# Trimethylsilyl Trifluoromethanesulfonate-Promoted Cyclocondensation of β-Ketoenamides and Subsequent Nonaflation to Pyrid-2-yl and Pyrid-4-yl Nonaflates as Flexible Precursors for Polysubstituted Pyridines

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Dedicated to Professor Ernst Schaumann on the occasion of his 70th birthday

Abstract: The intramolecular condensation of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides to 2- and/or 4-pyridone derivatives using either KOt-Bu or trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate/Hünig's base was investigated. Subsequent nonaflation of the cyclization products allowed a facile purification and further functionalization through Suzuki–Miyaura couplings leading to new highly substituted pyridine derivatives. The dependence of the regioselectivity of cyclocondensation on the structure of the  $\beta$ -ketoenamides is discussed.

Key words: enamides, pyridines, cyclocondensation, nonaflates, cross couplings

With its ubiquitous structural motif in biologically active compounds and functional materials pyridines belong without doubt to the most important heterocycles.<sup>1</sup> Since the early days of organic chemistry this has been motivating chemists to search for efficient methods to synthesize functionalized pyridine derivatives.<sup>2,3</sup> In recent years our group developed a remarkably flexible approach for the preparation of highly functionalized pyrid-4-ones 2 by a trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf)/basepromoted intramolecular condensation of β-ketoenamides 1 (Scheme 1). A mechanistic proposal for the TMSOTFpromoted cyclocondensation has previously been presented suggesting an aldol-type step of an enolate or its equivalent with the amide carbonyl group.<sup>4</sup> Suitable cyclization precursors can be synthesized by a three-component reaction of lithiated alkoxyallenes, nitriles, and carboxylic acids,<sup>5</sup> or by N-acylation of  $\beta$ -ketoenamines. Suitable enamines are easily accessible via amination of 1,3-diketones,<sup>6</sup> or by trapping the Blaise intermediate with acetic acid anhydride.<sup>7,8</sup> Conversion of 4-hydroxypyridines **3** (the tautomers of 2) into the corresponding nonafluorobutanesulfonates (nonaflates)<sup>9</sup> allows for versatile subsequent transformations through Pd-catalyzed crosscoupling reactions.<sup>10,11</sup>

It is known that  $\beta$ -ketoenamides of type **5** bearing fairly acidic protons in  $\alpha$ -position to the amide carbonyl moiety [ $\mathbb{R}^6 =$  (het)aryl or electron-withdrawing substituents] cyclize under basic conditions to provide pyrid-2-one derivatives **6** (Scheme 2).<sup>12,13</sup> We were therefore interested, if this kind of transformation would also be possible via a

**SYNTHESIS** 2013, 45, 3288–3294 Advanced online publication: 10.10.2013 DOI: 10.1055/s-0033-1338548; Art ID: SS-2013-T0555-OP © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart · New York TMSOTf/base-promoted condensation. Furthermore, we wanted to explore the reactivity of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides 7 bearing two enolizable methylene groups. We envisioned that upon treatment with TMSOTf these compounds may cyclize via intermediate 8 to give pyrid-4-ones 9 (path a) as well as via 10 to give pyrid-2-ones 11 (path b).



Scheme 1 Synthesis of highly functionalized pyridine derivatives via TMSOTf-promoted cyclocondensation of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides 1 (Nf = nonafluorobutanesulfonyl)





Scheme 2 Cyclocondensation of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides to pyrid-2-ones 11 and/or pyrid-4-ones 9

An analogous regiounselective reactivity is well known from the Camps cyclization<sup>14</sup> – the base-promoted cyclocondensation of *o*-(amido)acetophenones. The use of substrates with two  $\alpha$ -acidic carbonyl moieties in the Camps cyclization employing alkali hydroxides or alkoxides as base usually provides mixtures of 2- and 4-quinolones as products. In contrast, as recently reported, treatment of such *o*-(acetamido)acetophenone derivatives with TMS-OTf in presence of triethylamine exclusively provides 4quinolones.<sup>15</sup>

In order to explore the reactivity of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides of type **5** and **7**, we prepared a series of cyclization precursors as depicted in Scheme 3: amination of simple 1,3-diketones **12a–c** to enamines **13a–c** followed by acylation with acyl chlorides or the corresponding anhydrides provided the  $\beta$ -ketoenamides **14a–h** in moderate to good yields (see Supporting Information for details).



