

# Innovation & Sustainability in Process Chemistry

Parma 6-11-2024

## Nitrogen Ring Walk: a synthetic approach for substitution pattern alteration

Dr. Alessandro Ruffoni

[alessandro.ruffoni@RWTH-aachen.de](mailto:alessandro.ruffoni@RWTH-aachen.de)

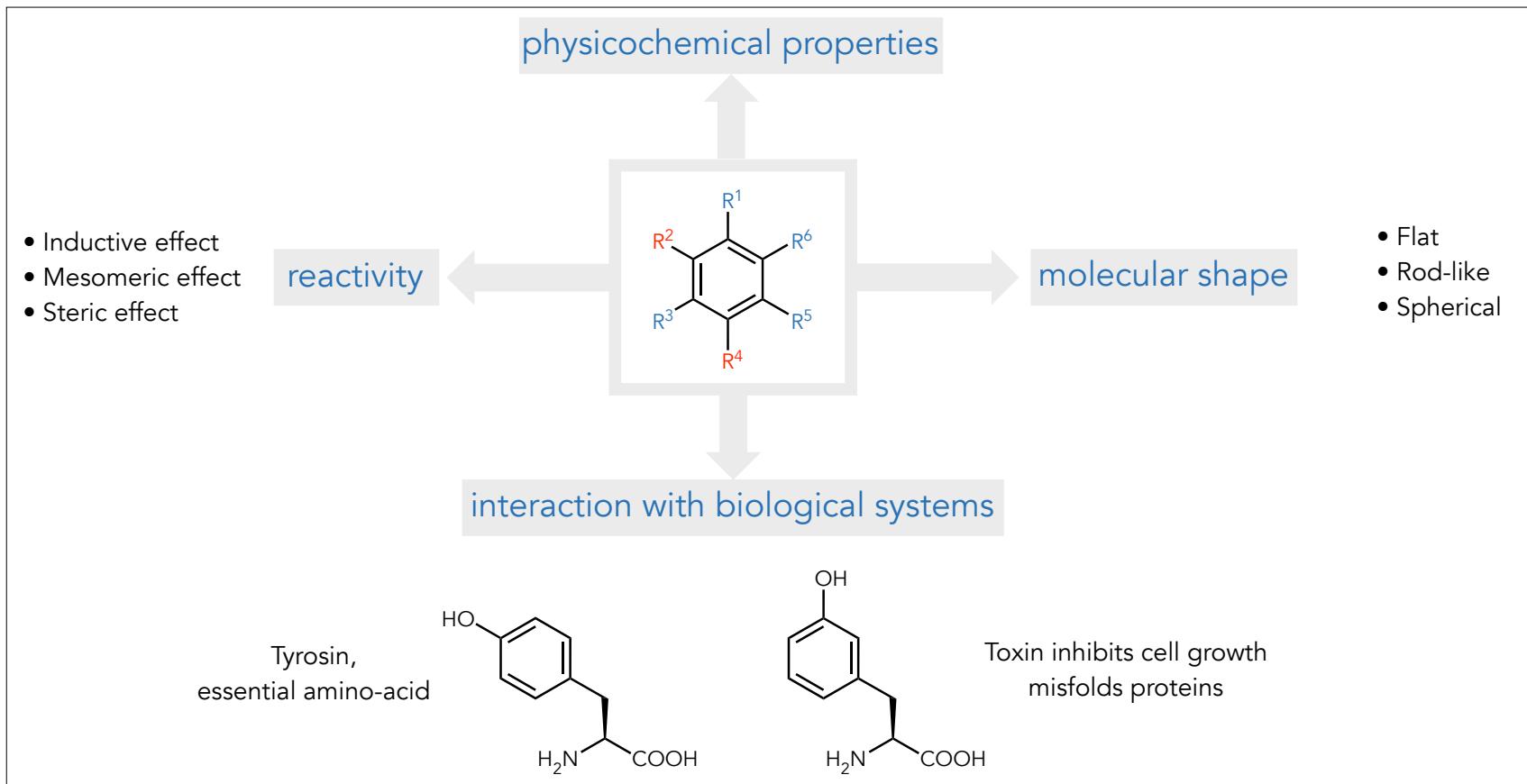
Institute of Organic Chemistry, RWTH Aachen University



Otto Diels Institute for Organic Chemistry, CAU Kiel



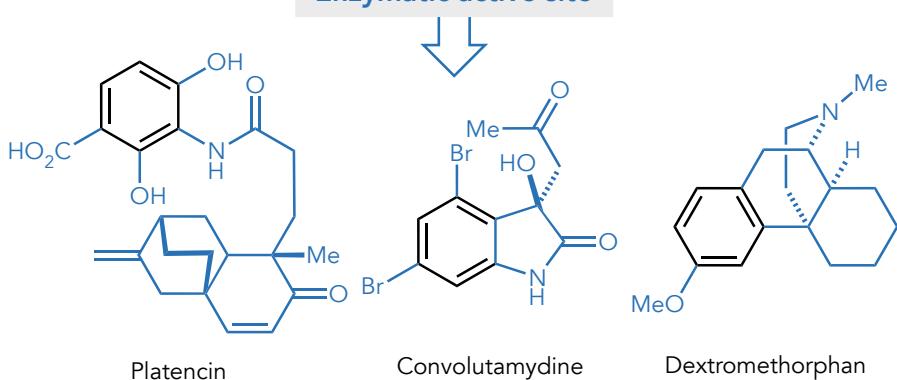
## Benzene Substitution Pattern



# Origin & Control of Substitution Pattern

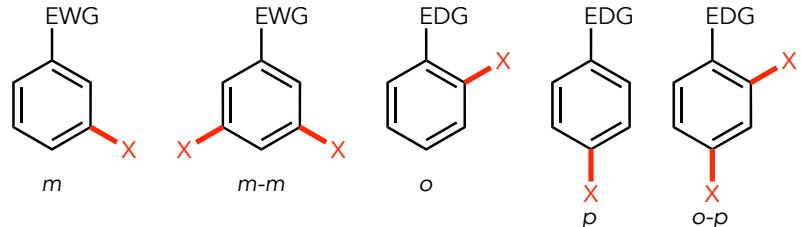
Natural product, Enzymatic reactions

Enzymatic active site



Feedstock functionalization,  $S_EAr$ , Radical addition

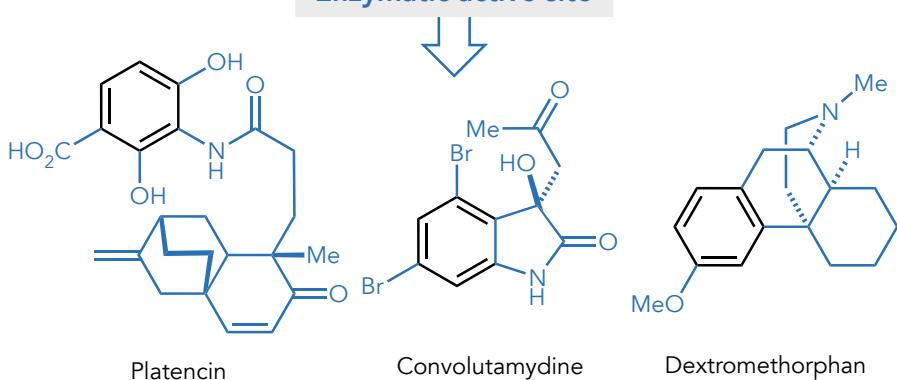
Intrinsic reactivity



# Origin & Control of Substitution Pattern

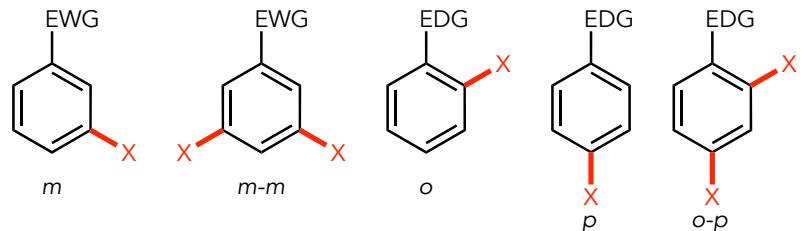
Natural product, Enzymatic reactions

Enzymatic active site

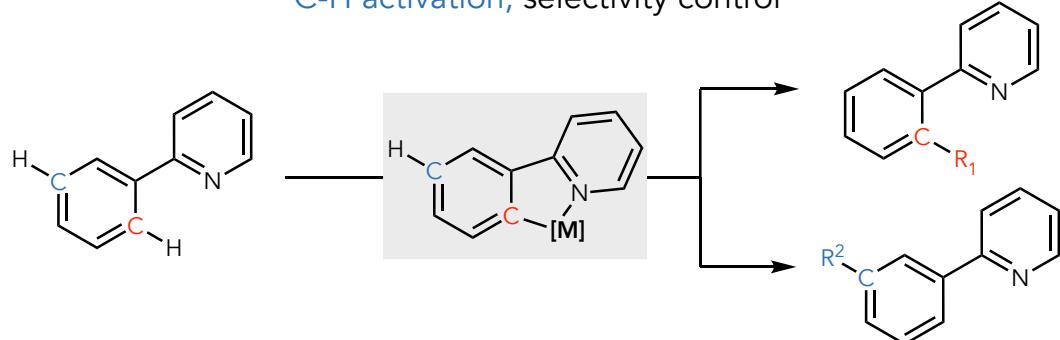


Feedstock functionalization,  $S_EAr$ , Radical addition

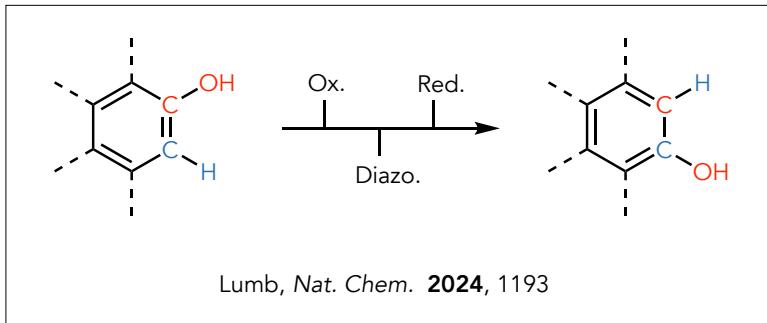
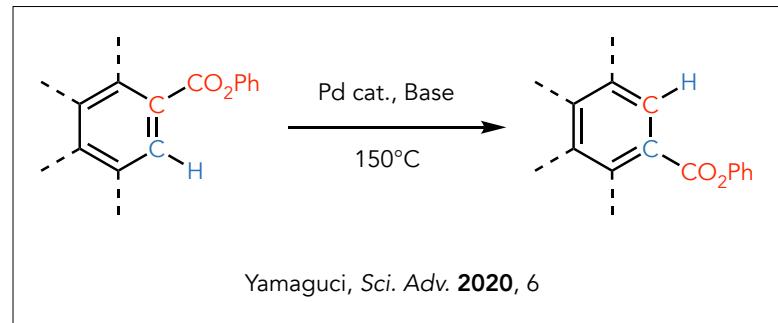
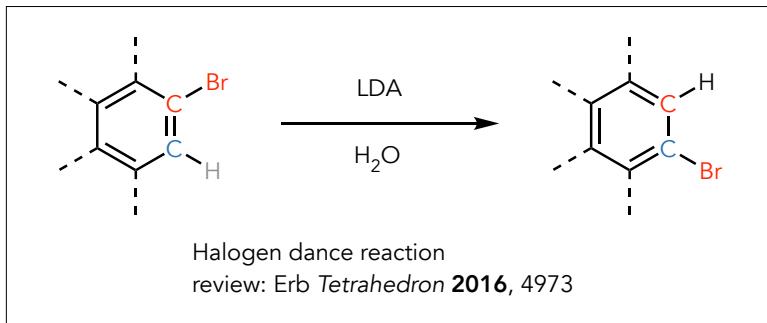
Intrinsic reactivity



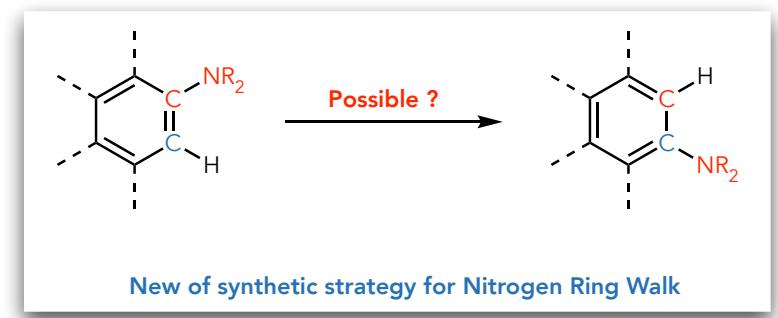
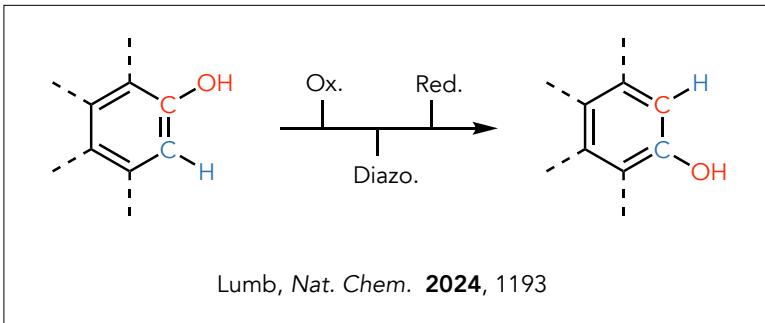
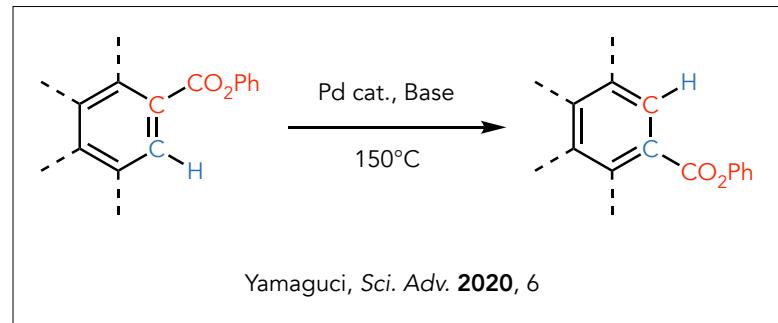
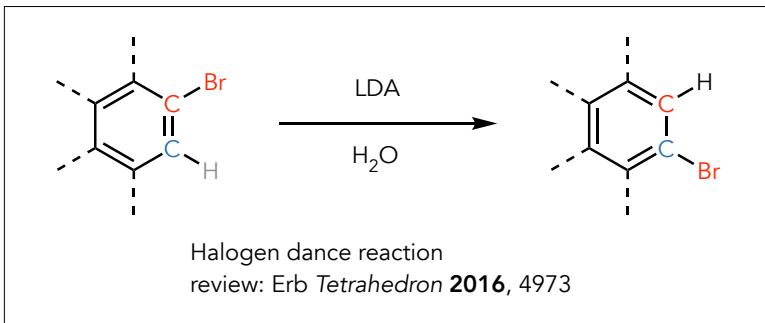
C-H activation, selectivity control



# Synthetic Methods for Substitution Pattern Alteration

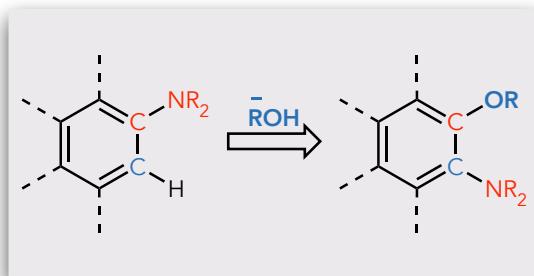


# Synthetic Methods for Substitution Pattern Alteration

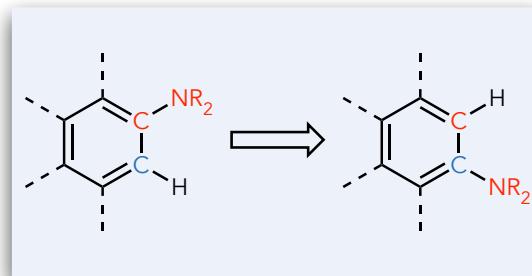


# Road Map to Nitrogen Ring Walk

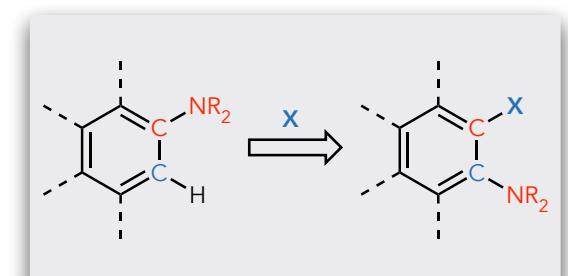
Synthesis of *ortho*-aminophenols



Nitrogen ring walk

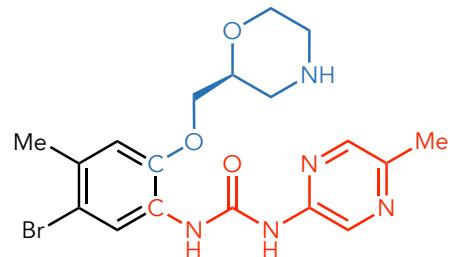


Synthesis of *ortho*-functionalized Anilines

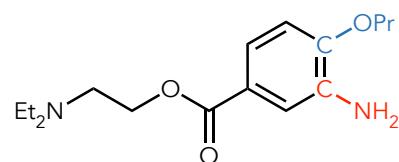


Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2023, 62, e202310540

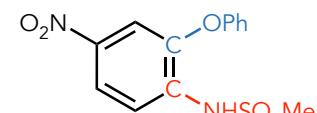
## Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols



