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Synthesis of a Simplified Version of Stable Bulky and Rigid Cyclic (Alkyl)(Amino)Carbenes (CAACs), and Catalytic Activity of the Ensuing Gold(I) Complex in the Three-Component Preparation of 1,2-Dihydroquinoline Derivatives

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Abstract

A 95/5 mixture of *cis* and *trans* 2,4-dimethyl-3-cyclohexenecarboxaldehyde (trivertal), a common fragrance and flavor material produced in bulk quantities, serves as the precursor for the synthesis of a stable spirocyclic (alkyl)(amino)carbene, in which the 2-methyl-substituted cyclohexenyl group provides steric protection to an ensuing metal. The efficiency of this carbene as ligand for transition metal based catalysts is first illustrated by the gold(I) catalyzed hydroamination of internal alkynes with secondary dialkyl amines, a process with little precedent. The feasibility of this reaction allows for significantly enlarging the scope of the one-pot three-component synthesis of 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives, and related nitrogen-containing heterocycles. Indeed, two different alkynes were used, which include an internal alkyne for the first step.

Keywords

Carbenes; Gold; Hydroamination; Catalysis; Nitrogen-heterocycles

Introduction

In the last few years, spectacular results in homogeneous catalysis have been achieved using bulky phosphines¹ and cyclic diaminocarbenes (NHCs)² as strong donor ligands. Recently, we have uncovered a novel family of stable carbenes,³ the cyclic (alkyl)(amino)carbenes (CAACs) **1** (Fig. 1).⁴ The replacement of one of the nitrogen by a carbon center makes CAACs slightly more nucleophilic, but considerably more electrophilic than NHCs.⁵ Moreover, due to the presence of a quaternary carbon in a position α to the carbene center, CAACs feature steric environments that differentiate them dramatically from other ligands, including NHCs. Of particular interest, we have shown that spirocyclic CAACs **1a** and **1b** allow the preparation of low-coordinate metal complexes,⁶ hitherto not isolable with any other ligands,⁷ including the closely related CAAC **1c**. Since low-coordinate metal complexes often play a key role in

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BRIEFS. A gold(I) complex, bearing a stable spirocyclic (alkyl)(amino)carbene, built from a very cheap aldehyde precursor, allows for the one-pot three-component synthesis of 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives from secondary (aryl(alkyl) amines, internal and terminal alkynes.

Supporting Information Available. Crystallographic data for **2d** (CCDC number: 723865) and **11a** (CCDC number: 723864), and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for compounds **1d**, **2d**, **5**, **7**, and **11a,b,e,i,j**. This material is available free of charge via the internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

catalytic processes, it is not surprising that, with a few exceptions,⁸ CAACs **1a** and **1b** lead to the best promoters. For example, in the presence of a stoichiometric amount of $\text{KB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$, (CAAC)AuCl complex **2a** efficiently catalyzed hydroamination of alkynes and allenes with ammonia^{9a} and basic secondary amines,^{9b} and the formation of allenes by coupling enamines and terminal alkynes.^{9b, c} In contrast, all attempts to isolate the corresponding (CAAC)AuCl **2c** bearing the flexible CAAC **1c** failed, instead the cationic di(carbene) complex **3c** was obtained,¹⁰ and the latter is of course not catalytically active. The striking differences observed using CAAC **1a,b** versus **1c** are due to the hindrance provided by the adamantyl and menthyl substituents, which are locked in the most sterically demanding conformation with respect to the metal center. In contrast the non-substituted cyclohexyl ring of **1c** can undergo a ring-flip that prevents the protection of the metal. This clearly demonstrates the importance of preventing the ring-flip and forcing the ring to be oriented such as it can protect the metal.

An obvious drawback for many catalytic processes is the cost of the catalyst. Although the flexible CAAC **1c** is conveniently prepared from the commercially available cyclohexane carboxaldehyde, rigid CAACs **1a** and **1b** have to be prepared from the more expensive 2-adamantanone and (–)-menthone, respectively, and an additional homologation step is required. Here we report the synthesis of CAAC **1d**, which is built from a very cheap aldehyde. We show that in the presence of $\text{KB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$, the corresponding gold(I) complex **2d** is as efficient as the analogous complexes bearing **1a** and **1b** for the hydroamination^{11–13} of internal alkynes with secondary dialkyl amines, a process which has very rare precedent.^{9b,14} Moreover, we demonstrate that **2d** allows for the one-pot synthesis of a variety of 1,2-dihydroquinolines, a family of compounds that have been recognized as important synthetic intermediates, and which exhibit interesting biological activities and potential pharmaceutical applications.¹⁵

Results

In order to construct a readily available spiro-CAAC bearing a rigid ring oriented in the desired direction, we reasoned that the presence of a single substituent in position β of the aldehyde would be sufficient. Indeed, a reactant should attack *trans* to the substituent, and based on the well-known propensity of electrophiles to approach a ring from the equatorial direction, the substituent should also end up in an equatorial position. The other chair conformation would be highly adverse, and therefore the ring would be locked in the right conformation (Scheme 1). As an economically viable precursor, we chose a 95/5 mixture of *cis* and *trans* 2,4-dimethyl-3-cyclohexenecarboxaldehyde **4**, also named “trivertal”, a common fragrance and flavor material produced in bulk quantities. Enamine **5** was readily prepared in 94% yield, then treated with LDA, and after addition of 3-chloro-2-methyl-1-propene, compound **6** was isolated as a single diastereomer in 90% yield. A hydroiminium reaction^{4b} using a large excess of HCl gave rise to the cyclic aldiminium salt **7** (74% yield), and subsequent deprotonation with LDA afforded the desired carbene **1d** in 95% yield. Lastly, complex **2d** [(**1d**)AuCl] was prepared in 87% yield by ligand exchange from $(\text{Me}_2\text{S})\text{AuCl}$. A single crystal X-ray diffraction study demonstrated that, as hypothesized, the cyclohexene ring was in the desired conformation and orientation to protect the metal center (Fig. 2).

We first tested the catalytic activity of **2d**, in the presence of one equivalent $\text{KB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4$, for the addition of diethylamine to three representative internal alkynes. These reactions were chosen because, although numerous catalytic systems promote the hydroamination of alkynes,^{11–13} so far, only complex **2a**^{9a–b} has been reported to catalyze the intermolecular addition of dialkylamines to internal alkynes. We were pleased to find that **2d** was as efficient as **2a** (Table 1).

Having in hand a readily available precatalyst, we wanted to take advantage of its unusual ability to promote hydroamination of *internal* alkynes with secondary amines. Inspired by the recent works of Yi *et al.*,¹⁶ and Che *et al.*,^{17,18} we chose to study the one-pot three-component synthesis of 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives. Yi and co-workers reported a ruthenium based catalytic system leading to quinoline derivatives from an aryl amine and excess terminal alkyne, via hydroamination and C-H bond activation reactions. For the hydroamination step, only *terminal* alkynes can be used, since a ruthenium acetylide complex is involved, and therefore the C² substituent can only be a methyl group; moreover the second molecule of alkyne reacts quickly, and therefore the C² and C⁴ substituents are the same (Scheme 2, Eq. 1). The same limitations apply for the reaction developed by Che *et al.*, also a tandem hydroamination-hydroarylation protocol, but microwave assisted, and using a gold(I) catalyst of type (NHC) AuCl/AgSbF₆.

