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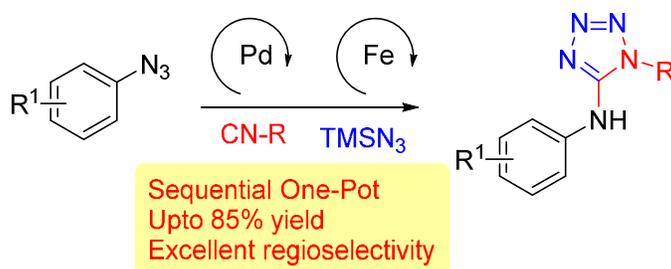
Sequential Pd(0)/Fe(III) catalyzed azide-Isocyanide Coupling/Cyclization Reaction: One-pot synthesis of Aminotetrazoles

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Abstract

A rapid and efficient synthesis of aminotetrazole from aryl azides, isocyanides and TMSN₃ is developed. The reaction is promoted by sequential Pd(0)/Fe(III) catalysis. The reaction sequence utilizes the Pd-catalyzed azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling reaction to generate unsymmetric carbodiimide in situ, which reacts with TMSN₃ in the presence of FeCl₃ in a single pot. The methodology has distinct advantages over traditional synthetic approaches where toxic Hg and Pb salts are employed at stoichiometric scale.

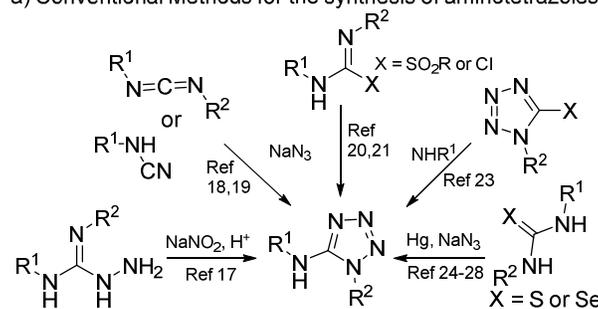
Aminotetrazoles are an interesting class of five-membered nitrogen-rich aromatic heterocycles¹ with a wide range of applications such as non-classical bioisosters for the carboxylic acid,² cis-amide surrogate,³ antifoggants in photographic materials,⁴ plasma-polymer films in biomedical applications,⁵ propellants⁶ and explosives⁷ in materials science, and ligand in coordination chemistry.⁸ Interestingly, aminotetrazoles exhibits anti-HIV⁹ and antiallergic activity,¹⁰ and inhibits crucial protein drug targets such as glutamate receptor,¹¹ P₂X₇ receptors,¹² peptidyl endothelin converting enzyme (ECE),¹³ fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH),¹⁴ mitochondrial thymidine kinase (TK 2)¹⁵ and hyaluronidase.¹⁶

Traditionally, aminotetrazoles were synthesized by diazotization of aminoguanidines,¹⁷ azidation of cyanamides,¹⁸ carbodiimides,¹⁹ aminoimino-methanesulfonic acids²⁰ (X = SO₃R) and α-chloroformamidines²¹ (X = Cl), and the reaction of amines with cyanogen azides²² or 5-chloro- and 5-sulfonyl-tetrazoles²³ (Scheme 1a). During the last couple of decades, a two-step synthesis

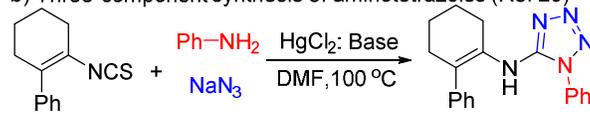
of aminotetrazole is reported based on the in-situ generation of carbodiimide by either desulfurization of thiourea using mercury,²⁴ lead,^{17a} Copper,²⁵ iodine²⁶ or IBX²⁷ or deselenylation of selenylurea by hypervalent iodine reagent²⁸ followed by azidation (Scheme 1a). Recently, Ponnuswamy and coworkers developed a three-component assembly of aminotetrazoles from isothiocyanides, amines and sodium azides in the presence of toxic mercury salts (Scheme 1b).²⁹ Despite their utility, these methodologies possess serious drawbacks such as use of expensive and toxic reagents (mercury, lead and iodine etc.), harsher reaction conditions, longer reaction time and sensitivity towards moisture. In addition, these synthetic strategies are either multistep linear processes or employ complex precursors³⁰ generated in a multistep fashion. Therefore, the development of rapid, efficient and sustainable synthetic methodologies from easily available starting materials in one-pot promoted by catalysts instead of toxic reagents at stoichiometric scale remains highly desirable.

Combining two transition metals for catalyzing new and valuable reactions has recently emerged as a powerful strategy in the field of organic synthesis. The presence of second transition metal expands the scope of synthetic transformation that wouldn't have been achieved with either of the catalysts alone. Had the combination of two metals been allowed in one-pot, additional purification of intermediates could have been avoided leading to minimization of waste. However, development of such processes is not a straightforward affair owing to redox incompatibility issues among various transition metals. In such cases, however sequential catalysis, an addition of catalysts in a stepwise manner, is employed as a strategy to exploit the synthetic potential of both metals.

