Multicatalytic tandem reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene) hydrazide with indole \dagger

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The combination of AgOTf and $Dy(OTf)_3$ shows high efficiency as a catalyst in the tandem reactions of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazides with indoles, which generate the unexpected 1-(indol-3-yl)-2-aminoisoquinolinium triflates in good yields.

Introduction

The development of tandem reactions^{1,2} for the efficient generation of small molecules is an important part of the field of chemical biology.³ Their operational simplicity combined with assembly efficiency make tandem reactions attractive for molecular complexity generation. Among the method development in tandem reactions, multicatalytic processes have recently attracted growing interest.^{4,5} Usually, one or more catalysts are involved in the reaction and promote two or more distinct chemical transformations in a single flask. For instance, Lambert and Cernak reported the multicatalytic synthesis of α -pyrrolidinyl ketones *via* a tandem palladium(II)/indium(III)catalyzed aminochlorocarbonylation/Friedel–Crafts acylation reaction.^{5a} Mg(ClO₄)₂ and Cu(OTf)₂ were found to be highly effective as a catalyst in the one-pot reaction of 2-alkynylbenzaldehydes, amines, zinc, and allylic bromide or benzyl bromide.^{5d} Recently, we have developed efficient strategies for accessing privileged organic architectures.⁶ Prompted by the advancement of multicatalytic synthesis,^{4,5} we became interested in exploring new multicatalytic processes to facilitate the generation of small molecules. Herein, we disclose our recent efforts towards the tandem reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide with indole co-catalyzed by AgOTf and Dy(OTf)₃, which unexpectedly afforded 1-(indol-3yl)-2-aminoisoquinolinium triflates in good yields.

Isoquinoline-based structure can be found in many natural products and pharmaceuticals that exhibit remarkable biological activities.⁷ Continuous efforts have been given to the development of new methods for their construction. In continuation of recently developed methods for the Lewis acid-catalyzed or electrophilemediated reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide **1**,⁸ we hypothesized that the direct synthesis of new isoquinoline structures might occur in a one-pot reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide **1** with nucleophiles by sequential N–C and C–C bond formation under appropriate conditions, such that the intermediate isoquinolinium-2-yl amide would not have to be isolated. Since the indole skeleton is an important substructure in both natural products and therapeutic agents,⁹ at the beginning a set of experiments was carried out using N'-(2-alkynylbenzyl-idene)hydrazide **1a** and indole **2a** as model substrates (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1 Tandem reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a with indole 2a.

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[†] Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Experimental details; characterization data, and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound **3**; X-ray ORTEP illustration of compound **3**j·CF₃SO₃. CCDC reference number 735059. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/b913409c