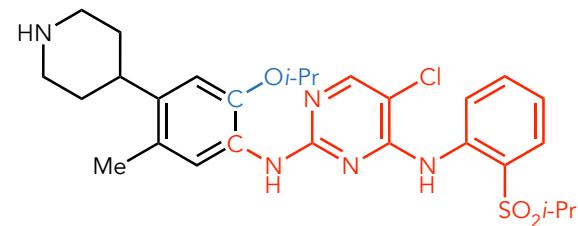
rabusertib (Eli Lilly)  
anticancer



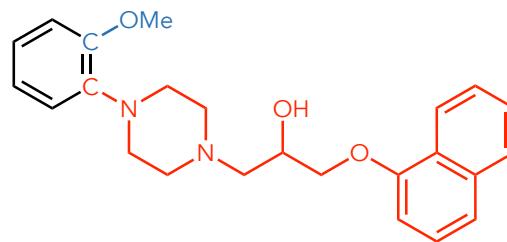
Proparacaine (POEN)  
anesthetic



Nimesulide (Vifor)  
anti-inflammatory



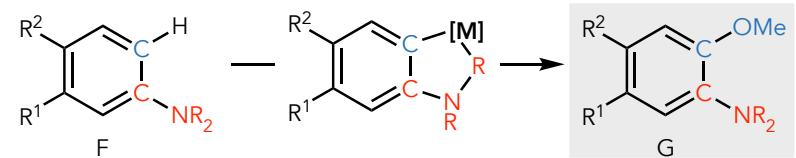
ceritinib (Novartis)  
anticancer



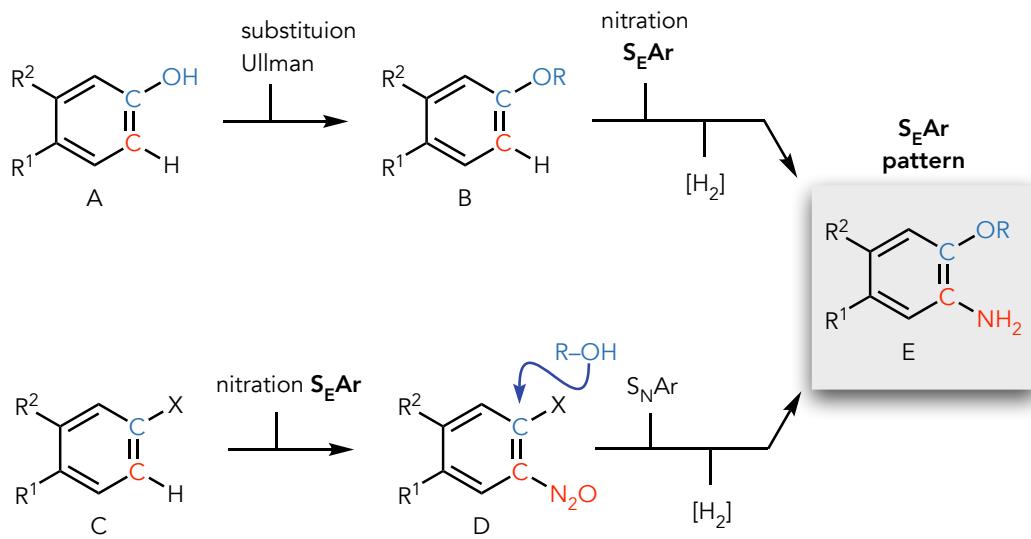
naftopidil (Flivas)  
α-1 blocker

# Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols

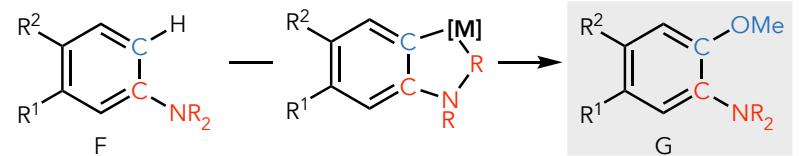
ortho-CH Etherification



## Current strategies



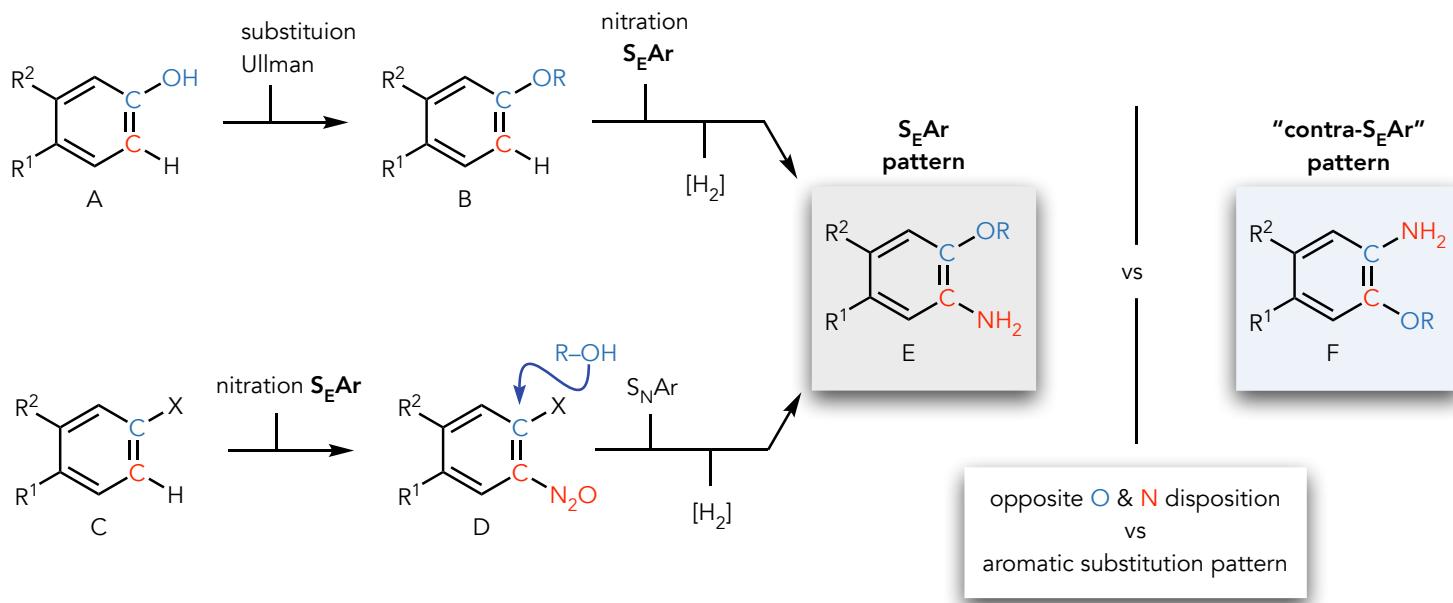
## ortho-CH Etherification



• Limited to  $\text{HOMe}$ ,  $\text{HOEt}$

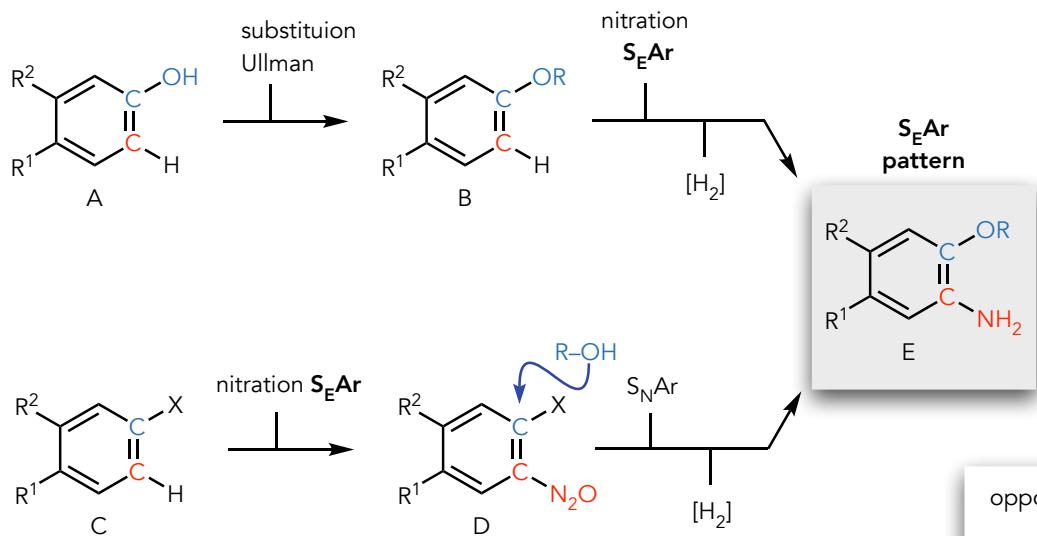
# Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols

## Current strategies

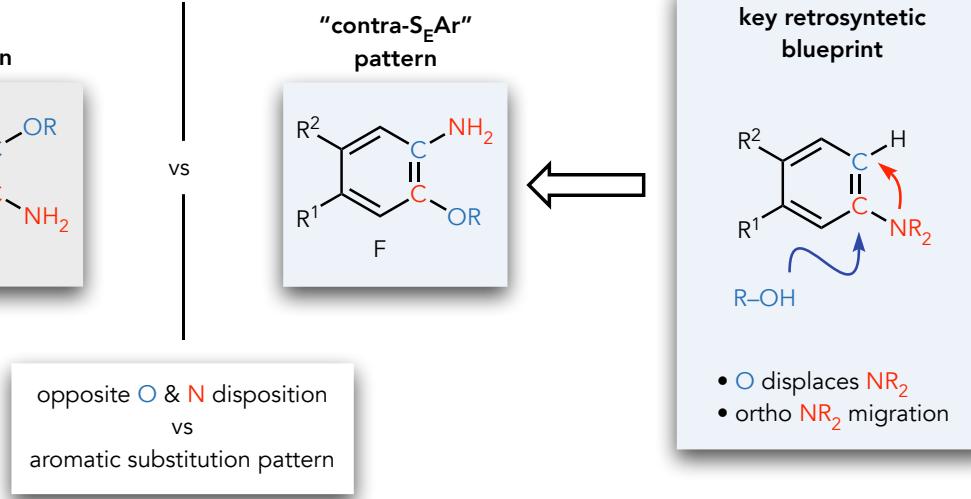


# Synthesis of ortho-Aminophenols

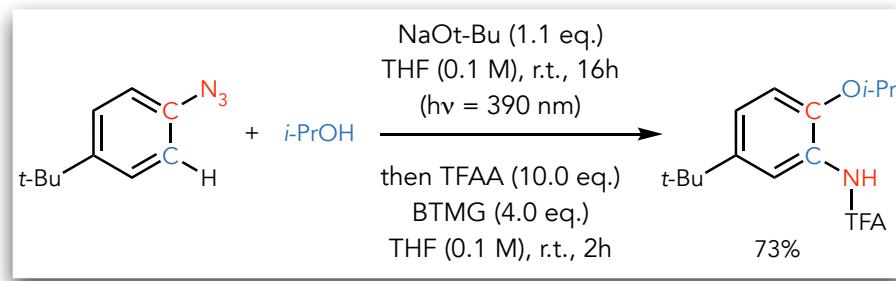
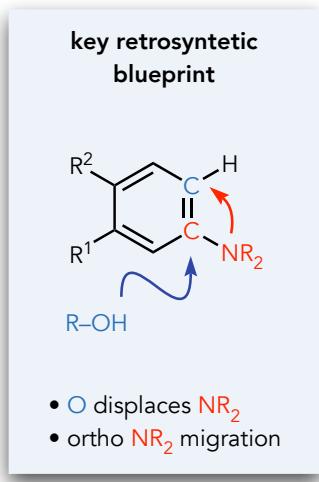
## Current strategies



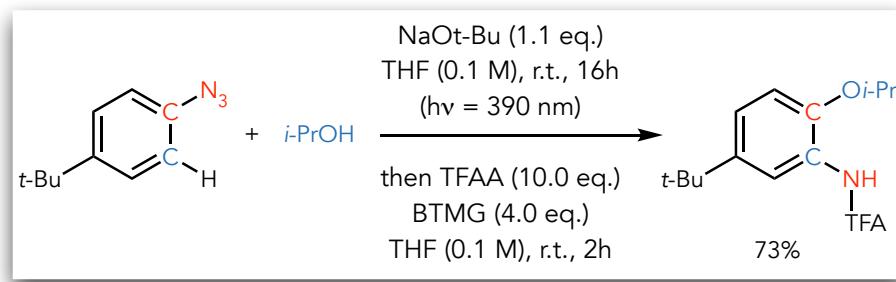
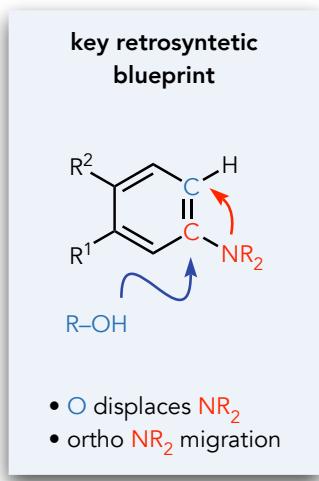
## New strategy



# New Approach for the Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols

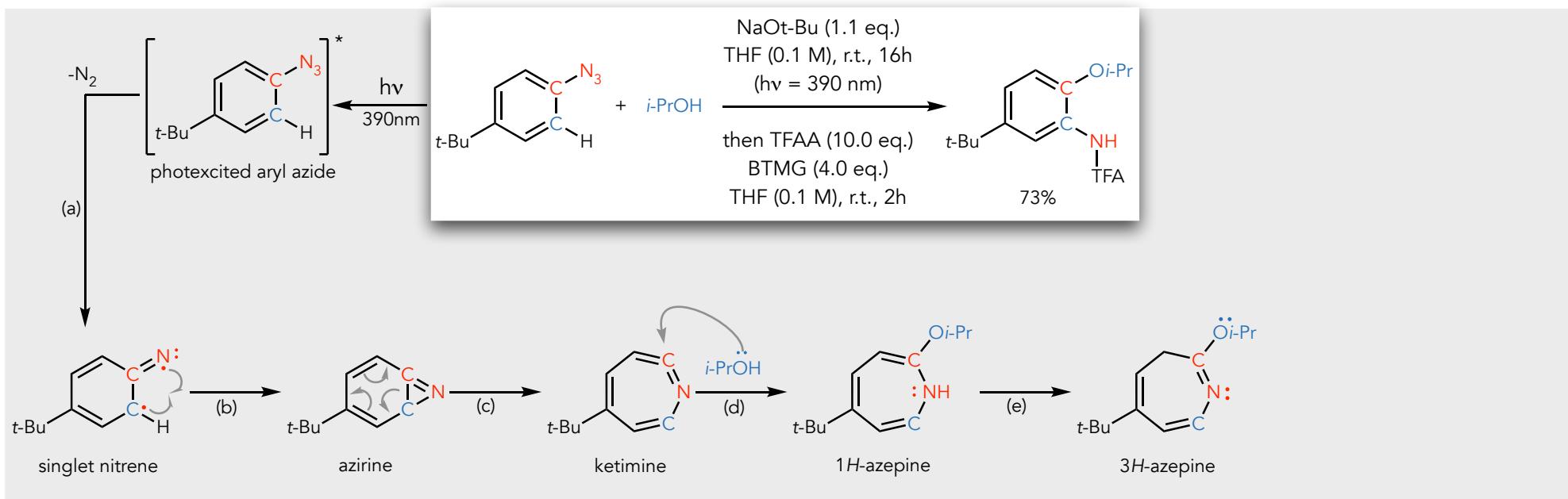


# New Approach for the Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols



- 1) Metal free formal “*Ortho*-CH oxidation” of aryl azide
- 2) Nitrogen ring walk along the aromatic ring

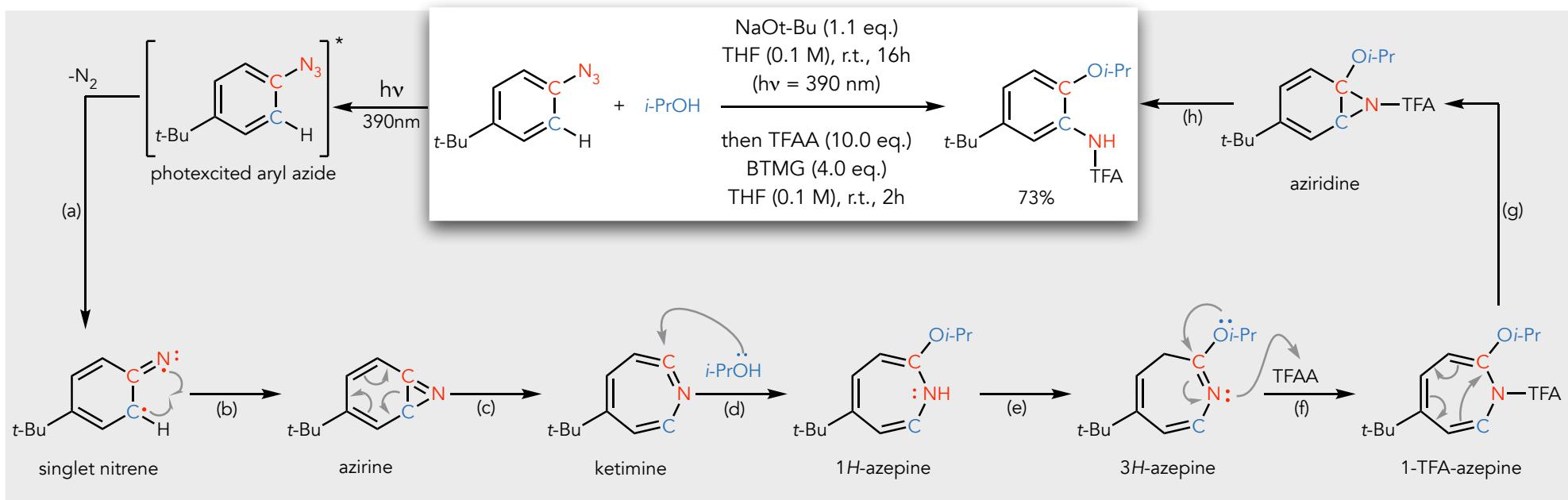
# Reaction Mechanism



## Breaking aromaticity

- |                               |                                   |                   |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) singlet nitrene formation | (c) 6 <i>π</i> electrocyclization | (e) isomerization | (g) 6 <i>π</i> electrocyclization |
| (b) azirination               | (d) nucleophilic addition         | (f) N-acylation   | (h) aromatization                 |

