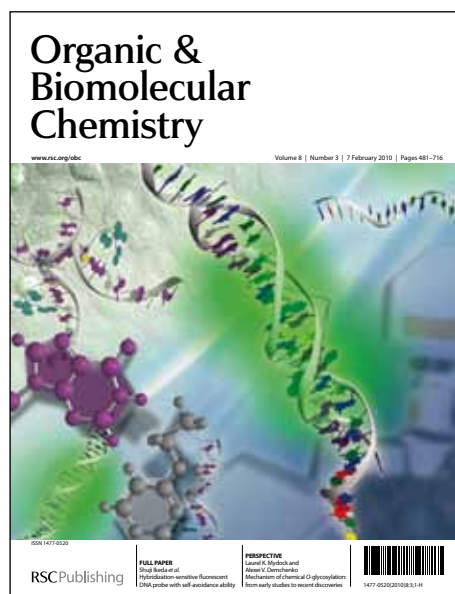


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# Pd-Catalyzed C-3 Functionalization of Indolizines via C-H Bond Cleavage

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New transition metal-catalyzed methods for the arylation of indolizines by the direct cleavage of C-H bond have been developed. A wide range of aryltrifluoroborate salts react with indolizines in the

presence of  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  catalyst and  $\text{AgOAc}$  oxidant to give the arylated indolizines in high yields. Both electron-donating and electron-withdrawing groups perform smoothly while the bromide and chlorine substituents are tolerate. In addition, the indolizines display similar reactivities in the Pd-catalyzed reaction with 3-phenylpropionic acid to afford the corresponding C-3 alkynylated indolizines. These methods allow the direct functionalization of indolizines in one step.

## Introduction

The functionalization of heteroaromatics, particularly arylation, alkynylation, via the catalytic processes is of the great importance in the organic chemistry, and transition metal-catalyzed transformations such as Suzuki coupling reaction<sup>1</sup> and Sonogashira coupling reaction<sup>2</sup> have emerged as the powerful tools for accessing the arylation and alkynylation of heteroaromatics. Although these coupling reactions provide the viable scaffolds for the functionalization of heteroaromatics, the preactivation of heteroaromatic carbon fragments with metal-containing functionalities and halides may involve several synthetic steps. Recently, the selective functionalization of C-H bond has attracted a substantial interest because such C-H activations often significantly shorten the synthesis steps and decrease the byproduct waste.<sup>3</sup> The C-H functionalizations of heteroaromatics display even more advantages since some important types of heteroaromatic organometallic compounds have proven challenging to synthesize and may even be inadequately stable to participate in the cross-coupling process.<sup>4</sup>

Indolizines are important heterocycles and can be found in motifs of a wide variety of natural products with useful biological<sup>5</sup> and pharmaceutical properties.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, the functionalization of indolizines have attracted considerable interest in the past decades, and metal-catalyzed direct functionalization of indolizines was explored recently.<sup>7</sup> For instance, Gevorgyan and coworkers reported the palladium-catalyzed direct arylation of indolizines with aryl bromides.<sup>8</sup> In their reaction, the C-H bond of indolizines directly coupled with aryl bromides to selectively give the C-3 arylated indolizines in good yields. More recently, the copper-mediated direct halogenation of indolizines is developed by You,<sup>9</sup> in which the 3-haloindolizines were selectively produced under mild reaction

conditions and were conveniently further transformed to 3-arylated indolizines by Suzuki reaction. Subsequently, You reported a palladium/copper bimetallic catalytic system with the assistance of CuCl and BQ to achieve the arylation of indolizine with aryl boronic acids in the yield of 63% in one step.<sup>10</sup> In this work, we investigate the C-3 arylation of indolizines with aryltrifluoroborate salts in the presence of a Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>-AgOAc-KOAc catalytic system to form 3-arylated indolizines derivatives. Furthermore, we extend the indolizines' C-3 functionalization to alkynylation in DMSO/1,4-dioxane to form 3-alkynylindolizine derivatives under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