Table 1 AgOTf and Dy(OTf)₃ co-catalyzed tandem reaction of N'-(2-

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Results and discussion

N'-(2-Alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1 could be easily synthesized via condensation of 2-alkynylbenzaldehyde with hydrazine. At the outset of this study, our efforts were directed at discovering the most appropriate catalyst and reaction conditions to perform the proposed reaction. Thus, combinations of different Lewis acids (10 mol%) and solvents were screened. When AgOTf was used as the catalyst in the reaction of N'-(2alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a with indole 2a in dichloroethane, only intermediate isoquinolinium-2-yl amide B was generated via 6-endo-cyclization (99% yield, 2 hours, DCE, rt) and no further transformation was observed under these conditions. The same result was obtained when CuI was employed as a replacement. When other Lewis acids (FeCl₃, Sc(OTf)₃, Zn(OTf)₂, Cu(OTf)₂, $Bi(OTf)_3$, $Yb(OTf)_3$, $Dv(OTf)_3$) were utilized in the reaction, only a small amount of isoquinolinium-2-yl amide B was isolated with the recovery of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a. The results could not be improved when other solvents (MeCN, THF, toluene, Et₂O, MeNO₂) were used in the reaction. Based on these results, we conceived that additional Lewis acid might be necessary to facilitate the next nucleophilic addition. Therefore, the reaction of isoquinolinium-2-yl amide B with indole 2a in MeCN was investigated. Again, no reaction occurred when AgOTf or CuI was employed as a catalyst. A trace amount of product was observed when Cu(OTf)₂ or PdCl₂ was used in the reaction. Gratifyingly, the formation of a product was detected (16% yield) when Bi(OTf)₃ was employed as the catalyst (10 mol%) at 70 °C. Further screening revealed that Dy(OTf)₃ was the most efficient one (28% yield) for the transformation. However, structural identification revealed that the product generated was compound 3a, instead of the desired normal nucleophilic addition product C. We reasoned that after addition of indole 2a to isoquinolinium-2-yl amide **B**, the sulfonyl group might be subsequently attacked in the presence of $Dy(OTf)_3$ leading to the unexpected product **3a**. With this promising result in hand, we subsequently re-investigated the tandem reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a with indole 2a. To our delight, we realized that the combination of AgOTf (10 mol %) and Dy(OTf)₃ (30 mol %) showed high efficiency as a catalyst in MeCN in this transformation, and gave rise to the product 3a in 83% yield. Further screening of solvents revealed that dichloroethane (DCE) was the best choice and the yield could be increased to 98%.

To investigate the scope of the reaction, a variety of differently substituted N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazides 1 with indoles 2 were successfully converted to the cyclized products 3 in good to excellent yields under the optimized conditions [AgOTf (10 mol %), Dy(OTf)₃ (30 mol %), DCE, 70 °C] as shown in Table 1. The cyclic products of the reactions were fully characterized by ¹H and ¹³C NMR methods and mass spectroscopic data. For instance, reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a with 4-methoxyindole 2b under the standard conditions gave rise to the desired product 3b in 97% yield (Table 1, entry 2). 84% yield of product 3c was isolated when 6-methoxyindole 2c was employed in the reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1a (Table 1, entry 3). A similar yield was obtained when 5-bromoindole 2d was utilized in the reaction as a partner (89% yield, Table 1, entry 4). The reactions of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide **1b** or **1c** were meanwhile examined (Table 1, entries 5-6). The expected products



Fig. 1 X-ray ORTEP illustration of compound **3j**·CF₃SO₃ (30% probability ellipsoids).

Conclusion

In summary, the chemistry described herein provides a facile and direct synthesis of novel isoquinoline-based compounds in good yields. This multicatalytic process appears to involve intramolecular cyclization, nucleophilic addition of indole, and subsequent elimination of sulfonyl group. From a synthetic point of view, the transformation involves a one-step conversion of simple, readily available starting materials into an interesting class of heterocyclic derivative. Investigation using N'-(2alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide as a substrate in other transformations is ongoing, and the results will be reported in due course.

Experimental section

General experimental method

All reactions were performed in test tubes under a nitrogen atmosphere at 70 °C. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (60 Å pore size, 32–63 μ m, standard grade). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using glass plates pre-coated with 0.25 mm 230–400 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Thin layer

chromatography plates were visualized by exposure to ultraviolet light. Organic solutions were concentrated at ~20 Torr (house vacuum) at 25–35 °C. Solvents were re-distilled prior to use in the reactions. Other commercial reagents were used as received.

General experimental procedure for the AgOTf and Dy(OTf)₃ cocatalyzed tandem reaction of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1 with indole 2. A mixture of N'-(2-alkynylbenzylidene)hydrazide 1 (0.3 mmol), indole 2 (0.6 mmol, 2.0 equiv), AgOTf (10 mol %) and Dy(OTf)₃ (30 mol %) in 1,2-dichloroethane (1.0 mL) was stirred at 70 °C. After completion of reaction as indicated by TLC, the mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate (5 mL), filtered through a thin pad of silica gel (eluting with ethyl acetate), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (eluting with PE/EA = 1/1 to 1/10) to provide the desired product **3**.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenylisoquinolinium triflate 3a. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.42 (s, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.60–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.75–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.89–8.00 (m, 5H), 11.17 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 101.1, 113.5, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 119.4, 121.9, 123.7, 125.3, 125.7, 127.4, 128.2, 129.3, 130.0, 130.3, 130.8, 131.0, 131.4, 134.6, 135.2, 136.6, 142.8, 148.9; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3464, 1636, 1456; m/z (ESI): 336 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₁₈N₃ (M⁺ + H): 336.1501, found: 336.1518.