Scheme 3 Preparation of β-ketoenamides 14a-h

Next, the cyclizations of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides **14a**-h were investigated (Tables 1 and 2). We first conducted the intramolecular condensation of the dibenzoylmethane (12a)derived enamides 14a and 14b using TMSOTf and diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA; Hünig's base) (Table 1, entries 1 and 3). Due to the lack of a methyl ketone moiety as in 7 these substrates cannot cyclize to pyrid-4-ones. We were pleased to find that they were converted into the expected pyrid-2-ones 15a and 15b in good yields upon treatment with TMSOTf. For the cyclization of compound 14a the traditional conditions using KOt-Bu<sup>16</sup> allowed a shorter reaction time and provided a slightly higher yield (entry 2). For compound 14b, however, the TMSOTf-promoted condensation proved to be the superior method since the KOt-Bu protocol failed in this case (entry 4). Using the latter protocol the acetylacetone (12b)- and heptan-3,5-dione (12c)-derived enamides 14c and 14d smoothly cyclized to the pyrid-2-ones 15c<sup>16</sup> and 15d (entries 5 and 6). In both cases a competing deacylation leading to the formation of the corresponding enamines 13b and 13c was observed. For enamide 14e the KOt-Bu protocol resulted in complete deacylation to 13b, the expected pyrid-2-one 15e was not detected, indicating that this method - as also concluded by Fisyuk et al. for related compounds<sup>17</sup> – requires substituents that are able to stabilize a negative charge next to  $R^2$ .

The TMSOTf/DIPEA promoted intramolecular condensations of  $\beta$ -ketoenamides **14c**–**h** are summarized in Table 2. In these cases isolation and purification of the cyclization products was rather difficult.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, we chose to Table 1 Cyclocondensation of  $\beta$ -Ketoenamides 14a–d to Pyrid-2-ones 15a–d

R <sup>2</sup>		TMSOT or KO <i>t</i> -Bu	rf (A) ►		∠R <sup>2</sup> `R <sup>1</sup>	
	14			15		
Entry		$\mathbb{R}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^2$	Method <sup>a</sup>		Yield (%)
1	14a	Ph	Ph	А	15a	79
2		Ph	Ph	В		87
3	14b	Ph	Me	А	15b	93
4		Ph	Me	В		b
5	14c	Me	Ph	В	15c	62°
6	14d	Et	Ph	В	15d	81 <sup>d</sup>
7	14e	Me	Н	В	15e	_e

<sup>a</sup> Method A: TMSOTf (5.0 equiv), DIPEA (4.0 equiv), DCE, sealed tube, 90 °C, 3 d; Method B: KO*t*-Bu (1.5 equiv), THF, 0 °C to r.t., 20 h.

<sup>b</sup> No conversion.

<sup>c</sup> Enamine **13b** detected in traces.

<sup>d</sup> Enamine **13c** isolated in 11% yield.

<sup>e</sup> Enamine 13b isolated in 90% yield.

directly convert the crude product mixture into the corresponding nonaflates whose dramatically decreased polarity allows a facile chromatographic purification. As anticipated, enamides 14c-h can cyclize via two different pathways. After subsequent nonaflation of the unpurified intermediates the pyrid-4-yl nonaflates 16 and in some cases small amounts of the pyrid-2-yl nonaflates 17 were obtained.<sup>19</sup> Except for pyrid-4-yl nonaflate **16g** (76%, Table 2, entry 5), the yields were only moderate, nevertheless the experiments clearly reveal that upon treatment with TMSOTf there is a strong preference of the  $\beta$ -ketoenamides 14c-h to cyclize via intermediates of type 8 to deliver pyrid-4-ones. Unless being enforced in precursors such as 14a,b ( $R^1 \neq CH_2R$ , Table 1), the TMSOTf-promoted cyclocondensation via intermediates of type 10 apparently plays only a minor role. This competing cyclization to pyrid-2-ones was only observed for enamides 14c, 14d, and 14h bearing substituents R<sup>2</sup> that facilitate enolization<sup>20</sup> of the amide methylene moiety  $(R^2 = Ph \text{ or } OMe).$ 

Pyrid-2-ones **15c** and **15d** obtained by the KO*t*-Bu-promoted cyclization could also successfully be nonaflated. The corresponding pyrid-2-yl nonaflates **17c** and **17d** were obtained in good yields (Scheme 4).

As already mentioned in the introduction, the nonafloxy group allows a large number of subsequent transformations. Exemplarily, we subjected the pyridyl nonaflates **16c** and **17d** to Suzuki–Miyaura reactions<sup>10,21</sup> (Scheme 5). The excellent yields of the cross-coupled products **18** and

**Table 2**TMSOTf-Promoted Cyclocondensation of  $\beta$ -Ketoenamides**14c-h** and Subsequent Nonaflation<sup>a</sup>

$R^2$ $R^3$	NH O	a →	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> N R <sup>3</sup> ON	+ R <sup>3</sup> _	ON N	$f$ $R^2$ $R^3$
	14	R3		16		17	
Entry		R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>		Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>		Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	14c	Ph	Н	16c	15-20	17c	3–9
2	14d	Ph	Me	16d	30	17d	6
3	14e	Н	Н	16e	33	17e	_
4	14f	Me	Н	16f	52	17f	_
5	14g	Bn	Н	16g	76	17g	_
6	14h	OMe	Н	16h	12	17h	6

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 1. TMSOTf (5.0 equiv), DIPEA (4.0 equiv), DCE, sealed tube, 90 °C, 3 d; 2. NaH (5.0–7.0 equiv), NfF (2.5–3.0 equiv), THF, r.t., overnight.

