a solvent; products **8a-b** were obtained in 64−65% yields with 84−90% incorporation of deuterium. This is probably due to electron-rich aromatic rings in compound **1p** and **1i** which favours deuteration at more than one position. Even in the products, the may occur due to a highly acidic TFA solvent under the reaction conditions. As from the past decade deuterated drugs has gained importance due to their medicinal value and application in the study of reaction mechanism.[18]

On the basis of the above preliminary results and literature information, a plausible mechanism showing two routes was proposed in Scheme 7. The deuterium isotopic experiments shown in scheme 6 revealed that vinyl and aromatic H or D in all adducts results from the protonation of vinyl-Pd complex[10a,b] **S** by deuterated TFA or TFA (Scheme 7). The facile formation of complex **Q** through electrophilic metalation of the aromatic C–H bond from cationic Pd(II) species has been well documented.[10] This reaction required TFA for the protonation of a vinyl-Pd intermediate **S** as reaction failed in other solvents like acetic acid.

Scheme 7. Plausible Mechanism



Thus, the electrophilic attack of the aromatic C–H bond by cationic Pd(II) species to generate **Q** followed by coordination of alkyne to give **R**. Then, trans insertion[19] of C–C triple bonds to the aryl-Pd bond results in species **S**, and later, 1/6 aryl-Pd adduct (**S**) releases Pd(II) to

give 1,6-D-benzo[a]phenazines. Alternatively, the reaction may proceed via coordination of Pd(II) cationic species with alkyne **P'** to generate vinyl palladium species **Q'** which forms Wheland intermediate[10] **R'** through electrophilic cylization. The intermediate **R'** then undergoes aromatization followed by protodemetallation to give product **8** as shown in path **B**.

In conclusion, we have described an intramolecular alkyne-hydroarylation reaction in the presence of Pd-catalyst under strong acidic condition. The reaction was well tolerated with electron-rich and electron-neutral groups and provided the intriguing benzophenazines and quinoxalines in good yields, while new enolic compounds were obtained with electron–withdrawing substitutents. Various preliminary studies involving deuterium-labeling experiments were performed to support the mechanistic pathway via electrophilic metalation on aromatic C-H bond over alkyne activation. Further the structure of benzophenazine derivatives were confirmed by the X-ray crystallographic studies.

Experimental Section

General Information and Method. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded in $CDCl_3$, ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz), at ambient temperature. Chemical shifts (δ) for all protons are reported in parts per million (ppm) and were measured relative to the residual $CHCl_3$ resonance as an internal reference in the deuterated solvent. Chemical shifts were reported as parts per million (δ in ppm) using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard or by reference to proton resonances resulting from incomplete deuteration of the NMR solvent. The following abbreviations were used to describe the multiplicities: when appropriate s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublet. Reactions were monitored using thin-layer chromatography on commercially prepared silica gel plates and visualized by either UV irradiation or by staining with I_2. Chemical yields are referred to the

pure isolated substances. Chromatographic purification of the label compounds was accomplished by column chromatography using 100− 200 mesh size silica gels.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of starting substrate

General experimental procedure for sequential Sonogashira/Suzuki coupling reaction and Analytic data of 1a-z, **3a-k** and **5a-b**

To a solution of substituted 2,3-dichloroquinoxaline/ 2,3-dichloropyrazine (0.5 mmol) in DMF (2 mL), 2 mol% of $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ was added. The reaction vial was then sealed and flushed with nitrogen. Then, 1.5 equiv of Et_3N and 0.51 mmol of alkyne 2 were added to the reaction mixture. The reaction was then stirred at 70 °C until TLC revealed complete conversion of the starting material. After the completion of the first coupling reaction (Monitored by TLC) 3 mol% of $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$, 0.5 mmol of boronic acid, 1.5 equiv of Et_3N was added under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction was then stirred at 80 °C until TLC revealed complete conversion of the starting material. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool and diluted with H_2O and extracted with EtOAc (3X10 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4, concentrated under vacuum, and purified by column chromatography using 100−200 mesh size silica gels (hexane: ethylacetate) to afford the corresponding product.

2-Phenyl-3-(phenylethynyl)quinoxaline (**1a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (110.2 mg, 72%): mp 108–112 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.16–8.09 (m, 4H), 7.78–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.50–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.30 (m, 3H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.1, 141.0, 140.7, 138.1, 137.6, 132.1, 130.6, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 121.7, 95.0, 88.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{14}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 307.1235, found 307.1224.

N,N-Dimethyl-4-((3-phenylquinoxalin-2-yl)ethynyl)aniline.(**1b**).The product was obtained as a yellow needles (132.7 mg, 76%): mp 120–124 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.11–8.07 (m, 4H), 7.74–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.57–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.60 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 2.97

(s, 6H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.8, 150.8, 141.0, 140.2, 138.9, 137.8, 133.5, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 128.4, 127.9, 111.5, 107.7, 98.0, 87.6, 39.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{19}N_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 372.1477, found 372.1474.

2-(p-Tolyl)-3-(p-tolylethynyl)quinoxaline (**1c**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (128.7 mg, 77%): mp 113–117 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.20–8.17 (m, 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.81–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.6, 140.7, 140.5, 139.8, 139.6, 138.0, 134.6, 131.9, 130.3, 129.9, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 118.6, 95.1, 88.0, 21.5, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{18}N_2]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 357.1368, found 357.1354.

2-(Thiophen-3-ylethynyl)-3-(p-tolyl)quinoxaline (**1d**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (120.7 mg, 74%): mp 144–149 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.11–8.06 (m, 2H), 8.0 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.7, 140.8, 140.7, 139.8, 137.9, 134.6, 131.2, 130.5, 130.0, 129.65, 129.56, 129.2, 128.8, 128.6, 125.7, 120.9, 90.3, 88.2, 21.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{21}H_{14}N_2S]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 349.0775, found 349.0768.

2-((4-Tert-butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-(4-ethylphenyl)quinoxaline (**1e**). The product was obtained as a yellow oil (138.6 mg, 71%); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.05–8.03 (m, 2H), 7.97 (d, J =7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 4H), 2.70 (q, J =7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.26–1.23(m, 12H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.1, 153.1, 146.1, 140.9, 140.7, 138.3, 135.0, 131.9, 130.5, 130.1, 129.7, 128.6, 127.7, 125.5, 118.7, 115.2, 95.4, 88.1, 34.9, 31.1, 28.9, 15.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{26}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 391.2174, found 391.2168.