## Results and Discussion

### C-3 Arylation of Indolizines with Aryltrifluoroborate Salts

Organotrifluoroborates are considered as alternatives to organoboron coupling partners which can be simply prepared in large quantities and, unlike most organoboronic compounds, are completely air-, moisture-stable and stoichiometric determination highly reliable. To explore a high efficacy catalytic system for C-3 arylation, indolizine-1-carbonitrile and phenyltrifluoroborate salt were chosen as the benchmark substrates in the model reaction (Table 1). We obtained the deserved product in the yield of 67 % (Table 1, entry 1) in the presence of 5 mol% Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in DMF at 90 °C for 12 h in air. The formation of the 3-phenylindolizine-1-carbonitrile was increased to 89 % under pure nitrogen (Table 1, entry 2). Other palladium salts showed less activity, and several metals such as RhCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, RuCl<sub>3</sub> and Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was found to be incompatible with the reaction (Table 1, entries 3-10). Many silver(I) reagents such as Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Ag<sub>2</sub>O, AgTFA and AgOTf were found to be effective and AgOAc performs the best (Table 1, entries 11-14). The screening of commonly used bases indicated that KOAc and NaOAc were suitable bases for this arylation (Table 1, entries 15-20). The reaction in other solvents tested, including 1,4-dioxane, DMSO, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, and toluene was sluggish. No side products such as 3,3'-biindolizine-1,1'-dicarbonitrile was observed in arylation of indolizine with phenyltrifluoroborate salts.

**Table1** The effect of metals, oxidants and bases on the reaction<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Base	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	67 <sup>c</sup>
2	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	89
3	RhCl(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	trace
4	RuCl <sub>3</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	trace
5	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	trace
6	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	75
7	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	69
8	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	60
9	Pd(dba) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	66
10	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	AgOAc	KOAc	69
11	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	KOAc	86
12	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	KOAc	80
13	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgTFA	KOAc	74
14	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOTf	KOAc	81
15	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	33
16	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	30
17	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	19
18	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KOH	14
19	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	KF	trace
20	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	NaOAc	85

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: indolizines (0.3 mmol), potassium phenyltrifluoroborate salts (0.3 mmol), catalyst (0.015 mmol), oxidant (0.3 mmol), base (0.3 mmol), DMF (2 mL), 90 °C, 12 h, N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields of arylation. <sup>c</sup> The reaction performed under air.

The scope of this reaction was then investigated under the optimized conditions. A wide range of aryltrifluoroborate salts were examined and the results are listed in Table 2. This system demonstrated a good functional group tolerance on both electrophilic and nucleophilic partners. Aryltrifluoroborate

salts with electron-withdrawing groups like 4-trifluoromethyl and 3-fluoro afforded better yields (Table 2, entries 7 and 10) than aryltrifluoroborate salts with electron-donating group such as 4-methoxy, 4-tert-butyl, and 4-methyl (Table 2, entries 1, 3 and 4). Methyl, chloro, trifluoromethyl phenyltrifluoroborate salt react similarly to provide the corresponding 3-arylidolizines which shows that there is not much effect of *meta*- and *para*-substitution on phenyltrifluoroborate salts (Table 2, entries 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 12). *Ortho*-substitution like methyl and bromo decrease the yield of products obviously (Table 2, entries 13 and 14).  $\alpha$ -Naphthalene and  $\beta$ -naphthalene show diversity in yield which reveals steric effect exert action on the formation of the products (Table 2, entries 15 and 16). Notably, other function groups like methylthio, trifluoromethoxy and formyl are bearing in this catalyst system (Table 2, entries 2, 6 and 11). It is noteworthy to observe that when phenyltrifluoroborate salts are replaced by iodobenzene, C-3 arylation products can be accomplished in good yields in the same way (Table 2, entries 17). Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that the carbon-halogen bonds tolerated the reaction conditions and the halogen-containing products were afforded smoothly without by-product observed which shows high functional group tolerance and selectivity.

**Table 2** The reaction of indolizine with aryltrifluoroborate salts<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Aryltrifluoroborate salts	Product	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>
1			80
2			78

3	81
4	86
5	77
6	66
7	91
8	75
9	79
10	92
11	81

12	93
13	44
14	40
15	46
16	86
17	83 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: indolizine-1-carbonitrile (0.3 mmol), potassium aryltrifluoroborate salts (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (5 mol%), AgOAc (0.3 mmol), KOAc (0.3 mmol), DMF (2 mL), 90 °C, 12 h, N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields of arylation. <sup>c</sup> Iodobenzene in place of phenyltrifluoroborate salt.

We examined a variety of structurally divergent indolizines to understand the scope and the generality of the C-3 arylation and the results are summarized in Table 3. Indolizine-1-carbonitrile, methyl indolizine-1-carboxylate, ethyl indolizine-1-carboxylate, and *n*-butylindolizine-1-carboxylate afforded the desired products in good yield (Table 3, entries 1-4). When 2-methylindolizine-1-carbonitrile coupled with phenyltrifluoroborate salt, a 88 % yield was obtained (Table 3, entry 5), which showed steric effect didn't restrain the formation of desired product. 7-Methyl-indolizine-1-carbonitrile also proceeding smoothly under model reaction system (Table 3, entry 6).