<sup>b</sup> Yields over two steps.



Scheme 4 Nonaflation of pyrid-2-ones 15c and 15d

**19** once again demonstrate that pyridyl nonaflates are ideal substrates for Pd-catalyzed reactions.

In conclusion, we could demonstrate in this report that it is indeed possible to cyclize suitably substituted  $\beta$ -keto-



Scheme 5 Suzuki–Miyaura couplings of pyrid-4-yl and pyrid-2-yl nonaflates 16c and 17d leading to highly substituted pyridine derivatives

enamides to pyrid-2-ones via the TMSOTf-promoted intramolecular condensation and that the presented method adds a new version to established protocols.  $\beta$ -Ketoenamides bearing two enolizable methylene groups showed a strong preference to cyclize to pyrid-4-one derivatives. Although the yields are often only moderate the simplicity and versatility of this approach should be useful. The cyclization products could successfully be transformed to the corresponding nonaflates that could be used as components of Pd-catalyzed couplings to highly substituted pyridine derivatives.

Reactions were generally performed under argon in flame-dried flasks or sealed tubes; liquid components were added by syringe. Products were purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (230-400 mesh, Merck and Macherey & Nagel). Unless stated otherwise, yields refer to analytically pure samples. <sup>1</sup>H NMR [CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26), TMS ( $\delta$  = 0.00) as internal standard], <sup>13</sup>C NMR [CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 77.0) as internal standard], and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded with Bruker AC 500, Jeol ECX 400, or Jeol Eclipse 500 instruments in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solutions. Integrals are in accordance with assignments; coupling constants are given in Hz. All <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are proton-decoupled. For detailed peak assignments 2D spectra were measured (COSY, HMQC, HMBC). <sup>13</sup>C NMR signals of Nf group [CF<sub>3</sub>(CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] are not given since unambiguous assignment was not possible due to strong splitting by coupling with the <sup>19</sup>F nuclei. IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco FT/IR-4100 spectrometer. HRMS analyses were performed with Varian Ionspec QFT-7 (ESI-FT ICRMS) and Agilent 6210 ESI-TOF instruments. The elemental analyses were recorded with PerkinElmer CHN-Analyzer 2400, Vario EL, or Vario EL III instruments. Melting points were measured with a Reichert apparatus and are uncorrected. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and THF were purified with a MB SPS-800 dry solvent system. Unless stated otherwise all other solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. Compounds 13a,<sup>22</sup> 13b,<sup>23</sup> 13c,<sup>6</sup> 14e,<sup>24</sup> and 15c<sup>16</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures.

# TMSOTf-Promoted Cyclization of β-Ketoenamides; General Procedure 1 (Method A)

TMSOTf (5 equiv) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the  $\beta$ -ketoenamide (1 equiv) and DIPEA (4 equiv) in DCE (25 mL/mmol) under an atmosphere of argon. The mixture was stirred at 90 °C in a sealed tube for 3 d (large scale reactions may be performed using a Schlenk flask equipped with a reflux condenser). After cooling to r.t., sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was added and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or EtOAc (3 ×) and the combined organic layers were dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated to dryness. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

#### KO*t*-Bu-Promoted Cyclization of β-Ketoenamides; General Procedure 2 (Method B)

Following a procedure by Fisyuk et al.,<sup>15</sup> KOt-Bu (1.5 equiv) was added to a stirred solution of the  $\beta$ -ketoenamide (1 equiv) in THF (~10 mL/mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred overnight while being allowed to warm up to r.t. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the remaining residue was stirred for 5 min with H<sub>2</sub>O (~5 mL/mmol). The precipitate was collected by filtration and dried under reduced pressure to provide the product.

In case of no or only little precipitation,  $CH_2Cl_2$  was added and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 ×) and the combined organic layers were dried with  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. If required, the obtained product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

#### 3,4,6-Triphenylpyridin-2(1*H*)-one (15a)

Method Å: According to general procedure 1,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14a (175 mg, 0.51 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.34 mL, 2.00 mmol) and TMSOTf (0.47 mL, 2.59 mmol) in DCE (13 mL). The workup was performed by diluting the reaction mixture with EtoAc (40 mL). After washing with H<sub>2</sub>O-brine (1:1, 3 × 40 mL), drying (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and filtration the organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 5:1  $\rightarrow$  2:1) and washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) to provide pyrid-2-one 15a (130 mg, 79%) as a colorless solid.