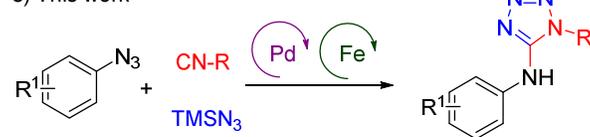
a) Conventional Methods for the synthesis of aminotetrazoles



b) Three-component synthesis of aminotetrazoles (Ref 29)



c) This work

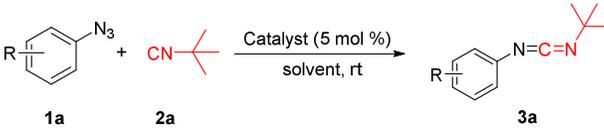


Scheme 1: Various strategies for the synthesis of aminotetrazoles

Based on our previous report on Pd-catalyzed nitrene transfer on isocyanide³¹ and one pot catalyses,³² we report herein development of three-component reaction catalyzed by sequential Pd(0)/Fe(III) catalytic system to generate aminotetrazole (Scheme 1c). Our methodology is based on Pd(0)-catalyzed azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling reaction to generate carbodiimide³³ *in-situ* and subsequent Fe(III)-catalyzed cyclization with TMS-N₃. The use of FeCl₃ allowed rapid and sustainable generation of aminotetrazoles in one-pot with excellent regioselectivity.

To achieve our goal, we embarked the investigation by optimizing the azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling reaction for the synthesis of carbodiimide **3** (Table 1). A mixture of arylazide **1a** and isocyanide **2a** were reacted with a catalytic amount of Pd(PPh₃)₄ as a catalyst in toluene at rt to furnish carbodiimide **3a** in 90 % yield (entry 6). The reaction was completed in 0.5 h. Screening with other Pd-sources and solvents for azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling reaction turned out to be inferior with the optimized reaction. Among various Pd-sources tried, Pd(PPh₃)₄ produced the best yields and the reaction failed to initiate in the absence of a catalyst.

Table 1. Optimization of reaction conditions for azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling reaction^a



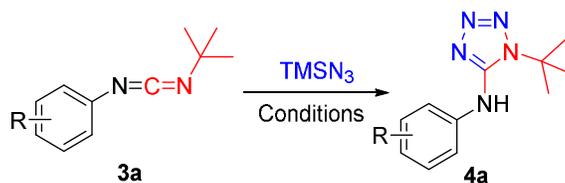
| Sr. No. | Catalyst (5 mol %) | Solvent | Yield ^b (%) |
|----------|--|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Pd(OAc) ₂ | THF | 25 |
| 2 | Pd(OAc) ₂ | toluene | 57 |
| 3 | Pd ₂ (dba) ₃ | toluene | 70 |
| 4 | - | toluene | 0 |
| 5 | Pd(PPh ₃) ₂ Cl ₂ | toluene | 75 |
| 6 | Pd(PPh₃)₄ | toluene | 90 |
| 7 | Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ | 1,4-dioxane | 45 |
| 8 | Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ | 1,2-DCE | 30 |

^a Reaction conditions: all reactions (0.3 mmol scale) were performed using 1:1.2 ratio of **1a**:**2a**, 5 mol % Pd(PPh₃)₄, 0.5 mL of toluene, 0.5 h. ^b Isolated yield; ^c Starting material was recovered.

Then, we shifted our attention to the reaction of carbodiimide **3a** and TMSN₃ (Table 2). Pd-sources failed to drive this reaction. Pleasingly, screening of other metal sources such as Cu and Fe and solvents has improved the overall conversion. Of these, FeCl₃ furnished excellent yields of title compound **4a** in toluene at 100 °C. With the successes of finding a common solvent, we next directed our efforts to design a relay protocol, where both Palladium and iron catalysts

present at outset. Regrettably, we failed to develop the relay protocol and the reaction didn't initiate due to redox incompatibilities of these metals. Thus, a sequential protocol is developed, where **1a** and **2a**

