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# Nickel(II)-catalyzed tandem C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H bond activation and annulation of arenes with gem-dibromoalkenes†

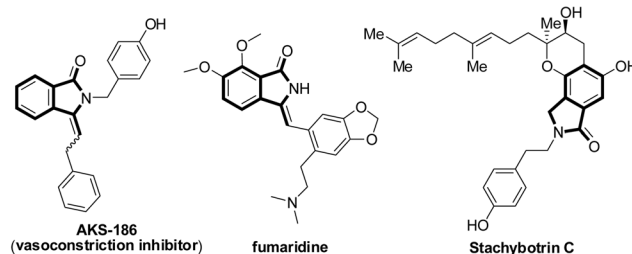
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A nickel(II)/silver(I)-catalyzed tandem C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H activation and intramolecular annulation of arenes with dibromoalkenes has been successfully achieved, which offers an efficient approach to the 3-methyleneisindolin-1-one scaffold. Attractive features of this system include its low cost, ease of operation, and its ability to access a wide range of isindolinones.

Over the past years, the transition-metal-catalyzed oxidative C-H/C-H cross-coupling reaction has emerged as a useful, atom- and step-economic synthetic protocol to construct a series of important N-heterocycles.<sup>1</sup> In this context, the synthesis of isindolinones has attracted considerable attention owing to their interesting biological and pharmaceutical properties,<sup>2</sup> as well as their usefulness as precursors for the synthesis of structurally diverse and complex molecules (Scheme 1).<sup>2c,3</sup> Several methods have successfully been developed toward isindolinone synthesis based on Pd,<sup>4</sup> Cu,<sup>5</sup> Ru,<sup>6</sup> and Rh<sup>7</sup> salts. Among these reactions, the oxidative coupling reactions of benzamides with alkenes<sup>4b,6,7a,f,g</sup> or alkynes<sup>5a,5d</sup> exhibit high atom economy and the application of this strategy to simple arenes is still largely underdeveloped.<sup>8</sup> For instance, in 2015, Zhang's group<sup>9</sup> revealed cobalt-catalyzed oxidative alkylation and cyclization of simple arenes and terminal alkynes with silver-cocatalyst *via* 2-fold C-H bond and N-H bond cleavage and C-C bond and C-N bond formation. In 2016, Song's group<sup>10</sup> developed a method of a cobalt(II)-catalyzed decarboxylative C-H activation/annulation of benzamides and alkynyl carboxylic acids and nickel(II)-catalyzed C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-H alkylation/annulation cascade with terminal alkynes to synthesize 3-methyleneisindolin-1-ones. Zhang also reported a nickel-catalyzed oxidative alkylation with amides and terminal acetylenes.<sup>10c</sup> In addition, from an environmentally point of view, in 2015, wei's group<sup>11</sup> described an operationally simple, Pd-catalyzed C-H functionalization for the synthesis of important and useful isindolinones from readily available carboxamides and carboxylic acids or anhydrides. The protocol avoided the use of excess oxidants including benzoquinone, Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, or

Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> of previous all the reactions, thus generating stoichiometric amounts of undesired wastes.

To our knowledge, the synthesis of alkynes is among the most fundamental and important synthetic transformations due to the unique reactivity of alkynes including addition, oxidation, reduction, and in particular cyclization.<sup>12</sup> However, the lack of reactivity of alkynes, more electron-deficient than the corresponding alkenes, makes it harder to couple them with heteroarenes. As a consequence, terminal alkyne precursors have been developed to facilitate acetylene exchange.<sup>13</sup> Halogenoalkynes,<sup>14</sup> hypervalent alkynylidoniums,<sup>15</sup> acetylenic sulfones,<sup>16</sup> copper acetylides<sup>17</sup> and  $\alpha,\beta$ -ynoic acids<sup>18</sup> allowed the generation of more activated alkyne moieties thus broadening the applications of direct alkylation reactions to heterocycles. Among these alternatives, *gem*-dihaloalkenes emerged as more efficient coupling partners than the corresponding mono-halogenated alkynes along with being inexpensive and readily-available.<sup>19</sup> Indeed, the two geminal halogen atoms on the alkenyl carbon enhance the reactivity of metal complexes thus facilitating cross coupling reactions.<sup>20</sup> Stable and readily-available 1,1-dibromo-1-alkenes and our interests in the C-H activation<sup>21</sup> led us to consider using these reagents in the C-H functionalization to construct the valuable isindolinones. We can envision that the abundance and structural diversity of the