Method B: According to general procedure 2,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14a (143 mg, 0.42 mmol) was treated with KOt-Bu (70 mg, 0.62 mmol) in THF (5 mL). Precipitation provided pyrid-2-one 15a (118 mg, 87%) as a colorless solid; mp >230 °C (sublimation).

IR (ATR): 3120–2860 (N–H, =C–H), 1620, 1595, 1575, 1500 (C=C, C=N), 1440, 1355, 1255  $\rm cm^{-1}.$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR [CDCl<sub>3</sub>–CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>D (7:1), 500 MHz]:  $\delta$  = 7.17–7.20, 7.29–7.37 (2 m, 4 H, 6 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.41 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 7.59–7.63, 7.76–7.77 (2 m, 3 H, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR [CDCl<sub>3</sub>-CF<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>D (7:1), 126 MHz]:  $\delta = 116.4$  (d, C-5), 125.6 (s, C-3), 127.2, 128.68, 128.71, 128.9\*, 129.7, 129.9, 130.6, 130.8, 130.9, 132.1, 136.8 (7 d, 2 s, d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 146.8 (s, C-4), 159.3, 160.7 (2 s, C-2, C-6), \* the signal corresponds to two carbon atoms.

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{23}H_{18}NO [M + H]^+$ : 324.1383; found: 324.1374.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{23}H_{17}NO$  (323.4): C, 85.42; H, 5.30; N, 4.33. Found: C, 85.45; H, 5.34; N, 4.35.

#### 3-Methyl-4,6-diphenylpyridin-2(1*H*)-one (15b)

According to general procedure 1,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14b (252 mg, 0.90 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.61 mL, 3.59 mmol) and TMSOTf (0.82 mL, 4.52 mmol) in DCE (23 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (30 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 1:1) to provide pyrid-2-one 15b (218 mg, 93%) as a pale brownish solid; mp 243–245 °C.

IR (ATR): 3120–2800 (N–H), 3030 (=C–H), 2980–2850 (C–H), 1625–1500 (C=C, C=N), 1450, 1375–1265, 1180, 1150 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.14 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.50 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 7.37–7.49, 7.79–7.81 (2 m, 8 H, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 12.07 (s br, 1 H, NH).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz): δ = 13.6 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 107.2 (d, C-5), 124.4 (s, C-3), 126.4, 128.0, 128.2, 128.4, 129.0, 129.6, 133.5, 139.8 (6 d, 2 s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 142.3 (s, C-6), 151.4 (s, C-4), 165.3 (s, C-2).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{18}H_{16}NO [M + H]^+$ : 262.1234; found: 262.1226.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{15}NO$  (261.3): C, 82.73; H, 5.79; N, 5.36. Found: C, 82.83; H, 5.68; N, 5.31.

#### 4,6-Diethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2(1*H*)-one (15d)

According to general procedure 2,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14d (273 mg, 1.11 mmol) was treated with KOt-Bu (187 mg, 1.67 mmol) in THF (9 mL). Workup was performed with H<sub>2</sub>O-brine (1:1, 60 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 × 60 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 3:1  $\rightarrow$  1:1) to provide  $\beta$ -ketoenamine 13c (16 mg, 11%) as a yellow oil and pyrid-2-one 15d (203 mg, 81%) as a colorless solid; melting range 65–70 °C.

IR (ATR): 3130 (N–H), 3075–3025 (=C–H), 2970, 2935, 2870 (C– H), 1625–1600, 1555 (C=C, C=N), 1495–1440 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.04$ , 1.22 (2 t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H each, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.32, 2.51 (2 q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H each, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.99 (s, 1

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H, 5-H), 7.23–7.26, 7.29–7.32, 7.37–7.40 (3 m, 2 H, 1 H, 2 H,  $C_6H_5$ ), 12.15 (s br, 1 H, NH).

 $^{13}C$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 12.6, 14.3 (2 q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.2, 26.7 (2 t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 105.4 (d, C-5), 126.9 (d, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 127.1 (s, C-3), 128.0, 130.2, 135.9 (2 d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 148.8, 155.0 (2 s, C-4, C-6), 164.4 (s, C-2).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{15}H_{18}NO [M + H]^+$ : 228.1383; found: 228.1369.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{17}NO$  (227.3): C, 79.26; H, 7.54; N, 6.16. Found: C, 79.19; H, 7.52; N, 6.17.