**Table 3** The reaction of phenyltrifluoroborate salt with various indolizines<sup>a</sup>[View Online](#)

Entry	Indolizines	Products	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1			93
2			85
3			86
4			84
5			88
6			73

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: indolizines (0.3 mmol), potassium aryltrifluoroborate salts (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.015 mmol), AgOAc (0.3 mmol), KOAc (0.3 mmol), DMF (2 mL), 90 °C, 12 h, N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields of arylation.

Indolizines are classified as electron-rich aromatic heterocycles, and their transformations catalyzed by palladium show strong electrophilic character with reactions occurring at the most electron-rich C3-position.<sup>11</sup> In our experiment about electrophiles, the electron-deficient aryltrifluoroborate salts are more reactive than the electron-rich aryltrifluoroborate salts, which is consistent with the electrophilic substitution mechanism. On the basis of the previous chemistry and our results, we propose a plausible mechanism for this arylation reaction, as shown in Scheme 1. Arylpalladium intermediate A was generated by transmetalation between Pd(II) with aryltrifluoroborate salts in first step. The electrophilic palladation first occurs preferentially at the C3-position of indolizine, and the subsequent deprotonation leads to the formation of intermediate B with the assistance of KOAc. Followed by reductive elimination to produce the desired product, the Pd(0) species are generated, which are reoxidized to Pd(II) species by Ag(I) to complete the catalytic cycle.

### Scheme 1 The arylation mechanism proposed

#### Direct Alkynylation of Indolizines with Phenylpropionic Acid

Arylacetylenes are among the most fundamental and important  $\pi$ -conjugated systems in the various fields of organic chemistry. A powerful and reliable approach to these molecules is Sonogashira coupling reaction. On the other hand, the metal-catalyzed direct alkynylation of arene C-H bonds with alkynyl halides has recently been receiving much attention as a complementary process to Sonogashira

coupling. The pioneering work in this field was performed by Gevorgyan<sup>11</sup> in 2007, who reported indolizines' alkynylation applying alkynyl halides as electrophiles. [View Online](#)

Carboxylic acids have been considered candidates for the coupling partner in the transition metal catalyzed coupling reactions due to their environmental friendliness as leaving groups.<sup>12</sup> Several groups have employed the alkynyl carboxylic acids as the coupling substrates in a variety of coupling reactions.<sup>13</sup> The direct alkynylation of heterocycles with phenylpropionic acids would be an attractive approach which can be easily prepared by corresponding aldehydes. It offers a novel method to obtain alkynylation of heterocycles using aldehyde as precursor. Further more, phenylpropionic acids are more accessible and cheaper than alkynyl bromides which derived from alkynes related. At the outset of our studies, there was few literature precedent for the direct C-H functionalization of (hetero)aromatics with phenylpropionic acids. Here, we provide a new approach straightforward and efficient access to diverse alkynyl heterocycles conceptually via decarboxylative couplings.

Initially, we optimized the reaction conditions using 3-phenylpropionic acid and indolizine-1-carbonitrile as model substrate in DMSO with Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> at 80 °C for 12 h under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Only 37 % yield of desired product was isolated (Table 4, entry 1). When other solvents was introduced, the mixed solvents give increasing yields (Table 4, entries 2-5). The DMSO/1,4-dioxane afforded the desired product in the yield of 83 % which performed the best (Table 4, entry 6). The oxidant also played an important role in the procedure, many silver salts such as AgOAc, Ag<sub>2</sub>O and AgOTf also presented high activity (Table 4, entries 7-10). During the screening of catalysts, we found that palladium sources had a dramatic effect on the reaction. Among the Pd species tested, PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, PdCl<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>2</sub>, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, PdCl<sub>2</sub> were not successful, and Pd(TFA)<sub>2</sub> were ineffective for this transformation. (Table 4, entries 11-15).

**Table 4** Optimization of reaction conditions about alkynylation<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Solvent	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO	37
2	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/ <i>t</i> -BuOH	45
3	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/ <i>i</i> -PivOH	57
4	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/DMF	33
5	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/THF	70
6	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	83
7	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOAc	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	80
8	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	76
9	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgTFA	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	56
10	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	AgOTf	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	77
11	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	64
12	PdCl <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> CN) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	66
13	Pd(TFA) <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	41
14	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	79
15	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	DMSO/1,4-dioxane	70

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: indolizine-1-carbonitrile (0.3 mmol), 3-phenylpropionic acid (0.3 mmol), catalyst (0.015 mmol), oxidant (0.3 mmol), solvent (2 mL, v/v=1:1), 80 °C, 12 h, N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields of alkynylation.