1-(4-Methoxyindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenylisoquinolinium triflate 3b. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.59 (s, 3H), 6.05 (s, 2H), 6.48 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.47 (m, 3H), 7.57–7.58 (m, 4H), 7.81–7.93 (m, 4H), 11.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.5, 100.0, 101.6, 106.8, 115.7, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 124.7, 125.3, 127.0, 128.6, 129.1, 129.5, 129.7, 130.4, 130.5, 130.6, 131.3, 134.7, 135.4, 138.2, 143.6, 152.0, 152.1; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3447, 1636, 1457; *m/z* (ESI): 366 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₀N₃O (M⁺ + H): 366.1606, found: 366.1626.

1-(6-Methoxyindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenylisoquinolinium triflate 3c. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.76 (s, 3H), 6.45 (s, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09–7.13 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.56 (m, 3H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.75 (m, 3H), 7.87–7.98 (m, 4H), 11.08 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.4, 95.7, 100.9, 112.6, 119.2, 119.9, 120.4 (q, ¹J _{CF} = 318 Hz), 125.3, 127.1, 128.1, 129.2, 129.8, 130.1, 130.3, 130.6, 130.7, 130.9, 134.4, 135.0, 137.6, 142.6, 148.8, 157.2; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3465, 1636, 1455; *m*/*z* (ESI): 366 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₀N₃O (M⁺ + H): 366.1606, found: 366.1622.

1-(5-Bromoindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenylisoquinolinium triflate 3d. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.44 (s, 2H), 7.23–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.32–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.66 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.98–8.01 (m, 2H), 11.45 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 100.7, 115.0, 115.1, 120.4 (q, ¹*J* _{CF} = 318 Hz), 121.8, 126.0, 126.5, 127.1, 127.5, 128.3, 129.4, 130.0, 130.6, 131.0, 131.2, 132.3, 134.8, 135.2, 135.4, 143.0, 148.3; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3445, 1636, 1452; *m/z* (ESI): 414 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₁₇BrN₃ (M⁺ + H): 414.0606, found: 414.0624.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)isoquinolinium triflate 3e. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.86 (s, 3H), 6.41 (s, 2H), 7.06–7.14 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.23 (m, 2H), 7.59–7.62 (m, 2H),

[‡] Crystal data and structure refinement for compound **3j**. Empirical formula: $C_{26}H_{20}BrClF_4N_3O_4S$ (Molecular weight: 661.87), Crystal system: Monoclinic. Unit cell dimensions: a = 11.839(2) Å α = 90 deg., b = 10.8146(18) Å β = 99.293(2) deg., c = 21.529(4) Å γ = 90 deg. Volume: 2720.3(8) Å³, refine_1s_shift/su_max 0.041 mean 0.002, Temperature: 296(2) K, space group: P2(1)/n, Z, Calculated density: 4, 1.616 Mg/m³, Reflections collected/unique: 14327 / 5342 [R(int) = 0.0248], FinalRindices [I2sigma(I)]: R1 = 0.0410, wR2 = 0.1018, R indices (all data): R1 = 0.0663, wR2 = 0.1151.