#### TMSOTf-Promoted Cyclization of β-Ketoenamides Followed by Nonaflation of the Crude Product; General Procedure 3

by iteration of the control of the general procedure 1. After performance of the cyclization step and cooling to r.t., the solvent was carefully evaporated under reduced pressure. The remaining residue was dissolved in THF (10–20 mL/mmol) under an atmosphere of argon. NaH (5–7 equiv, 60% in mineral oil) was washed with hexanes (2 ×) under an atmosphere of argon and was suspended in a small amount of THF. This suspension was slowly transferred (*slow addition was crucial because of vigorous hydrogen evolution*) to the solution of the crude cyclization product. NfF (2.5–3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture stirred at r.t. overnight. Sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was slowly added and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 ×) and the combined organic layers were dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

#### Nonaflation of Pyrid-2-ones; General Procedure 4

NaH (3–4 equiv, 60% in mineral oil) was washed twice with hexanes (2 ×) under an atmosphere of argon and was suspended in a small amount of THF. This suspension was slowly transferred (*slow addition is crucial because of vigorous hydrogen evolution*) to a mixture of the pyrid-2-one and THF (10–20 mL/mmol) under an atmosphere of argon. NfF (2.5–3.0 equiv) was added and the mixture stirred at r.t. for 1 d. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (or Et<sub>2</sub>O) and sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was slowly added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (or Et<sub>2</sub>O) (2–3 ×). The combined organic layers were dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel.

### 2-Benzyl-6-methylpyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16c) and 4,6-Dimethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2-yl Nonaflate (17c)

According to general procedure 3,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide **14c** (217 mg, 1.00 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.68 mL, 4.00 mmol) and TMSOTf (0.91 mL, 5.02 mmol) in DCE (25 mL) using a sealed tube, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (300 mg, 7.50 mmol) and NfF (0.54 mL, 3.00 mmol) in THF (15 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 × 20 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 30:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflates **17c** (15 mg, 3%) and **16c** (98 mg, 20%) as yellow oils.

#### 16c

IR (ATR): 3085–3030 (=C–H), 2965–2925 (C–H), 1600–1580 (C=N, C=C), 1425, 1235–1195, 1145  $\rm cm^{-1}.$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.61 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.17 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.77 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 7.24–7.32 (m, 5 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>).

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 24.7 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.6 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.4 (d, C-5), 112.9 (d, C-3), 126.8, 128.8, 129.1, 138.1 (3 d, s, C\_6H<sub>5</sub>), 157.2, 161.4, 164.0 (3 s, C-2, C-4, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):  $\delta = -125.7$ , -120.8 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -108.6 (t, J = 13.6 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.5 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{17}H_{13}F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 482.0467; found: 482.0506.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (481.3): C, 42.42; H, 2.51; N, 2.91; S, 6.66. Found: C, 42.40; H, 2.40; N, 2.79; S, 6.53.

#### 4,6-Dimethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2-yl Nonaflate (17c)

According to general procedure 4, pyrid-2-one 15c (110 mg, 0.55 mmol) was treated with NaH (100 mg, 2.50 mmol) and NfF (0.30 mL, 1.67 mmol) in THF (5 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $4 \times 20$  mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes-EtOAc = 50:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflate 17c(188 mg, 71%) as a colorless oil.

IR (ATR): 3070-3035 (=C-H), 2930-2855 (C-H), 1620 (C=N, C=C), 1420, 1350, 1235–1200, 1140 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 2.17$  (s, 3 H, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.54 (s, 3 H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.13 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 7.20-7.23, 7.40-7.47 (2 m, 2 H, 3 H,  $C_6H_5$ ).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta = 20.0$  (q, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>), 23.5 (q, 6-CH<sub>3</sub>), 125.2 (d, C-5), 125.7 (s, C-3), 128.4, 128.5, 129.5, 132.5 (3 d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 151.3, 153.1, 156.4 (3 s, C-2, C-4, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):  $\delta = -125.9$ , -121.0 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each,  $CF_2$ ), -109.3 (t, J = 13.7 Hz, 2 F,  $CF_2$ ), -80.6 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{17}H_{13}F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 482.0467; found: 482.0486.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (481.3): C, 42.42; H, 2.51; N, 2.91; S, 6.66. Found: C, 42.56; H, 2.31; N, 2.61; S, 6.59.

#### 2-Benzyl-6-ethyl-3-methylpyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16d) and 4,6-Diethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2-yl Nonaflate (17d)

According to general procedure 3, β-ketoenamide 14d (320 mg, 1.30 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.85 mL, 5.00 mmol) and TMSOTf (1.18 mL, 6.50 mmol) in DCE (33 mL) using a sealed tube, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (364 mg, 9.10 mmol) and NfF (0.70 mL, 3.90 mmol) in THF (16 mL). After evaporation of THF under reduced pressure, the remaining residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL) and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3  $\times$  40 mL). The organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc =  $50:1 \rightarrow 20:1$ ) to provide pyridyl nonaflates 17d (41 mg, 6%) and 16d (200 mg, 30%) as pale yellow oils.