We test a series of indolizines react with 3-arylpropionic acid in moderate to good yields (Table 5). Methyl indolizine-1-carboxylate, ethyl indolizine-1-carboxylate, and *n*-butyl indolizine-1-carboxylate are cooperate with the reaction conditions (Table 5, entries 2-4). 7-Methyl-indolizine-1-carbonitrile is a good substrate for the reaction to give deserved products in 76 % yields (Table 5, entry 5). The catalytic system could tolerate many functional groups, such as OMe and Cl. Electronwithdrawing or electrondonating groups on the aryl propionic acids didn't show significant regularities (Table 5, entries 6-8).

**Table 5** The reaction of phenylpropionic acid with various indolizines<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Indolizines	Products	Yield % <sup>b</sup>
1			81
2			79
3			75
4			78
5			76
6			81 <sup>c</sup>
7			83 <sup>d</sup>
8			77 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: indolizines (0.3 mmol), 3-phenylpropionic acid (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.015 mmol), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.3mmol), DMSO/1,4-dioxane (1:1, 2 mL), 80 °C, 12 h, N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields of alkynylation. <sup>c</sup> Using 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)propionic acid as alkynyl reagent. <sup>d</sup> Using 3-(p-tolyl)propionic acid as alkynyl reagent. <sup>e</sup> Using 3-(4-chlorophenyl)propionic acid as alkynyl reagent.

The reaction mechanism is not clear currently. We propose that the transformation undergo the direct Pd-catalyzed C-H alkynylation of electron-rich heterocycles operates via an electrophilic substitution pathway, analogous to our previously postulated for the Pd(II)-catalyzed C-3 arylation of indolizines with aryltrifluoroborate salts.<sup>11</sup> The Ag(I)-catalyzed decarboxylation of phenylpropionic acid to form

alkynylsilver(0) intermediate A by releasing CO<sub>2</sub> (Scheme 2, cycle 1). These processes are initiated by [View Online](#) transmetallation of alkynylsilver(0) intermediate A with Pd(II) species to form alkynylpalladium(II) intermediate B, followed by the electrophilic attack of the generated Pd(II) species B to indolizine groups to form intermediate C. Carbonate which was derived from Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> played the role of deprotonation in this stage. Reductive elimination of the latter furnishes alkynylpalladium intermediate C to release desired products and Pd(0) species are regenerated and oxidized to Pd(II) to complete the catalytic cycle (Scheme 2, cycle 2).

### Scheme 2 The alkynylation mechanism proposed

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we report here our results concerning the systematic study of indolizines' C-3 functionalization involving C-H activation afford a diversity of C-3 substitution via arylation and alkynylation. We discovered a well-precedented palladium-catalyzed regioselective direct C-3 arylation reaction with phenyltrifluoroborate salts. The mild reaction conditions enabled these transformations to tolerate different functional groups very well. Our studies also resulted in the direct alkynylation of indolizines with phenylpropionic acid which can be performed as substitute of alkynyl halides via

decarboxylative couplings. Undoubtedly, as part of the continuing exploration of new chemistry of the indolizine core, these reactions have great prospects of applications in organic syntheses and industrial processes.

## Experimental Section

**Preparation of C-3 arylation indolizines:** A mixture of indolizines (0.3 mmol), potassium phenyltrifluoroborate salts (0.3 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (3 mg, 5 mol%), AgOAc (50 mg, 0.3 mmol), KOAc (59 mg, 0.6 mmol) in DMF (2 mL) was stirred at 90 °C under N<sub>2</sub> for 12 h. Afterward, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, filtered through a pad of celite. The crude product was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL), washed with water (2×10 mL), brine (10 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was subjected to flash column chromatography to obtain the desired product.

**3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-1)** White solid. m.p. 241-242 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS ) δ 8.19 ( d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.67 ( d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H ), 7.41 ( d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H ), 7.02-7.08 ( m, 3 H ), 6.98 ( s, 1 H ), 6.72 ( t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 3.88 ( s, 3 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ) δ 159.8, 138.2, 130.2, 126.8, 123.7, 122.4, 122.0, 118.1, 115.6, 114.7, 112.9, 81.8, 55.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) 248.0950, Found 248.0957. Elem. Anal.: C, 77.40; H, 4.87; N, 11.29; O, 6.44.