2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(o-tolylethynyl)quinoxaline (**1f**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (155.9 mg, 82%): mp 125–129 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.22–8.16 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 4H), 6.67 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 2.38 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.6, 155.0, 141.20, 141.16, 140.4, 139.5, 138.3, 132.8, 130.6, 130.3, 129.6, 129.2, 128.7, 125.6, 121.4, 107.6, 101.9, 94.4,

91.6, 55.5, 20.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{20}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 403.1422, found 403.1415.

2-((4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1g**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (179.5 mg, 85%): mp 133–137 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.14–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.78–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.24–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.65–6.64 (m, 1H), 3.85 (s, 6H), 1.30 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.6, 154.9, 153.1, 146.4, 141.1, 138.3, 132.0, 130.5, 128.7, 128.1, 127.6, 126.9, 125.6, 118.7, 107.8, 102.3, 95.9, 87.9, 55.54, 55.49, 34.9, 31.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{26}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 423.2073, found 423.2066.

2-(Cyclopropylethynyl)-3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1h**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (165.1 mg, 81%): mp 115–121 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.09–8.03 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.185–7.154 (m, 2H), 6.60 –6.59 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 1.51–1.44 (m, 1H), 0.92–0.84 (m, 4H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.9, 154.0, 140.3, 139.7, 138.8, 137.7, 129.74, 129.67, 128.6, 127.9, 107.1, 101.5, 100.9, 74.5, 55.0, 54.9, 8.4, 0.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 353.1266, found 353.1261.

2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(hex-1-yn-1-yl)quinoxaline (**1i**). The product was obtained as a yellow oil (118.6 mg, 82%); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.20–8.13 (m, 2H), 7.84–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 3.94 (s, 6H), 2.54 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.67–1.60 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.40 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.4, 154.6, 140.9, 140.3, 139.4, 138.3, 130.3, 130.1, 129.1, 128.5, 107.6, 101.8, 98.0, 79.7, 55.4, 29.9, 22.0, 19.5, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 347.1760, found 347.1741.

2-(Phenylethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1j**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (176.4 mg, 89%): mp 189–193 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.35 (s, 2H), 7.24 (s, 5H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 6H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.4, 152.8, 140.7, 140.3, 139.2, 137.6, 132.7, 131.9, 130.6, 130.1, 129.5, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 121.3, 106.9, 95.1, 88.3, 60.8, 56.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{20}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 419.1372, found 419.1368.

2-(p-Tolylethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1k**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (184.7 mg, 90%): mp 148–152 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.01–7.99 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.5, 152.9, 140.9, 140.2, 139.3, 138.0, 132.9, 132.0, 130.6, 130.2, 129.3, 129.1, 128.6, 118.4, 106.9, 104.5, 95.8, 87.9, 60.9, 56.2, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 433.1528, found 433.1536.

2-(o-Tolylethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1l**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (164.1 mg, 80%): mp 152–156 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.07–8.04 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21–7.18 (m, 3H), 7.12–7.07 (m, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.5, 152.8, 140.8, 140.7, 140.1, 139.1, 137.9, 132.9, 130.4, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 128.4, 125.4, 121.0, 106.8, 94.1, 91.6, 60.6, 55.9, 20.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 433.1528, found 433.1540.

2-((4-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1m**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (187.6 mg, 88%): mp 132–136 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.00–7.98 (m, 2H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.69 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.7, 154.4, 152.9, 140.9, 140.3, 139.2, 138.1, 133.7, 132.9, 130.4, 130.1, 129.1, 128.6, 114.2, 113.4, 106.9, 95.9, 87.6, 60.9, 56.1, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_4]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 449.1477, found 449.1469.

N,N-Dimethyl-4-((3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxalin-2-yl)ethynyl) aniline (**1n**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (184.5 mg, 84%): mp 183–187 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.07–8.05 (m, 2H), 7.70–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.31 (m, 4H), 6.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 2.96 (s, 6H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.6, 153.0, 151.0, 141.2, 140.2, 139.3, 138.8, 133.7, 133.3, 130.2, 130.1, 129.2, 128.6, 111.7, 107.7, 107.1, 98.5, 87.8, 61.1, 56.3, 40.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{27}H_{25}N_3O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 462.1794, found 462.1785.

2-((4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) quinoxaline (**1o**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (176.4 mg, 76%): mp 182–186 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.04 (s, 2H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.51 (s, 4H), 7.25 (s, 2H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 6H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR

(100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.6, 153.0, 140.8, 140.6, 139.5, 137.0, 132.6, 132.2, 131.1, 130.4, 129.1, 128.7, 125.41 (q, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 15.2 Hz, 1C), 125.2, 124.9, 122.1, 106.9, 93.0, 90.1, 60.9, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{19}F_3N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 487.1245, found 487.1243.

2-((2-Fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1p**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (155.4 mg, 75%): mp 162–166 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.16–8.13 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 2H), 6.71(s, 1H), 3.94–3.92 (m, 9H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.3 (d, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ =253.9 Hz, 1^{13}C), 154.6, 153.0, 140.9, 140.6, 137.4, 133.9, 133.8, 132.6, 131.6–131.4 (m, 1^{13}C), 130.9, 129.1, 128.8, 124.2–124.0 (m, 1^{13}C), 115.9–115.5 (m, 1^{13}C), 110.3 (d, $^2J_{C\text{-}F}$ =15.3 Hz, 1^{13}C), 107.0, 106.9, 104.6, 92.7, 88.3, 60.8, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{19}FN_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 415.1458, found 415.1487.

2-(3-Phenoxyprop-1-yn-1-yl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1q**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (153.5 mg, 72%): mp 100–104 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.12–8.08 (m, 2H), 7.80–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 4H), 6.99–6.91 (m, 3H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 3.90 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.5, 154.2, 153.0, 140.76, 140.67, 139.5, 136.6, 132.3, 131.1, 130.3, 129.5, 129.1, 128.7, 121.7, 114.6, 106.8, 89.8, 85.5, 60.9, 56.4, 56.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_4]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 449.1477, found 449.1479.

2-(4-Phenylbut-1-yn-1-yl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**1r**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (144.3 mg, 68%): mp 94–98 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.10–8.07 (m, 2H), 7.75–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.22 (m, 4H), 7.19–7.13 (m, 3H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.90 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.75 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.2, 152.9, 140.7, 140.4, 139.8, 139.3, 137.8, 132.8, 130.5, 130.1, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 126.4, 106.9, 96.4, 80.4, 60.9, 56.1, 34.3, 22.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 447.1685, found 447.1702.