#### 16d

IR (ATR): 3090-3030 (=C-H), 2970, 2925, 2875-2850 (C-H), 1605, 1560, 1545 (C=C, C=N), 1430, 1235–1145 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.32$  (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.20 (s, 3 H, 3-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.85 (q, J = 7.7 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.24 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 6.98 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 7.16–7.21, 7.25–7.28 (2 m, 3 H, 2 H,  $C_6H_5$ ).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta = 11.7$  (q, 3-CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.7 (q, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.2 (t, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 42.6 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 112.2 (d, C-5), 121.6 (s, C-3), 126.5, 128.6\*, 138.1 (2 d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 156.0 (s, C-4), 161.9 (s, C-2), 162.9 (s, C-6), \* the signal corresponds to two carbon atoms.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz):  $\delta = -125.7$ , -120.7 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each,  $CF_2$ ), -109.3 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 2 F,  $CF_2$ ), -80.5 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 3 F,  $CF_3$ ).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{19}H_{17}F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 510.0780; found: 510.0767.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (509.4): C, 44.80; H, 3.17; N, 2.75; S, 6.29. Found: C, 44.76; H, 3.09; N, 2.84; S, 6.32.

#### 4,6-Diethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2-yl Nonaflate (17d)

According to general procedure 4, pyrid-2-one 15d (169 mg, 0.74 mmol) was treated with NaH (90 mg, 2.25 mmol) and NfF (0.32

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mL, 1.78 mmol) in THF (5 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (30 mL) and Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $3 \times 30$  mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes-EtOAc = 30:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflate 17d (320 mg, 85%) as a colorless oil.

IR (ATR): 3085-3030 (=C-H), 2980, 2940-2855 (C-H), 1615, 1545 (C=C, C=N), 1475, 1415, 1245–1200, 1150 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.09$ , 1.34 (2 t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H each,  $CH_2CH_3$ ), 2.49, 2.83 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H each,  $CH_2CH_3$ ), 7.15 (s, 1 H, 5-H), 7.21–7.24, 7.40–7.47 (2 m, 2 H, 3 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta = 13.0$  (q, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.4 (q, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.2 (t, 4-CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.3 (t, 6-CH<sub>2</sub>), 122.2 (d, C-5), 125.3 (s, C-3), 128.3, 128.5, 129.6, 132.4 (3 d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 153.3 (s, C-2), 157.1 (s, C-4), 161.8 (s, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz):  $\delta = -125.8$ , -121.1 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -109.1 (t, J = 13.8 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.6 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{19}H_{17}F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 510.0780; found: 510.0770.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (509.4): C, 44.80; H, 3.17; N, 2.75; S, 6.29. Found: C, 44.93; H, 3.15; N, 2.89; S, 6.39.

#### 2,6-Dimethylpyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16e)

According to general procedure 3,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14e (300 mg, 2.13 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (1.45 mL, 8.50 mmol) and TMSOTf (1.93 mL, 10.1 mmol) in DCE (53 mL) using a reflux condenser, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (425 mg, 10.6 mmol) and NfF (0.95 mL, 5.31 mmol) in THF (20 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (30 mL) and  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 30 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes-EtOAc =  $20:1 \rightarrow 5:1$ ) to provide pyridyl nonaflate **16e** (282 mg, 33%) as a pale yellow oil.

IR (ATR): 3080 (=C-H), 2970-2855 (C-H), 1600, 1585 (C=C, C=N), 1430, 1350, 1235–1115 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 2.58$  (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.90 (s, 2 H, 3-H. 5-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 101 MHz):  $\delta$  = 24.7 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 112.5 (d, C-3, C-5), 157.0 (s, C-4), 161.2 (s, C-2, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz):  $\delta = -125.8$ , -120.8 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -108.7 (t, J = 13.7 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.6 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{11}H_9F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 406.0154; found: 406.0203.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (405.2): C, 32.60; H, 1.99; N, 3.46; S, 7.91. Found: C, 32.64; H, 1.93; N, 3.50; S, 8.21.

#### 2-Ethyl-6-methylpyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16f)

According to general procedure 3,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14f (155 mg, 1.00 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.68 mL, 4.00 mmol) and TMS-OTf (0.91 mL, 5.02 mmol) in DCE (25 mL) using a sealed tube, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (300 mg, 7.50 mmol) and NfF (0.54 mL, 3.00 mmol) in THF (15 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3  $\times$  20 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes-EtOAc = 30:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflate 16f (217 mg, 52%) as a pale yellow oil.