Scheme 1 Representative isindolinones with biological and pharmaceutical.

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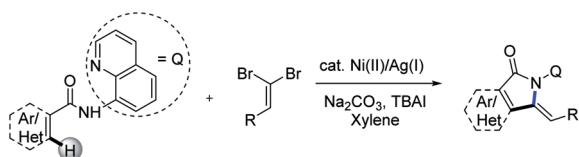
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aldehydes (used the preparation of *gem*-dibromoethylenes *via* Wittig reaction) as well as the merits of C–H functionalization would make the synthetic methods desirable and attractive. Herein, we wish to disclose the nickel(II)/silver(I)-mediated tandem transformation involving sequential C(sp<sup>2</sup>)–H/C(sp<sup>2</sup>)–H alkylation and intramolecular annulation of unactivated arenes with dibromoethylenes with the assistance of 8-aminoquinoline (Scheme 2). These features of this approach operational simplicity, a wide-ranging substrate scope, and tolerance of various synthetically useful functional groups.

## Results and discussion

Initially, our investigation to explore the Ni(II)-catalyzed C(sp<sup>2</sup>)–H activation began with the reaction of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamide (**1a**) and (2,2-dibromovinyl) benzene (**2a**) in the presence of selected catalysts as shown in Table 1. Gratifyingly, (*Z*)-3-benzylidene-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one **3a** was obtained in 54% yield when NiCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mol%) was employed in xylene at 140 °C for 12 h (Table 1, entry 1). In order to search out an appropriate condition, we firstly screened a series of Ni(II) salts and Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%) was chosen as the superior catalyst to give the corresponding product with a yield of 69% (entry 4). Moreover, the replacement of Ni(II) salts with Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> and Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O gave a slightly less yield (entries 5 and 6). These results reconfirmed that Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> is the optimal nickel catalyst source with a great advantage that other metal catalysts cannot match. Subsequently, the solvent effect was also evaluated and the promotional effect of the common solvents, such as DMF, DMSO, dioxane, and MeCN decreased drastically except chlorobenzene delivered **3a** in up to 68% yield (entries 8–11). We suppose that the enhanced reactivity with aromatic solvent arises in part from its coordination with nickel catalyst, which would facilitate the formation of nickel chelate, intermediate. To further improve the conversion, we turned our attention to the oxidant effect and here we screened a number of silver(I) salts and another oxidant Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, which showed Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was the best choice which promoted the formation of ring-closing reaction to give the desired product (entries 12–16). Next, we investigated the remarkable effect of additives using sodium iodide and different ammonium salts, however the reaction even did not work except TBAB with 58% yield, which implicated that the main role of TBAI in this transformation may be the phase transfer catalyst (entries 17–20). And finally, we examined the reaction under argon and oxygen atmosphere, obtained 37% and 41% yield respectively, which indicated the influence of gas atmosphere for the reaction was very low



Scheme 2 Nickel(II)/silver(I)-catalyzed alkylation/annulation of arenes with dibromoalkenes.