((4-Ethylphenyl)ethynyl)-3-(thiophen-3-yl)quinoxaline (**1s**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (129.3 mg, 76%): mp 86–91 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.39–8.37 (m, 1H), 8.03–7.99 (m, 2H), 7.95–7.94 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.15 (m, 2H), 2.61 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz,

$CDCl_3$) δ 149.5, 146.4, 140.6, 139.0, 137.4, 132.2, 130.6, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 125.3, 118.8, 95.4, 88.2, 29.0, 15.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{16}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 341.1112, found 341.1109.

2-((4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-(thiophen-3-yl)quinoxaline (**1t**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (130.8 mg, 71%): mp 88–93 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.44–8.42 (m, 1H), 8.08–8.03 (m, 2H), 8.00–7.98 (m, 1H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.39 (m, 2H), 1.39 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.3, 149.6, 140.73, 140.68, 137.5, 132.0, 130.6, 130.0, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.0, 125.6, 125.3, 118.6, 95.4, 88.3, 35.0, 31.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{20}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 369.1425, found 369.1428.

2-((2-Fluorophenyl)ethynyl)-3-(thiophen-3-yl)quinoxaline (**1u**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (120.5 mg, 73%): mp 122–126 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.60–8.59 (m, 1H), 8.09–8.04 (m, 3H), 7.76–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.11 (m, 2H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 163.3 (d, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ =253.9 Hz, 1C), 149.2, 140.8, 140.5, 138.5, 136.6, 134.0, 131.5 (d, J = 7.6, 1C), 130.8, 130.0, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 128.37, 128.35, 125.3, 124.2 (d, $^4J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 3.8 Hz, 1^{13}C), 115.7 (d, $^2J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 20.1 Hz, 1C), 110.3 (d, $^3J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 14.3 Hz, 1C), 93.1, 88.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{11}FN_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 331.0705, found 331.0728.

2-(Cyclohexylethynyl)-3-(thiophen-3-yl)quinoxaline (**1v**). The product was obtained as a yellow oil (106.6 mg, 67%); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.98–7.96 (s, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 4.56 Hz, 1H), 7.64 –7.62 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.33 (m, 1H), 2.69–2.62 (m, 1H), 1.91–1.89 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.58–1.48 (m, 2H), 1.33–1.17 (m, 4H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 149.4, 140.50, 140.47, 139.03, 137.6, 130.3, 129.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.5, 127.9, 125.0, 101.1, 80.2, 31.8, 30.0, 25.7, 24.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{18}N_2S]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 341.1088, found 341.1095.

2-(Cyclopropylethynyl)-3-(thiophen-3-yl)quinoxaline (**1w**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (88.4 mg, 64%): mp 78–82°C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.29–8.28 (m, 1H), 7.94–7.90 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 –7.56 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.30 (m, 1H), 1.52–1.46 (m, 1H), 0.88–0.86 (m, 4H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 149.1, 140.4, 140.3, 138.9, 137.4, 130.1,

129.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 125.0, 100.6, 75.6, 8.8, 0.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{17}H_{12}N_2S]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 299.0619, found 299.0622.

2-((4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)quinoxaline (**1x**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (107.9 mg, 53%): mp 111–116 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.42–8.39 (m, 2H), 8.32–8.30 (m, 2H), 8.15–8.11 (m, 2H), 7.84–7.79 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.37 (m, 4H), 1.31 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.7, 152.4, 148.4, 143.8, 141.4, 140.5, 137.7, 131.9, 131.2, 131.0, 130.8, 129.4, 128.8, 125.7, 123.3, 118.0, 96.4, 87.1, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{21}N_3O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 408.1712, found 408.1700.

Methyl 4-(3-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)quinoxalin-2-yl)benzoate (**1y**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (116.3 mg, 59%): mp 150–155 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.17–8.15 (m, 4H), 8.07–8.05 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.36–7.33 (m, 2H), 6.81–6.79 (m, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 166.8, 160.8, 153.7, 142.0, 141.2, 140.5, 138.1, 133.8, 130.9, 130.7, 130.6, 129.8, 129.3, 128.7, 114.3, 113.4, 96.1, 87.2, 55.3, 52.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{18}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 395.1396, found 395.1384.

3-((3-Methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)-6-methyl-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinoxaline (**1z**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (115.2 mg, 57%): mp 109–112 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.09–8.03 (m, 2H), 7.76–7.71 (m, 4H), 7.20–7.16 (m, 1H), 6.97 (d, J =7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88–6.86 (m, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.3, 153.5, 141.3, 140.6, 137.6, 131.0, 130.9, 130.2, 130.1, 129.6, 129.4, 129.3, 125.04 (q, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 15.2 Hz, 1C), 124.6, 122.2, 117.0, 116.5, 116.2, 95.6, 87.5, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{15}F_3N_2O]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 405.1215, found 405.1209.

2-((4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-3-chloroquinoxaline (**1'**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (137.9 mg, 86%): mp 111–116 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.10–8.07 (m, 1H), 8.00–7.96 (m, 1H), 7.78–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J =8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.7, 148.1, 140.2, 138.8, 132.3, 131.2, 130.6, 128.9, 128.7, 125.5, 118.1, 97.8, 85.1, 35.0, 31.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{17}ClN_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 321.1159, found 321.1163.

6-Methyl-2-phenyl-3-(p-tolylethynyl)quinoxaline (**3a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (135.4 mg, 81%): mp 130–134 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.01–8.00 (m, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.51–7.44 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.1, 141.2, 141.0, 140.7, 139.8, 139.1, 138.0, 137.7, 132.8, 131.9, 129.6, 129.1, 128.7, 128.0, 127.4, 118.6, 95.2, 88.0, 21.8, 21.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{24}H_{18}N_2$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 335.1548, found 335.1572

3-(Cyclopropylethynyl)-6-methyl-2-phenylquinoxaline (**3b**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (96.6 mg, 68%): mp 111–116 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.00–7.93 (m, 3H), 7.86–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.49 (m, 4H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 1.50–1.42 (m, 1H), 0.89–0.82 (m, 4H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.5, 140.4, 140.2, 138.4, 137.3, 132.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 100.2, 74.8, 21.4, 8.3, 0.00; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{20}H_{16}N_2$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 285.1392, found 285.1391.

6-Methyl-3-(p-tolylethynyl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**3c**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (186.7 mg, 88%): mp 124–128 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.34 (m, 3H), 7.26 (s, 2H), 7.17–7.15 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 6H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.3, 152.9, 141.0, 140.9, 140.1, 139.2, 139.0, 133.1, 133.0, 132.0, 129.3, 128.6, 127.4, 118.5, 107.0, 104.6, 95.5, 88.1, 60.9, 56.3, 56.2, 21.9, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 425.1865, found 425.1882.