Since the gold(I) catalytic system¹⁹ based on **1d** allows for the hydroamination of internal alkynes, even with strongly basic amines, it became clear that the only serious limitation, for the three component cyclization, would be the use of a terminal alkyne for the second step. Consequently the dihydroquinoline skeleton could be readily decorated with three different R¹, R² and R³ substituents (Scheme 2, Eq. 2). The process was initially tested with N-methylaniline (**9a**), 3-hexyne (**8b**), and phenyl acetylene (**10a**) (Table 2). Using 5 mol% of complex **2d** and one equivalent of KB(C₆F₅)₄ in C₆D₆, the hydroamination of the internal alkyne **8b** was monitored by NMR spectroscopy. After complete conversion of the reactants, the terminal alkyne **10a** was added. As shown in Table 2, the 2-ethyl-2-propyl-4-phenyl trisubstituted derivative **11a** was obtained in 70% yield, and its structure was unambiguously confirmed by single crystal X-ray analysis. Note, that despite the formation of two regioisomers in the hydroamination of **8b**, only one dihydroquinoline is formed, as expected based on previous studies.^{16,17}

The scope of the reaction was surveyed using different arylamines (**9a–e**), and internal (**8b,c**) and terminal alkynes (**10a,b**). Aryl amines featuring *p*-Cl (**9b**) and *p*-OMe (**9c**) substituents are well tolerated. Benzocyclic amines **9d,e** can also be used, giving rise to tricyclic quinoline derivatives, which are important synthetic intermediates and common substructures found in a variety of complex natural products.²⁰ Both aryl- (**10a**) and alkyl-substituted terminal acetylenes (**10b**) are suitable for the reaction. Lastly, it is interesting to note that the hydroamination of the unsymmetrical internal alkyne **8c** leads to only one cyclization product (**11c,d,f,h,k,l**), although the hydroamination step gives rise to the Markovnikov and anti-Markovnikov regioisomers in 85/15 to 60/40 ratios, depending on the amine. Examination of the crude reaction mixture reveals that, probably because of steric hindrance, only one enamine regioisomer undergoes the cyclization, the other remaining unchanged.

Summary

This study shows that a stable CAAC, which provides steric protection to an ensuing metal, is readily available, from a cheap aldehyde precursor. Its efficiency as a ligand for transition metal based catalysts is illustrated. The corresponding gold(I) complex allows the addition of secondary dialkyl amines to internal alkynes, a process that has little precedent. The feasibility of this reaction allows for significantly enlarging the scope of the one-pot three-component synthesis of 1,2-dihydroquinoline derivatives, and related nitrogen-containing heterocycles. Indeed, two different alkynes can be used, which includes an internal alkyne for the first step.

Experimental Section

General Considerations

All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of argon by using standard Schlenk or dry box techniques. Solvents were dried over Na metal or CaH₂. Reagents were of analytical grade, obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. ¹H NMR, and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker Advance 300 spectrometer at 298 K. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) referenced to TMS, and were measured relative to the residual solvent peak. NMR multiplicities are abbreviated as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, sept. = septet, m = multiplet, br = broad signal. Coupling constants J are given in Hz. Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were obtained at the UC Riverside Mass Spectrometry Laboratory. Melting points were measured with a Büchi melting point apparatus system. The Bruker X8-APEX (S^{xvii}) X-ray diffraction instrument with Mo-radiation was used for data collection.

Arylamines and alkynes are commercially available from Sigma-Aldrich and Acros Organics. Gold complex **2a** and KB(C₆F₅)₄ were prepared according to the literature.^{9c} The spectroscopic data observed for the products of hydroamination of internal alkynes with Et₂NH (Table 1) are identical to those reported in the literature.^{9b}

Synthesis of compound 5

2,6-Diisopropylaniline (10.00 mL, 9.40 g, 53.0 mmol) was added at room temperature to a reaction flask containing molecular sieves (15 g) and a toluene solution (25 mL) of trivalent **4** (8.05 mL, 7.54 g, 54.6 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h at 100 °C. Molecular sieves were removed by filtration, and toluene was removed under vacuum. Excess of trivalent **4** was removed by a short path distillation at 60 °C under high vacuum to afford 14.57 g of imine **5** as a yellow oil (94% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.83 (d, ³J = 5.6 Hz, 1H, NCH^{trans}), 7.73 (d, ³J = 5.4 Hz, 1H, NCH^{cis}), 7.29-7.18 (m, 3H, CH), 5.52 (s, 1H, CH^{trans}), 5.46 (s, 1H, CH^{cis}), 3.13 (sept, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.63-2.55 (m, 1H, CH), 2.46-2.41 (m, 1H, CH), 2.21-2.14 (m, 4H, CH₂), 1.87 (s, 3H, CH₃^{cis}), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃^{trans}), 1.44 (d, ³J = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃^{trans}), 1.33 (d, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 12H, CH₃^{cis}); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 170.9 (NCH^{cis}), 170.2 (NCH^{trans}), 149.1 (C^q), 137.7 (C^q), 133.3 (C^q), 127.0 (CH^{trans}), 126.5 (CH^{cis}), 124.0 (CH^{cis}), 123.7 (CH^{trans}), 122.9 (CH), 48.0 (CH^{cis}), 44.6 (CH^{trans}), 32.8 (CH^{cis}), 32.2 (CH^{trans}), 29.1 (CH₂^{cis}), 28.4 (CH₂^{trans}), 28.0 (CH^{trans}), 27.7 (CH^{cis}), 25.8 (CH₂), 23.6 (CH₃^{cis}), 22.6 (CH₃^{trans}), 20.8 (CH₃^{cis}), 18.1 (CH₃^{trans}); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₃₂N: 298.2535 [(*M*+*H*)]⁺; found: 298.2537.

Synthesis of compound 6

A solution of **5** (7.07 g, 23.8 mmol) in Et₂O (15 mL) was added slowly to a solution of lithium diisopropylamine (LDA) (2.62 g, 24.5 mmol) in Et₂O (30 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred and allowed to warm-up to room temperature, then stirred for an additional 3 h. All volatiles were removed under vacuum, and Et₂O (30 mL) was added. After the solution was cooled to -78 °C, 3-chloro-2-methyl-1-propene (2.22 g, 2.40 mL, 24.5 mmol) was slowly added under stirring. After stirring for 2 h, all volatiles were removed under vacuum. Hexanes (20 mL) was added and the suspension was filtered via a filter-cannula. The solvent was evaporated to give 7.52 g of compound **6** as a pale yellow oil (90% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.70 (s, 1H, NCH), 7.19-7.09 (m, 3H, CH), 5.22 (s, 1H, CH), 4.99 (s, 1H, CH₂), 4.84 (s, 1H, CH₂), 3.15 (sept, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.61 (s, 2H, CH₂), 2.50-2.48 (m, 1H, CH), 1.94-1.84 (m, 4H, CH₂), 1.77 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.23 (d, ³J = 6.8 Hz, 12H, CH₃), 1.04 (d, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 171.0 (NCH), 150.1 (C^q), 142.9 (C^q), 137.9 (C^q), 133.7 (C^q), 127.2 (CH), 124.6 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 116.2 (CH₂), 45.9 (C^q), 43.8 (CH₂), 35.8 (CH), 31.3 (CH₂), 28.8 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH), 24.2 (CH₃), 23.6

(CH₃), 21.3 (CH₃), 17.2 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₃₈N: 352.3004 [(*M*+*H*)⁺]; found: 352.2996.