## Reaction Mechanism

**Breaking aromaticity**

- (a) singlet nitrene formation  
(b) azirination

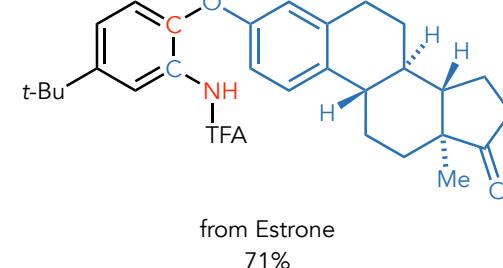
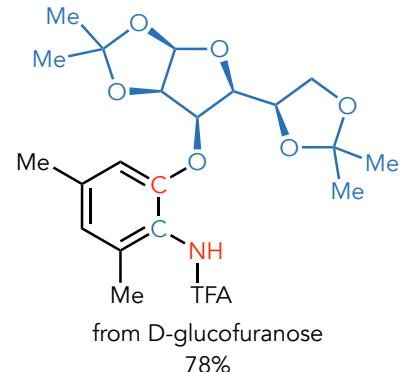
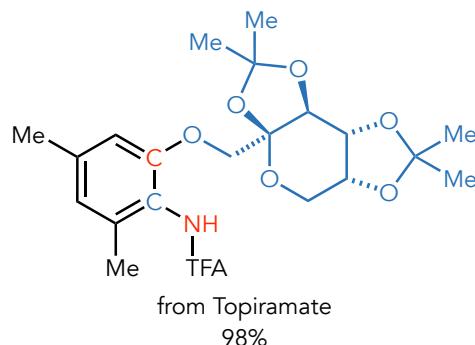
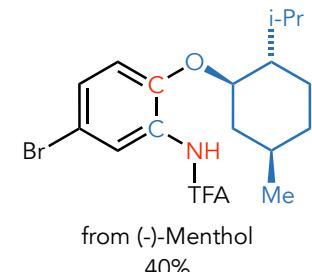
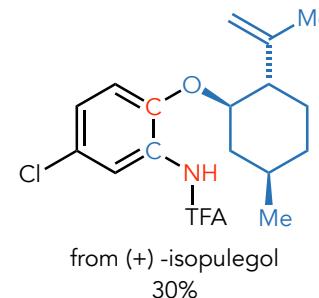
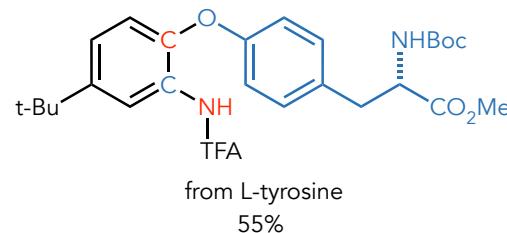
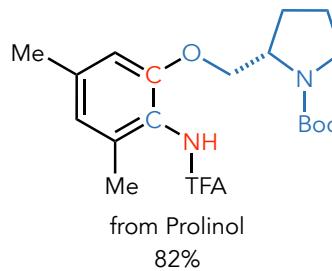
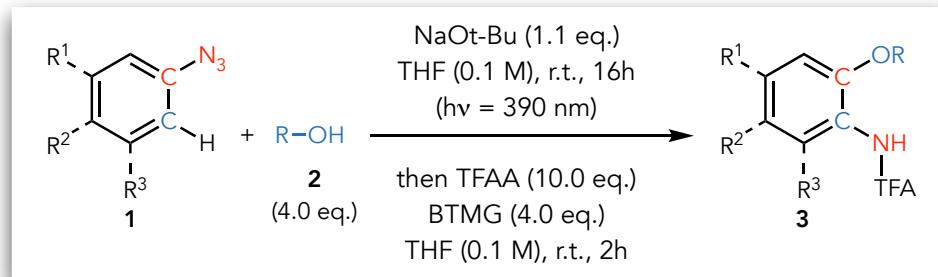
- (c) 6 $\pi$  electrocyclization  
(d) nucleophilic addition

- (e) isomerization  
(f) N-acylation

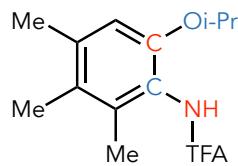
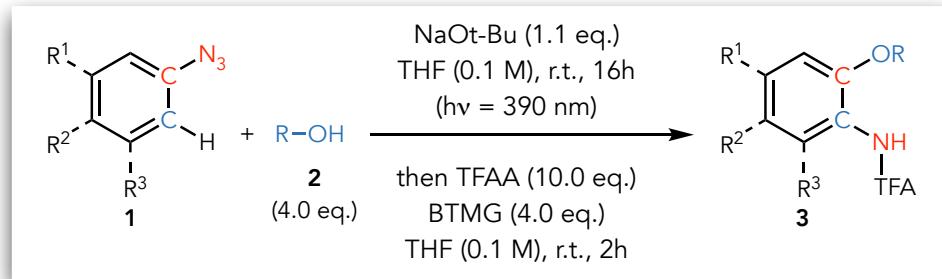
- (g) 6 $\pi$  electrocyclization  
(h) aromatization

**Re-building aromaticity**

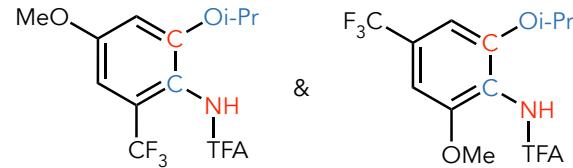
# Preparation of complex ortho-Aminophenols



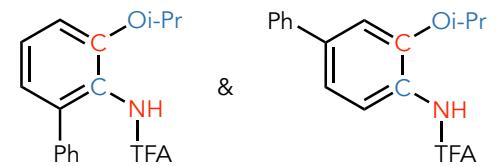
## Preparation of complex ortho-Aminophenols



60%

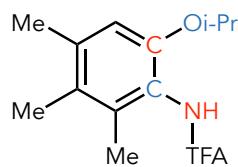
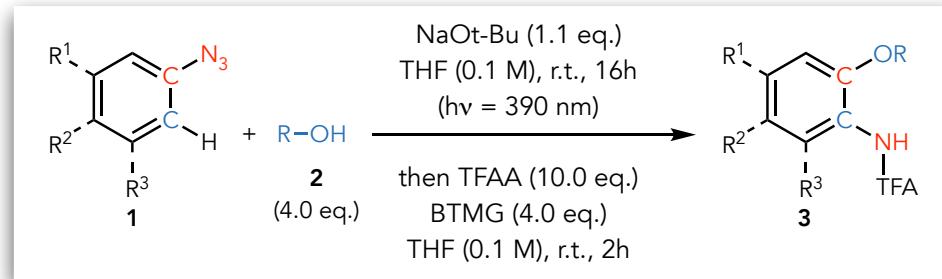


8.4 : 1; 66%

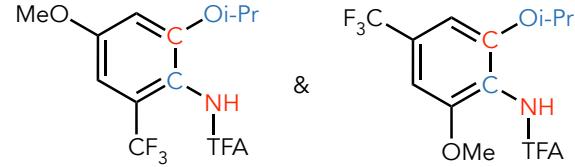


2 : 1; 55%

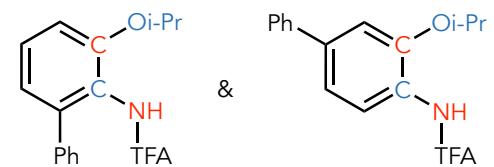
# Synthesis of *ortho*-Aminophenols : Selectivity



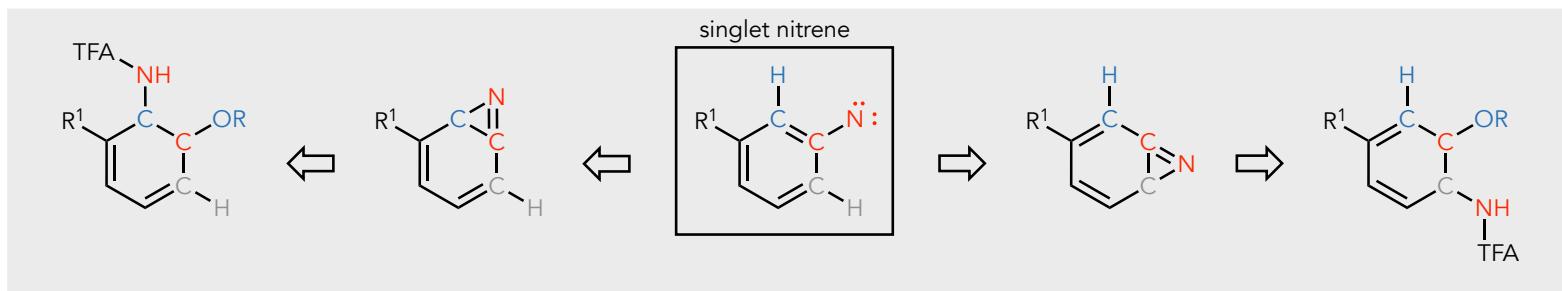
60%



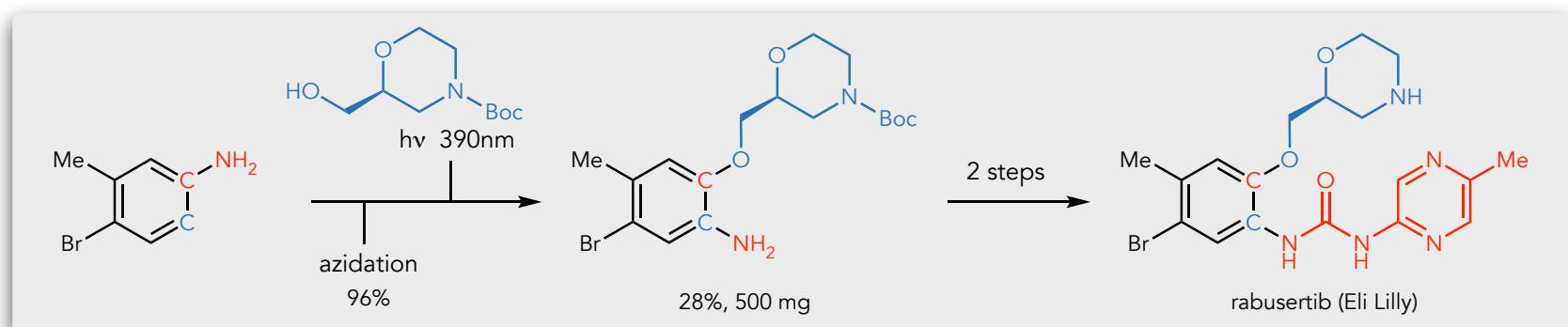
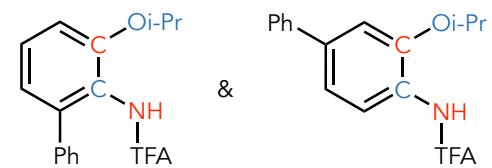
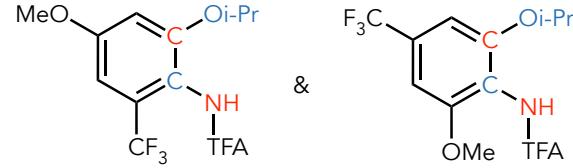
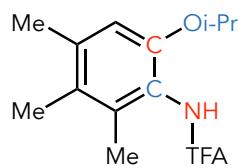
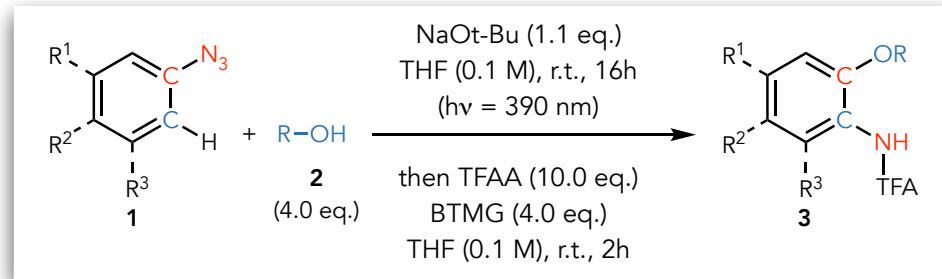
8.4 : 1; 66%



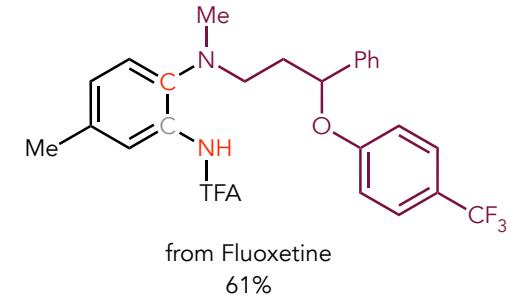
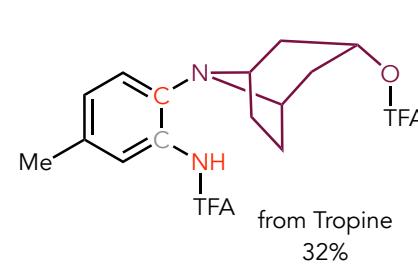
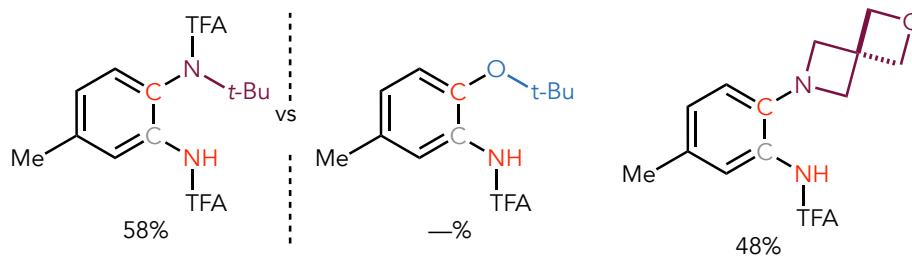
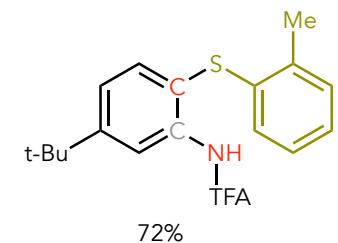
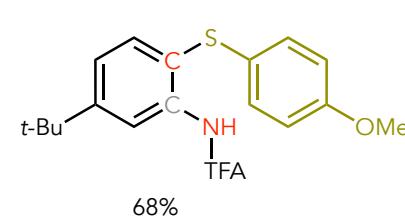
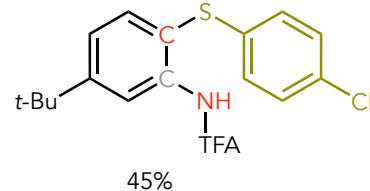
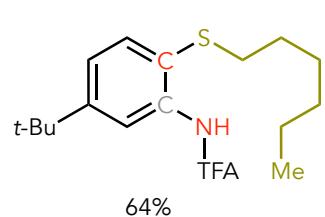
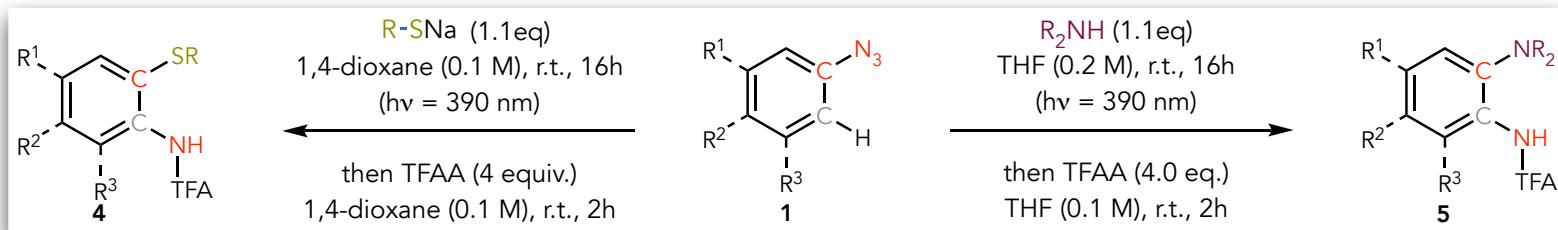
2 : 1; 55%



# Application in Synthesis of Drugs

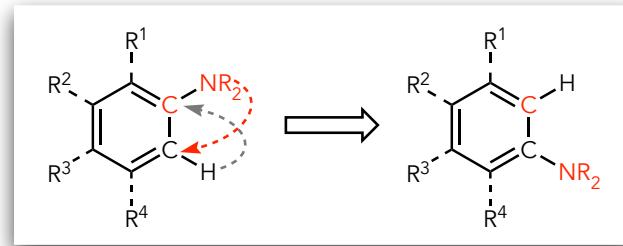


## Extension to Nitrogen and Sulfur Nucleophiles

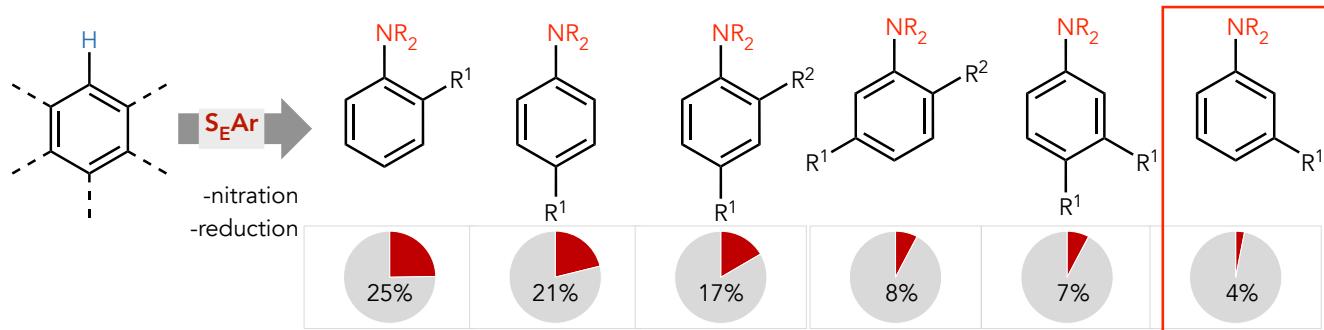


# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Nitrogen Ring Walk

-Late Stage Exploration of Substitution Pattern Chemical Space

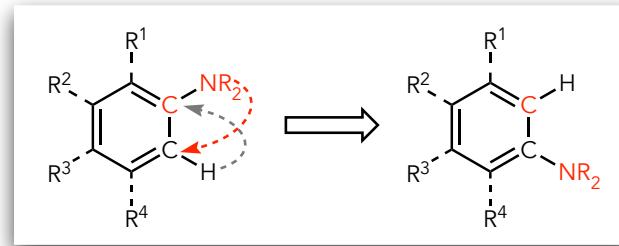


-Nitrogen contains molecule substitution pattern analysis

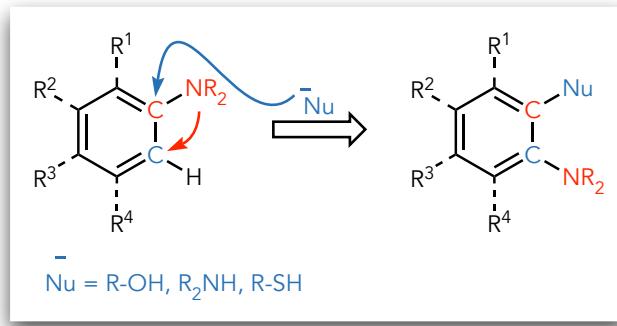


# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Nitrogen Ring Walk

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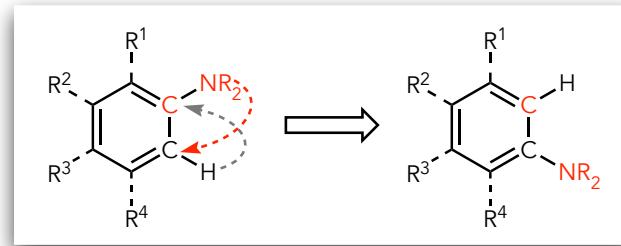