3-(Hex-1-yn-1-yl)-6-methyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**3d**). The product was obtained as a yellow oil (160.0 mg, 82%); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.91–7.88 (m, 1H), 7.96–7.76 m, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.19 (m, 2H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.53–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.25 (m, 2H), 0.81 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.6, 152.9, 140.9, 140.7, 139.2, 138.8, 133.2, 132.8, 128.6, 128.1, 127.3, 106.9, 97.4, 80.0, 60.9, 56.2, 30.1, 22.0, 21.9, 19.5, 13.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{24}H_{26}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 391.2022, found 391.2021.

3-((4-Tert-butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-6-methylquinoxaline (**3e**). The product was obtained as a yellow semi-solid (200.8 mg, 92%); ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.01 (d, J=

8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90–7.89 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.23 (m, 2H), 6.65–6.64 (m, 1H), 3.86(s, 6H), 2.61(s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.5, 154.0, 153.0, 141.2, 140.9, 139.6, 139.0, 132.9, 131.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 125.5, 118.7, 107.7, 102.2, 95.6, 88.0, 55.54, 55.50, 34.9, 31.1, 21.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{29}H_{28}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 437.2229, found 437.2229.

6-Methyl-2-(thiophen-3-yl)-3-(p-tolylethynyl)quinoxaline (**3f**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (129.3 mg, 76%): mp 129–134 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.48–844 (m, 1H), 8.05–8.03 (m, 1H), 8.00–7.97 (m, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.60–7.53 (m, 3H), 7.49–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.61(s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 148.7, 141.3, 140.7, 140.5, 140.0, 139.1, 137.1, 132.9, 132.0, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.6, 127.4, 125.1, 118.6, 95.0, 88.3, 21.8, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{16}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 341.1112, found 341.1121.

6-Chloro-3-(phenylethynyl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (**3g**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (172.3 mg, 80%): mp 155–159 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.106–8.103 (m, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 2.3 and 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.34 (m, 5H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 6H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.7, 153.0, 141.1, 139.6, 139.0, 138.7, 136.1, 132.4, 132.1, 131.7, 130.3, 129.9, 128.6, 127.5, 121.3, 106.9, 96.1, 88.2, 61.0, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{19}ClN_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 431.1162, found 431.1183.

6-Chloro-3-(thiophen-3-ylethynyl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) quinoxaline (**3h**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (181.3 mg, 83%): mp 157–161 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.06–7.97(m, 2H), 7.67–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.58–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.27 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 6H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.0, 141.1, 139.6, 139.0, 138.7, 136.1, 132.4, 131.7, 131.6, 130.6, 129.6, 127.5, 126.1, 120.5, 107.0, 99.2, 91.6, 88.0, 61.0, 56.3, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{23}H_{17}ClN_2O_3S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 437.0727, found 437.0743.

6-Chloro-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-(phenylethynyl)quinoxaline (**3i**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (170.3 mg, 85%): mp 176–181 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.96–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.64–7.62 (m, 3H), 7.52–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 3H), 6.42–6.41 (m, 2H), 6.35– 6.34 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 6H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.5, 154.9, 141.2, 139.0, 138.9, 136.2,

132.2, 131.6, 130.5, 129.8, 128.5, 127.5, 121.4, 107.6, 102.4, 96.2, 88.0, 55.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{17}ClN_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 401.1057, found 401.1038.

3-((4-(Tert-butyl)phenyl)ethynyl)-6-chloro-2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl) quinoxaline (**3j**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (187.3 mg, 82%): mp 171–175 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.11 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (dd, J = 2.2 and 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (m, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.5, 154.9, 153.4, 141.3, 139.1, 139.0, 138.9, 136.1, 132.1, 131.4, 130.5, 127.4, 125.5, 118.3, 107.7, 102.4, 96.8, 87.7, 55.6, 35.0, 31.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{25}ClN_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 457.1683, found 457.1701.

2-(p-Tolylethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)benzo[g]quinoxaline (**3k**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (177.3 mg, 77%): mp 185–200 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.74–8.73 (m, 2H), 8.19–8.14 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.77–6.76 (m, 1H), 4.02–3.99 (m, 9H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.5, 153.3, 152.9, 140.4, 139.4, 137.6, 136.9, 134.3, 134.0, 133.0, 132.1, 129.4, 128.7, 128.4, 127.4, 127.1, 126.9, 118.3, 107.0, 104.5, 96.6, 88.5, 61.0, 56.2, 21.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{30}H_{24}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 461.1865, found 461.1876.

2-(p-Tolylethynyl)-3-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)pyrazine (**5a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (147.7 mg, 82%): mp 99–105 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.62 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.44 (s, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 6H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.9, 152.9, 142.2, 142.0, 140.0, 139.4, 137.2, 132.3, 131.8, 129.3, 118.6, 106.7, 95.3, 87.1, 60.9, 56.2, 56.1, 21.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 361.1552, found 361.1559.

2-(4-Ethylphenyl)-3-(p-tolylethynyl)pyrazine (**5b**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (113.3 mg, 76%): mp 89–94 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.54–8.48 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39–7.33 (m, 4H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.29 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 155.3, 146.1, 142.1, 142.0, 139.7, 137.3, 134.4, 131.8, 139.3, 129.2, 127.6, 118.8, 94.8, 87.1, 28.7, 21.6, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{21}H_{18}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 299.1548, found 299.1545.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of benzophenazine 2a-w

In a oven-dried RBF, a solution of *o*-alkynylaryls derivatives **(1)** (0.5 mmol) in 4 mL of CF_3COOH as a solvent and $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2 mol %), were added. The resulting reaction mixture was heated at 65 °C for 24 h. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC, while noticing complete consumption of *o*-alkynylaryls, reaction was brought to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and water (15 mL) and then filtered through a plug of celite. The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution, dried over Na_2SO_4. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane: ethylacetate) and DCM:Hexane have used for crystallization. The structure and purity of known starting materials were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and HRMS).

*5-Phenylbenzo[a]phenazine (***2a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (107.2 mg, 70%): mp 138–142 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.44 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.31–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.21–8.16 (m, 1H), 7.84 –7.82 (m, 2H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.70 (m, 1H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.42 (m, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.2, 143.1, 143.0, 142.3, 142.0, 139.3, 132.7, 131.4, 130.0, 129.7, 129.64, 129.59, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.2, 127.0, 125.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{14}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 307.1235, found 307.1247.