Synthesis of iminium salt **7**

To a solution of **6** (7.52 g, 23.8 mmol) in hexanes (10 mL) was added a solution of HCl in Et₂O (2M, 25.0 mL, 50.0 mmol) at −78 °C. Precipitation of a white powder was immediately observed. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 30 min. Filtration of the precipitate, washing with hexanes (20 mL), and drying under vacuum afforded a white powder. Toluene (25 mL) was added and the reaction mixture heated for 16 h at 110 °C. Volatiles were removed under vacuum to afford **7** as a white powder (7.45 g, 74%). Mp: 218 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 10.67 (br, HCl₂), 10.07 (s, 1H, NCH), 7.40 (t, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.21 (d, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H, CH), 5.25 (s, 1H, CH), 2.53 (sept, ³*J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.49–2.46 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 2H), 2.01 (t, ³*J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 1.89–1.80 (m, 2H), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.48 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.46 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.24 (d, ³*J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H, CH₃), 1.18–1.13 (m, 6H, CH₃), 1.09 (d, ³*J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 193.3 (NCH), 144.6 (C^q), 144.0 (C^q), 134.0 (C^q), 131.9 (CH), 129.1 (C^q), 125.4 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 83.0 (C^q), 55.1 (C^q), 46.1 (CH₂), 39.7 (CH), 30.4 (CH₂), 30.0 (CH₃), 29.9 (CH₃), 29.2 (CH), 28.3, 26.8 (CH₃), 26.7 (CH₃), 26.3 (CH₂), 23.4 (CH₃), 22.2 (CH₃), 18.8 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₅H₃₈N: 352.3004 [*M*]⁺; found: 352.3000.

Synthesis of CAAC **1d**

To an Et₂O solution (10 mL) of iminium salt **7** (1.00 g, 2.36 mmol) was added at −78 °C a solution of LDA (0.51 g, 4.72 mmol) in Et₂O (10 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was extracted twice with hexane (10 mL). Removal of the solvent under vacuum afforded 0.79 g of carbene **1d** as a white solid (95% yield). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.27–7.12 (m, 3H), 5.61 (m, 1H, CH), 3.17 (sept, ³*J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 3.16 (sept, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.45–2.37 (m, 1H), 2.32–2.24 (m, 2H), 2.08–1.92 (m, 2H), 1.79 (s, 2H), 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.38 (d, ³*J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.26 (d, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H, CH₃), 1.20 (d, ³*J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.16–1.14 (m, 9H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 320.3 (NCC), 146.4 (C^q), 146.3 (C^q), 138.8 (C^q), 133.1 (C^q), 128.4 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 124.1 (CH), 81.0 (C^q), 65.2 (C^q), 48.7 (CH₂), 41.1, 33.7 (CH₂), 30.0, 29.8, 29.7, 29.4 (CH₂), 26.7, 26.6, 24.4, 22.3, 19.3.

Synthesis of complex **2d**

A THF solution (5 mL) of the free carbene **1d** (390 mg, 1.11 mmol) was added to a THF solution (5 mL) of AuCl(SMe₂) (324 mg, 1.10 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature in darkness for 12 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was washed twice with hexane (5 mL). The residue was extracted twice with methylene chloride (10 mL), and the solvent was removed under vacuum, affording complex **2d** as a white solid (564 mg, 87% yield). Mp: 240 °C; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.01 (m, 2H), 5.37 (s, 1H, CH), 2.68 (sept, ³*J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.49 (m, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.11 (s, 1H), 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.77–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.53 (d, ³*J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.47 (d, ³*J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.43–1.38 (m, 1H), 1.23 (d, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.12 (d, ³*J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.10 (d, ³*J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 0.91 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.88 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 240.1 (NCC), 145.5 (C^q), 145.4 (C^q), 135.8 (C^q), 134.1 (C^q), 130.4 (CH), 127.0 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 125.3 (CH), 78.1 (C^q), 60.3 (C^q), 48.1 (CH₂), 40.0 (CH), 35.2 (CH₂), 29.8 (CH), 29.7 (CH₂), 29.6 (CH₃), 29.5 (CH), 29.3 (CH₃), 27.4 (CH₃), 27.3 (CH₃), 23.7 (CH₃), 23.4 (CH₃), 23.0 (CH₃), 19.1 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI; CH₃CN): *m/z* calcd for C₂₇H₄₀AuN₂: 589.2857 [*M*–Cl+CH₃CN]⁺; found: 589.2865.

General catalytic procedure for the hydroamination of internal alkynes with Et₂NH

In a dried J-Young-Tube, CAAC(AuCl) complex **2a** or **2d** (0.025 mmol) and KB(C₆F₅)₄ (0.025 mmol) were loaded under an argon atmosphere. C₆D₆ (0.4 mL) and the internal standard, benzyl methyl ether, were added and after shaking the tube, the internal alkyne **8** (0.5 mmol) and Et₂NH (0.5 mmol) were loaded. The tube was sealed, placed in an oil bath behind a blast shield, and heated at the specified temperature (Table 1). The reaction was monitored by NMR spectroscopy. The products were purified by removal of the solvent and extraction with *n*-hexane.

General catalytic procedure for the three-component coupling reaction of arylamines **9**, internal alkynes **8**, and terminal alkynes **10**

In a dried J-Young-Tube, complex **2d** (0.025 mmol) and KB(C₆F₅)₄ (0.025 mmol) were loaded under an argon atmosphere. C₆D₆ (0.4 mL) and the internal standard benzyl methyl ether were added and after shaking the tube, internal alkyne **8** (0.55 mmol) and arylamine **9** (0.5 mmol) were loaded. The tube was sealed, placed in an oil bath behind a blast shield, heated at the corresponding temperature, and the reaction was monitored by NMR spectroscopy. After complete conversion of the reactants, a terminal alkyne **10** (0.5 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture heated at 100 °C for 24 h. The products were purified by column chromatography.

Characterization of heterocycles **11** resulting from the three-component coupling reactions

11a—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42–7.36 (m, 5H, CH), 7.09 (td, ³J = 6.8 Hz, ⁴J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.80 (d, ³J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.49 (t, ³J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH), 5.08 (s, 1H, CH), 2.80 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.36–1.27 (m, 6H, CH₂), 1.00 (t, ³J = 7.4 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 0.94 (t, ³J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 146.8 (C^q), 140.3 (C^q), 138.5 (C^q), 129.3 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 125.8 (CH), 121.0 (C^q), 114.9 (CH), 108.8 (CH), 64.1 (C^q), 44.2 (CH₂), 34.3 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₃), 18.2 (CH₂), 14.7 (CH₃), 9.1 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₆N: 292.2065 [*M*+*H*]⁺; found: 292.2064. Mp: 93–94 °C; Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction study were obtained by slow evaporation of a hexane solution.

11b—¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.14 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.12 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.68 (dd, ³J = 7.5 Hz, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.39 (d, ³J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.78 (s, 1H, CH), 2.38 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.34 (t, ³J = 7.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 1.62–1.48 (m, 6H, CH₂), 1.39–1.22 (m, 4H, CH₂), 1.03–0.81 (m, 9H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 147.6 (C^q), 135.8 (C^q), 129.6 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 121.3 (C^q), 115.9 (CH), 109.4 (CH), 63.9 (C^q), 44.7 (CH₂), 34.8 (CH₂), 32.7 (CH₂), 31.6 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₃), 23.4 (CH₂), 18.6 (CH₂), 15.1 (CH₃), 14.5 (CH₃), 9.4 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₃₀N: 272.2378 [*M*+*H*]⁺; found: 272.2381.

11c—¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.37 (dd, ³J = 7.9 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 4H, CH), 7.19–7.03 (m, 7H, CH), 6.60 (t, ³J = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH), 6.52 (d, ³J = 8.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.18 (s, 1H, CH), 2.89 (d, ²J = 12.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 2.54 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.49 (d, ²J = 12.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 146.5 (C^q), 140.8 (C^q), 138.2 (C^q), 137.5 (C^q), 131.4 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 126.7 (CH), 120.7 (C^q), 117.1 (CH), 112.0 (CH), 59.9 (C^q), 44.3 (CH₂), 31.4 (CH₃), 27.5 (CH₃); HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C₂₄H₂₄N: 326.1909 [*M*+*H*]⁺; found: 326.1913.