**3-(4-(Methylthio)phenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-2)** Yellow solid. m.p. 250-252 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS ) δ 8.25 ( d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.71 ( t, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.38-7.45 ( m, 4 H ), 7.09 ( t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.04 ( s, 1 H ), 6.76 ( t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 2.56 ( s, 3 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ) δ 139.6, 138.4, 129.0, 126.8, 126.6, 126.5, 123.7, 122.3, 118.2, 116.7, 116.1, 113.1, 82.2, 15.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 264.0721, Found 264.0725. Elem. Anal.: C, 72.70; H, 4.58; N, 10.60; S, 12.12.

**3-(4-Tert-butylphenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-3)** White solid. m.p. 236-238 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS ) δ 8.29 ( d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.68 ( d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.54 ( d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.44 ( d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.06 ( t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.02 ( s, 1 H ), 6.72 ( t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 1.39 ( s, 9 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ) δ 151.8, 138.3, 130.6, 129.1, 128.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.2, 125.4, 123.9, 122.2, 118.1, 116.0, 113.0, 82.0, 34.8, 31.3. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 274.1470, Found 274.1479. Elem. Anal.: C, 83.18; H, 6.61; N, 10.21.

**3-p-Tolyindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-4)** White solid. m.p. 232-233 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS ) δ 8.24 ( d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.67 ( d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.38 ( d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.31 (

d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2 H ), 7.06 ( t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.00 ( s, 1 H ), 6.72 ( t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 2.43 ( s, 3 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  138.6, 138.3, 129.9, 128.6, 127.2, 127.0, 123.8, 122.1, 118.1, 117.0, 115.9, 113.0, 82.0, 21.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 232.1000, Found 232.1001. Elem. Anal.: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; N, 12.06.

**3-(4-Chlorophenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-5)** Light yellow solid. m.p. 244-246 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS )  $\delta$  8.17 ( d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.65 ( d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.40-7.46 ( m, 4 H ), 7.06 ( t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.00 ( s, 1 H ), 6.73 ( t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  138.6, 138.3, 129.9, 128.6, 127.2, 127.0, 123.8, 122.1, 118.1, 117.0, 115.9, 113.0, 82.0. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Cl (M<sup>+</sup>) 252.0454, Found 252.0452. Elem. Anal.: C, 71.29; H, 3.59; Cl, 14.03, N, 11.09.

**3-(4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-6)** White solid. m.p. 276-277 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS )  $\delta$  8.26 ( d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.69 ( d,  $J = 9.6$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.55 ( t,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.46 ( d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.37 ( s, 1 H ), 7.28 ( t,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.12 ( t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.08 ( s, 1 H ), 7.80 ( t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  149.81, 149.79, 138.7, 132.1, 131.8, 126.8, 125.2, 123.4, 122.8, 120.9, 120.8, 118.3, 116.9, 113.6, 82.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OF<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 302.0667, Found 302.0664. Elem. Anal.: C, 63.58; H, 3.00; F, 18.86, N, 9.27, O, 5.29.

**3-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-7)** White solid. m.p. 269-270 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS )  $\delta$  8.29 ( d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.77 ( d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2 H ), 7.68 ( d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.65 ( d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2 H ), 7.13 ( t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.10 ( s, 1 H ), 6.81 ( t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  138.8, 133.8, 130.3 ( q,  $J = 32$  Hz ), 128.6, 126.3 ( q,  $J = 4.0$  Hz ), 125.3, 125.2, 123.5, 122.9, 122.5, 118.4, 117.1, 116.4, 113.7, 82.9. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>2</sub>F<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 286.0718, Found 286.0713. Elem. Anal.: C, 67.13; H, 3.17; F, 19.91, N, 9.79.

**3-m-Tolyindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-8)** White solid. m.p. 239-241 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS )  $\delta$  8.34 ( d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.74 ( d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.46 ( d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.31-7.38 ( m, 3 H ), 7.14 ( t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.09 ( s, 1 H ), 6.80 ( d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 2.50 ( s, 3 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  139.1, 138.3, 130.1, 129.4, 129.3, 129.1, 127.1, 125.6, 123.8, 118.1, 116.1, 113.0, 82.1, 21.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 232.1000, Found 232.0998. Elem. Anal.: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; N, 12.06.

**3-(3-Chlorophenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-9)** Yellow solid. m.p. 245-246 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS )  $\delta$  8.21 ( d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.64 ( d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.15 ( s, 1 H ), 7.06 ( t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H ), 7.01 ( s, 1 H ), 6.74 ( t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> )  $\delta$  138.6, 135.2,



131.9, 130.5, 128.6, 128.5, 126.6, 125.4, 123.5, 122.7, 118.3, 116.7, 113.5, 82.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{15}H_9N_2Cl$  ( $M^+$ ) 252.0454, Found 252.0448. Elem. Anal.: C, 71.29; H, 3.59; Cl, 14.03, N, 11.09.