7.68–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.86–7.89 (m, 3H), 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 11.05 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.6, 101.2, 113.6, 114.8, 119.4, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 121.8, 122.6, 123.6, 125.3, 125.5, 127.2, 128.1, 130.4, 130.6, 131.4, 131.6, 134.4, 135.2, 136.6, 142.8, 148.6, 161.6; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3449, 1636, 1450; m/z (ESI): 366 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₂₀N₃O (M⁺ + H): 366.1606, found: 366.1622.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-butylisoquinolinium triflate 3f. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.02 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.54–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.89–1.91 (m, 2H), 3.24–3.28 (m, 2H), 6.80 (s, 2H), 7.12–7.20 (m, 3H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.76–7.77 (m, 2H), 7.86 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 11.08 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 22.2, 28.8, 31.5, 100.8, 113.5, 118.6, 120.4 (q, ¹J _{CF} = 318 Hz), 121.9, 122.8, 123.7, 125.3, 126.6, 127.6, 129.9, 134.3, 135.4, 136.6, 146.3, 149.5; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3446, 1636, 1452; *m/z* (ESI): 316 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₂N₃ (M⁺ + H): 316.1814, found: 316.1817.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenyl-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate 3g. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.37 (s, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.53 (m, 4H), 7.57–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.85–7.86 (m, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 8.01–8.05 (m, 1H), 11.12 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 100.8, 113.4, 113.9 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 24$ Hz), 119.2, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 121.9, 123.6, 124.9, 125.0 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 25$ Hz), 125.4, 129.2, 129.7 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 10$ Hz), 129.9, 130.3, 130.4, 131.0, 132.2, 136.5, 142.2, 147.6, 147.7, 162.7 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 254$ Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3445, 1636, 1450; m/z (ESI): 354 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₃H₁₇FN₃ (M⁺ + H): 354.1407, found: 354.1415.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate 3h. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.48 (s, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 8.01–8.04 (m, 1H), 11.16 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.4, 100.9, 113.4, 113.8 (d, ² $_{J CF} = 25$ Hz), 114.7, 119.2, 120.4 (q, ¹ $_{J CF} = 318$ Hz), 121.8, 122.2, 123.6, 124.6, 124.9, 125.3, 129.5, 130.3, 131.0, 131.5, 132.2, 136.5, 142.2, 147.4, 161.5, 162.6 (d, ¹ $_{J CF} = 254$ Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3463, 1636, 1455; m/z (ESI): 384 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₉FN₃O (M⁺ + H): 384.1512, found: 384.1526.

1-(4-Methoxyindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate 3i. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 6.27 (s, 2H), 6.53 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J =8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.64 (m, 4H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 8.03–8.07 (m, 1H), 11.03 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.5, 55.6, 100.0, 101.7, 106.8, 113.8 (d, ²J _{CF} = 25 Hz), 114.8, 115.7, 120.4 (q, ¹J _{CF} = 318 Hz), 122.9, 124.9, 125.1, 125.4, 128.9, 130.1 (d, ³J _{CF} = 10 Hz), 130.4 (d, ³J _{CF} = 9 Hz), 131.4, 132.6, 138.3, 142.8, 150.0, 152.3, 161.5, 162.7 (d, ¹J _{CF} = 253 Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3446, 1618, 1514, 1464; m/z (ESI): 414 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₅H₂₁FN₃O₂ (M⁺ + H): 414.1618, found: 414.1636.