11d—¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆): δ = 7.28 (dd, ³J = 7.9 Hz, ⁴J = 1.9 Hz, 2H, CH), 7.14–7.06 (m, 4H, CH), 6.73 (td, ³J = 7.4 Hz, ⁴J = 1.8 Hz, 2H, CH), 6.48 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.04 (s, 1H, CH), 2.90 (d, ²J = 12.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.45 (d, ²J = 12.3 Hz, 1H,

CH_2), 2.28 (t, $^3J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.49-1.43 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.24 (s, 3H, CH_3), 0.84 (t, $^3J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 146.4$ (C^q), 138.5 (C^q), 134.0 (C^q), 131.3 (CH), 129.3 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 126.6 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 121.9 (C^q), 116.9 (CH), 111.7 (CH), 59.9 (C^q), 45.1 (CH_2), 32.4 (CH_2), 31.4 (CH_3), 31.3 (CH_2), 27.5 (CH_3), 23.4 (CH_2), 14.5 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}$: 306.2222 $[M+H]^+$; found: 306.2217.

11e— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 7.19$ (d, $J = 1.7$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.07 (dd, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.07 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.72 (s, 1H, CH), 2.23 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.14 (t, $^3J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.49-1.35 (m, 6H, CH_2), 1.28-1.16 (m, 4H, CH_2), 0.96-0.82 (m, 9H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 146.0$ (C^q), 134.9 (C^q), 129.7 (C^q), 128.7 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 123.0 (C^q), 110.3 (CH), 64.1 (C^q), 44.6 (CH_2), 34.7 (CH_2), 32.2 (CH_2), 31.1 (CH_2), 30.2 (CH_3), 23.2 (CH_2), 18.5 (CH_2), 15.0 (CH_3), 14.4 (CH_3), 9.3 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{NCl}$: 306.1989 $[M+H]^+$; found: 306.1987.

11f— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 7.19$ (t, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 2H, CH), 7.13-7.12 (m, 4H, CH), 6.97 (d, $^3J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H, CH), 4.98 (s, 1H, CH), 2.76 (d, $^2J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.41 (d, $^2J = 13.1$ Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.37 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.09 (t, $^3J = 6.7$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.39-1.30 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.17 (s, 3H, CH_3), 0.79 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 144.9$ (C^q), 138.1 (C^q), 133.4 (C^q), 131.2 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.6 (C^q), 126.8 (CH), 123.6 (CH), 124.6 (C^q), 112.5 (CH), 60.1 (C^q), 45.3 (CH_2), 31.9 (CH_2), 31.4 (CH_3), 30.8 (CH_2), 27.5 (CH_3), 23.2 (CH_2), 14.4 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{NCl}$: 340.1832 $[M+H]^+$; found: 340.1836.

11g— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 6.97$ (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.72 (dd, $J = 8.7$ Hz, $J = 2.9$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.31 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.86 (s, 1H, CH), 3.48 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.42 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.31 (t, $^3J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.66-1.56 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.54-1.46 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.35-1.26 (m, 4H, CH_2), 0.91 (t, $^3J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, CH_3), 0.84 (t, $^3J = 7.3$ Hz, 6H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta = 151.7$ (C^q), 142.3 (C^q), 135.5 (C^q), 127.2 (CH), 122.8 (C^q), 113.6 (CH), 111.7 (CH), 109.6 (CH), 63.5 (C^q), 55.8 (CH_3), 44.3 (CH_2), 34.4 (CH_2), 32.7 (CH_2), 31.5 (CH_2), 30.4 (CH_3), 23.3 (CH_2), 18.6 (CH_2), 15.1 (CH_3), 14.5 (CH_3), 9.5 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{NO}$: 302.2484 $[M+H]^+$; found: 302.2479.

11h— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 7.32$ (d, $^3J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.12-7.05 (m, 5H, CH), 7.01 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H, CH), 5.11 (s, 1H, CH), 3.48 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.91 (d, $^2J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.54 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.48 (d, $^2J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.30 (t, $^3J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.53-1.41 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH_3), 0.78 (t, $^3J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 152.4$ (C^q), 145.5 (C^q), 138.7 (C^q), 133.9 (C^q), 131.3 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 127.4 (C^q), 126.9 (CH), 121.0 (CH), 115.5 (CH), 114.1 (CH), 59.5 (C^q), 55.6 (CH_3), 44.0 (CH_2), 32.4 (CH_2), 31.6 (CH_3), 31.2 (CH_2), 26.8 (CH_3), 23.3 (CH_2), 14.5 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{NO}$: 336.2327 $[M+H]^+$; found: 336.2324.

11i— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 7.37$ (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.35 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 7.20-7.17 (m, 3H, CH), 6.90 (d, $^3J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.81 (dd, $^3J = 7.3$ Hz, $^4J = 0.7$ Hz, 1H, CH), 6.44 (t, $^3J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H, CH), 4.88 (s, 1H, CH), 2.84 (t, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.56 (t, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.71-1.60 (m, 6H, CH_2), 1.49-1.42 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.04-0.98 (m, 3H, CH_3), 0.88 (t, $^3J = 7.1$ Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): $\delta = 143.7$ (C^q), 141.4 (C^q), 139.7 (C^q), 130.3 (CH), 129.8 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 127.7 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 125.4 (CH), 121.1 (C^q), 120.3 (C^q), 115.5 (CH), 63.7 (C^q), 43.7 (CH_2), 41.8 (CH_2), 33.7 (CH_2), 29.1 (CH_2), 22.4 (CH_2), 18.8 (CH_2), 15.2 (CH_3), 9.6 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}$: 318.2222 $[M+H]^+$; found: 318.2215.

11j— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 6.98 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.81 (d, 3J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.56 (t, 3J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.74 (s, 1H, CH), 2.83 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.55 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.33 (t, 3J = 7.4 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.69-1.49 (m, 8H, CH_2), 1.41-1.27 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.02-0.94 (m, 6H, CH_3), 0.87 (t, 3J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 143.8 (C^q), 135.9 (C^q), 130.0 (CH), 125.0 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 120.6 (C^q), 119.9 (C^q), 115.4 (CH), 63.5 (C^q), 44.1 (CH_2), 41.8 (CH_2), 34.0 (CH_2), 33.1 (CH_2), 31.7 (CH_2), 29.3 (CH_2), 23.5 (CH_2), 22.4 (CH_2), 18.6 (CH_2), 15.2 (CH_3), 14.5 (CH_3), 9.6 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}$: 298.2535 [$M+H$] $^+$; found: 298.2527.

11k— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 7.41 (d, 3J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH), 7.19-7.14 (m, 5H, CH), 7.08-7.03 (m, 4H, CH), 6.87 (d, 3J = 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.56 (t, 3J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.16 (s, 1H, CH), 2.99 (d, 2J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.91-2.86 (m, 2H, CH_2), 2.61 (d, 2J = 12.7 Hz, 1H, CH_2), 2.53 (t, 3J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.66 (t, 3J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.27 (s, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 142.5 (C^q), 141.2 (C^q), 138.4 (C^q), 137.6 (C^q), 131.5 (CH), 129.7 (CH), 129.6 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.5 (C^q), 126.7 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 123.2 (C^q), 116.6 (CH), 59.2 (C^q), 43.1 (2 CH_2), 28.9 (CH_2), 26.6 (CH_3), 22.8 (CH_2); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}$: 352.2065 [$M+H$] $^+$; found: 352.2060.