**3-(3-Fluorophenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-10)** White solid. m.p. 261-262 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.35 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.75 ( d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.52-7.58 ( m, 1 H ), 7.37 ( d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.28 ( d,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.15-7.22 ( m, 2 H ), 7.12 ( s, 1 H ), 6.85 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  164.3, 161.9, 138.6, 132.2 ( d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz ), 130.9 ( d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz ), 125.6, 124.2 ( d,  $J$  = 3.2 Hz ), 123.6, 122.7, 118.3, 116.7, 115.6 ( d,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz ), 115.3 ( d,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz ), 113.4, 82.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{15}H_9N_2F$  ( $M^+$ ) 236.0750, Found 236.0745. Elem. Anal.: C, 76.26; H, 3.84; Cl, 8.04, N, 11.86.

**3-(3-Formylphenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-11)** White solid. m.p. 183-186 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  10.04 ( s, 1 H ), 8.01 ( s, 1 H ), 7.95 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.82-7.85 ( m, 3 H ), 7.26-7.29 ( m, 2 H ), 7.52-7.61 ( m, 2 H ), 7.18 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 6.93-6.99 ( m, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  192.0, 140.6, 137.0, 132.9, 129.7, 129.4, 127.9, 126.4, 122.3, 117.8, 116.8, 113.9, 112.9, 82.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{10}N_2O$  ( $M^+$ ) 246.0793, Found 246.0796. Elem. Anal.: C, 78. 03; H, 4.09; N, 11.38; O, 6.50.

**3-(3-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-12)** White solid. m.p. 262-264 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.22 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.72 ( s, 1 H ), 7.63-7.72 ( m, 4 H ), 7.13 ( t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1 H ), 7.10 ( s, 1 H ), 6.80 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.7, 131.8, 131.0, 129.9, 125.3 ( q,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz ), 123.3, 122.8, 118.4, 117.0, 116.5, 113.7, 82.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{16}H_9N_2F_3$  ( $M^+$ ) 286.0718, Found 286.0721. Elem. Anal.: C, 67.13; H, 3.17; F, 19.91, N, 9.79.

**3-o-Tolyindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-13)** White solid. m.p. 209-210 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  7.77 ( d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.70 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.37-7.50 ( m, 4 H ), 7.15 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 7.05 ( s, 1 H ), 6.78 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 2.17 ( s, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.4, 137.4, 131.3, 130.7, 129.5, 129.2, 126.3, 125.9, 124.0, 122.0, 118.0, 116.5, 112.9, 81.4, 19.5. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{12}N_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 232.1000, Found 232.0999. Elem. Anal.: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; N, 12.06.

**3-(2-Bromophenyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-14)** Yellow solid. m.p. 278-279 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  7.77 ( d,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.70 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.37-7.50 ( m, 4 H ), 7.15 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 7.05 ( s, 1 H ), 6.78 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.4, 137.4, 131.3, 130.7, 129.5, 129.2, 126.3, 125.9, 124.0, 122.0, 118.0, 116.5, 112.9, 120.0, 81.4. HRMS

(EI) Calcd for  $C_{15}H_9N_2Br$  ( $M^+$ ) 295.9949, Found 295.9944. Elem. Anal.: C, 60.63; H, 3.05; Br, 26.89; N, 9.43. [View Online](#)

**3-(Naphthalen-1-yl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-15)** White solid. m.p. 303-305 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.03-8.09 ( m, 2 H ), 7.83 ( d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.60-7.69 ( m, 4 H ), 7.45-7.53 ( m, 2 H ), 7.24 ( s, 1 H ), 7.18 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 6.71 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.2, 133.8, 132.1, 129.9, 129.5, 128.8, 127.3, 127.1, 126.5, 125.6, 125.0, 124.8, 124.5, 122.3, 118.0, 117.7, 112.8, 81.9. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{12}N_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 268.1000, Found 268.0992. Elem. Anal.: C, 85.05; H, 4.51; N, 10.44.

**3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 2-16)** White solid. m.p. 311-312 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.35 ( d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.95-7.98 ( m, 2 H ), 7.86-7.91 ( m, 2 H ), 7.71 ( d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1 H ), 7.54-7.59 ( m, 3 H ), 7.12 ( s, 1 H ), 7.10 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 6.75 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.5, 133.5, 133.0, 129.0, 128.0, 127.8, 127.7, 126.9, 126.8, 126.0, 123.7, 122.5, 118.2, 116.6, 113.2, 82.4. HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{12}N_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 268.1000, Found 268.1002. Elem. Anal.: C, 85.05; H, 4.51; N, 10.44.