4-(Benzo[a]phenazin-5-yl)-N,N-dimethylaniline (**2b**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (113.5 mg, 65%): mp 175–179 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.44 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.29–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.19–8.16 (m, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.77–7.70 (m, 3H), 7.63 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (s, 6H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 150.3, 145.6, 143.5, 143.1, 142.3, 141.7, 133.1, 131.5, 130.6, 129.9, 129.7, 129.45, 129.36, 129.0, 127.6, 127.2, 126.9, 126.4, 125.6, 112.1, 40.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{19}N_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 350.1657, found 350.1674.

3-Methyl-5-(p-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2c**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (120.3 mg, 72%): mp 184–189 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.29 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.29–8.24 (m, 1H), 8.18–8.13 (m, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.76– 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J

= 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.43–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.27 (m, 2H), 2.41 (s, 6H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.2, 143.1, 142.9, 142.4, 141.9, 139.9, 137.9, 136.5, 132.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 129.0, 127.2, 126.9, 125.6, 22.0, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{18}N_2]$requires $[M+H]^+$ 335.1548, found 335.1535.

3-Methyl-5-(thiophen-3-yl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2d**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (122.4 mg, 75%): mp 192–196 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CF_3COOD) δ 9.63–9.57 (m, 1H), 8.91–8.86 (m, 1H), 8.53–8.37 (m, 4H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 8.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04–7.99 (m, 1H), 7.84–7.81 (m, 1H), 7.67–7.66 (m, 1H), 2.82 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CF_3COOD) δ 153.7, 145.5, 143.1, 138.3, 137.1, 133.5, 133.4, 133.1, 132.9, 131.0, 129.7, 129.4, 128.6, 128.2, 127.8, 127.6, 126.5, 119.8, 115.5, 21.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{21}H_{14}N_2S]$requires $[M+H]^+$ 327.0956, found 327.0950.

5-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-3-ethylbenzo[a]phenazine (**2e**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (138.6 mg, 71%): mp 173–177 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.55–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 2.77 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.33 (s, 9H), 1.20 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.1, 154.4, 147.3, 146.2, 137.0, 134.7, 131.7, 130.5, 129.2, 128.8, 128.2, 126.5, 125.6, 125.4, 119.1, 34.9, 31.2, 28.8, 15.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{26}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 391.2174, found 391.2163.

2,4-Dimethoxy-5-(o-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2f**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (182.6 mg, 96%): mp 179–183 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.60 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.30–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.17–8.15 (m, 1H), 7.76–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.19–7.14 (m, 4H), 6.44 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 1.98 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.1, 158.5, 144.1, 143.6, 143.5, 143.4, 141.7, 141.6, 135.3, 134.5, 130.1, 129.7, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 127.6, 126.5, 125.4, 124.8, 118.1, 102.0, 99.1, 55.8, 20.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{20}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 381.1603, found 381.1600.

5-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2,4-dimethoxybenzo[a]phenazine (**2g**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (194.3 mg, 92%): mp 186–190 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.64–8.63 (m, 1H), 8.35–8.33 (m, 1H), 8.23–8.21 (m, 1H), 7.82–7.80 (m, 2H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.43–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.37–7.35 (m, 2H), 6.73–6.72 (m, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 9H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$

NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.2, 158.5, 149.4, 144.0, 143.5, 143.4, 141.7, 141.2, 134.9, 130.1, 129.8, 129.4, 129.1, 127.8, 126.1, 124.0, 117.8, 102.4, 99.2, 55.9, 55.7, 34.7, 31.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{26}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 423.2073, found 423.2065.

5-Cyclopropyl-2,4-dimethoxybenzo[a]phenazine (**2h**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (158.5 mg, 96%): mp 178–182 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.48 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 8.21–8.18 (m, 1H), 8.13–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.71–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.0 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.85–2.78 (m, 1H), 0.98–0.93 (m, 2H), 0.85–0.81(m, 2H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.7, 159.6, 146.2, 143.9, 143.3, 141.7, 141.5, 134.8, 130.1, 129.8, 129.0, 128.8, 121.3, 119.3, 102.2, 99.1, 56.0, 55.8, 18.8, 8.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 331.1447, found 331.1434.

5-Butyl-2,4-dimethoxybenzo[a]phenazine (**2i**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (122.3mg, 82%): mp 177–181 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.53–8.52 (m, 1H), 8.22–8.20 (m, 1H), 8.12 (d, J =7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.76–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 6.71–6.70 (m, 1H), 4.0 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.20 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.66–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.45–1.35(m, 2H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.4, 158.8, 145.8, 143.6, 143.2, 141.5, 141.3, 135.0, 129.9, 129.7, 128.8, 128.7, 124.2, 118.2, 101.8, 99.2, 55.7, 55.5, 38.3, 33.7, 22.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 347.1760, found 347.1765.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-phenylbenzo[a]phenazine (**2j**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (168.4 mg, 85%): mp 188–192 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.31–8.27 (m, 1H), 8.18–8.15 (m, 1H), 7.79–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.42–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.31 (m, 3H), 4.15 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.8, 151.0, 144.9, 143.4, 143.2, 143.0, 142.5, 141.7, 141.4, 129.8, 129.5, 129.0, 128.7, 128.2, 127.4, 127.1, 126.6, 121.6, 102.9, 61.0, 60.9, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{20}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 419.1372, found 419.1384.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(p-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2k**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (176.4 mg, 86%): mp 168–172 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.86 (s, 1H), 8.34–8.30 (m, 1H), 8.22–8.18 (m, 1H), 7.81–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 4.19 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.8, 151.1, 145.0, 143.5, 143.1, 142.6, 141.7, 141.5, 140.3, 136.1, 129.7,

129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 128.1, 127.8, 127.4, 121.8, 103.0, 61.1, 61.0, 56.2, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 433.1528, found 433.1523.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(o-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2l**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (172.3 mg, 84%): mp 160–164 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 8.27–8.25 (m, 1H), 8.15–8.13 (m, 1H), 7.73 –7.71 (m, 2H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.25–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.20–7.14 (m, 2H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.0 (s, 3H) ; ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.8, 150.9, 144.8, 143.2, 143.0, 142.7, 141.8, 141.4, 135.9, 129.8, 129.5, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 126.8, 126.6, 124.7, 122.1, 102.9, 61.0, 60.8, 56.2, 20.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 433.1528, found 433.1546.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2m**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (187.6 mg, 88%): mp 181–185 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.30–8.28 (m, 1H), 8.18–8.16 (m, 1H), 7.78 –7.75 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.5, 153.8, 151.2, 145.0, 143.2, 143.1, 142.7, 141.7, 141.4, 139.2, 135.6, 129.9, 129.5, 129.0, 128.8, 127.5, 121.8, 114.0, 112.5, 103.1, 61.2, 61.1, 56.2, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_4]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 449.1477, found 449.1470.