11l— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 7.15-7.05 (m, 6H, CH), 6.87 (d, 3J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.68 (t, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.03 (s, 1H, CH), 3.00-2.89 (m, 3H, CH_2), 2.62-2.51 (m, 3H, CH_2), 2.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.63-1.57 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.51-1.44 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.26 (s, 3H, CH_3), 0.84 (t, 3J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 142.4 (C^q), 138.7 (C^q), 134.2 (C^q), 131.4 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 127.6 (C^q), 127.3 (C^q), 127.1 (CH), 126.5 (CH), 122.6 (CH), 116.5 (CH), 59.2 (C^q), 44.0 (CH_2), 42.9 (CH_2), 32.7 (CH_2), 31.3 (CH_2), 29.0 (CH_2), 26.6 (CH_3), 23.4 (CH_2), 22.6 (CH_2), 14.5 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}$: 332.2378 [$M+H$] $^+$; found: 332.2373.

11m— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 7.41 (d, 3J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, CH), 7.21-7.17 (m, 3H, CH), 6.92 (d, 3J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.85 (d, 3J = 7.2 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.46 (t, 3J = 7.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.89 (s, 1H, CH), 3.12 (t, 3J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.73 (t, 3J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.63-1.49 (m, 4H, CH_2), 1.10-1.05 (m, 2H, CH_2), 1.01 (t, 3J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 0.87 (t, 3J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 150.9 (C^q), 140.1 (C^q), 139.2 (C^q), 129.3 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 127.9 (CH), 127.3 (C^q), 127.0 (CH), 125.3 (C^q), 124.9 (CH), 123.3 (CH), 116.3 (CH), 62.7 (C^q), 45.3 (CH_2), 43.3 (CH_2), 33.4 (CH_2), 28.6 (CH_2), 18.8 (CH_2), 15.2 (CH_3), 9.7 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}$: 304.2065 [$M+H$] $^+$; found: 304.2062.

11n— ^1H NMR (300 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 6.92 (d, 3J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.86 (dd, 3J = 7.3 Hz, 4J = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.57 (t, 3J = 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.70 (s, 1H, CH), 3.10 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.71 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 2.34 (t, 3J = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH_2), 1.61-1.50 (m, 6H, CH_2), 1.38-1.30 (m, 4H, CH_2), 0.99 (t, 3J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 0.88 (t, 3J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH_3), 0.86 (t, 3J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, C_6D_6): δ = 151.0 (C^q), 136.3 (C^q), 127.2 (C^q), 125.0 (C^q), 124.5 (CH), 124.1 (CH), 121.3 (CH), 116.1 (CH), 62.3 (C^q), 45.2 (CH_2), 43.5 (CH_2), 33.5 (CH_2), 31.9 (CH_2), 31.7 (CH_2), 28.6 (CH_2), 23.3 (CH_2), 18.7 (CH_2), 15.2 (CH_3), 14.5 (CH_3), 9.7 (CH_3); HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}$: 284.2378 [$M+H$] $^+$; found: 284.2371.

Supplementary Material

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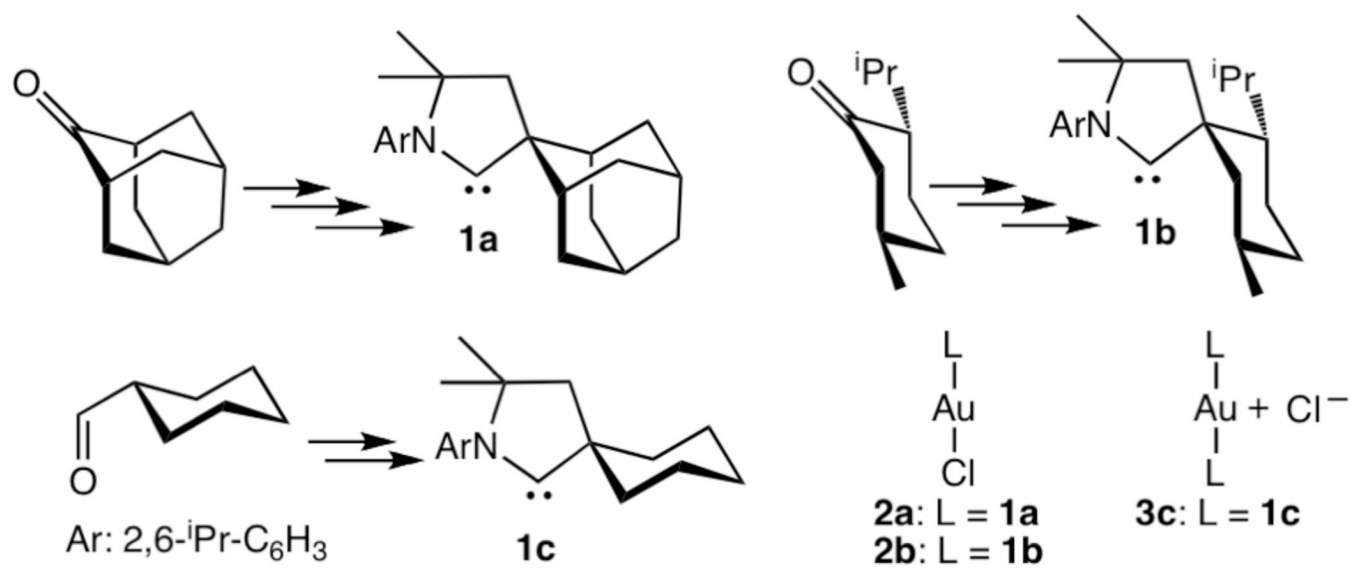


Figure 1. CAACs **1a–c** and their precursors, and the corresponding gold complexes **2a,b** and **3c**.