Table 2: Optimization of reaction conditions for cyclization^a



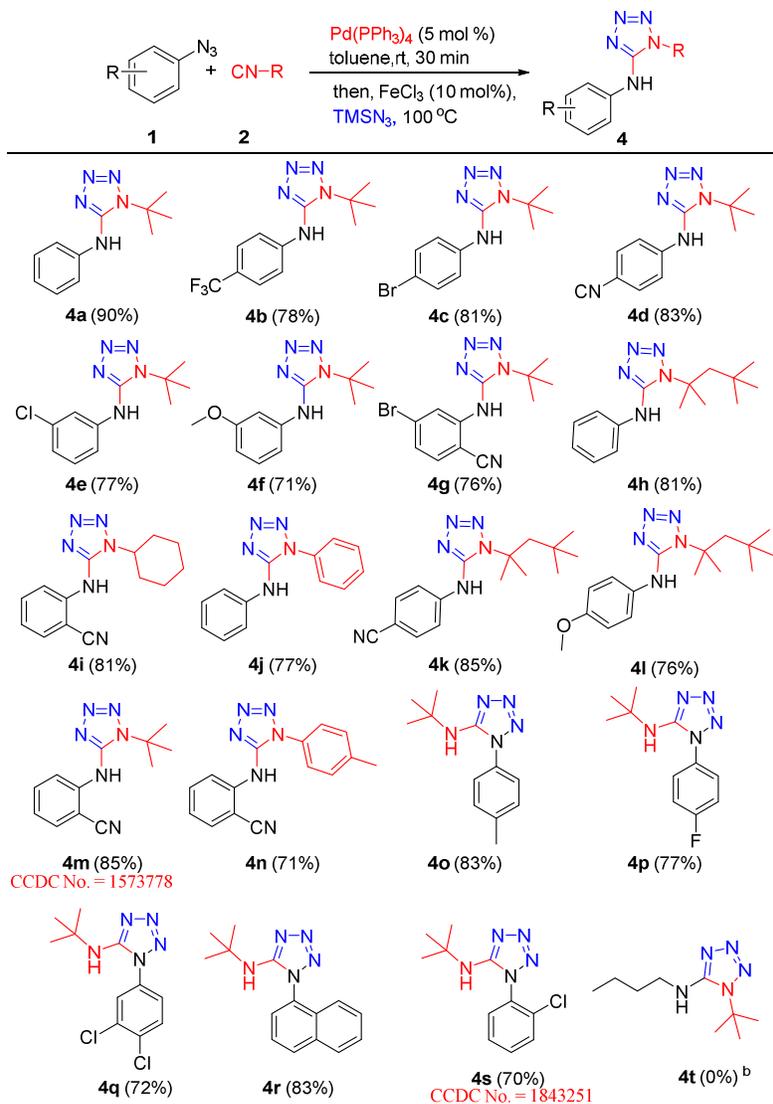
| Sr. No | Catalyst (10 mol %) | Solvent | Time (h) | Temp. (° C) | Yield ^b (%) |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Pd(PPh ₃) ₄ | Toluene | 8 | 100 | 15 |
| 2 | ZnCl ₂ | Toluene | 12 | 100 | 15 ^c |
| 3 | CuI | DMF | 5 | 100 | 43 |
| 4 | FeCl ₃ | 1,4-dioxane | 5 | 100 | 15 |
| 5 | FeCl ₃ | Ethanol | 3 | 85 | 70 |
| 6 | FeCl₃ | Toluene | 2 | 100 | 90 |
| 7 | FeCl ₃ | Toluene | 8 | rt | 37 |
| 8 | FeCl ₃ | Toluene | 4 | 110 | 50 |
| 9 | FeCl ₃ | Toluene | 5 | 130 | 57 |
| 10 | - | Toluene | 8 | 100 | Trace ^c |

^a) Reaction conditions: all reactions (0.3 mmol scale) were performed using **3a**, 1.5 equiv TMSN₃, 10 mol% FeCl₃, 100 °C, 1-2 h. followed by aqueous workup. ^b Isolated yields after chromatography; ^c Starting material was recovered.

were first reacted in presence of Pd(PPh₃)₄ with toluene as solvent at rt for 0.5 h, then TMS-N₃ and FeCl₃ were added and the reaction was refluxed to 100 °C to furnish the 5-amino tetrazole **4a** in 90% isolated yield. With optimal reaction conditions for the transformation of arylazides **1** to tetrazoles **4** in hand, we explored the generality of this reaction. As shown in scheme 2, a broad range of differently substituted aryl azides, bearing both electron donating and electron withdrawing substituents reacted efficiently with a range of isocyanides **2** and TMSN₃ to access the corresponding 5-amino-1*H*-tetrazoles **4** (Scheme 2). Substituents at all three positions (*ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-) of aryl azides were well tolerated with no detrimental steric effect observed for the *ortho*-substitutions. Various alkyl-, cycloalkyl-, and aryl-substituted isocyanides reacted well under the optimized reaction conditions to generate 5-amino-1*H*-tetrazoles in good to excellent yields as shown in scheme 2. However, aryl isocyanides bearing electron-donating substituents and aliphatic azides failed to react under standard condition. Pleasingly, the bimetallic sequential reaction exhibited excellent and unique regioselectivity, which is

unambiguously confirmed by single crystal X-ray crystallographic studies. Interestingly, the regiochemical outcome was reversed for **4o-4s**.³⁴