IR (ATR): 2975, 2940-2885 (C-H), 1600-1575 (C=C, N=C), 1430, 1350, 1235–1200, 1140–1120 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Due to their weak intensity an unambiguous assignment of the =C-H signals was not possible.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.30$  (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.58 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.84 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.89, 6.90 (2 d,  $J_{\rm AB} \approx 1.9$  Hz, 1 H each, 3-H, 5-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 13.6 (q, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.7 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 31.5 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 111.2 (d, C-3), 112.6 (d, C-5), 157.1 (s, C-6), 161.2 (s, C-2), 166.6 (s, C-4).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 376 MHz):  $\delta$  = -125.7, -120.8 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -108.7 (t, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.6 (t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{12}H_{11}F_9NO_3S$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 420.0310; found: 420.0323.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{10}F_9NO_3S$  (419.3): C, 34.38; H, 2.40; N, 3.34; S, 7.65. Found: C, 34.46; H, 2.25; N, 3.29; S, 7.64.

# 2-Methyl-6-(2-phenylethyl)pyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16g)

According to general procedure 3,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide 14g (231 mg, 1.00 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.68 mL, 4.00 mmol) and TMSOTf (0.91 mL, 5.02 mmol) in DCE (25 mL) using a sealed tube, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (300 mg, 7.50 mmol) and NfF (0.54 mL, 3.00 mmol) in THF (15 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 20 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 30:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflate 16g (374 mg, 76%) as a pale yellow oil.

IR (ATR): 3085–3030 (=C–H), 2965–2865 (C–H), 1600–1580 (C=C, C=N), 1425, 1240–1200, 1140  $\rm cm^{-1}.$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 2.61$  (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.05, 3.10 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 H each, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.78 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, 5-H), 6.91 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 7.16–7.20, 7.25–7.28 (2 m, 3 H, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 24.7 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.6, 40.1 (2 t, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 112.2 (d, C-5), 112.8 (d, C-3), 126.2, 128.3, 128.4, 140.7 (3 d, s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 156.9 (s, C-4), 161.4 (s, C-2), 164.2 (s, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):  $\delta = -125.7$ , -120.7 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -108.6 (t, J = 13.6 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.5 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{18}H_{15}F_9NO_3S [M + H]^+$ : 496.0631; found: 496.0616.

Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>14</sub>F<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S (495.4): C, 43.64; H, 2.85; N, 2.83; S, 6.47. Found: C, 43.73; H, 2.64; N, 2.72; S, 6.23.

#### 2-(Methoxymethyl)-6-methylpyridin-4-yl Nonaflate (16h) and 3-Methoxy-4,6-dimethylpyridin-2-yl Nonaflate (17h)

According to general procedure 3,  $\beta$ -ketoenamide **14h** (171 mg, 1.00 mmol) was treated with DIPEA (0.68 mL, 4.00 mmol) and TMSOTf (0.91 mL, 5.02 mmol) in DCE (25 mL) using a sealed tube, followed by nonaflation of the crude product using NaH (300 mg, 7.50 mmol) and NfF (0.54 mL, 3.00 mmol) in THF (15 mL). Workup was performed with sat. aq NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 25 mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 20:1  $\rightarrow$  10:1) to provide pyridyl nonaflates **17h** (28 mg, 6%) and **16h** (51 mg, 12%) as brownish oils.

# 16h

IR (ATR): 3085 (=C–H), 2990–2825 (C–H), 1620–1585 (C=C), 1430, 1235–1200, 1140–1120 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.60 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.49 (s, 3 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.58 (s, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 6.98 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, 3-H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1 H, 5-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz): δ = 24.5 (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 58.9 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 74.7 (t, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 110.4 (d, C-5), 113.9 (d, C-3), 157.5 (s, C-2), 161.3 (s, C-6), 161.9 (s, C-4).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):  $\delta = -125.7$ , -120.7 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -108.6 (t, J = 13.7 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.5 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{12}H_{11}F_9NO_4S [M + H]^+$ : 436.0267; found: 436.0265.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{10}F_9NO_4S$  (435.3): C, 33.11; H, 2.32; N, 3.22; S, 7.37. Found: C, 33.09; H, 2.16; N, 3.29; S, 7.24.