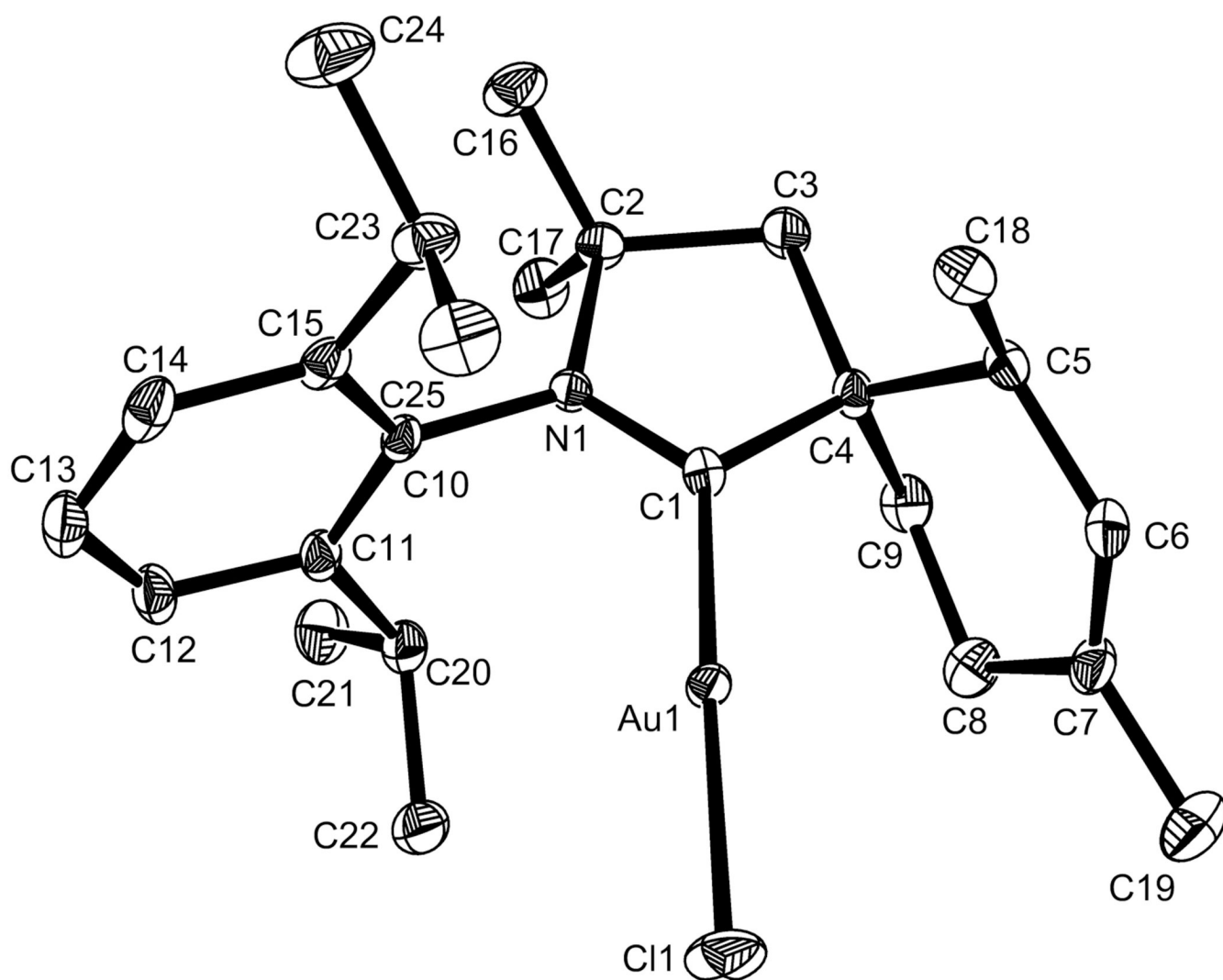
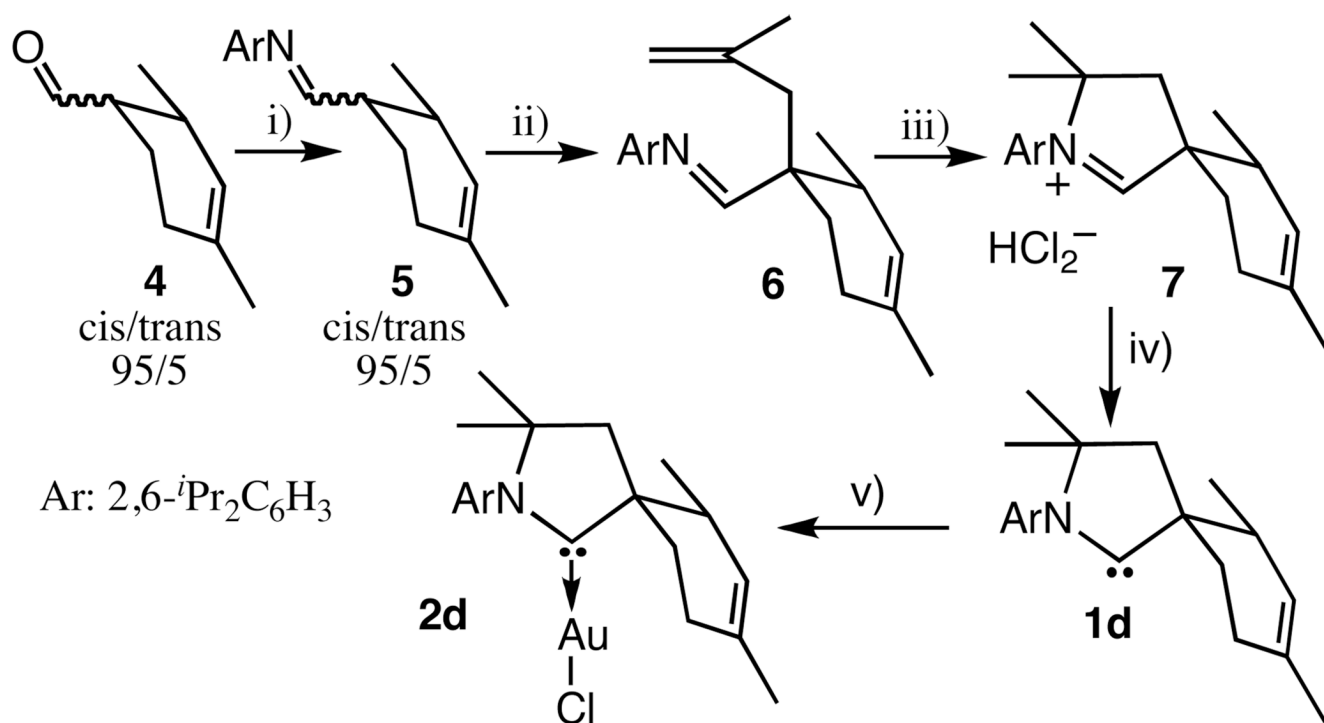
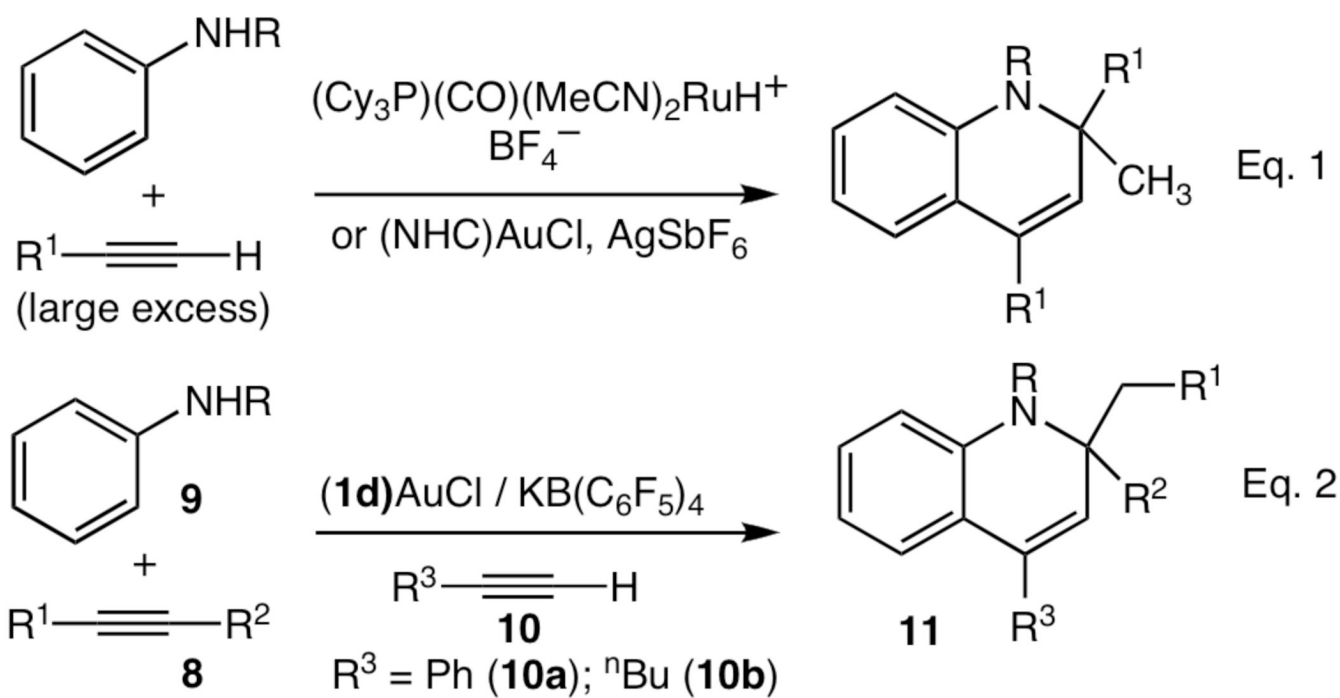