- substitution pattern alteration
- addition extra functionality

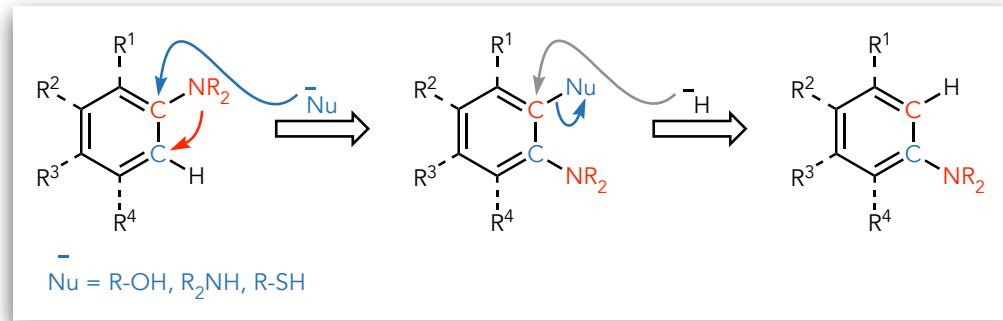


# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Nitrogen Ring Walk

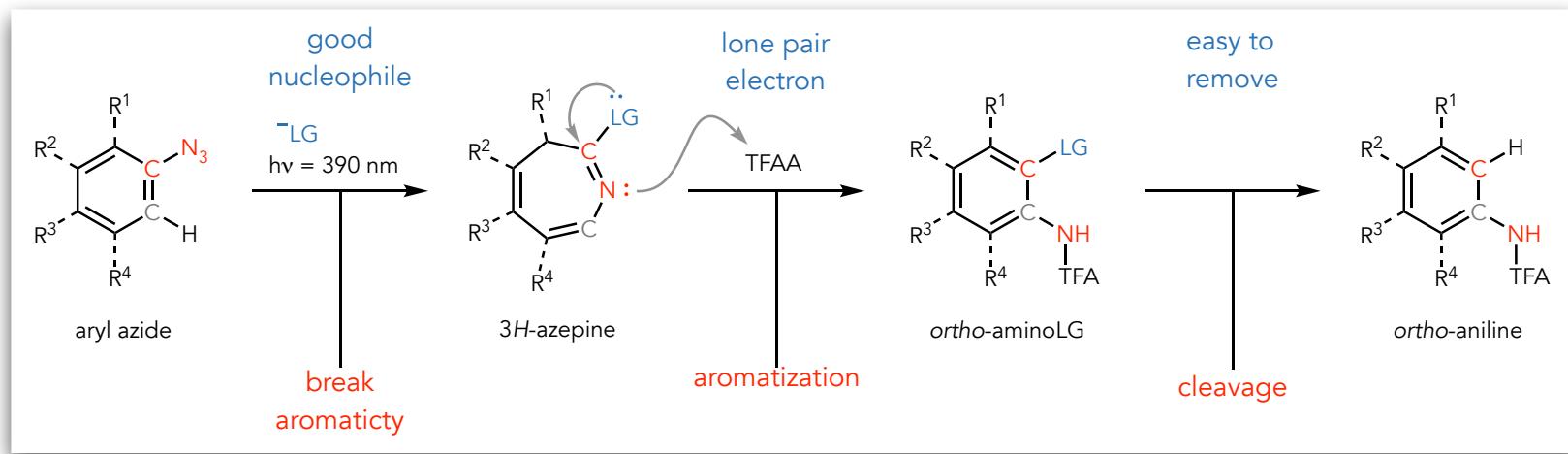
-Late Stage Exploration of Substitution Pattern Chemical Space

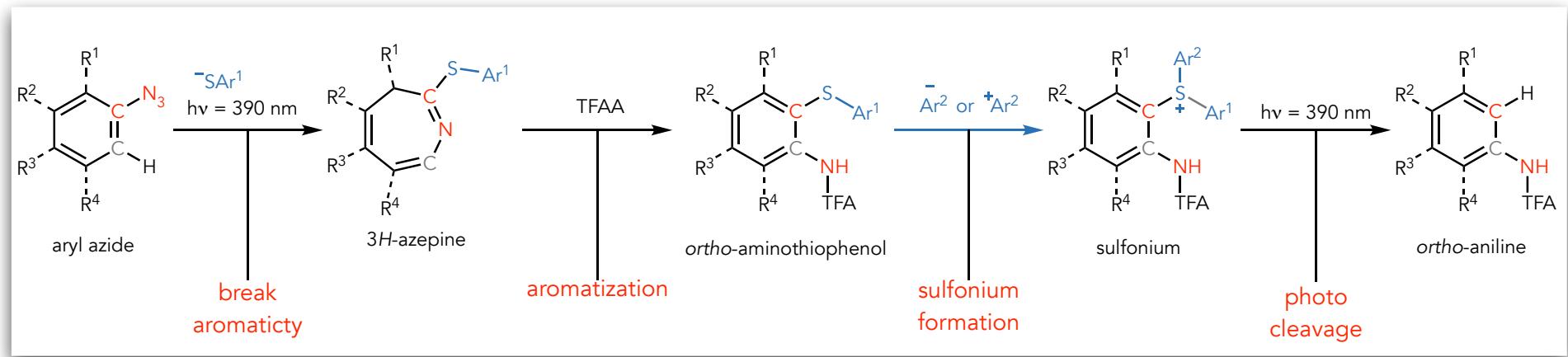


- substitution pattern alteration
- addition extra functionality

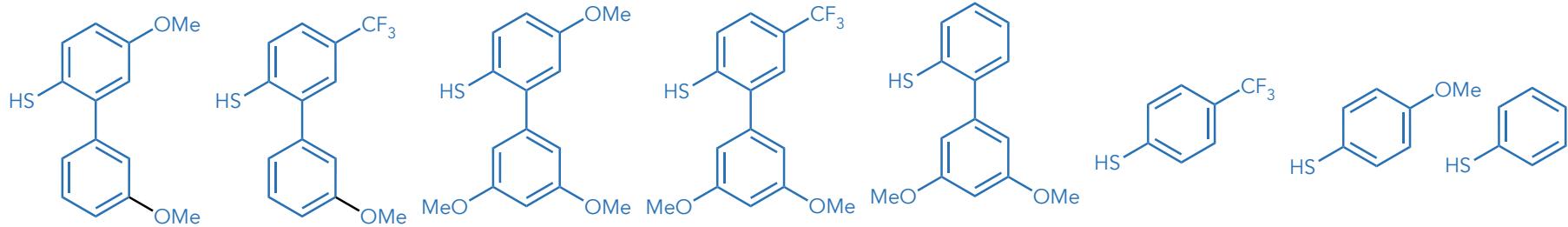
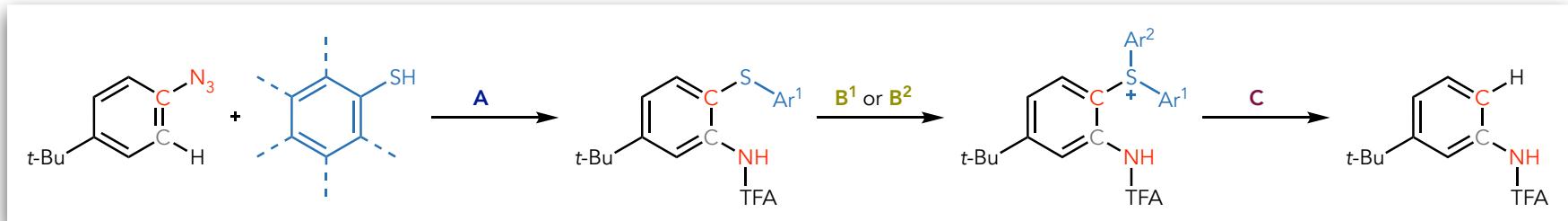


-remove of the extra functionality





# Synthetic Strategy and Reagent Design



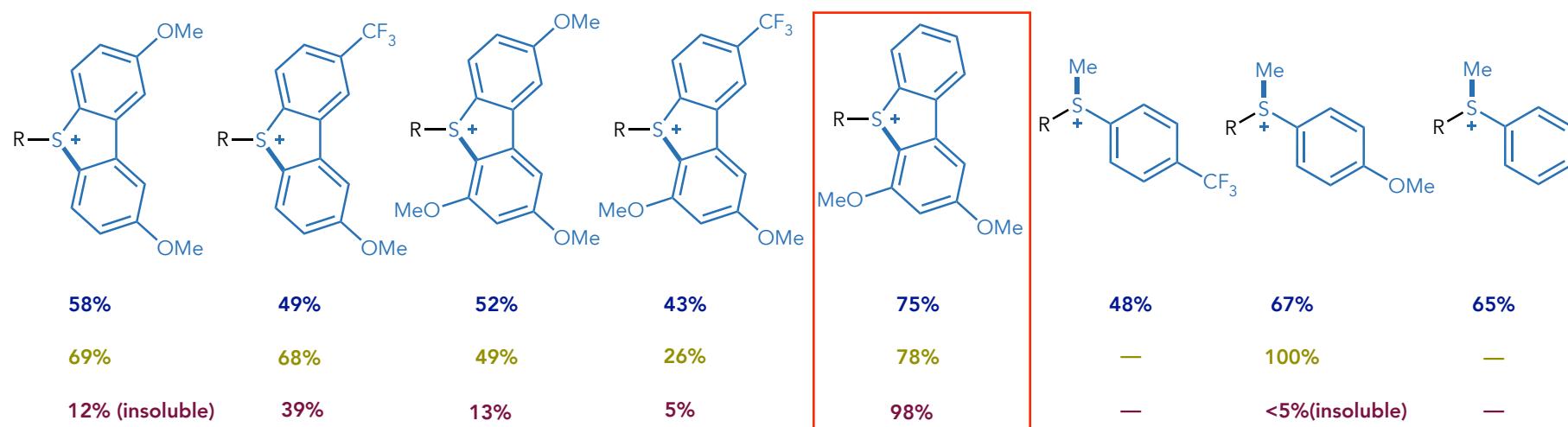
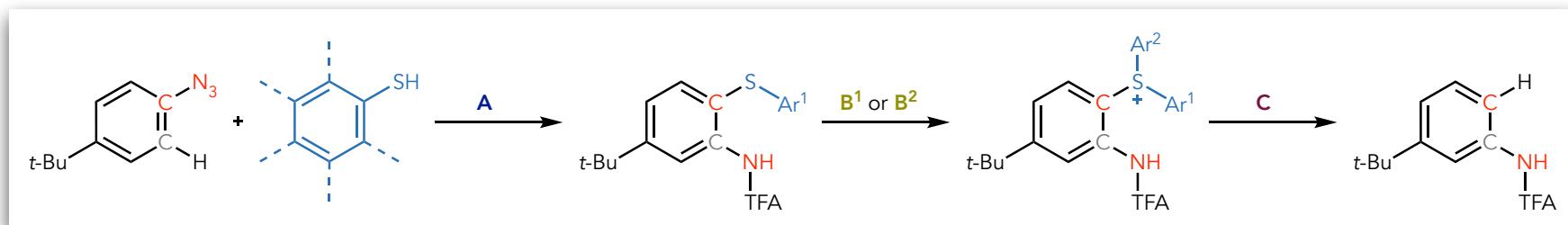
**A:** DMAP (1 eq.), 1,4-dioxane (0.05 M),  
 $\text{h}\nu = 390\text{nm}$ , r.t., 16h  
then TFAA (4 eq.), r.t., 2h

**B**<sup>1</sup>: NCS (1 eq.), Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1 eq.)  
1:1 1,4-dioxane/MeCN (0.033 M),  
r.t., 6h

**B**<sup>2</sup>: MeOTf (1.5 eq.)  
DCM (0.05 M), r.t., 8h.

**C:** Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 eq.),  
1:1 MeOH/Acetone (0.05 M)  
, $\text{h}\nu = 390\text{ nm}$ , r.t., 12h

# Synthetic Strategy and Reagent Design



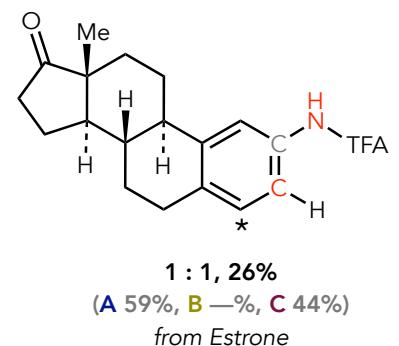
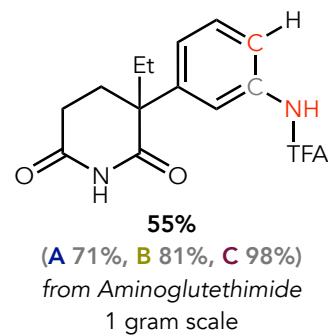
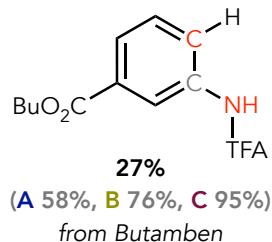
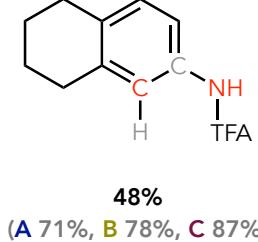
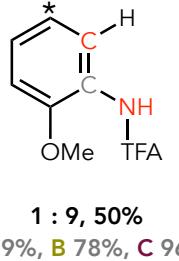
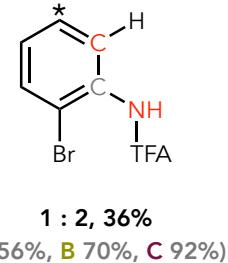
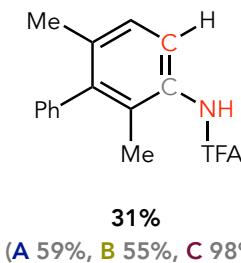
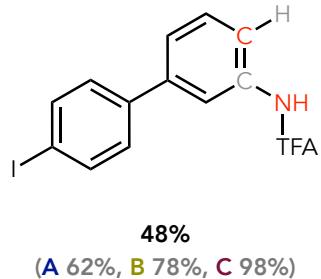
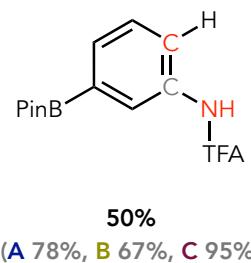
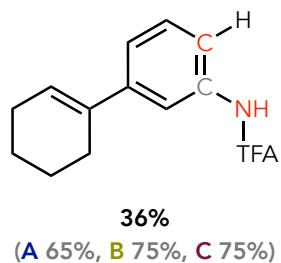
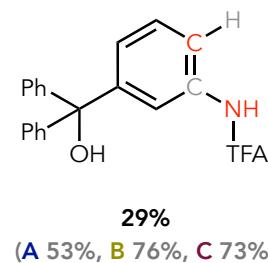
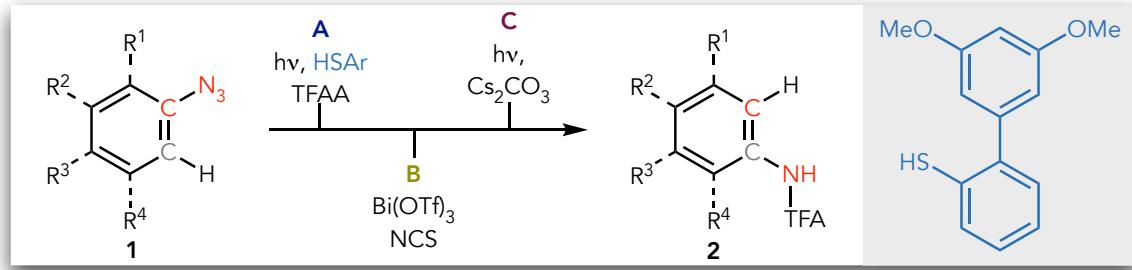
**A:** DMAP (1 eq.), 1,4-dioxane (0.05 M),  
 $\text{h}\nu = 390\text{nm}$ , r.t., 16h  
then TFAA (4 eq.), r.t., 2h

**B<sup>1</sup>:** NCS (1 eq.), Bi(OTf)<sub>3</sub> (1 eq.)  
1:1 1,4-dioxane/MeCN (0.033 M),  
r.t., 6h

**B<sup>2</sup>:** MeOTf (1.5 eq.)  
DCM (0.05 M), r.t., 8h.

**C:** Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 eq.),  
1:1 MeOH/Acetone (0.05 M),  
 $\text{h}\nu = 390\text{ nm}$ , r.t., 12h