**3-Phenylindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 3-1)**  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.30 ( d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.71 ( d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.53-7.55 ( m, 4 H ), 7.46-7.49 ( m, 1 H ), 7.10 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 7.06 ( s, 1 H ), 6.77 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.4, 137.7, 131.4, 130.7, 129.5, 129.2, 126.3, 125.9, 124.0, 122.0, 117.9, 116.5, 112.8, 81.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{15}H_{10}N_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 218.0844, Found 218.0839.

**Methyl 3-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate (T 3-2)**  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.27 ( t,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2 H ), 7.50 ( m, 4 H ), 7.39 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.28 ( s, 1 H ), 7.06 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 6.69 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 3.91 ( s, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  165.4, 136.4, 131.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 123.3, 122.3, 120.7, 112.6, 103.9, 50.9. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{13}NO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 251.0946, Found 251.0951.

**Ethyl 3-(1-p-tolylvinyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (T 3-3)**  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.28 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2 H ), 7.54 ( d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.49 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2 H ), 7.39 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.31 ( s, 1 H ), 7.06 ( d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 6.69 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 4.40 ( m, 2 H ), 1.42 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  165.0, 136.3, 131.2, 129.0, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 123.3, 122.2, 120.1, 116.0, 112.5, 104.2, 59.5, 14.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}NO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 265.1103, Found 265.1104.

**Butyl 3-phenylindolizine-1-carboxylate (T 3-4)** Brown oil.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.28 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2 H ), 7.55 ( d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.50 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 2 H ), 7.40 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.32 ( s, 1 H ), 7.07 ( m, 1 H ), 6.70 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 4.36 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 2 H ), 1.80 ( m, 2 H ),

1.53 (m, 2 H), 1.01 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  165.1, 136.3, 131.2, 129.1, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 123.3, 122.2, 120.1, 116.1, 114.9, 112.6, 104.3, 63.5, 31.1, 19.4, 13.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_2$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ) 293.1416, Found 293.1424. Elem. Anal.: C, 77.79; H, 6.53; N, 4.77, O, 10.91.

**2-Methyl-3-phenylindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 3-5)** White solid. m.p. 253-254 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  8.03 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2 H), 7.48 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2 H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.1, 130.1, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 126.1, 123.8, 122.1, 117.3, 116.8, 112.5, 83.4, 10.9. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ) 232.1000, Found 232.0998. Elem. Anal.: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; N, 12.06.

**7-Methyl-3-phenylindolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 3-6)** White solid. m.p. 237-238 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  8.17 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2 H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 4 H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 2 H), 6.97 (s, 1 H), 6.57 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1 H), 2.39 (s, 3 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.1, 133.4, 130.4, 129.2, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 126.2, 123.2, 116.5, 115.9, 115.7, 80.5, 21.1. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{N}_2$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ) 232.1000, Found 232.0996. Elem. Anal.: C, 82.73; H, 5.21; N, 12.06.

**Preparation of C-3 alkynylation indolizines:** A mixture of indolizines (0.3 mmol), 3-phenylpropionic acid (0.3 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (3 mg, 5 mol%),  $\text{Ag}_2\text{CO}_3$  (83 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMSO/1,4-dioxane (1:1, 2 mL) was stirred at 80 °C under  $\text{N}_2$  for 12 h. Afterward, the mixture was cooled to room temperature, filtered through a pad of celite. The crude product was dissolved in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL), washed with water (2×10 mL), brine (10 mL), then dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was subjected to flash column chromatography to obtain the desired product.

**3-(Phenylethynyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 5-1)** White solid. m.p. 276-278 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  8.37 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 1 H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 2 H), 7.38-7.39 (m, 3 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H), 7.19 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1 H), 6.92 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 1 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.0, 131.4, 128.9, 128.5, 125.7, 124.0, 122.1, 121.4, 117.9, 113.8, 97.2, 82.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2$  ( $\text{M}^+$ ) 242.0844, Found 242.0851. Elem. Anal.: C, 84.28; H, 4.16; N, 11.56.