N,N-Dimethyl-4-(2,3,4-trimethoxybenzo[a]phenazin-5-yl)aniline (**2n**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (188.9 mg, 86%): mp 195–199 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.83 (s, 1H), 8.29–8.26 (m, 1H), 8.17–8.15 (m, 1H), 7.76–7.73 (m, 2H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.35–7.33 (m, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 6H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.6, 151.3, 149.5, 145.0, 143.9, 143.1, 142.9, 141.6, 131.1, 129.7, 129.5, 129.4, 129.2, 129.0, 127.2, 121.9, 111.2, 103.1, 61.3, 61.2, 56.2, 40.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{27}H_{25}N_3O_3]$ requires $[M+Na]^+$ 462.1794, found 462.1785.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl) benzo[a]phenazine (**2o**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (174.1 mg, 75%): mp 198–202 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 8.26–8.24 (m, 1H), 8.14–8.12 (m, 1H), 7.76 –7.71 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 3H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.20 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.1, 150.6, 147.0, 144.9, 143.1, 142.3, 141.9, 141.7, 141.4, 130.0, 129.8, 129.6,

129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 127.5, 125.8, 124.10 (q, $^{1}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 15.2 Hz, $1^{13}C$), 123.1, 121.1, 103.1, 61.0, 60.7, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{26}H_{19}F_3N_2O_3$] requires $[M+H]^+$ 465.1426, found 465.1426.

5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2,3,4-trimethoxybenzo[a]phenazine (**2p**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (161.6 mg, 78%): mp 187–191 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.32–8.29 (m, 1H), 8.20–8.17 (m, 1H), 7.79–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.646–7.643 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (s, 3H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.29 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.8, 152.9 (d, $^{1}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 208.0 Hz, $1^{13}C$), 150.9, 144.7, 143.1, 142.6, 142.0, 141.7, 139.3, 137.3, 130.0, 129.8, 129.7, 129.6, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.0, 123.5, 123.3 (d, $^{4}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 3.8 Hz, $1^{13}C$), 121.7, 115.9, 114.4 (d, $^{2}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 21.1 Hz, 1H), 114.1, 102.9, 61.1, 61.0, 56.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{25}H_{19}FN_2O_3$] requires $[M+H]^+$ 415.1458, found 415.1460.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(phenoxymethyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**2q**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (179.1 mg, 84%): mp 159–162 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.23–8.21 (m, 1H), 8.14–8.10 (m, 2H), 7.73–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (s, 2H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 4.0 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 158.7, 153.5, 150.9, 144.6, 142.9, 142.8, 141.7, 141.3, 138.4, 129.8, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 122.7, 120.9, 120.2, 114.8, 103.2, 69.3, 61.6, 61.0, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{26}H_{22}N_2O_4$] requires $[M+Na]^+$ 449.1477, found 449.1483.

2,3,4-Ttrimethoxy-5-phenethylbenzo[a]phenazine (**2r**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (169.7 mg, 80%): mp 123–127 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.25–8.21 (m, 1H), 8.15–8.10 (m, 1H), 7.74–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 7.16–7.11 (m, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.49–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.02–2.98 (m, 2H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.4, 151.4, 145.0, 143.7, 143.0, 142.9, 142.3, 141.6, 141.5, 129.8, 129.5, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 125.9, 125.7, 121.6, 103.4, 61.6, 61.0, 56.2, 39.7, 37.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_3$] requires $[M+Na]^+$ 447.1685, found 447.1684.

4-(4-Ethylphenyl)thieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**2s**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (149.7 mg, 88%): mp 162–166 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.59 (d, J =5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.36–8.33 (m, 1H), 8.29–8.26 (m, 1H), 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.88–7.81 (m, 3H), 7.75(d, J= 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 2.79 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (t, J =7.6 Hz, 3H); $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$

NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.5, 143.0, 142.5, 142.3, 141.3, 140.9, 140.1, 139.3, 137.4, 136.5, 130.0, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 128.3, 127.7, 124.8, 123.6, 28.7, 15.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{16}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 341.1112, found 341.1141.

4-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)thieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**2t**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (158.4 mg, 86%): mp 166–170 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.60–8.58 (m, 1H), 8.36–8.32 (m, 1H), 8.29–8.26 (m, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.87–7.83 (m, 4H), 7.76–7.74 (m, 1H), 7.61–7.59 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 152.2, 143.4, 142.9, 142.2, 141.1, 140.4, 139.9, 137.4, 136.2, 129.9, 129.8, 129.5, 129.4, 128.0, 127.5, 126.0, 124.7, 124.0, 34.8, 31.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{20}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 369.1425, found 369.1430.

4-(2-Fluorophenyl)thieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**2u**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (125.5 mg, 76%): mp 169–173 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.49 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.28–8.26 (m, 1H), 8.21–8.19 (m, 1H), 8.0 (s, 1H), 7.81–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.66–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 2H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.7(d, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 249.2 Hz, 1^{13}C), 142.84, 142.82, 142.6, 142.4, 141.6, 140.1, 137.2, 134.3, 130.9, 130.8, 130.3, 129.9, 129.5 (d, $^4J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 3.8 Hz, 1^{13}C), 129.4, 127.6, 126.2, 124.6, 124.5, 116.6 (d, $^2J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 22.4 Hz, 1^{13}C); HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{11}FN_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 331.0705, found 331.0708.

4-Cyclohexylthieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**2v**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (119.4 mg, 75%): mp 139–143 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.44 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.25–8.23 (m, 1H), 8.19–8.16 (m, 1H), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.78–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.95–2.87 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.15 (m, 2H), 1.98–1.77 (m, 4H), 1.69–1.59 (m, 2H), 1.54–1.43 (m, 2H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 146.4, 143.6, 142.5, 142.2, 142.0, 139.8, 136.6, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 126.2, 124.9, 120.6, 44.0, 33.2, 29.7, 26.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{18}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 319.1269, found 319.1282.