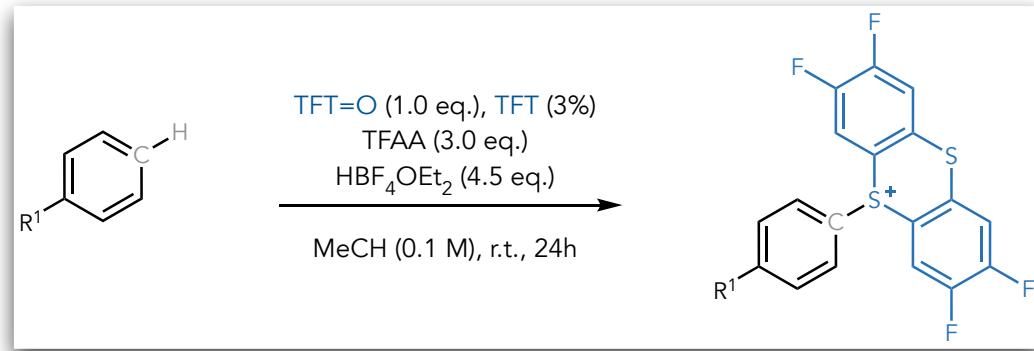
# Scope of Nitrogen Ring Walk



# Ortho-diversification

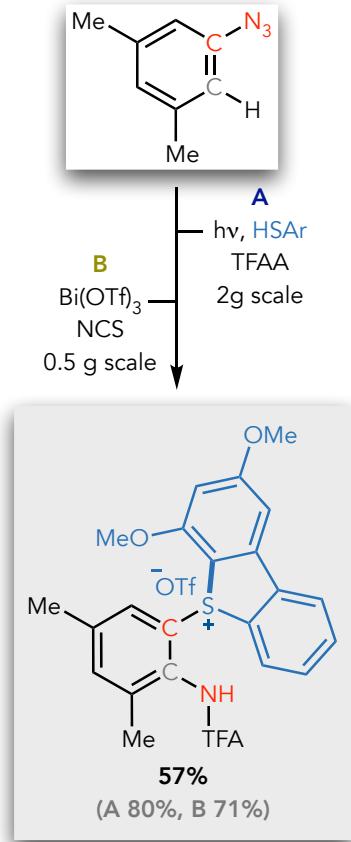
Ritter, *Nature*, 2019, 223

Selective para- CH installation of Thianthrenium



Powerful Synthetic Handle

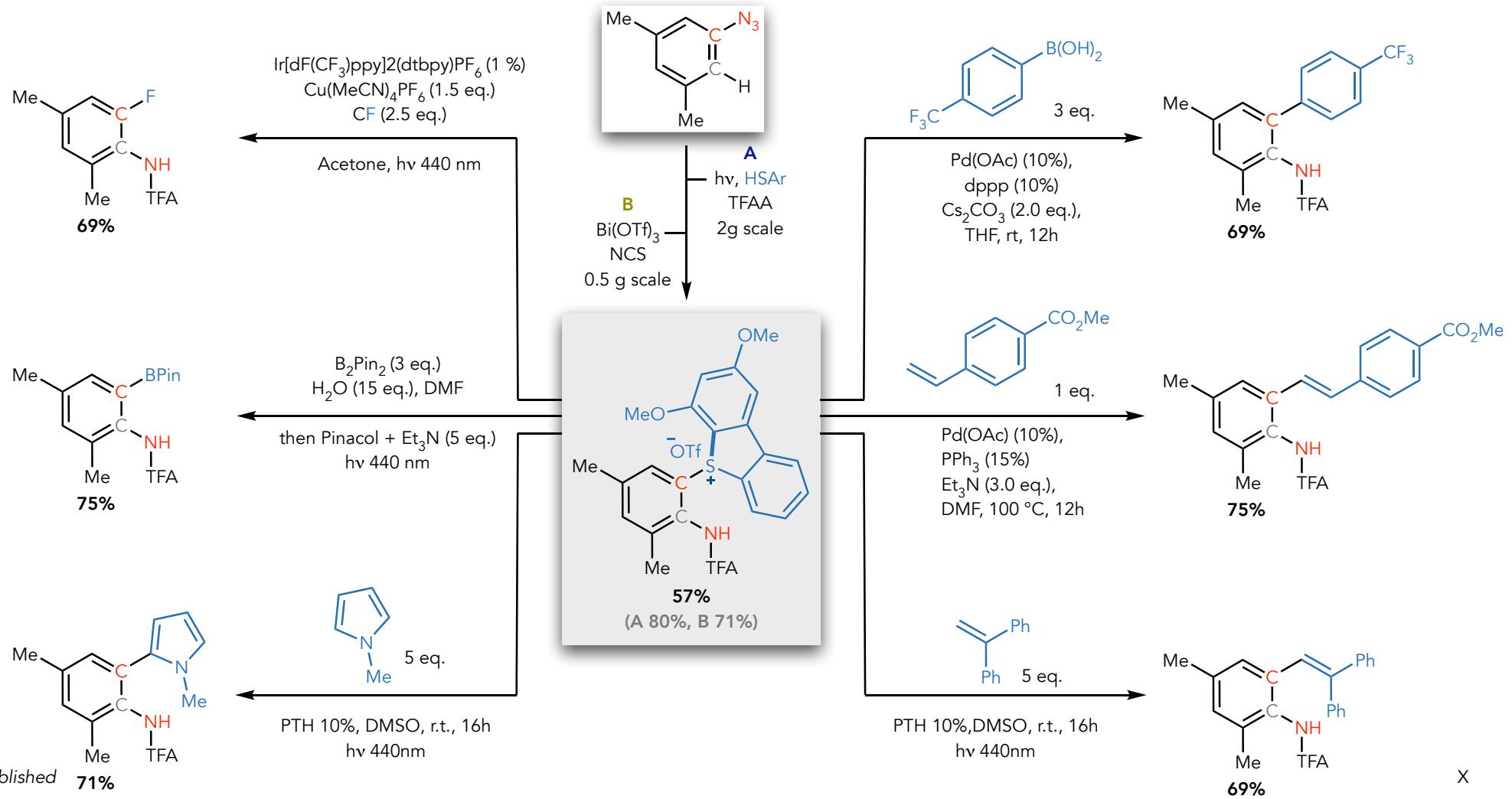
## Ortho-diversification



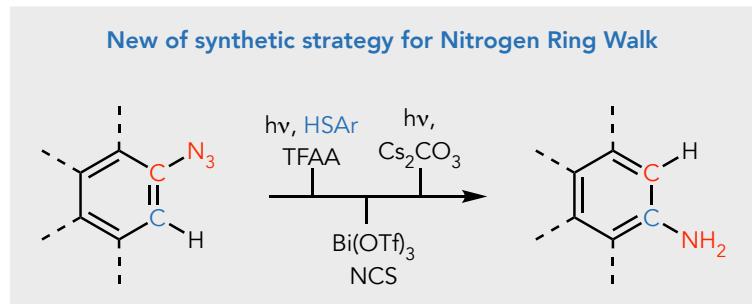
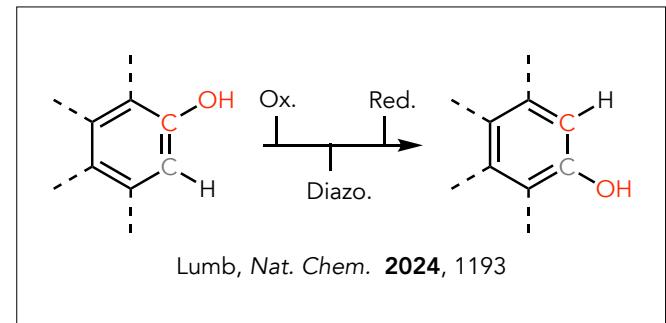
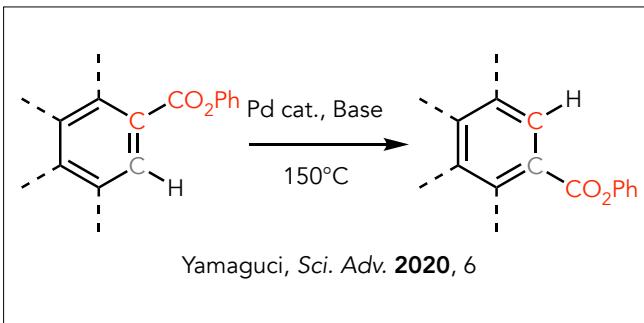
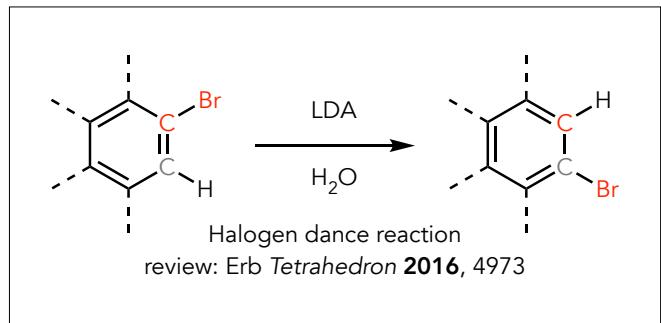
Formal “Ortho- CH installation”  
of sulfonyl salt

Powerful Synthetic Handle

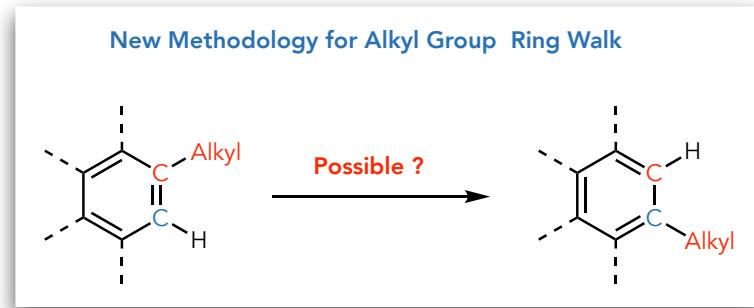
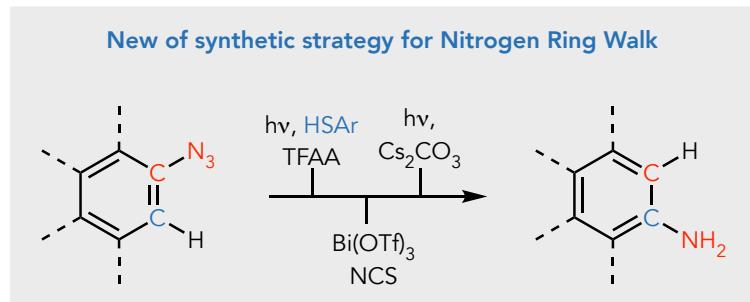
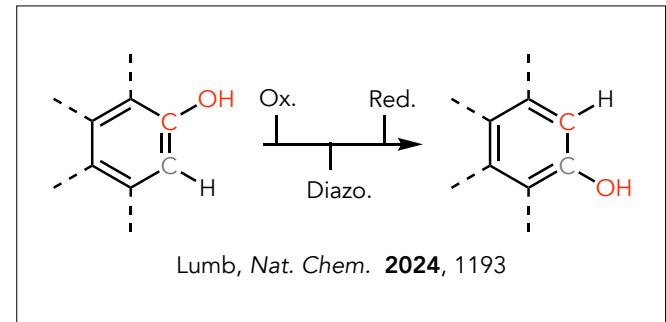
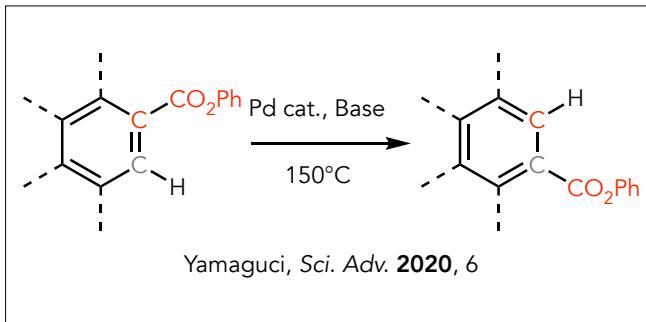
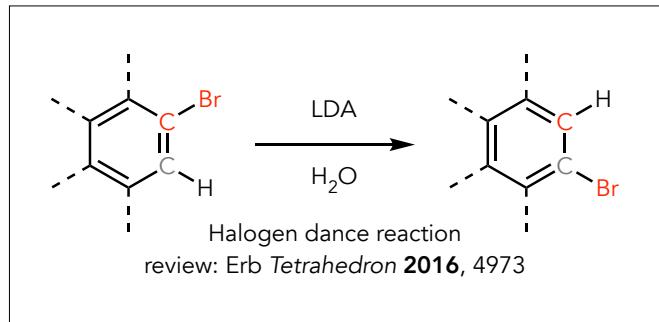
## Ortho-diversification



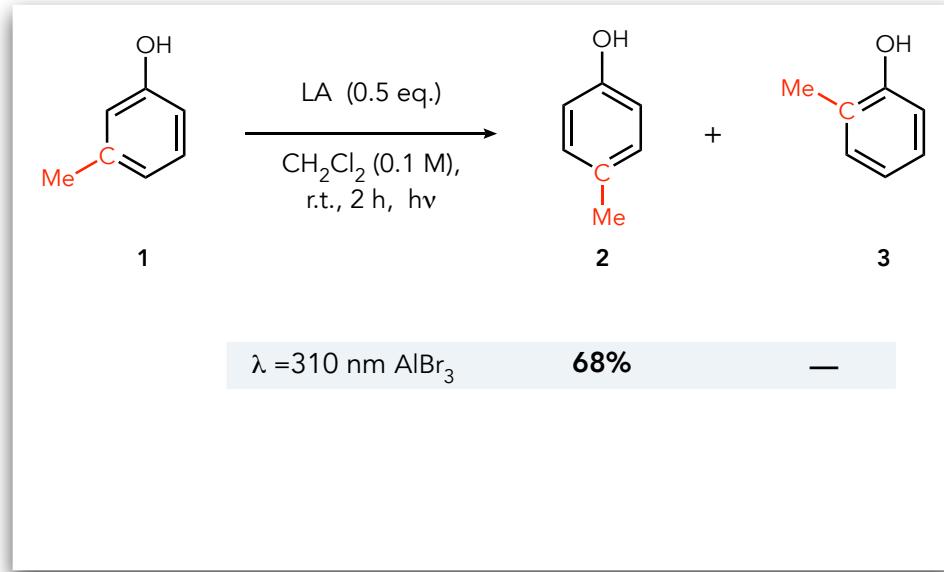
# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk



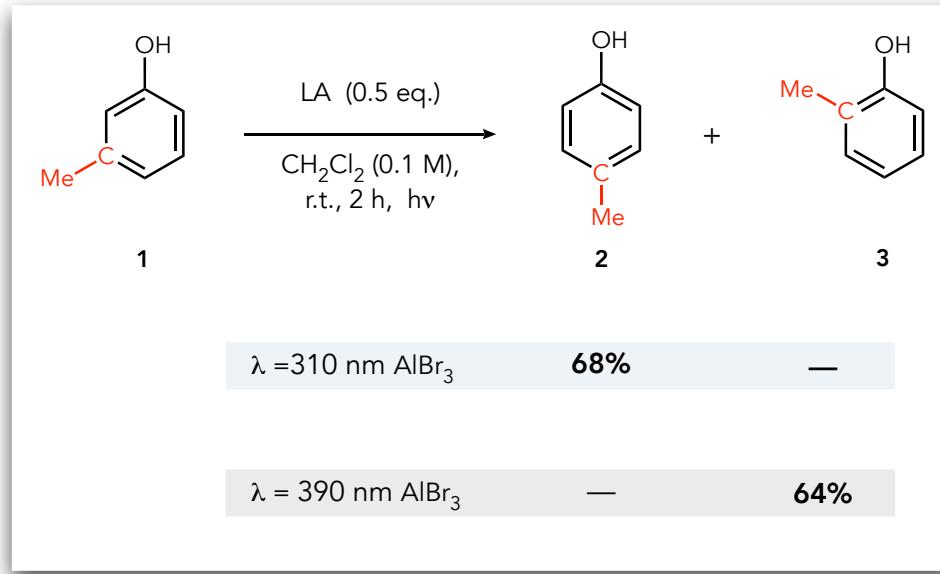
# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk



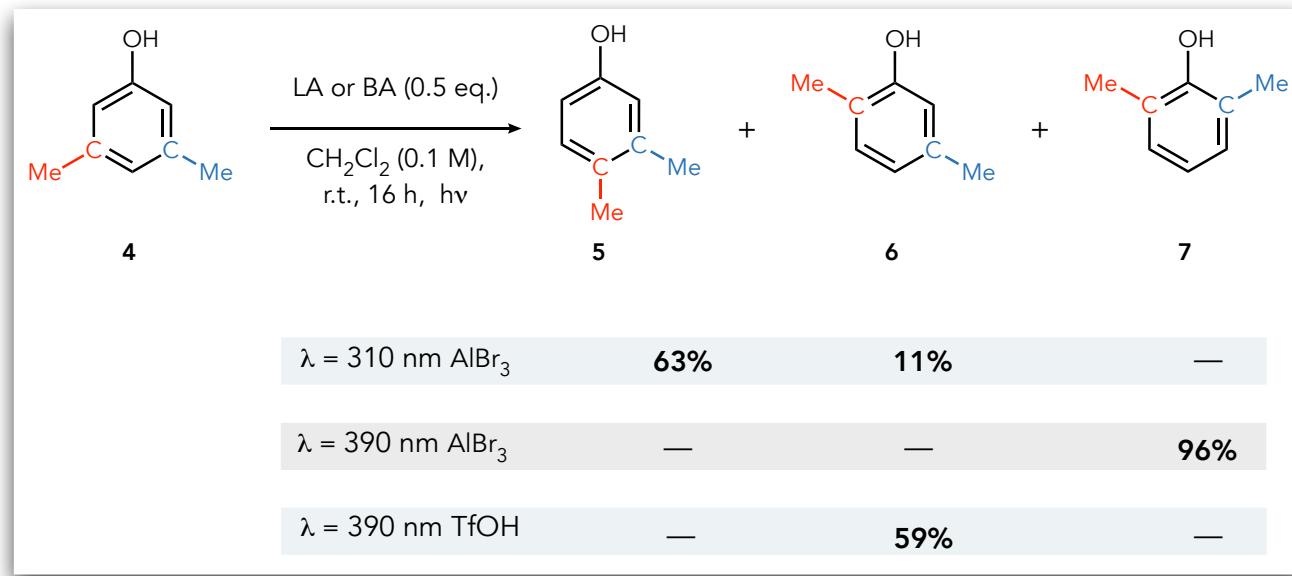
## Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk

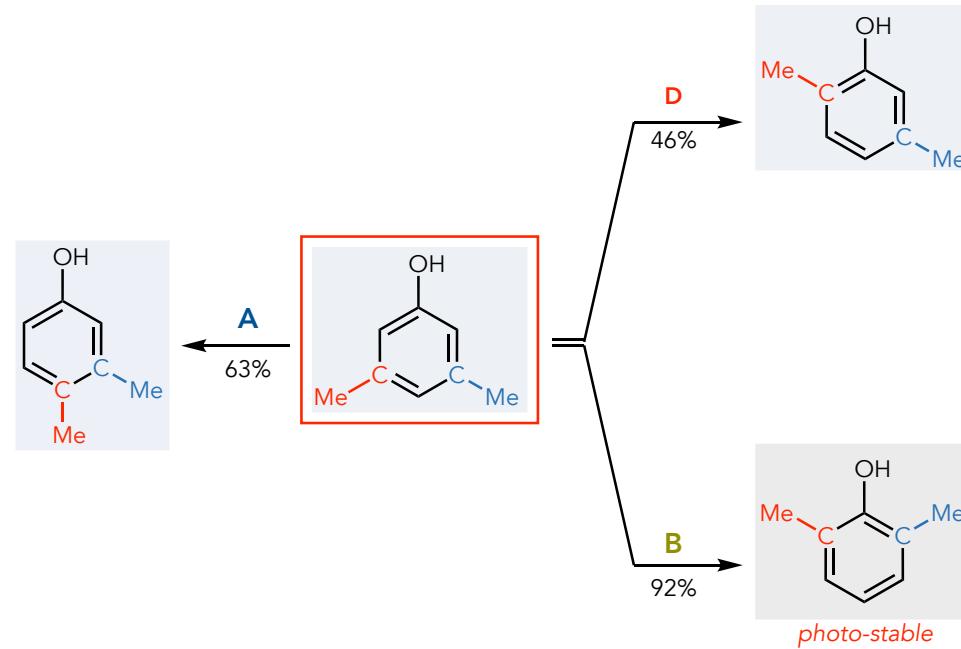


## Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk



## Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk



**A**

$\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 310 nm,  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**B**