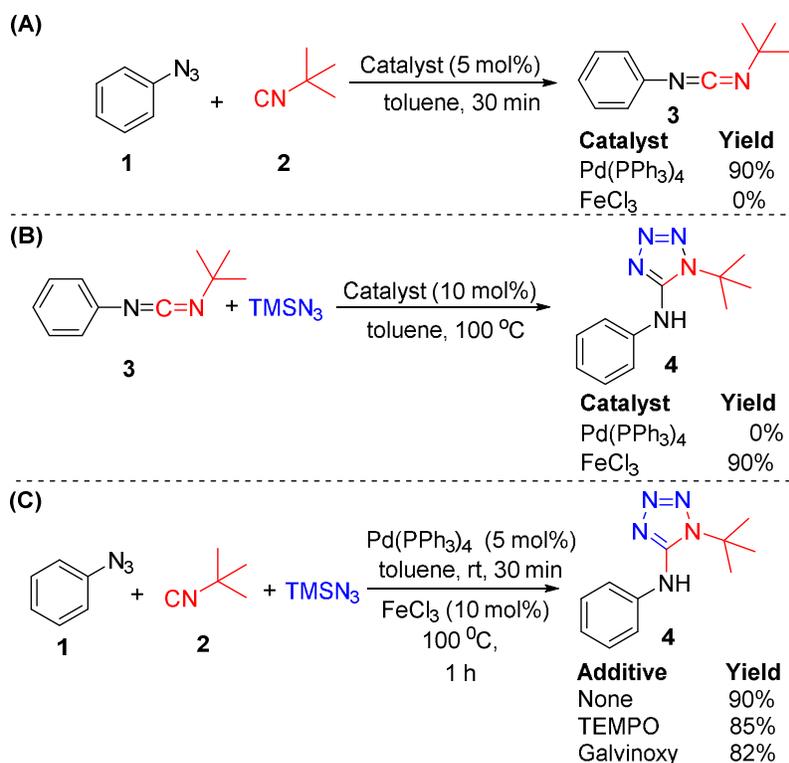
Scheme 2: Substrate scope for the synthesis of **4**^a.



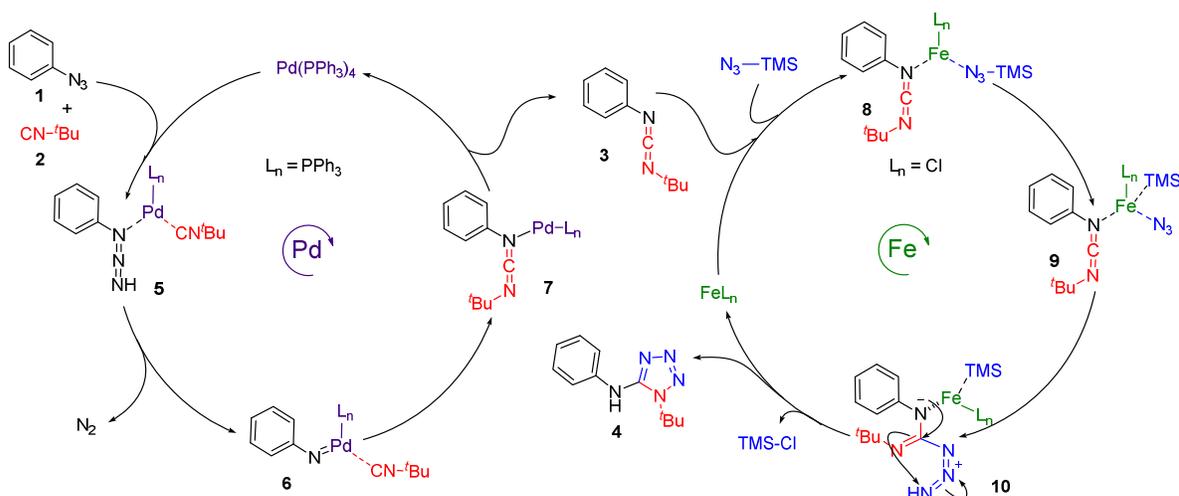
^aReaction conditions: All reactions (0.3 mmol scale) were performed using 1:1.2 ratio of **1a**:**2a**, 5 mol% $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$, 0.5 mL of toluene, 0.5 h, rt; after completion of reaction, addition of 1.5 equiv TMSN_3 , 10 mol% FeCl_3 , 100 °C, 1-2 h followed by aqueous workup, isolated yields after chromatography. ^bStarting material recovered.

In order to gain insight into the reaction mechanism, control experiments were carried out as depicted in scheme 3. Azide-isocyanide denitrogenative coupling was a Pd-dependent process (Scheme 3A), whereas azide-carbodiimide cyclization was promoted by FeCl_3 (Scheme 3B). Radical scavengers did not alter the reaction pathway suggesting the involvement of a non-radical pathway (Scheme 3C).