1-(5-Bromoindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate 3j. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.78 (s, 3H), 6.50 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.67 (m, 3H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 8.03 (s, 1H), 8.05–8.09 (m, 1H), 11.31 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.3, 100.3, 113.0 (d, ²*J* _{CF} = 24 Hz), 114.6, 114.8, 114.9, 120.4 (d, ¹*J* _{CF} = 318 Hz), 121.7, 124.9 (d, ²*J* _{CF} = 25 Hz), 125.7, 126.3, 129.4 (d, ³*J* _{CF} = 9 Hz), 130.5, 131.3, 131.6, 132.2, 135.1, 142.0, 146.1, 146.2, 161.4, 162.6 (d, ¹*J* _{CF} = 254 Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3447, 1628, 1456; *m*/*z* (ESI): 462 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₄H₁₈BrFN₃O (M⁺ + H): 462.0617, found: 462.0630.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-butyl-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate **3k.** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.00 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.47–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.85–1.92 (m, 2H), 3.16–3.30 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 2H), 7.10–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.37 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.99–8.03 (m, 1H), 11.09 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.8, 22.1, 28.8, 31.4, 101.4, 112.4, 112.6, 118.8, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 121.6, 123.4, 123.5, 124.6 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 25$ Hz), 125.4, 129.2 (d, ³ $J_{CF} =$ 10 Hz), 129.9, 130.5 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 9$ Hz), 133.1, 136.9, 145.9, 148.7, 162.5 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 251$ Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3446, 1638, 1536, 1450; m/z (ESI): 334 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₁H₂₁FN₃ (M⁺ + H): 334.1720, found: 334.1730.

1-(4-Methoxyindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-butyl-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate **31.** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 0.98 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.44–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.82–1.89 (m, 2H), 3.11–3.18 (m, 1H), 3.31–3.37 (m, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 6.55 (s, 2H), 7.12 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56–7.63 (m, 2H), 8.00 (s, 1H), 8.03–8.07 (m, 1H), 11.15 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 22.3, 29.5, 32.0, 55.5, 99.9, 101.7, 106.7, 113.6 (d, ² $J_{\rm CF} = 24$ Hz), 115.6, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{\rm CF} = 318$ Hz), 123.3, 125.0, 125.2 (d, ² $J_{\rm CF} = 25$ Hz), 128.5, 129.6 (d, ³ $J_{\rm CF} = 11$ Hz), 129.9, 133.1, 138.4, 146.6, 151.8, 152.2, 162.3 (d, ¹ $J_{\rm CF} = 253$ Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3446, 1638, 1507, 1456; *m*/*z* (ESI): 364 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₃FN₃O (M⁺ + H): 364.1825, found: 364.1839.

1-(6-Methoxyindol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-butyl-7-fluoroisoquinolinium triflate 3m. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 0.99 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.46–1.53 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.87 (m, 2H), 3.13–3.26 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, J =8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J =8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.93–7.97 (m, 1H), 10.94 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.8, 22.3, 28.8, 31.5, 55.6, 95.9, 100.7, 113.0, 113.4 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 25$ Hz), 119.1, 119.4, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 122.7, 125.0 (d, ² $J_{CF} = 26$ Hz), 128.6, 129.0 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 11$ Hz), 129.9 (d, ³ $J_{CF} = 9$ Hz), 132.6, 137.9, 145.8, 148.4, 157.6, 162.4 (d, ¹ $J_{CF} = 253$ Hz); IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3446, 1638, 1473, 1456; m/z (ESI): 364 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₂H₂₃FN₃O (M⁺ + H): 364.1825, found: 364.1843.

1-(Indol-3-yl)-2-amino-3-phenyl-5,6,7-trimethoxyisoquinolinium triflate 3n. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 3.66 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 6.31 (s, 2H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.56–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.63 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73–7.74 (m, 2H), 8.02 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 11.19 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 56.3, 61.4, 61.8, 101.1, 104.2, 113.5, 119.2, 119.5, 120.4 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 318$ Hz), 121.4, 123.4, 125.0, 125.4, 127.4, 129.1, 129.9, 130.6, 130.8, 131.3, 136.6, 141.0, 146.2, 146.3, 147.0, 156.4; IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3445, 1636, 1540, 1456; m/z (ESI): 426 (M⁺ + H); HRMS calcd for C₂₆H₂₄N₃O₃ (M⁺ + H): 426.1818, found: 426.1837. Financial support from National Natural Science Foundation of China (20772018), Shanghai Pujiang Program, and Program for New Century Excellent Talents in University (NCET-07-0208) is gratefully acknowledged. This paper is dedicated to Professor Li-Xin Dai on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

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