Table 1 Optimization of the reaction condition<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Oxidant	Additive	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	NiCl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	54
2	Ni(acac) <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	62
3	Ni(OTf) <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	52
4	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	73
5	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	42
6	Co(OAc) <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	31
7	—	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	0
8	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	Trace
9	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMSO	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	41
10	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	PhCl	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	68
11	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Dioxane	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	56
12	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	TBAI	11
13	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> O	TBAI	20
14	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	AgOTf	TBAI	0
15	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	—	TBAI	0
16	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	TBAI	0
17	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	NaI	0
18	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAB	58
19	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAF·4H <sub>2</sub> O	0
20	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	Me <sub>4</sub> NCl	Trace
21	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	—	0
22 <sup>c</sup>	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	64
23 <sup>d</sup>	Ni(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Xylene	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	TBAI	61

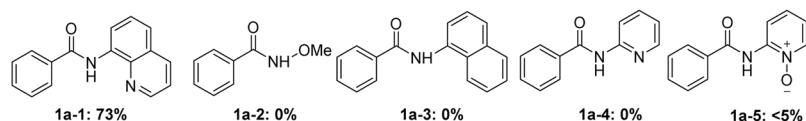
<sup>a</sup> Reaction condition: compound **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), catalyst (10 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv.), oxidant (4 equiv.), additive (3 equiv.), solvent (2.0 mL), under air, 110 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup> Estimated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy using CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> as an internal reference, Q = quinolin-8-yl. <sup>c</sup> Under Ar. <sup>d</sup> Under O<sub>2</sub>.

(entries 22 and 23). In addition, no reaction was observed in the absence of the nickel catalyst or silver salt and additive, indicating the necessity of both catalyst, Ag(I) salts and additives for the reaction (entries 7, 15, 21).

Under the optimized conditions, we examined the applicability of the catalytic system for different directing groups, as shown in Scheme 3. Interestingly, *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamide (**1a-1**) could promote the alkylation/annulation reaction smoothly as well, delivering the corresponding isoindolinone in 73% yield, with high selectivity. Nevertheless, other common directing groups including the monodentate group, *N*-methoxybenzamide (**1a-2**), *N*-(naphthalen-1-yl) benzamide (**1a-3**), the bidentate coordinating groups, *N*-(pyridin-2-yl) benzamide (**1a-4**) and *N*-(pyridin-1-oxide-2-yl) benzamide (**1a-5**) were incapable of promoting the reaction. These control experiments showed the indispensable role of the 8-aminoquinoline moiety for this reaction.

Next, we set out to explore the scope of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamide partners as summarized in Scheme 4. To our delight, the reaction system could accelerate the tandem reaction of a wide array of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamides with (2,2-dibromovinyl)benzene, delivering a series of functionalized 3-methylisoindolin-1-ones in moderate to excellent yields. The





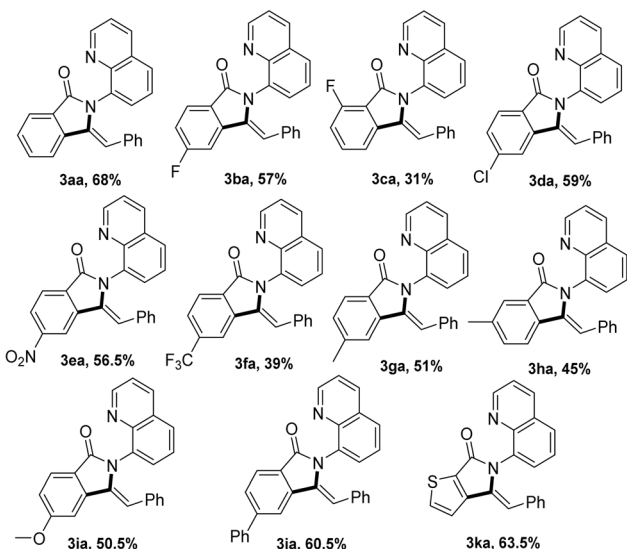
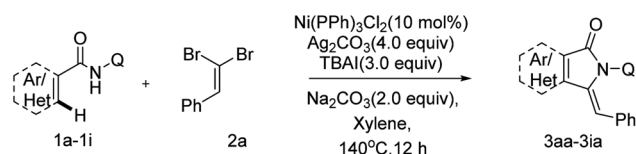
Scheme 3 The effect of directing groups for the alkylation/annulation reaction under standard reaction conditions.