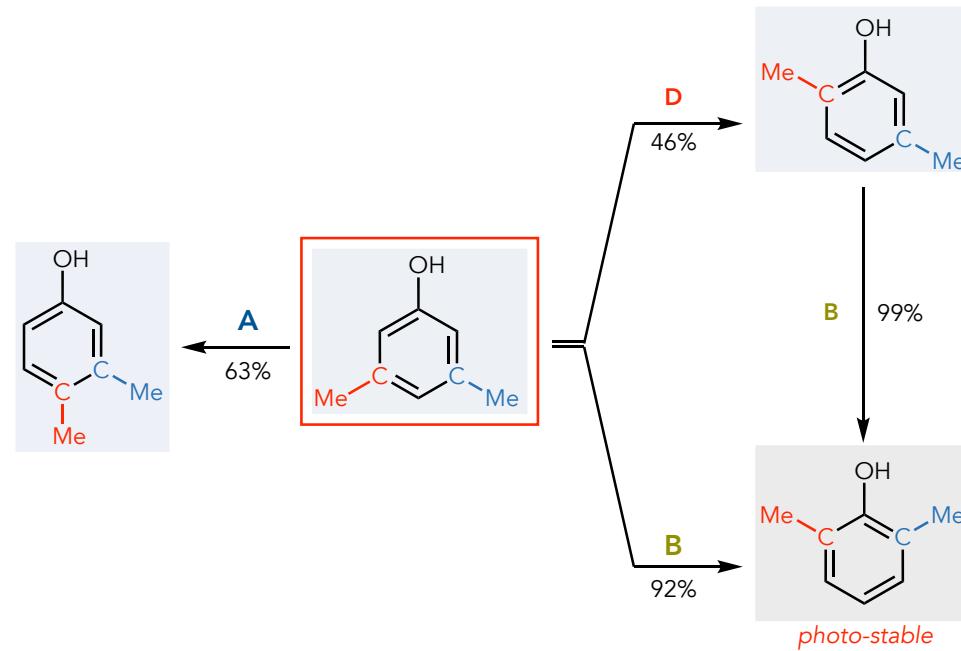
$\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**C**

$\text{TfOH}$  (2-5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**D**

$\text{BCF}$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**A**

AlBr<sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 310 nm,  
CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**B**

AlBr<sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

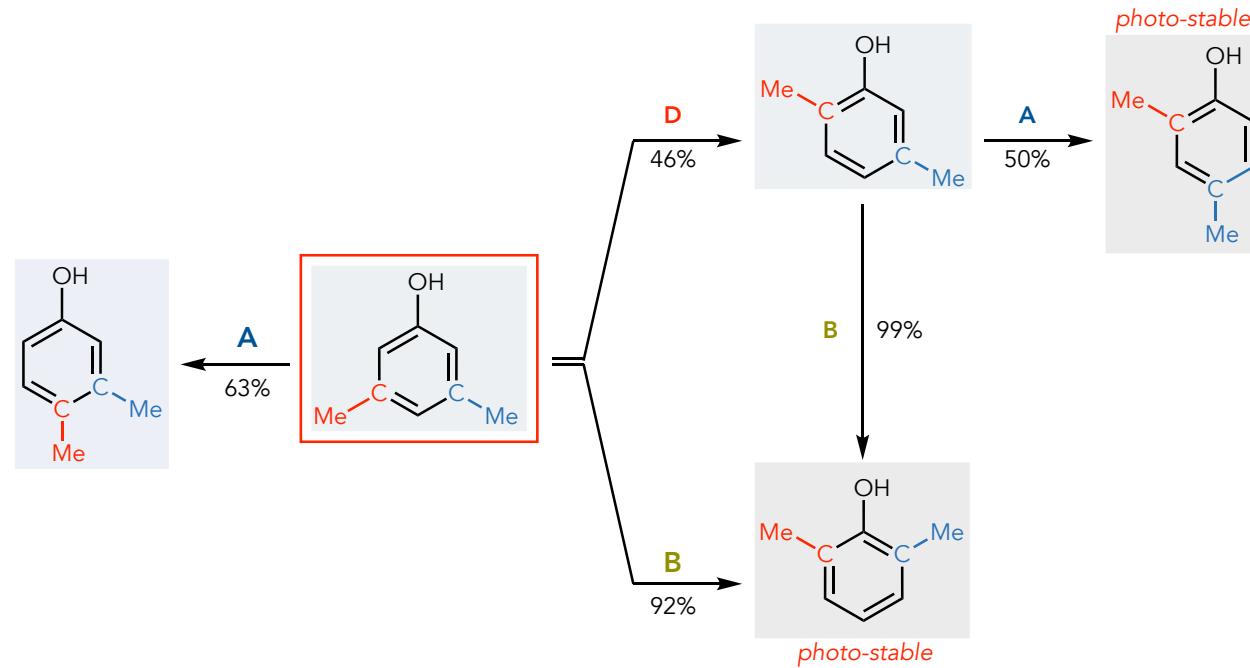
**C**

TfOH (2-5 eq.), 390 nm  
CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**D**

BCF (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

# Alkyl Group Ring Walk: Systematic Analysis of Photo-stability



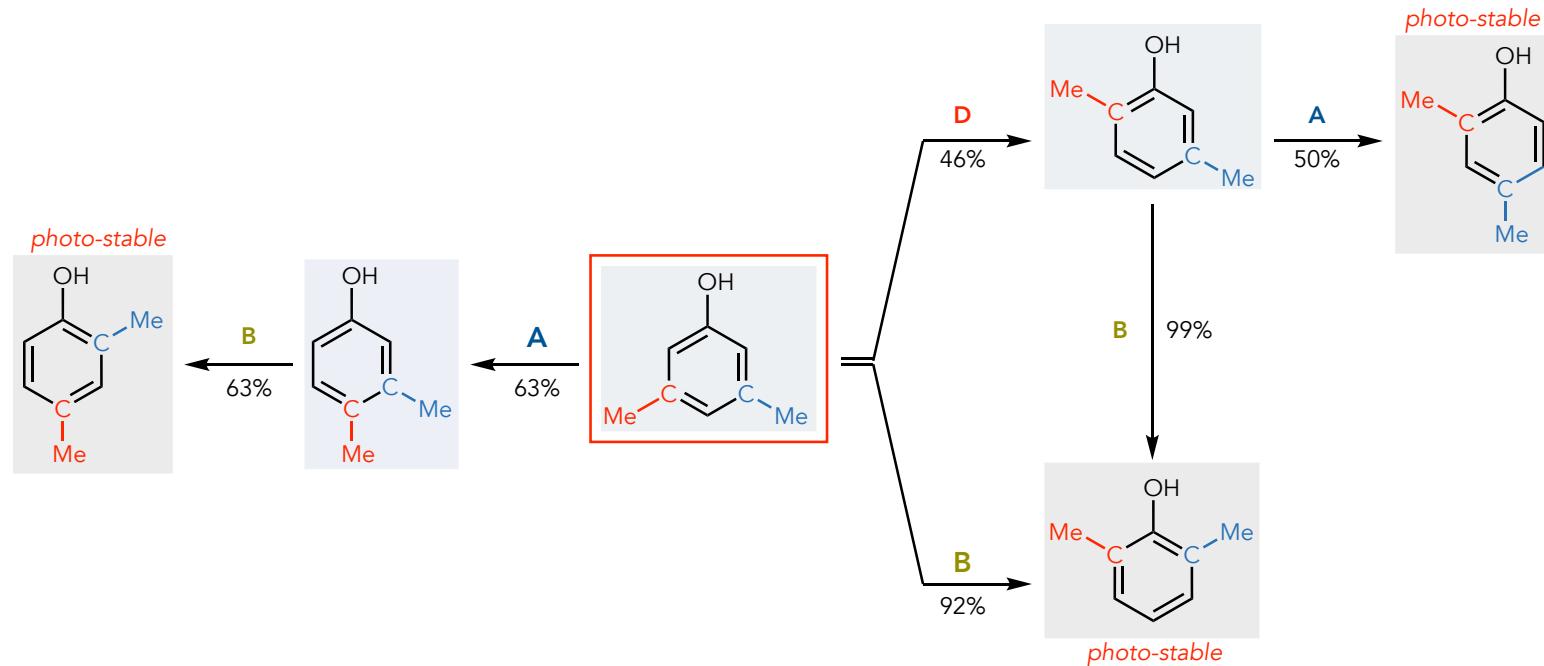
**A**  
 $\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 310 nm,  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**B**  
 $\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**C**  
 $\text{TfOH}$  (2-5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**D**  
 $\text{BCF}$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

# Alkyl Group Ring Walk: Systematic Analysis of Photo-stability

**A**

$\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 310 nm,  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**B**

$\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

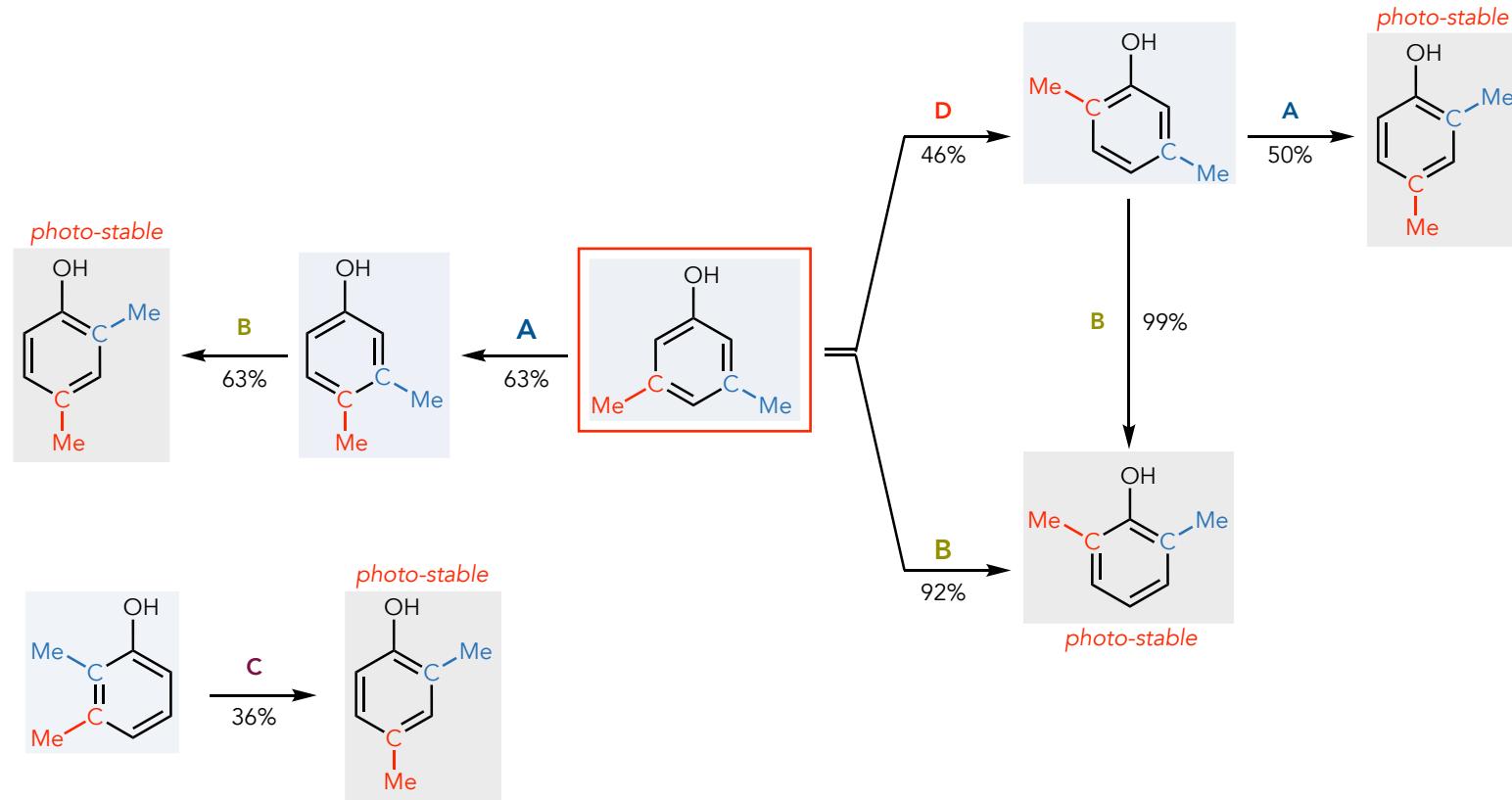
**C**

$\text{TfOH}$  (2-5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**D**

$\text{BCF}$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

# Alkyl Group Ring Walk: Systematic Analysis of Photo-stability



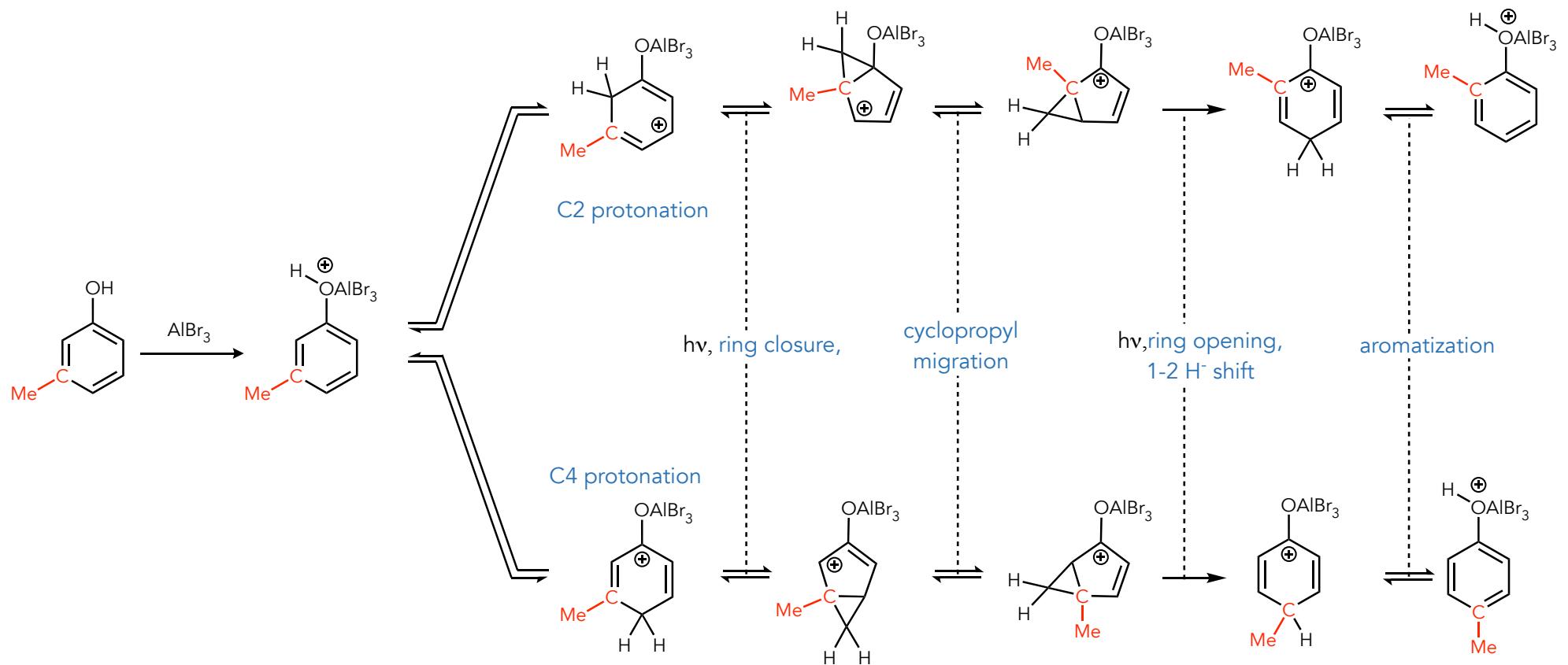
**A**  
 $\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 310 nm,  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**B**  
 $\text{AlBr}_3$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

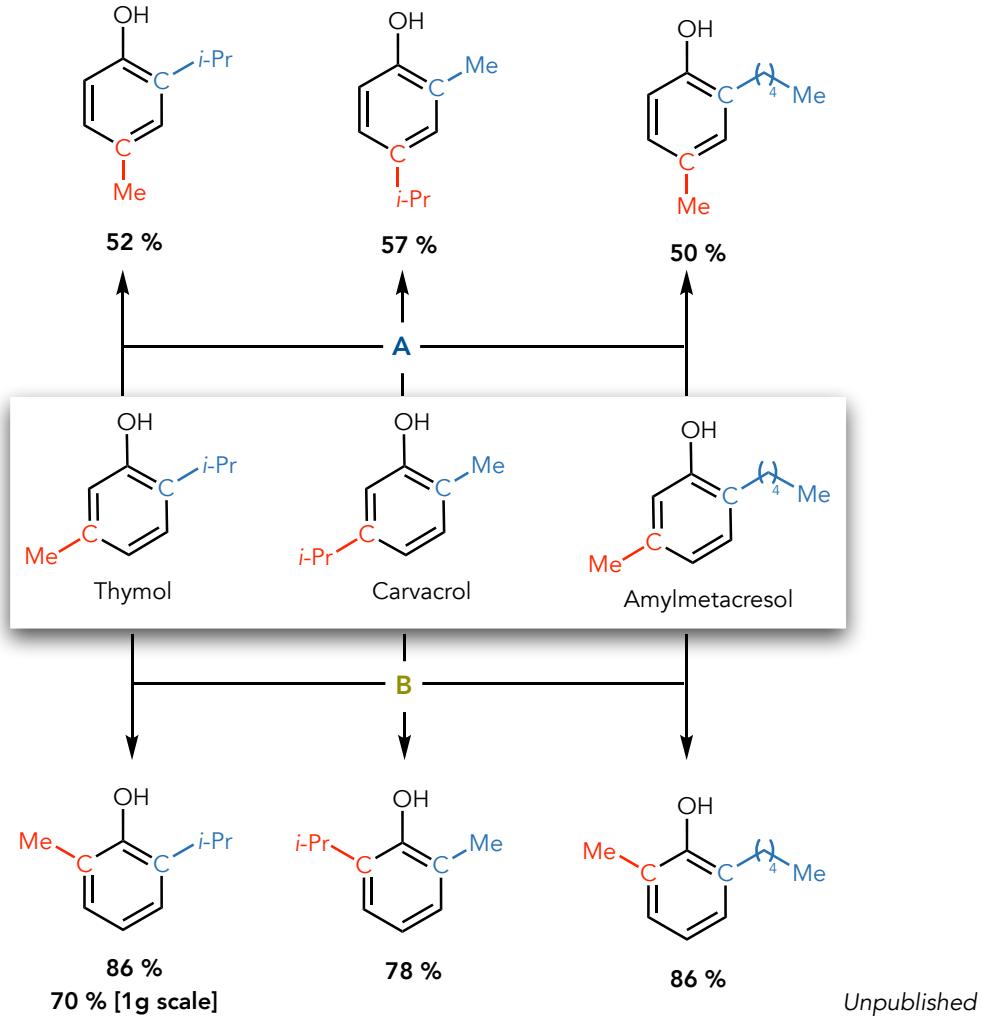
**C**  
 $\text{TfOH}$  (2-5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CHCl}_3$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