4-Cyclopropylthieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**2w**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (113.3 mg, 82%): mp 131–135 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.41 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.22–8.20 (m, 1H), 8.14–8.11 (m, 1H), 7.75–7.72 (m, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 2.23–2.16 (m, 1H), 1.15–1.11 (m, 2H), 1.00–0.96 (m, 2H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 143.5, 143.3, 142.4, 141.8, 139.8, 136.2, 129.62, 129.57, 129.4, 129.2, 126.6, 124.7,

119.2, 15.0, 8.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{17}H_{12}N_2S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 277.0799, found 277.0810.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Substituted benzophenazine 4a-k and Benzoquinoxaline (6a-b)

In a oven-dried RBF, a solution of *o*-alkynylaryls derivatives **(3** and **5**) (0.5 mmol) in 4 mL of CF_3COOH as a solvent and $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2 mol %), were added. The resulting reaction mixture was heated at 65 °C for 24 h. Progression of the reaction was monitored by TLC, while noticing complete consumption of *o*-alkynylaryls, reaction was brought to room temperature. The reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) and water (15 mL) and then filtered through a plug of celite. The layers were separated, and the organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated brine solution, dried over Na_2SO_4. Organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude material so obtained was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane: ethylacetate) and DCM:Hexane have used for crystallization. The structure and purity of known starting materials were confirmed by comparison of their physical and spectral data (^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and HRMS).

9-Methyl-5-(p-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**4a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (125.4 mg, 75%): mp 161–165 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.36–9.33 (m, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (s, 1H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 1H), 7.56–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.23 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 144.9, 143.1, 142.5, 141.5, 140.5, 140.2, 137.8, 136.5, 132.6, 132.5, 132.3, 131.5, 129.6, 129.1, 128.5, 127.53, 127.45, 127.1, 126.9, 125.4, 22.1, 21.3;HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{18}N_2]$requires $[M+H]^+$ 335.1548, found 335.1568.

5-Cyclopropyl-9-methylbenzo[a]phenazine (**4b**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (122.2 mg, 86%): mp 142–146 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.39–9.29 (m, 1H), 8.35–8.33 (m, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.73–7.67 (m, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.56–7.52 (m, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.32–2.27 (m, 1H), 1.10–1.05 (m, 2H), 0.88–0.84 (m, 2H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 144.7, 143.5, 142.9, 141.6, 140.4, 133.8, 132.1, 131.0, 129.4, 129.1, 128.4, 127.5, 127.4, 125.3, 124.7, 123.6, 22.1, 13.9, 6.9, 1.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{16}N_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 285.1392, found 285.1391.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-9-methyl-5-(p-tolyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**4c**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (157.0 mg, 74%): mp 147–152 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.79–8.77 (m, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.04–8.02 (m, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.58–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17–7.14 (m, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.7, 151.1, 144.7, 143.2, 142.5, 140.8, 140.5, 140.4, 140.3, 136.1, 132.6, 132.3, 129.0, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 127.5, 127.4, 121.6, 102.7, 61.1, 60.1, 56.2, 22.1, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{27}H_{24}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 425.1865, found 425.1881.

5-Butyl-2,3,4-trimethoxy-9-methylbenzo[a]phenazine (**4d**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (171.8 mg, 88%): mp 90–94 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.72–8.70 (m, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.50–7.46 (m, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.93–3.92 (m, 6H), 3.15 (t, J= 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.68–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.38 (m, 2H), 0.91–0.87 (m, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.13, 153.07, 151.5, 144.6, 144.5, 144.0, 142.9, 141.5, 140.7, 140.2, 131.7, 128.9, 127.2, 125.1, 121.6, 102.9, 61.4, 60.9, 56.1, 36.9, 33.2, 22.9, 22.0, 14.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{24}H_{26}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 391.2022, found 391.2021.

5-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2,4-dimethoxy-9-methylbenzo[a]phenazine (**4e**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (178.9 mg, 82%): mp 149–153 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.56–8.54 (m, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.05–8.03 (m, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.35–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.27 (m, 2H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.39(s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.0, 158.3, 149.2, 143.6, 143.5, 143.1, 141.2, 140.7, 134.9, 132.8, 132.1, 129.1, 127.7, 127.4, 126.1, 123.8, 117.5, 102.0, 98.8, 55.7, 55.5, 34.5, 31.5, 22.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{29}H_{28}N_2O_2$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 437.2229, found 437.2230.

8-Methyl-4-(p-tolyl)thieno[3,2-a]phenazine (**4f**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (124.2 mg, 73%): mp 135–140 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.38–8.36 (m, 1H), 8.04–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.90–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.65–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.59–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.50–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.26–7.21 (m, 2H), 2.50 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 143.1, 142.6, 140.8, 140.3, 139.3, 138.9, 138.2, 137.4, 136.4, 132.6, 129.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 125.2, 124.5, 123.8, 22.1, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{22}H_{16}N_2S$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 341.1112, found 341.1108.

9-Chloro-2,3,4-trimethoxy-5-phenylbenzo[a]phenazine (**4g**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (183.1 mg, 85%): mp 210–215 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 2.3 and 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.40–7.31 (m, 5H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.22 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.0, 151.1, 145.1, 144.3, 143.12, 143.08, 141.5, 140.1, 135.7, 130.73, 130.69, 128.5, 128.1, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 121.7, 103.0, 61.1, 61.0, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{19}ClN_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 431.1162, found 431.1185.

9-Chloro-2,3,4-trimethoxy-5-(thiophen-3-yl)benzo[a]phenazine (**4h**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (183.5 mg, 84%): mp 218–222 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.16–8.15 (m, 1H), 7.69 (dd, J = 2.2 Hz, and 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.28–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.19–7.18 (m, 1H), 4.13 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.0, 151.1, 145.3, 143.2, 143.1, 141.7, 140.2, 139.9, 139.2, 135.8, 130.8, 129.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.5, 123.3, 121.9, 121.5, 103.1, 61.21, 61.16, 56.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{23}H_{17}ClN_2O_3S]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 437.0727, found 437.0719.

9-Chloro-2,4-dimethoxy-5-phenylbenzo[a]phenazine (**4i**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (164.3 mg, 82%): mp 201–205 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.97–7.96 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, J = 1.8 and 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38– 7.37(m, 2H), 7.31–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 6.719–6.713 (m, 1H), 6.23–6.22 (m, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 162.7, 159.2, 158.9, 157.3, 146.1, 142.9, 141.7, 138.6, 135.0, 130.8, 129.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.6, 126.4, 126.3, 98.8, 98.0, 55.8, 55.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{17}ClN_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 401.1057, found 401.1037.

5-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-9-chloro-2,4-dimethoxybenzo[a]phenazine (**4j**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (182.7 mg, 80%): mp 107–111 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.42 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 1.31 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.2, 158.4, 149.4, 144.7, 143.7, 143.4, 141.5, 140.9, 139.9, 135.8, 134.6, 130.8, 130.6, 127.60, 127.56, 125.7, 123.8, 117.6, 102.4, 99.1, 55.7, 55.5, 34.6, 31.5; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{28}H_{25}ClN_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 457.1683, found 457.1710.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(p-tolyl)dibenzo[a,i]phenazine (**4k**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (230.2 mg, 86%): mp 217–222 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.99 (s, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H), 8.85 (s, 1H), 8.18–8.14 (m, 2H), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.25 (m, 2H), 4.24 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.9, 151.4, 145.4, 144.4, 144.1, 142.9, 140.2, 139.9, 138.6, 136.4, 134.1, 133.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 126.9, 126.54, 126.47, 121.7, 103.8, 61.18, 61.16, 56.3, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{30}H_{24}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 461.1865, found 461.1864.