Figure 2.
Molecular structure of one enantiomer of **2d** (50% thermal ellipsoids are shown). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

**Scheme 1.**

Synthesis of carbene **1d** and gold chloride complex **2da** (**2d** has been redrawn)

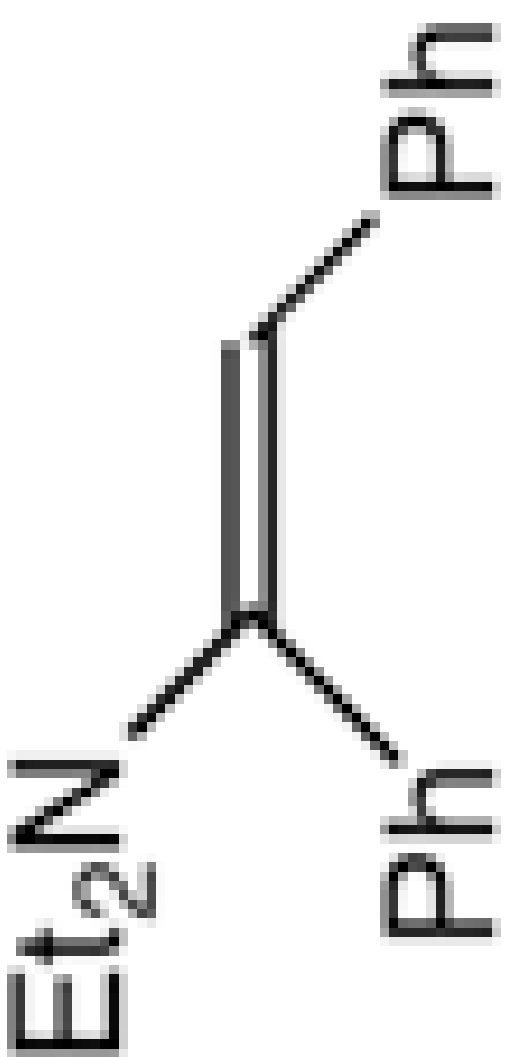
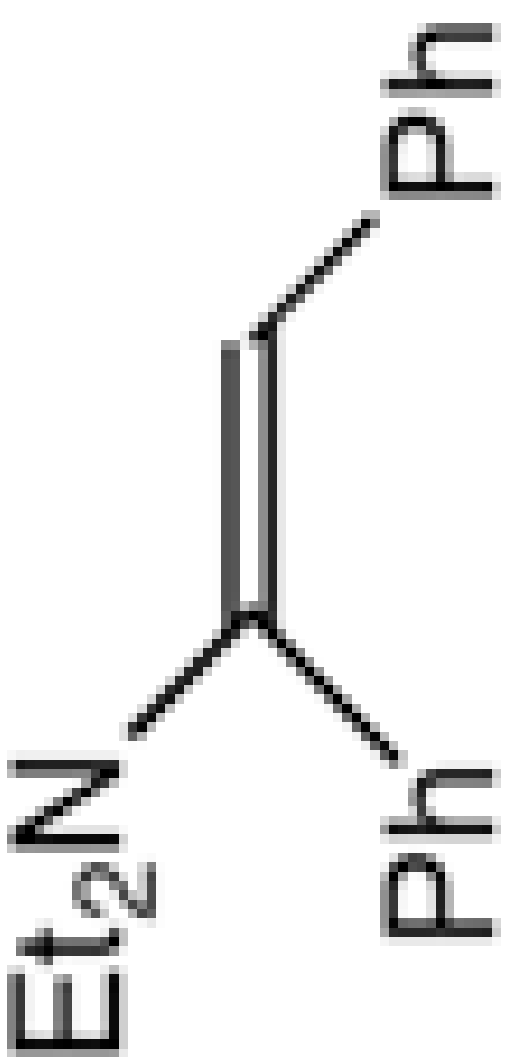




^a Reagents and conditions: i) ArNH₂, molecular sieves, toluene, 100 °C, 16 h, 94%; ii) LDA, Et₂O, -78 °C to rt, 3 h, then 3-chloro-2-methyl-1-propene, -78 °C to rt, 2 h, 90%; iii) HCl (2.1 eqs), toluene, 110 °C, 16 h, 74%; iv) LDA, Et₂O, -78 °C to rt, 2 h, 95%; v) AuCl(SMe₂), THF, rt, 12h, 87%.

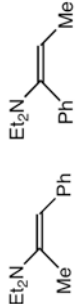
**Scheme 2.**

Scope of previously reported catalytic systems (Eq. 1),^{16,17} compared to the one described here (Eq. 2)

Table 1

Compared efficiency of Gold(I) complexes **2**, bearing CAAC ligand **1a** and **1d** for the hydroamination of internal alkynes with Et_2NH^a

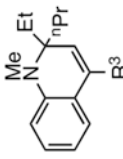
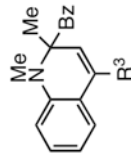
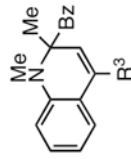
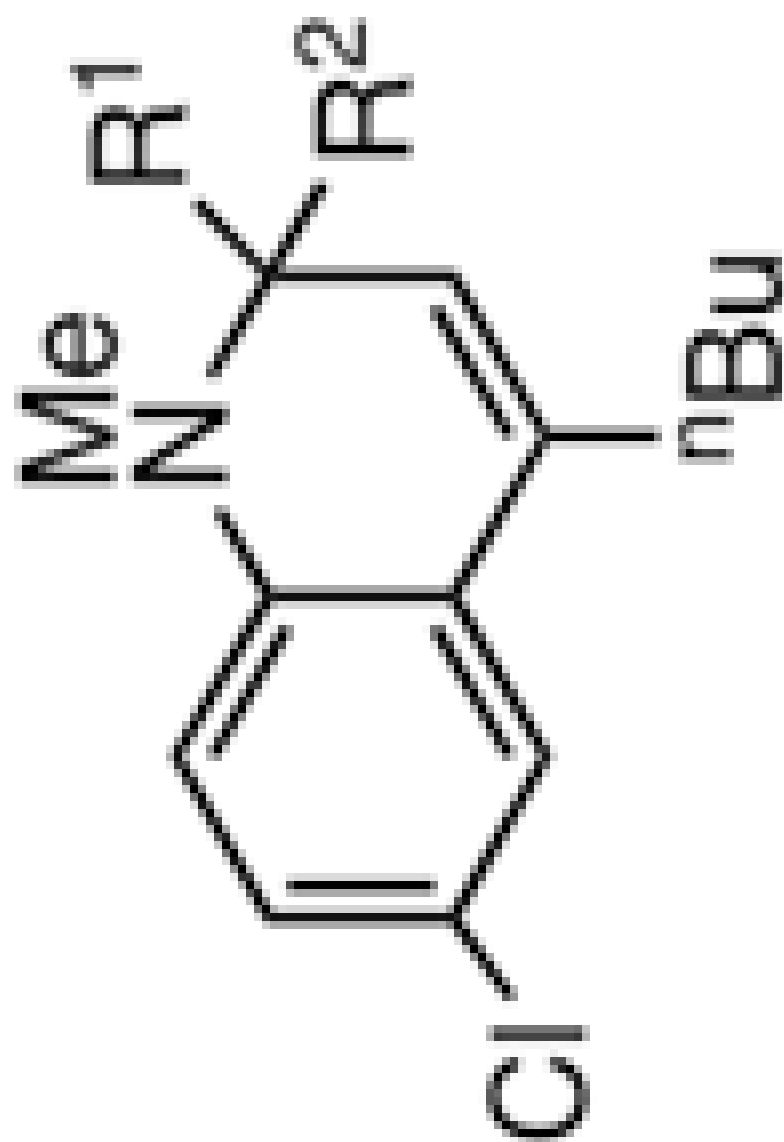
Alkyne	L	T (°C)	t (h)	Products	Yield ^b (%)
PhCCPh	1a	90	20		98
8a	1d	90	20		92
EtCCEt					
8b	1a	110	16		43%
1d	1d	110	20		39%
					57%
					61%