Scheme 3: Control Experiments



On the basis of experimental findings and literature precedence,^{25,31,33} the plausible mechanism was proposed as shown in scheme 4. The reaction begins with the coordination of Pd(PPh₃)₄ with azidobenzene **1a** and isocyanide **2** to generate **5**, which on extrusion of dinitrogen gives nitrene **6**. This is followed by intramolecular transfer of nitrene in a concerted manner³¹ to furnish carbodiimide **3**. Upon entering the Fe-cycle, carbodiimide **3** first coordinates with iron metal along with azide to produce complex **8**. Azide nucleophile then attacks carbodiimide **3** to generate guanidyl intermediate **10**, which undergoes electrocyclic to furnish **4**.



Scheme 4: Plausible reaction mechanism

In conclusion, we have developed a rapid, efficient and atom-economical strategy for the synthesis of tetrazole derivatives by employing Pd and Fe as a dual catalyst system. Robust nature of each catalytic cycle of transition metals allowed development of the sequential one-pot protocol, which is evident by the failure of reaction in the absence of either of the catalyst. The reaction involves the formation of three new chemical bonds. The salient features of the methodology are shorter reaction times, broad substrate scope, milder reaction condition and use of cheaper iron salts. The method underscores applicability of Pd(0)/Fe(III) promoted sequential catalysis as an alternative for the synthesis of aminotetrazole from toxic Hg and Pb salts. The detailed study of the regiochemical outcome of bimetallic sequential catalysis is under progress.

Experimental Section

General Information: All the reactions were carried out under Ar atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. DMF was purchased from Spectrochem. Isocyanides were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All other reagents were purchased from Aldrich or Spectrochem used as such without purification. Analytical TLC was performed using 2.5 x 5cm plated coated with a 0.25mm thickness of silica gel (60F-254 Merck) and visualization was accomplished with UV light or I₂/KMnO₄ staining. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained from Bruker's Ascend 500MHz spectrophotometer operating at 500.3 MHz for ¹H and 125.8 MHz for ¹³C experiments. The chemical shifts are reported in ppm scale with respect to CDCl₃ (7.269ppm) for ¹H and (77.00ppm) for ¹³C NMR as an internal standard. The abbreviations are used: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = double doublet, m = multiplet, br.s = broad singlet & br = broad signal. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were taken in the ESI positive ion mode.

General Procedure for the synthesis of 1:

The compound **1** was synthesized using the procedure reported in the literature.³⁵ the intermediates **1** were obtained and confirmed by recording their ¹H NMR, which matched peak by peak with the reported ¹H NMR data.

CAUTION: *It is known that azides are potential explosives and must be therefore handled with care and stored at low temperature. It is also recommended to prepare azides at a maximum of 10 mmol scales to avoid risks.*

General procedure for the synthesis of 4:

A 10 mL schlenk tube equipped with a stir-bar was charged with azido benzene (0.05 g, 0.42 mmol), *tert*-butyl isocyanide (0.041 g, 0.50 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) as a solvent. The reaction tube was purged with argon. Then after 5-10 min. Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.004 g, 0.021 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture followed by argon purging. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. under an inert atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, TMSN₃ (0.05 g, 0.84 mmol) and iron chloride (0.007 g, 0.042 mmol) was added and stirred it at 100 °C for 1 h. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was passed through celite bed and washed with EtOAc. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, which was washed with water and brine

1
2
3 successively, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo.
4 Purification by silica gel (100-200 mesh) chromatography (EtOAc: Hexane) to yield the desired
5 product 4.
6

7 **Experimental procedure for the radical trap experiment:**

8
9 A 10 mL schlenk tube equipped with a stir-bar was charged with azido benzene (0.05 g, 0.42
10 mmol), *tert*-butyl isocyanide (0.041 g, 0.50 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) as a solvent. The reaction
11 tube was purged with argon. Then after 5-10 min. Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.004 g, 0.021 mmol) was added to
12 the reaction mixture followed by argon purging. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for
13 30 min. under an inert atmosphere. After completion of the reaction, trimethylsilylazide (0.05 g,
14 0.84 mmol), iron chloride (0.007 g, 0.042 mmol) and additives were added and stirred it at 100
15 °C for 1 h. After completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was passed through celite bed
16 and washed with EtOAc. The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc, which was washed with
17 water and brine successively, dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered, and concentrated in
18 vacuo. Purification by silica gel (100-200 mesh) chromatography (EtOAc: Hexane) to get the
19 desired product with 82% yield.
20
21
22
23

24 **Experimental procedure for the one pot relay process:**

25
26 A 10 mL schlenk tube equipped with a stir-bar was charged with azido benzene (0.05 g, 0.42
27 mmol), *tert*-butyl isocyanide (0.041 g, 0.50 mmol), TMSN₃ in toluene (0.5 mL) as a solvent. The
28 reaction tube was purged with argon. Then after 5-10 min. Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.004 g, 0.021 mmol) and
29 iron chloride (0.007 g, 0.042 mmol) were added and stirred it at 100 °C for 1-12 h. Monitored
30 this reaction by TLC. TLC shows only 15-20% **3**, with remaining starting material as such.
31
32