**D**  
 $\text{BCF}$  (0.5 eq.), 390 nm  
 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

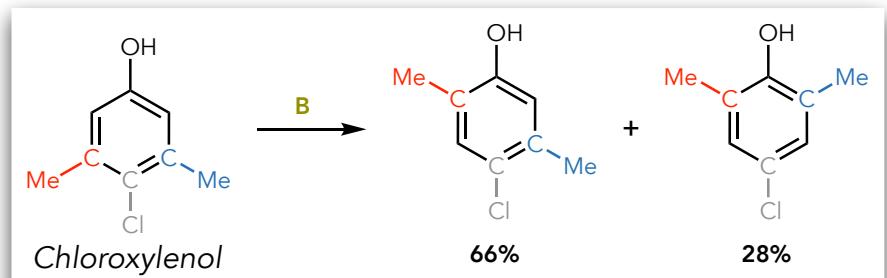
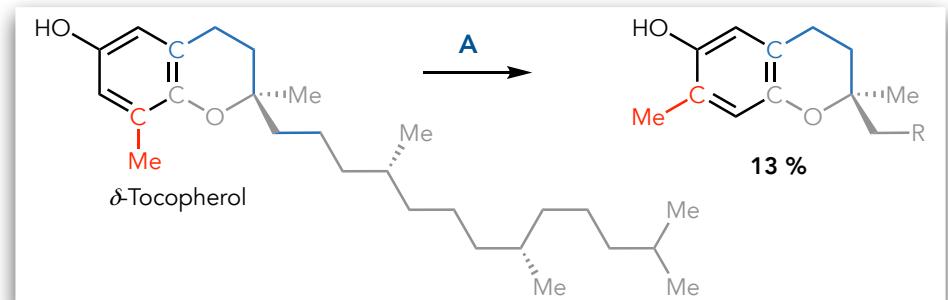
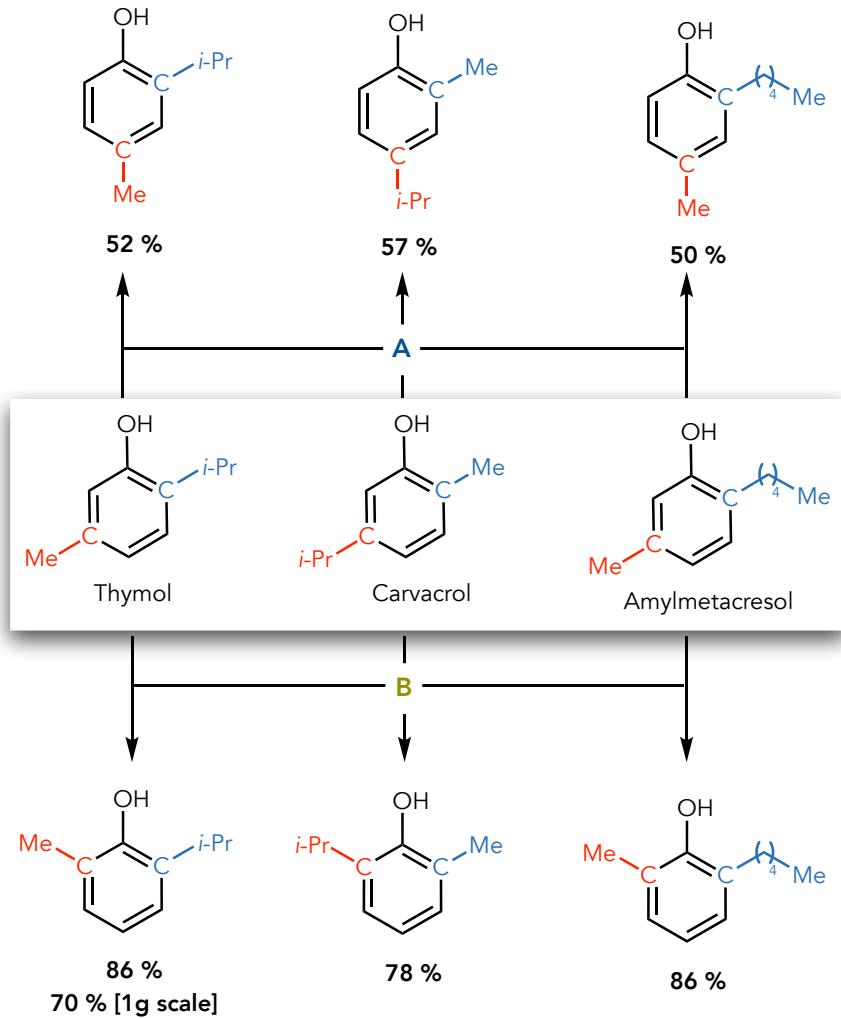
## Aryl-Alkyl Group Ring Walk - Mechanism



# Alkyl Group Ring Walk : Scope

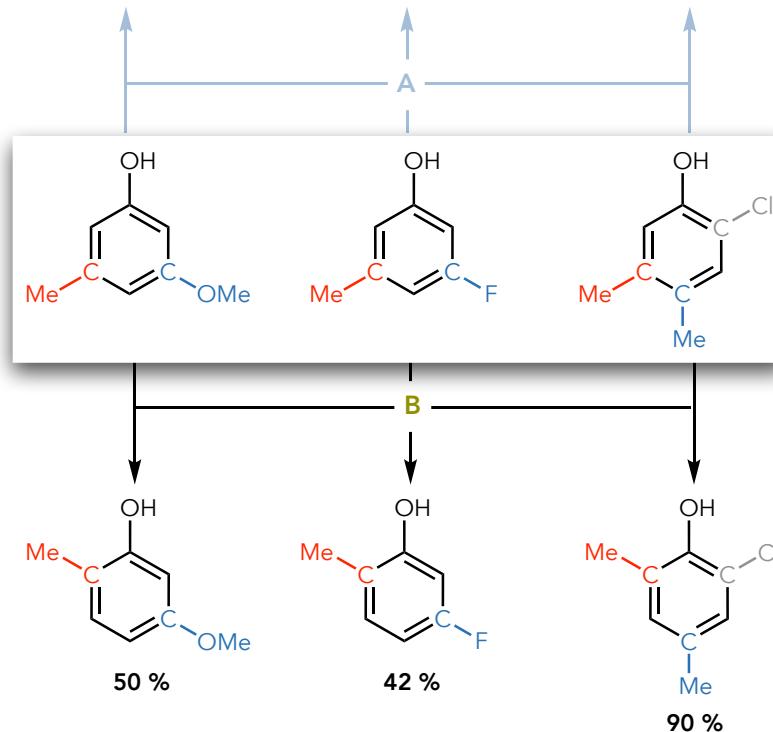


# Alkyl Group Ring Walk : Scope



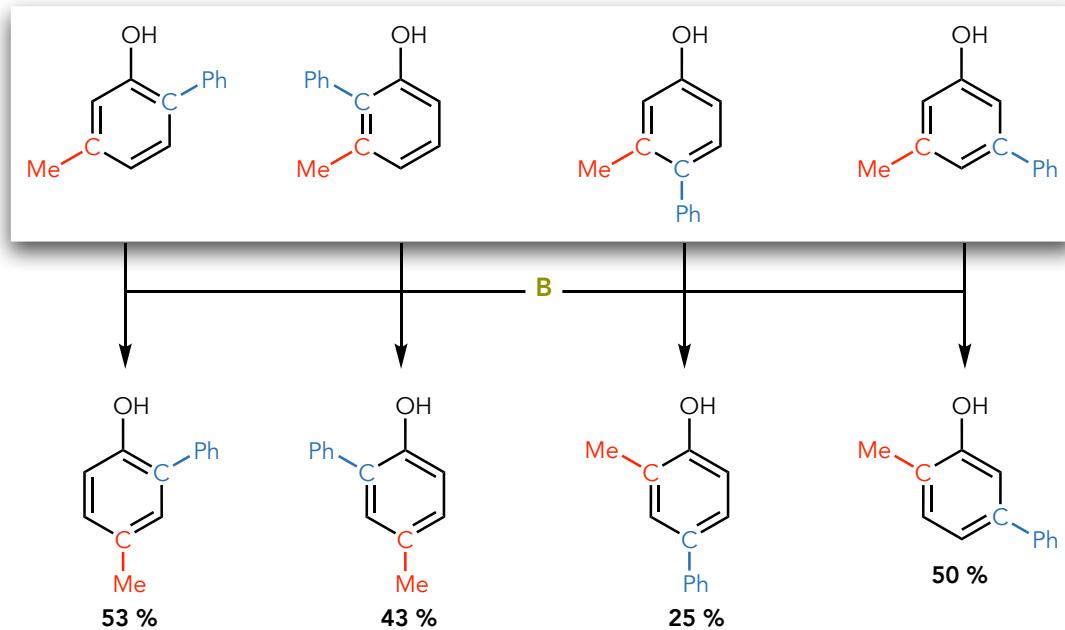
Unpublished

# Substitution Pattern Alteration via Alkyl Group Ring Walk



A	B	C	D
$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 310 nm, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	$\text{TfOH}$ (2-5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CHCl}_3$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	$\text{BCF}$ (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

Unpublished

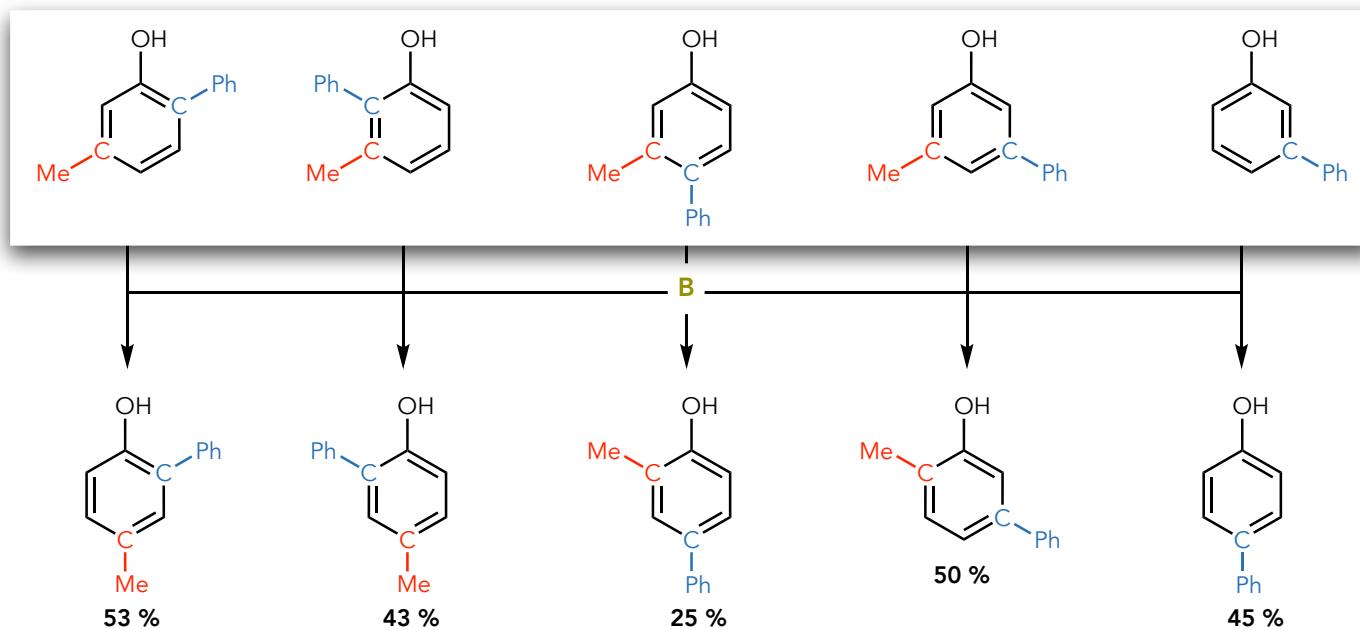
*Alkyl Group Ring Walk : Scope*

A	B	C	D	E
AlBr <sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 310 nm, CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	AlBr <sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 390 nm CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 390 nm CHCl <sub>3</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	BCF (0.5 eq.), 390 nm CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 310 nm, CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

Unpublished

X

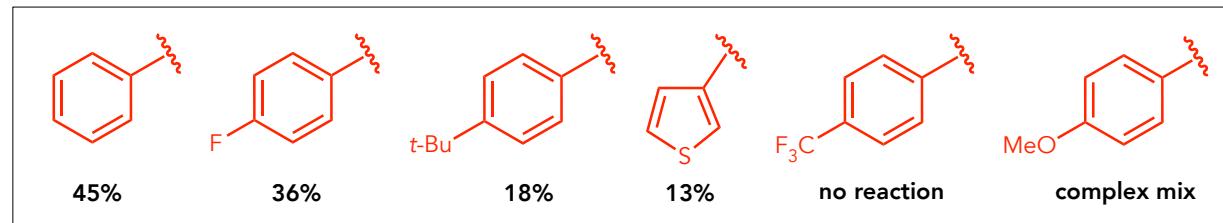
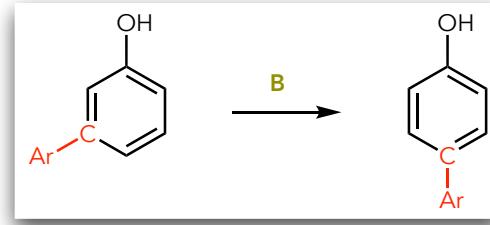
## Alkyl Group Ring Walk : Scope



A	B	C	D	E
$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 310 nm, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CHCl}_3$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	BCF (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 310 nm, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

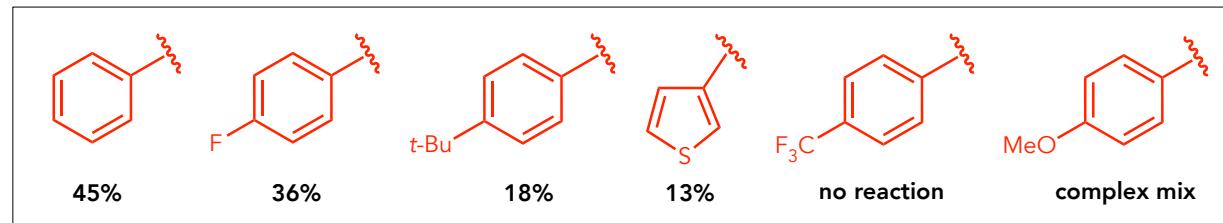
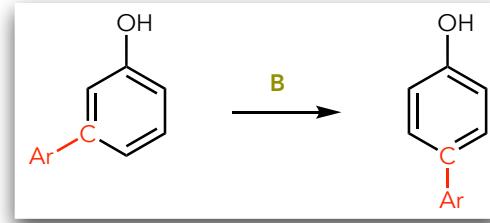
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## Substitution Pattern Alteration via **Aryl** Group Ring Walk

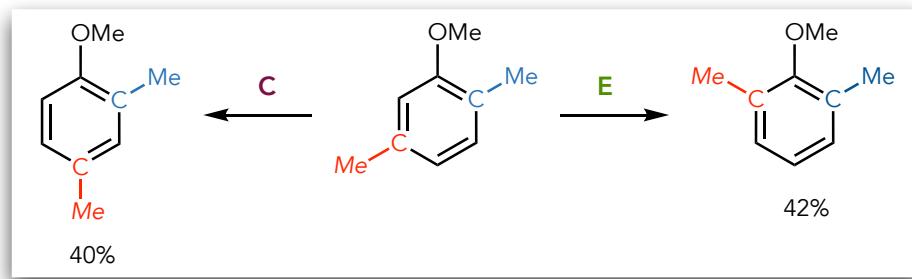


A	B	C	D	E
$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 310 nm, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	$\text{AlBr}_3$ (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CHCl}_3$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	BCF (0.5 eq.), 390 nm $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 310 nm, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h