Alkyne	L	T (°C)	t (h)	Products	Yield ^b (%)
PhCCMe					
8c	1a	120	20	57%	89
	1d	120	20	52%	92

^a (L)₂AuCl complex (5 mol%), KB(C₆F₅)₄ (5 mol%), Et₂NH (0.5 mmol), alkyne (0.5 mmol), C₆D₆ (0.4 mL).

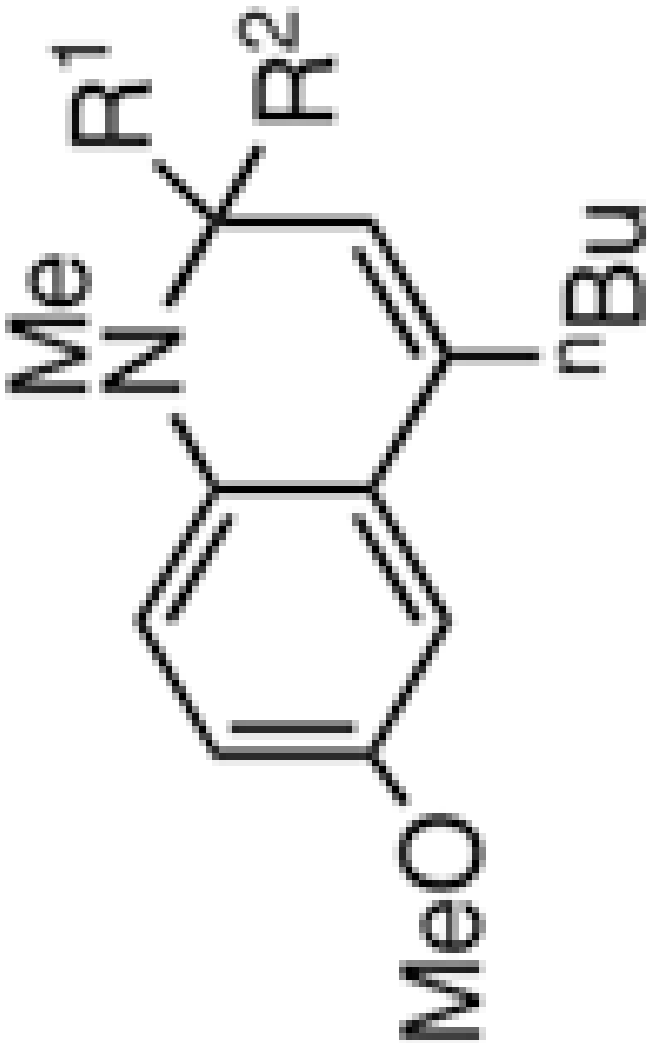
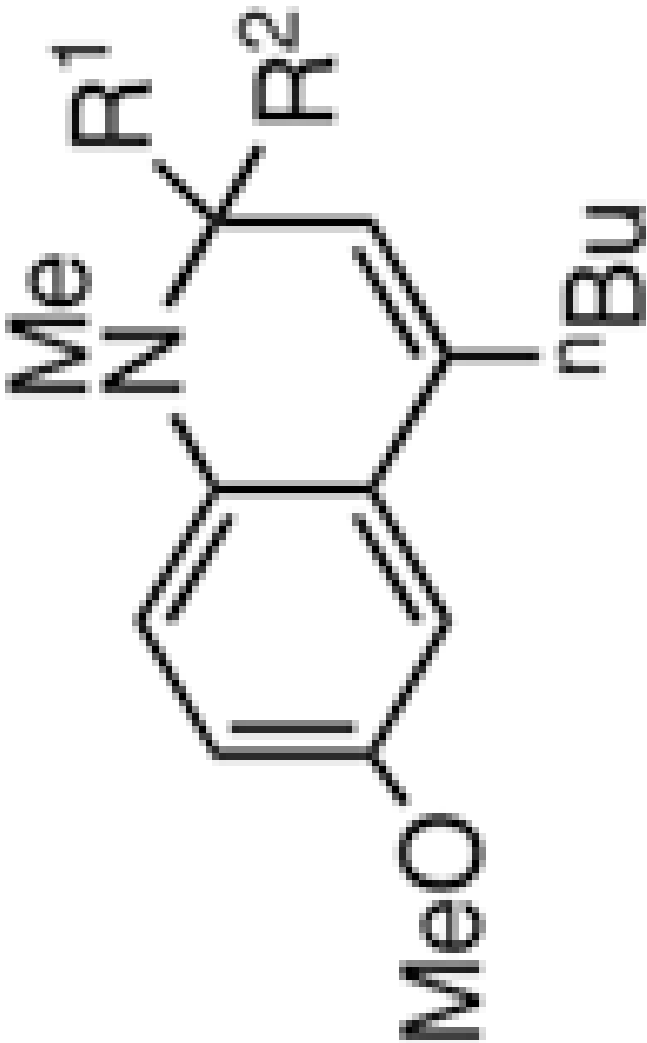
^b Yields are determined by ¹H NMR using benzylmethyl ether as an internal standard.

alkynes^d

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
8b	10a		70
	10b		77
8c	10a		83
	10b		71
8b	10b		68

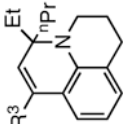
R¹ = Et,
R² = ⁿPr,
11e

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
8c		$\begin{array}{l} R^1 = \text{Me}, \\ R^2 = \text{Bz}, \\ \mathbf{11f} \end{array}$	79 ^c

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
8b		 <p>10b</p>	77
8c		 <p>61^c</p>	61 ^c

R¹ = Et,
R² = nPr,
11g

R¹ = Me,
R² = Bz,
11h

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
8b	10a		76
		$R^3 = \text{Ph,}$ 11i	
	10b	$R^3 = \text{nBu,}$ 11j	65 ^c

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
			$R^3 = \text{Ph, 11k}$ 53 ^c
			$R^3 = \text{nBu, 11l}$ 56 ^c

10a

10b

8c

Internal alkyne	Terminal alkyne	Products	Yield ^b %
10a			66 ^d
10b			73 ^d

^a **2d** complex (5 mol%), KB(C₆F₅)₄ (5 mol%), aryl amine **9** (0.5 mmol), internal alkyne **8** (0.55 mmol), C₆D₆ (0.4 mL), Reaction mixture heated at 120 °C till amine was completely consumed. Terminal alkyne **10** (0.5 mmol), 100 °C, 24 h.

^b Yields are based on arylamine **9**, and determined by ¹H NMR using benzylmethyl ether as an internal standard.

^c Hydroamination step at 100 °C.

^d Hydroamination step at 88 °C