33 **4a: 1-(*tert*-butyl)-*N*-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

34
35 White solid, Yield: 0.08 g (88%); m.p.: 148-150 °C; *R_f* = 0.3 (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz,
36 CDCl₃): 7.45 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.36 (t, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.09 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J*
37 = 7.35 Hz), 6.13 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.78 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 151.9, 139.2, 129.4,
38 123.2, 118.3, 59.5, 29.1. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3313, 2962, 2925, 2854, 1733, 1601, 1564, 1499, 1455, 1372, 1261, 1098,
39 1024, 803, 746, 687, 498. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₆N₅ [M+H]⁺ 218.1400, found 218.1388.
40
41

42 **4b: 1-(*tert*-butyl)-*N*-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

43
44 White solid, Yield: 0.059 g (78%); m.p.: 152-155 °C; *R_f* = 0.2 (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz,
45 CDCl₃): 7.61 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.55 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.65 Hz), 6.31 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.80
46 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 151.2, 149.5, 142.3, 126.7 (*J_{CF}* = 15.0 Hz), 125.0 (*J_{CF}* =
47 15.0 Hz), 123.0, 117.5, 116.2, 60.0, 29.2. ¹⁹F NMR: -61.93. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3446, 3279, 2925, 2854, 1229, 1558, 1458,
48 1373, 1327, 1229, 1164, 1121, 1067, 830, 801, 585. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅F₃N₅ [M+H]⁺ 286.1274, found
49 286.1270.
50

51 **4c: *N*-(4-bromophenyl)-1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

52
53 White solid, Yield: 0.06 g (81%); m.p.: 137-138 °C; *R_f* = 0.3 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz,
54 CDCl₃): 7.44 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 7.36 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.18 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.77
55 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 151.6, 138.3, 132.3, 119.9, 115.7, 59.7, 29.2. IR ν (cm⁻¹):
56
57

3278, 3186, 3101, 2926, 2855, 1884, 1599, 1555, 1489, 1359, 1225, 1145, 1113, 1072, 819, 795, 574, 495. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₅BrN₅ [M+H]⁺ 296.0506, found 296.0498.

4d: 4-((1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.070 g (83%); m.p.: 143-145 °C; R_f = 0.3 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.62 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.54 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 6.58 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.79 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 150.8, 143.4, 133.7, 118.9, 117.7, 105.7, 60.3, 29.3. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3316, 3105, 2994, 2940, 2223, 1597, 1549, 1513, 1459, 1426, 1377, 1313, 1224, 1179, 1146, 1109, 1030, 835, 802, 728, 580, 544. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₅N₆ [M+H]⁺ 243.1353, found 243.1355.

4e: 1-(*tert*-butyl)-*N*-(3-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.063 g (77%); m.p.: 137-139 °C; R_f = 0.2 (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.43 (s, 1H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.25 (m, 1H, aromatic *C-H*), 6.98 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 5.1 Hz), 6.65 (s, 1H, aromatic *C-H*), 6.10 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.71 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 151.4, 140.4, 135.1, 130.4, 123.2, 118.2, 116.2, 59.8, 29.2. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3380, 3287, 2963, 2922, 2852, 1724, 1592, 1553, 1474, 1374, 1259, 1228, 1098, 1026, 906, 871, 804, 770, 680, 521. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₅ClN₅ [M+H]⁺ 252.1011, found 252.1001.

4f: 1-(*tert*-butyl)-*N*-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.059 g (71%); m.p.: 137-138 °C; R_f = 0.3 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.22 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.14 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 6.91 (dd, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 1.5, 8.0 Hz), 6.61 (dd, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 1.9, 8.2 Hz), 6.19 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 3.82 (s, 3H, Sp³ *C-H*), 1.77 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 160.6, 151.8, 140.6, 130.1, 110.5, 108.9, 104.1, 59.6, 55.4, 29.1. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3356, 3071, 2979, 2923, 2851, 1733, 1609, 1562, 1506, 1458, 1349, 1215, 1171, 1036, 951, 842, 770, 684, 511, 461.

4g: 4-bromo-2-((1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile

Yellow oil, Yield: 0.057 g (70%); R_f = 0.2 (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.39-8.37 (m, 1H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.74 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.70 (s, 1H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.11 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.83 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 150.2, 141.2, 137.9, 134.1, 119.9, 115.7, 114.5, 101.6, 60.3, 29.2. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3433, 3304, 3060, 2977, 2927, 1934, 1722, 1666, 1608, 1460, 1399, 1375, 1320, 1234, 1148, 1099, 1068, 1024, 893, 816, 752, 609, 544, 428. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₄BrN₆ [M+H]⁺ 321.0458, found 321.0455.