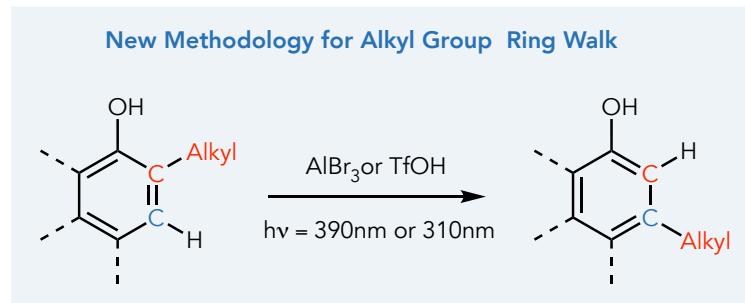
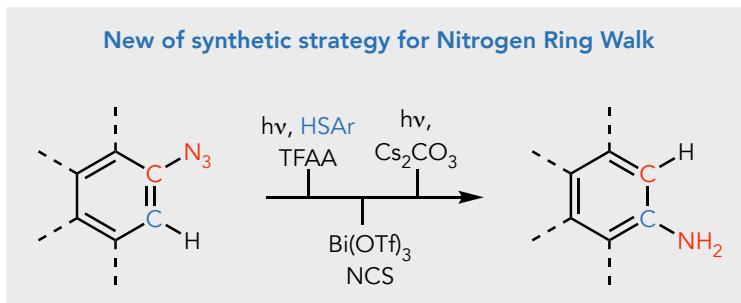
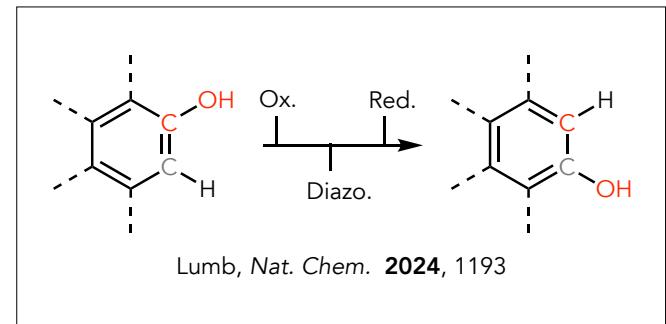
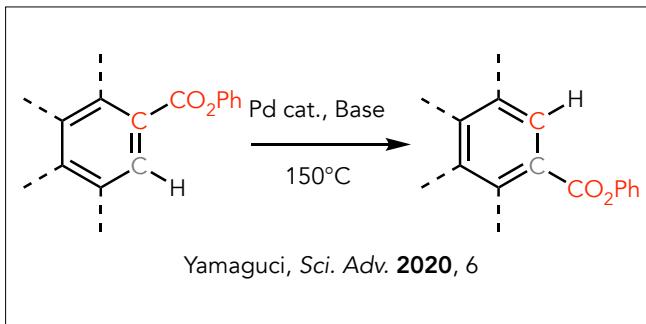
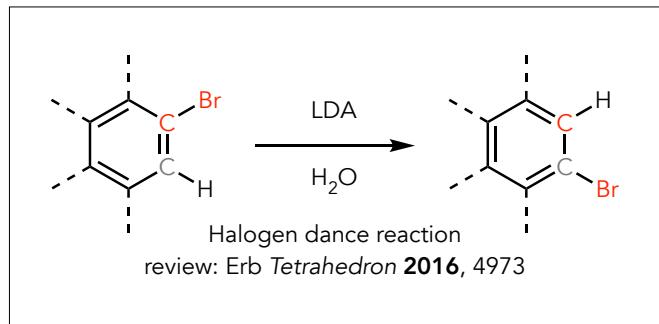
## Substitution Pattern Alteration via **Aryl** Group Ring Walk



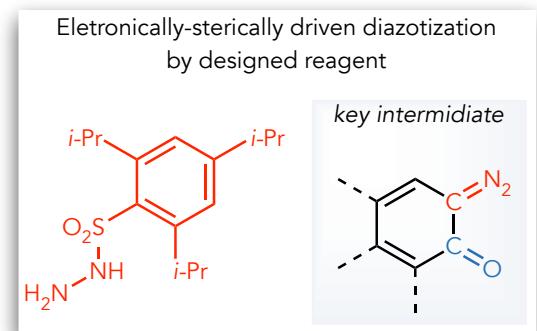
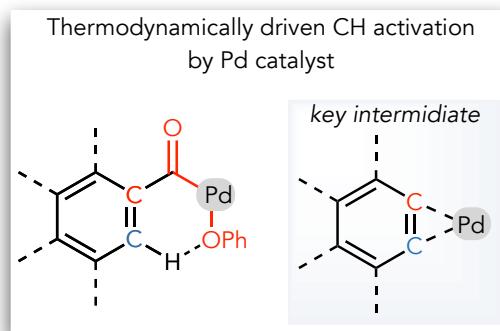
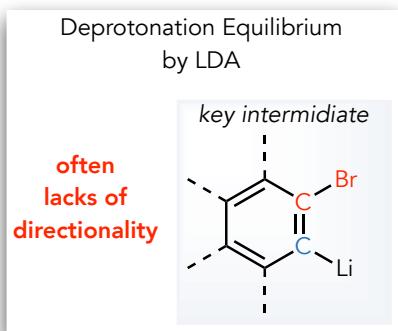
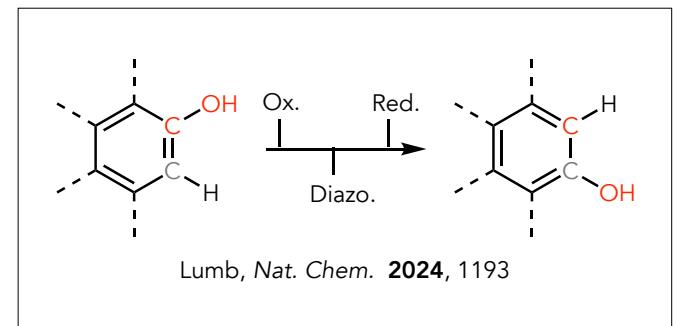
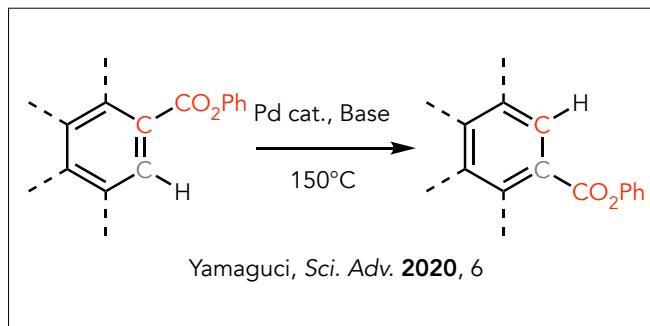
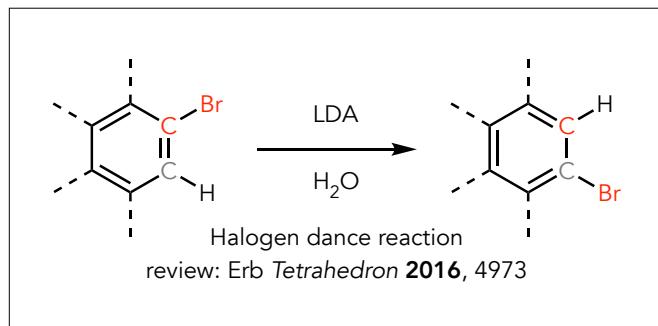
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
AlBr <sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 310 nm, CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	AlBr <sub>3</sub> (0.5 eq.), 390 nm CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 390 nm CHCl <sub>3</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	BCF (0.5 eq.), 390 nm CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h	TfOH (2-5 eq.), 310 nm, CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> (0.1 M), r.t., 16 h



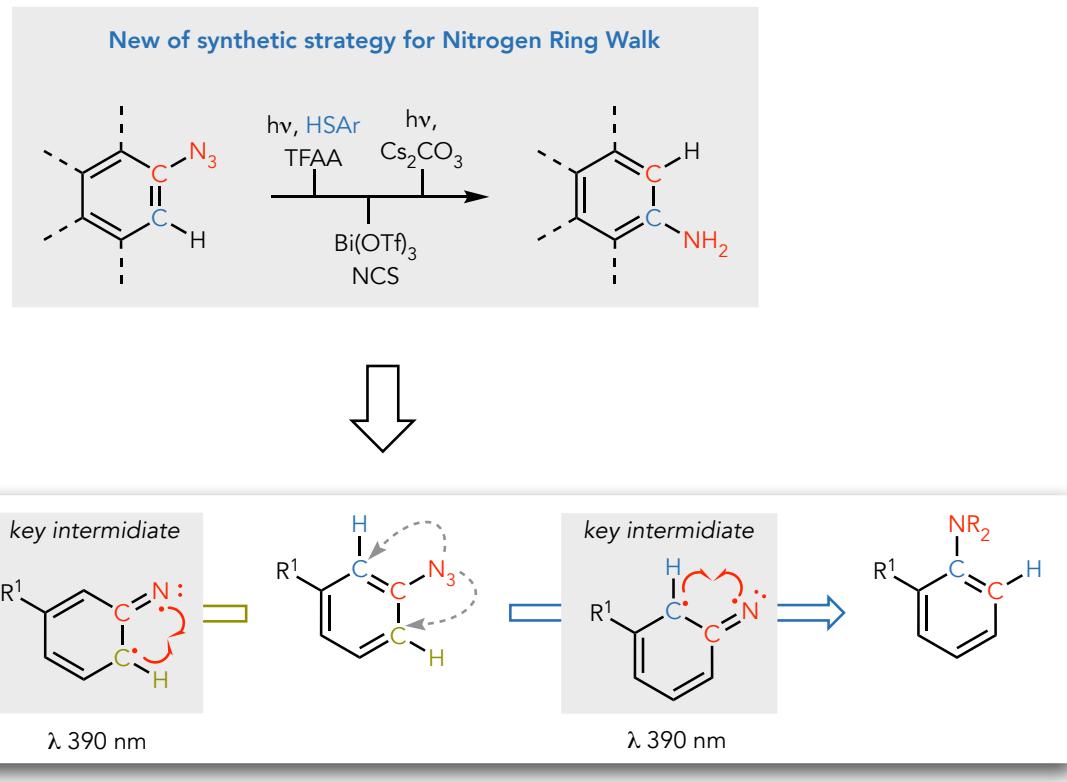
# Substitution Pattern Alteration Reactions



# Substitution Pattern Alteration: Directionality

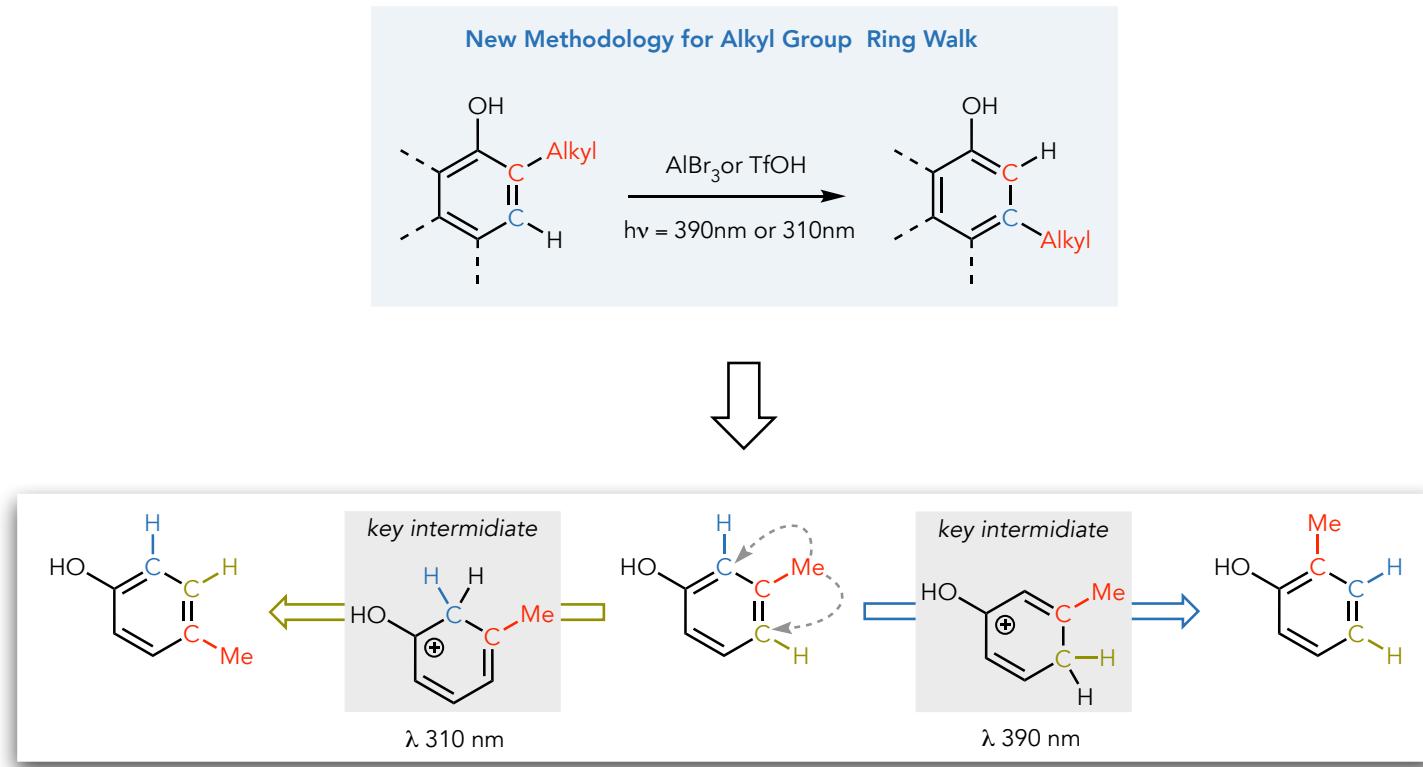


## Substitution Pattern Alteration: Directionality



Inherent directionality

## Substitution Pattern Alteration: Directionality



Protonation and Absorption are fundamental for the directionality

Group translocation can be controlled by different wave length

## Photochemistry Rearrangements :

**Sustainable** : Avoids precious metals like iridium, platinum, and ruthenium.

**Energy Efficiency**: No heat required, with the potential to harness solar light as an energy source (energy savings)

**Atom Economy**: Promotes highly efficient photochemical transformation, all atoms are already into the final product.

## Acknowledgment

Institute of Organic Chemistry, RWTH Aachen University

Prof. Daniele Leonori

Nitrogen ring walk

Giovanni Lenardon

Xheila Yzeiri

Dr. Bo Liv

Alkyl ring walk

Maialen Alonso

Dr. Giovanni Leonardi

Baptist Roure

Dr. Enrique Arpa



The Organizers of Innovation & Sustainability in Process Chemistry for the invitation

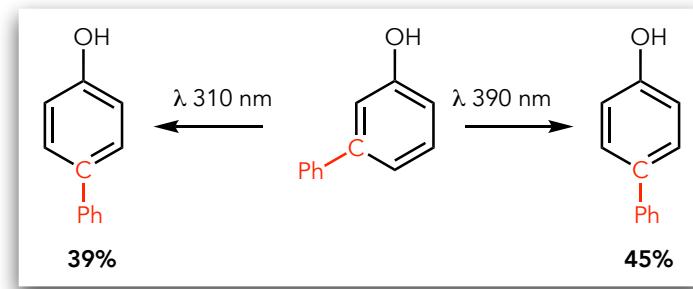
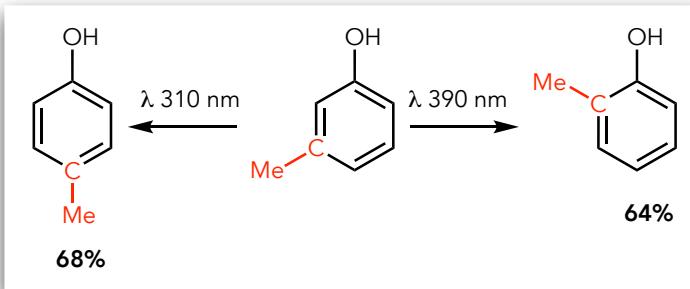
All of you for your kind attention

Moving soon to Otto Diels Institute for Organic Chemistry, Kiel, Germany

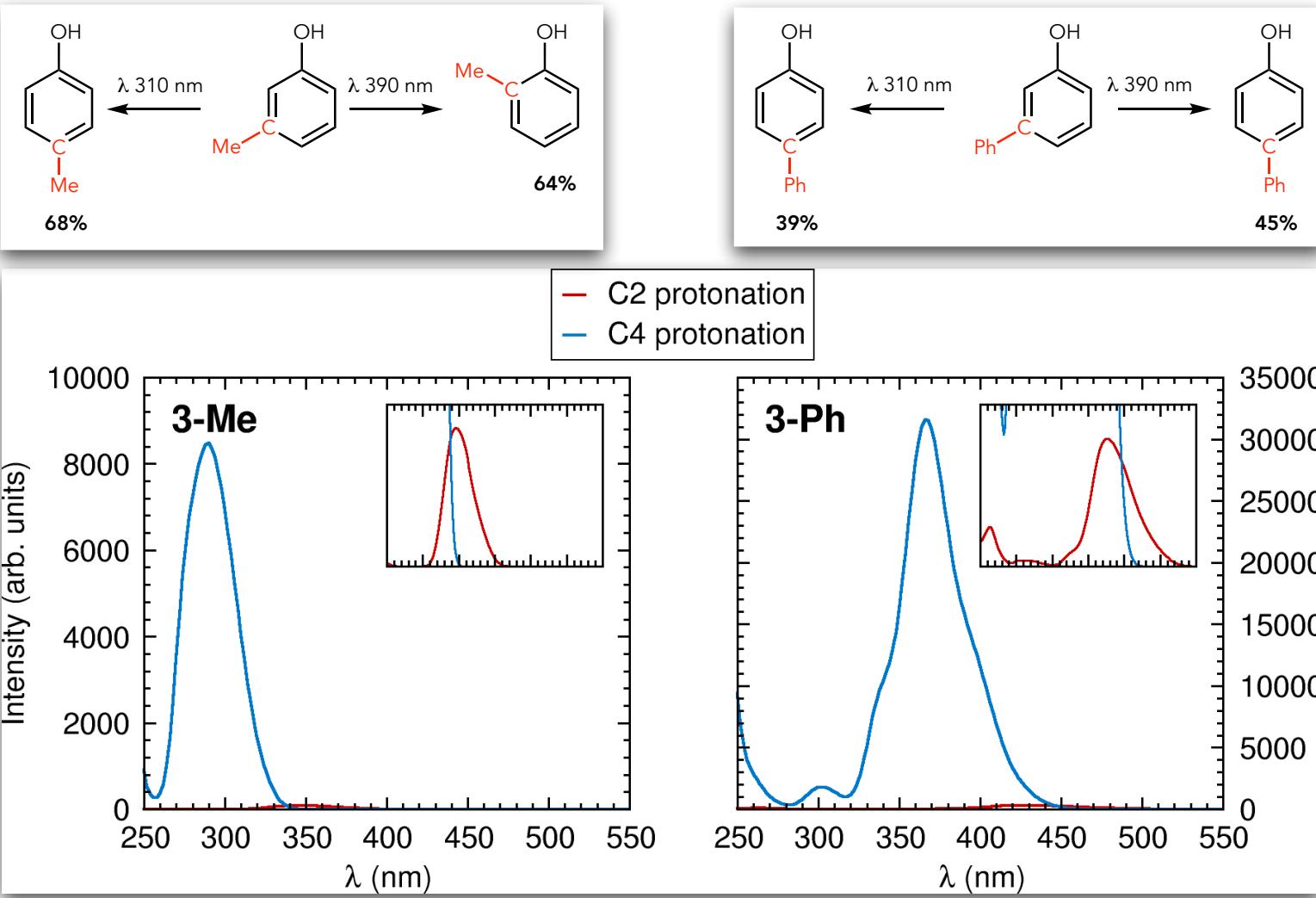
PhD and PDRA positions open to join the group

alessandro.ruffoni@RWTH-aachen.de



*Selectivity*

## Selectivity



## Alkyl Group Ring Walk - Mechanism