7,8,9-Trimethoxy-6-(p-tolyl)benzo[f]quinoxaline (**6a**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (153.1 mg, 85%): mp 87–91 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.84 (dd, J = 10.5 and 1.8 Hz, 2H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.23(d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.14 (s, 3H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.8, 150.6, 144.6, 144.5, 142.5, 142.1, 141.7, 140.4, 140.2, 136.1, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 127.3, 122.2, 101.2, 61.10, 60.96, 56.1, 21.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_3$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 361.1552, found 361.1559.

8-Ethyl-6-(p-tolyl)benzo[f]quinoxaline (**6b**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (122.3 mg, 82%): mp 76–80 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 9.14 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.79–8.77 (m, 2H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.27–7.24 (m, 2H), 2.71 (q, J =7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.19 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 145.4, 144.3, 143.9, 142.9, 142.0, 141.3, 137.7, 136.6, 132.7, 129.7, 129.2, 128.0, 126.9, 125.1, 124.8, 29.3, 21.3, 15.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for [$C_{21}H_{18}N_2$] requires [M+H]$^+$ 299.1548, found 299.1540.

Unusual Hydroxylation

(Z)-1-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)-2-(3-(4-nitrophenyl)quinoxalin-2-yl)ethenol (**7a**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (191.4 mg, 90%): mp 191–196 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 15.69 (br s, 1H), 8.41(d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, J =8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.88–7.85 (m, 1H), 7.83–7.79 (m, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 2H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 1.32 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 180.7, 154.8, 154.2, 148.5, 147.3, 143.6, 137.1, 134.8,

132.9, 131.6, 130.1, 129.4, 126.3, 125.6, 123.9, 120.2, 90.5, 34.9, 31.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{23}N_3O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 426.1818, found 426.1801.

(Z)-Methyl 4-(3-(2-hydroxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)vinyl)quinoxalin-2-yl)benzoate (**7b**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (181.4 mg, 88%): mp 210–215 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 15.6 (br s, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 7.67 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.92(s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 182.4, 166.6, 162.1, 156.1, 146.7, 141.7, 136.6, 131.9, 131.2, 130.8, 130.6, 130.0, 129.3, 128.9, 128.5, 125.6, 118.9, 113.7, 90.1, 55.4, 52.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{20}N_2O_4]$requires $[M+H]^+$ 413.1501, found 413.1485.

(Z)-1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)quinoxalin-2-yl)ethanol (**7c**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (181.6 mg, 86%): mp 154–157 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 15.82 (br s, 1H), 7.90– 7.88 (m, 3H), 7.84–7.80 (m, 3H), 7.62–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.48–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.39 (s, 1H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 181.2, 159.8, 155.2, 147.2, 139.3, 137.1, 132.3, 131.3, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 126.2, 125.75 (q, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 15.2 Hz, 1C), 119.7, 119.0, 117.0, 111.5, 90.9, 55.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{17}F_3N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 423.1320, found 423.1352.

2-(4-(tert-Butyl)phenyl)furo[2,3-b]quinoxaline (**3'**). The product was obtained as a brown needles (111.8 mg, 74%): mp 226–231 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.19– 8.15 (m, 1H), 8.12–8.09 (m, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.75–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, J =8.6Hz, 2H), 7.24(s, 1H), 1.38 (s, 9H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 164.3, 155.0, 154.4, 144.7, 142.2, 138.6, 128.7, 128.62, 128.56, 128.2, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 100.0, 35.1, 31.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{20}H_{18}N_2O]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 303.1497, found 303.1490.

Deuterium Labeling Experiments

5-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2,3,4-trimethoxy-1,6-di-[D]benzo[a]phenazine (**8a**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (174.9 mg, 84%): mp 179–183 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.88 (s, 0.16H), 8.37–8.34 (m, 1H), 8.26–8.23 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.72 (s, 0.1H), 7.52–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.26–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.12 (m, 1H), 4.22 (s, 3H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.37 (s, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 160.0 (d, $^1J_{C\text{-}F}$ =245.4 Hz, 1^{13}C), 158.8,

152.4 (d, $^{1}J_{C\text{-}D}$ = 300 Hz, 1^{13}C), 144.7, 142.8, 142.3, 142.0, 141.7, 137.3, 131.2 (d, $^{2}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 16.2 Hz, 1^{13}C), 130.0, 129.8, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8 (d, $^{3}J_{C\text{-}F}$ =8.6 Hz, 1^{13}C), 128.4, 123.3 (d, $^{4}J_{C\text{-}F}$ = 2.8 Hz, 1^{13}C), 121.6 114.4 (d, $^{1}J_{C\text{-}D}$ = 21.0 Hz, 1^{13}C), 102.9, 61.1, 60.9, 56.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{17}D_2FN_2O_3]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 417.1583, found 417.1573.

2,3,4-Trimethoxy-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[a]phenazine (**8b**). The product was obtained as a yellow needles (111.8 mg, 64%): mp 170–175 °C; ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.50 (s, 56.0mH), 8.20 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.45 (s, 82.3mH), 6.69 (s, 52.5mH), 4.0 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.19 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.65–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.35 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 159.3, 158.7, 145.6, 143.5, 143.2, 141.5, 141.3, 134.9, 129.9, 129.6, 128.8, 128.7, 123.8 (t, J = 122.0 Hz 1C),118.2, 101.5 (t, J = 83.9 Hz, 1C), 98.91 (t, J = 99.1 Hz, 1C), 55.7, 55.5, 38.1, 33.6, 22.9, 14.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{19}D_3N_2O_2]$ requires $[M+H]^+$ 350.1948, found 350.1938.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Department of Chemistry, University of Delhi, Delhi, 110007, India. E-mail:

averma@acbr.du.ac.in.

Notes

The author declares no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Research work was supported by DST (SERB) and University of Delhi. S.K., R. S., M.M and T.A. are thankful to CSIR, UGC and DST (SERB) for the fellowship.

Supporting Information

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Data and spectral Copies of ^{1}H, ^{13}C NMR and HRMS for target compounds. CCDC reference number for compound **2j, 4c** and **7a** are **1495030, 1469810** and **1504986** respectively. See DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/

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