**Methyl 3-(phenylethynyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (T 5-2)**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS)  $\delta$  8.36 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 9.2$  Hz, 1 H), 7.56-7.58 (m, 2 H), 7.52 (s, 1 H), 7.37-7.39 (m, 3 H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1 H), 6.88 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1 H), 3.91 (s, 3 H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )

)  $\delta$  164.7, 136.3, 131.2, 128.5, 125.4, 123.8, 122.7, 121.1, 119.8, 117.9, 113.3, 108.2, 104.0, 97.0, 78.9, 51.1. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{13}NO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 275.0946, Found 275.0941. [View Online](#)

**Ethyl 3-(phenylethynyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (T 5-3)** White solid. m.p. 247-248 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.37 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 8.24 ( d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.56-7.58 ( m, 2 H ), 7.55 ( s, 1 H ), 7.36-7.39 ( m, 3 H ), 7.17 ( t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 6.88 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 4.36-4.41 ( m, 2 H ), 1.42 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  164.3, 136.2, 131.2, 128.5, 128.4, 125.3, 123.8, 122.7, 121.2, 119.8, 113.3, 108.1, 104.4, 97.0, 79.0, 59.7, 14.6. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{15}NO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 289.1103, Found 289.1106. Elem. Anal.: C, 78.87; H, 5.23; N, 4.84; O, 11.06.

**Butyl 3-(phenylethynyl)indolizine-1-carboxylate (T 5-4)** Brown solid. m.p. 260-262 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.36 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 8.23 ( d,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.55-7.58 ( m, 2 H ), 7.54 ( s, 1 H ), 7.36-7.38 ( m, 3 H ), 7.14-7.18 ( m, 1 H ), 6.87 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 4.33 ( t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2 H ), 1.74-1.79 ( m, 2 H ), 1.48-1.54 ( m, 2 H ), 1.00 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  164.4, 136.2, 131.2, 128.5, 128.4, 125.3, 123.7, 122.7, 121.2, 119.8, 113.2, 108.1, 104.4, 97.0, 78.9, 63.6, 31.0, 19.4, 13.8. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{19}NO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 317.1416, Found 317.1422. Elem. Anal.: C, 79.47; H, 6.03; N, 4.41; O, 10.08.

**2-Methyl-3-(phenylethynyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 5-5)** White solid. m.p. 293-294 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.27 ( d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.54-7.58 ( m, 3 H ), 7.39-7.40 ( m, 3 H ), 7.13 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 6.86 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 2.52 ( s, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  137.4, 133.5, 131.2, 128.7, 128.5, 125.5, 123.8, 122.4, 117.1, 116.0, 113.3, 107.7, 99.6, 83.4, 77.3, 11.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{12}N_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 256.1000, Found 256.1001. Elem. Anal.: C, 84.35; H, 4.72; N, 10.93.

**3-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 5-6)** White solid. m.p. 296-297 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.18 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.67 ( d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1 H ), 7.42 ( d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2 H ), 7.02-7.07 ( m, 3 H ), 6.98 ( s, 1 H ), 6.71 ( t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 3.87 ( s, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  159.9, 138.2, 130.2, 126.8, 123.7, 122.4, 122.0, 118.1, 115.8, 114.6, 112.9, 104.0, 97.0, 81.8, 55.4. HRMS (EI) Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{12}N_2O$  ( $M^+$ ) 272.0950, Found 272.0952. Elem. Anal.: C, 79.39; H, 4.44; N, 10.29; O, 5.88.

**3-(p-tolyethynyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 5-7)** White solid. m.p. 279-280 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( 400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , TMS )  $\delta$  8.24 ( d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.67 ( d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.39 ( d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.31 ( d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2 H ), 7.07 ( t,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1 H ), 7.00 ( s, 1 H ), 6.73 ( t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ), 2.43 ( s, 3 H ).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( 100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$  )  $\delta$  138.6, 138.2, 129.9, 128.6, 127.2, 127.0, 123.7, 122.2, 118.1,

117.0, 115.9, 112.9, 104.0, 96.9, 82.0, 21.3. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 256.1000, Found 256.0999. Elem. Anal.: C, 84.35; H, 4.72; N, 10.93.

**3-((4-chlorophenyl)ethynyl)indolizine-1-carbonitrile (T 5-8)** Yellow solid. m.p. 317-318 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR ( 400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS ) δ 8.36 ( d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H ), 7.69( d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H ), 7.49 ( d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.36 ( d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H ), 7.28 ( s, 1 H ), 7.21 ( t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H ), 6.95 ( t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR ( 100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ) δ 138.0, 134.9, 132.5, 128.9, 125.7, 124.1, 121.7, 120.6, 117.9, 115.9, 113.9, 108.5, 96.2, 82.5, 78.7. HRMS (EI) Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 276.0454, Found 276.0457. Elem. Anal.: C, 73.79; H, 3.28; Cl, 12.81, N, 10.12.

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