4h: *N*-phenyl-1-(2,4,4-trimethylpentan-2-yl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.093 g (81%); m.p.: 137-138 °C; R_f = 0.4 (4:6 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.49 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.39 (t, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.12 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 6.13 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 2.00 (s, 2H, Sp³ *C-H*), 1.89 (s, 6H, Sp³ *C-H*), 0.87 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 152.3, 139.1, 129.4, 123.3, 118.5, 62.9, 52.4, 31.8, 30.7, 29.8. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3312, 2924, 2854, 1736, 1601, 1564, 1499, 1455, 1373, 1312, 1227, 1106, 1028, 802, 746, 687, 497. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₂₄N₅ [M+H]⁺ 274.2026, found 274.2025.

4i: 2-((1-(*cyclohexyl*-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.075 g (81%); m.p.: 141-143 °C; $R_f = 0.3$ (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.32 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.55$ Hz), 7.65 (td, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 1.2, 8.6$ Hz), 7.61 (dd, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 1.05, 7.8$ Hz), 7.15 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 6.84 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 4.18-4.12 (m, 1H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 2.17-2.14 (m, 2H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 2.06-1.99 (m, 4H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 1.53-1.46 (m, 2H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 1.42-1.34 (m, 2H, Sp^3 *C-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 150.1, 141.7, 134.9, 132.3, 122.8, 118.2, 116.7, 100.1, 57.4, 32.1, 25.1, 24.8. IR ν (cm^{-1}): 3451, 3164, 2924, 2856, 2225, 1609, 1560, 1488, 1248, 1078, 852, 761. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 269.1509, found 269.1502.

4j: *N*,1-diphenyl-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine³⁶

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.077 g (77%); m.p.: 165-167 °C; $R_f = 0.4$ (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.63-7.59 (m, 3H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.54 (t, 4H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 7.34 (t, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.4$ Hz), 7.08 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.1$ Hz), 6.59 (br s, 1H, *N-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 151.7, 138.0, 132.7, 130.6, 130.5, 129.4, 124.8, 123.5, 118.3. IR ν (cm^{-1}): 3434, 3192, 2924, 1609, 1569, 1529, 1495, 1453, 1405, 1324, 1243, 1121, 1087, 1020, 825, 749, 690. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 238.1087, found 238.1080.

4k: 4-((1-(2,4,4-trimethylpentan-2-yl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.088 g (85%); m.p.: 174-176 °C; $R_f = 0.2$ (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.63 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.58 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 6.55 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.99 (s, 2H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 1.88 (s, 6H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 0.82 (s, 9H, Sp^3 *C-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 151.2, 143.1, 133.7, 118.9, 117.9, 105.9, 63.7, 52.6, 31.8, 30.7, 29.9. IR ν (cm^{-1}): 3341, 3183, 3110, 3055, 2951, 2907, 2224, 1599, 1550, 1515, 1474, 1365, 1228, 1179, 1093, 1027, 839, 732, 547. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 299.1979, found 299.1982.

4l: *N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2,4,4-trimethylpentan-2-yl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.077 g (76%); m.p.: 137-138 °C; $R_f = 0.3$ (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.37 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 6.90 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.9$ Hz), 6.0 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 3.80 (s, 3H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 1.96 (s, 2H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 1.84 (s, 6H, Sp^3 *C-H*), 0.84 (s, 9H, Sp^3 *C-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 156.2, 153.1, 132.2, 121.3, 114.6, 62.6, 55.6, 52.0, 30.7, 29.8. IR ν (cm^{-1}): 3297, 2954, 2925, 2856, 1732, 1603, 1570, 1512, 1467, 1363, 1259, 1228, 1179, 1095, 1037, 823, 807, 595, 513. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 304.2132, found 304.2115.

4m: 2-((1-(*tert*-butyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.071 g (85%); m.p.: 137-139 °C; $R_f = 0.3$ (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.44 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.6$ Hz), 7.65 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.60 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 7.13 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.09 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.84 (s, 9H, Sp^3 *C-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 150.5, 142.1, 134.9, 132.0, 122.6, 118.2, 116.9, 100.0, 60.1, 29.1. IR ν (cm^{-1}): 3440, 3278, 2925, 2856, 1713, 1657, 1603, 1463, 1371, 1229, 1147, 760. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_6$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 243.1353, found 243.1350.

4n: 2-((1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)amino)benzotrile:

Off-White solid, Yield: 0.068 g (71%); m.p.: 178-180 °C; $R_f = 0.3$ (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ^1H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 8.57 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.5$ Hz), 7.67 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 7.57 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.7$ Hz), 7.47 (s, 4H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.16 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 7.14 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 2.48 (s, 3H, Sp^3 *C-H*). ^{13}C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 150.5, 141.6, 140.9, 134.8, 132.3, 131.4, 129.5, 124.2, 123.1,

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3 118.5, 116.2, 100.5, 21.4. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3384, 3078, 2923, 2220, 1609, 1594, 1571, 1526, 1458, 1314, 1291, 1091,
4 824, 759, 720, 543, 484, 424. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃N₆ [M+H]⁺ 277.1196, found 277.1190.