IR (ATR): 3010 (=C-H), 2940–2845 (C-H), 1615 (C=N, C=C), 1485, 1415, 1320, 1235–1195, 1145 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.33 (s, 3 H, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.43 (s, 3 H, 6-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.84 (s, 3 H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 7.02 (s, 1 H, 5-H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 15.7 (q, 4-CH<sub>3</sub>), 23.1 (q, 6-CH<sub>3</sub>), 61.2 (q, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 126.6 (d, C-5), 142.9 (s, C-3), 144.9 (s, C-4), 148.1 (s, C-2), 151.8 (s, C-6).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 471 MHz):  $\delta = -125.7$ , -120.8 (2 m<sub>c</sub>, 2 F each, CF<sub>2</sub>), -109.1 (t, J = 13.7 Hz, 2 F, CF<sub>2</sub>), -80.5 (t, J = 9.7 Hz, 3 F, CF<sub>3</sub>).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{12}H_{10}F_9NNaO_4S [M + Na]^+$ : 458.0085; found: 458.0075.

# Pd-Catalyzed Coupling of Pyridyl Nonaflates with Boronic Acids; General Procedure 5

DMF (~5 mL/mmol) was purged with argon for 30 min. The solvent was then transferred to a Schlenk-tube that was charged with the pyridyl nonaflate (1 equiv), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (5 mol%), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 equiv) and the boronic acid (1.1 equiv) under an atmosphere of argon. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for the indicated time. After cooling to r.t., the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with an equal volume of a mixture of H<sub>2</sub>O and brine (1:1, 3 ×). The organic layer was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography.

#### 2-Benzyl-6-methyl-4-phenylpyridine (18)

According to general procedure 5, pyridyl nonaflate **16c** (350 mg, 0.73 mmol) was treated with phenylboronic acid (97 mg, 0.80 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (40 mg, 0.04 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (100 mg, 0.73 mmol) in DMF (3.5 mL) for 4 h. Workup was performed with EtOAc (40 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O-brine (1:1,  $3 \times 40$  mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 10:1) to provide pyridine **18** (183 mg, 97%) as a yellow oil.

IR (ATR): 3055–3025 (=C–H), 2920–2845 (C–H), 1600–1550 (C=C, C=N), 1495–1450, 1400, 1075 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 2.63 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.21 (s, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.10, 7.21 (2 d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1 H each, 3-H, 5-H), 7.22–7.24, 7.31–7.32, 7.39–7.45, 7.54–7.55 (4 m, 1 H, 4 H, 3 H, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta = 24.6$  (q, CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.8 (t, CH<sub>2</sub>), 118.2 (d, C-3), 118.9 (d, C-5), 126.3, 127.0, 128.5, 128.7, 128.9, 129.1, 138.7, 139.6 (6 d, 2 s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 149.2 (s, C-4), 158.3 (s, C-6), 160.9 (s, C-2).

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{19}H_{18}N [M + H]^+$ : 260.1441; found: 260.1451.

#### 4-(4,6-Diethyl-3-phenylpyridin-2-yl)benzonitrile (19)

According to the general procedure 5, pyridyl nonaflate **17d** (272 mg, 0.53 mmol) was treated with 4-cyanophenylboronic acid (86 mg, 0.59 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (31 mg, 0.03 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (74 mg, 0.54 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) for 6 h. Workup was performed with EtOAc (40 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O–brine (1:1,  $3 \times 40$  mL). The obtained crude product was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexanes–EtOAc = 10:1) to provide pyridine **19** (156 mg, 94%) as a colorless solid; mp 90–92 °C.

IR (ATR): 3060, 3030 (=C−H), 2970, 2935, 2875 (C−H), 2230 (C≡N), 1605, 1590, 1545 (C=C, C=N), 1465, 1440, 1385 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta = 1.09$ , 1.39 (2 t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H each, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.49, 2.90 (2 q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2 H each, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.02–7.06 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.17 (s, 1 H, 5'-H), 7.26–7.29 (m, 3 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.33–7.36, 7.41–7.44 (2 m, 2 H each, 2-H, 3-H).

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  = 14.0 (q, 6'-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.5 (q, 4'-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.2 (t, 4'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 31.2 (t, 6'-CH<sub>2</sub>), 110.6 (s, C-1), 119.0 (s, CN), 121.1 (d, C-5'), 127.3, 128.3 (2 d, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 130.3, 130.5, 131.3 (3 d, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C-2, C-3), 133.2 (s, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 137.5 (s, C-3'), 145.8 (s, C-4), 152.6 (s, C-4'), 154.8 (s, C-2'), 162.5 (s, C-6').

HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z calcd for  $C_{22}H_{20}N_2Na [M + Na]^+$ : 335.1519; found: 335.1525.

Anal. Calcd for  $C_{22}H_{20}N_2$  (312.4): C, 84.58; H, 6.45; N, 8.97. Found: C, 84.67; H, 6.47; N, 8.90.

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**Supporting Information** for this article is available online at http://www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals/toc/synthesis. Included are experimental procedures for the synthesis of compounds **14a–d** and **14f–h** as well as copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for all new compounds.

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