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7 **4o: *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

8 White solid, Yield: 0.071 g (83%); m.p.: 133-135 °C; R_f = 0.4 (4:6 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500 MHz,
9 CDCl₃): 7.38 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 4.16 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 2.45
10 (s, 3H, Sp³ *C-H*), 1.47 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 153.3, 140.3, 130.9, 130.7, 124.3,
11 53.1, 28.9, 21.3. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3418, 3337, 2970, 2925, 2871, 1563, 1517, 1457, 1393, 1218, 1082, 813, 508. HRMS
12 (ESI): calcd for C₁₂H₁₈N₅ [M+H]⁺ 232.1557, found 232.1548.

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15 **4p: *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

16 Off-White solid, Yield: 0.066 g (77%); m.p.: 150-152 °C; R_f = 0.2 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500
17 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.48-7.45 (m, 2H, aromatic *C-H*), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H, aromatic *C-H*), 4.15 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.48 (s,
18 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 163.0 (*J*_{CF} = 249.9 Hz), 153.3, 129.3, 126.7 (*J*_{CF} = 8.9 Hz),
19 117.5 (*J*_{CF} = 23.1 Hz), 53.3, 28.9. ¹⁹F NMR: -109.5. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3434, 3317, 3088, 2971, 2926, 2873, 1575, 1515,
20 1283, 1221, 1130, 1081, 841, 808, 613, 517. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₅FN₅ [M+H]⁺ 236.1306, found 236.1299.

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23 **4q: *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-1-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

24 Off-White solid, Yield: 0.054 g (72%); m.p.: 163-165 °C; R_f = 0.3 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500
25 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.67 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 13.5 Hz), 7.64 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 2.3 Hz), 7.36 (dd, 1H,
26 aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 2.3, 8.5 Hz), 4.20 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.49 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃):
27 153.0, 134.7, 134.5, 132.5, 132.0, 126.4, 123.2, 53.6, 28.9. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3400, 3107, 2991, 2929, 1595, 1555, 1473,
28 1414, 1342, 1221, 1131, 1098, 1025, 867, 818, 671, 584, 437. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₁H₁₄Cl₂N₅ [M+H]⁺
29 286.0621, found 286.0614.

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32 **4r: *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

33 Off-White solid, Yield: 0.065 g (83%); m.p.: 137-138 °C; R_f = 0.3 (2:8 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500
34 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.08 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 7.99 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.64-7.60 (m, 2H,
35 aromatic *C-H*), 7.57 (t, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.4 Hz), 7.52 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.37 (d, 1H,
36 aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 3.90 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.42 (s, 9H, Sp³ *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃):
37 154.5, 134.6, 131.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.2, 127.5, 125.5, 125.4, 122.0, 53.1, 28.9. IR ν (cm⁻¹): 3342, 3053, 2979,
38 2927, 2869, 1579, 1508, 1411, 1215, 1080, 990, 793, 770, 733, 659, 578, 530, 434. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₁₅H₁₈N₅
39 [M+H]⁺ 268.1557, found 268.1545.

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42 **4s: *N*-(*tert*-butyl)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-1*H*-tetrazol-5-amine**

43 Off-White solid, Yield: 0.057 g (70%); m.p.: 125-128 °C; R_f = 0.3 (3:7 EtOAc/hexane). ¹H NMR, (δ ppm): (500
44 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.63 (d, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 7.56 (td, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 1.4, 7.5 Hz), 7.50 (td, 1H,
45 aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 0.8, 7.9 Hz), 7.46 (dd, 1H, aromatic *C-H*, *J* = 1.4, 7.7 Hz), 3.91 (br s, 1H, *N-H*), 1.46 (s, 9H, Sp³
46 *C-H*). ¹³C NMR (δ ppm): (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 153.8, 132.3, 131.6, 131.2, 130.5, 129.7, 128.6, 53.3, 28.9. IR ν (cm⁻¹):
47 3285, 2973, 2922, 1733, 1574, 1519, 1485, 1393, 1216, 1095, 1037, 756, 718, 656, 584, 502, 456. HRMS (ESI):
48 calcd for C₁₁H₁₅ClN₅ [M+H]⁺ 252.1011, found 252.1009.

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51 **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

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54 **Supporting Information**

The Supporting information is available free of charge on the ACS Publication website at DOI:

10.1021/acs.joc.XXXXXXX.

Details on mechanistic experiments, optimization studies, and the copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for all new compounds **4a-4s** (PDF)

X-ray structure and crystallographic data for compound **4m** with CCDC 1573778 and **4s** with CCDC 1843251 (CIF).

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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