positions of substituent on arenes had a remarkable effect on the transformation. While the substituent was installed on the *ortho*-position of the aromatic ring, the reaction did not proceed smoothly with only 31% yield (**3ba–ca**, **3ga–ha**), which implicated that steric hindrance has a huge effect on the transformation. *N*-(Quinolin-8-yl) benzamides bearing the synthetically valuable groups, such as F, Cl, NO<sub>2</sub> and CF<sub>3</sub>, were also tolerated as well in this transformation, delivering the corresponding products (**3ba–fa**) in moderate yields. Notably, the protocol was also compatible with heterocyclic substrates, liberating **3ka** in acceptable yields (63.5%).

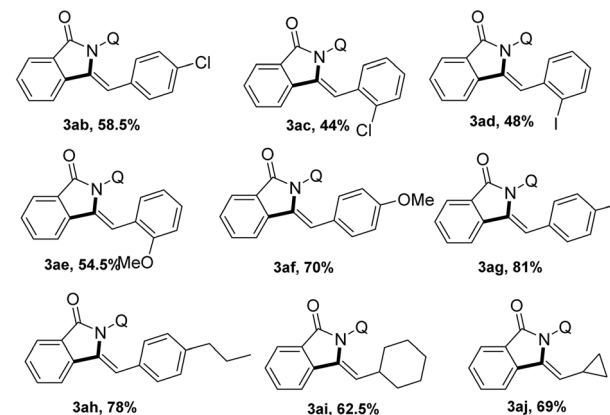
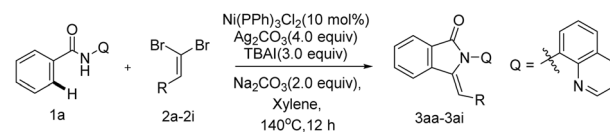
Subsequently, we investigated a series of various dibromoalkenes under the optimized conditions as displayed in Scheme 5. Electron-rich and electron-deficient *gem*-dibromoalkenes were all successfully engaged in this transformation (**3ab–3ah**). Dibromoalkenes bearing both electron-rich groups (Me, OMe and *N*-propyl substitutions) allowed better results furnishing alkylation and cyclization products (**3ae–3ah**) between 54 to 81% isolated yields. The steric hindrance of the *ortho*-position on aromatic ring had an apparent effect on the

reaction. Comparing with the *gem*-dibromoalkenes bearing substituents on the *para*-site (**3ab**, 58.5%; **3af**, 70%), the *ortho*-substituted ones gave lower yields (**3ac**, 44%; **3ae**, 54.5%). Additionally, we were pleased to notice that alkyl *gem*-dibromoalkenes were also tolerated under the catalytic system, delivering 3-methyleneisindolin-1-ones in acceptable yields (**3ai**, 62.5%; **3aj**, 69%), respectively.

Very recently, the transition of metal-catalyzed tandem C–H activation and annulation of arene with terminal alkyne has been reported by many researchers, especially in which the Co(II)/Co(III) and Ni(I)/Ni(III) catalytic cycle was proved.<sup>9,22a</sup> On the basis of the above results of experiments and relevant literatures.<sup>22</sup> We speculated that the reaction might also proceed through a Ni(I)/Ni(III) catalytic process and the plausible reaction mechanism has been proposed in Scheme 6. The catalytic cycle initiates with the oxidation of Ni(II) by Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to give Ni(III) species, which activated the inert sp<sup>2</sup> C–H bond of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl)benzamide (**1a**) to generate the key intermediate II. Subsequently, the attack of the corresponding bromoalkyne *via* dehydrobromination of the dibromoalkene into intermediate II to oxidize addition gives the essential intermediate III, which undergoes the reductive elimination to give the alkylation product IV and liberate the Ni(II) species. The oxidation of Ni(II) to Ni(III) by silver salts continues the cycle. And the *ortho*-alkynyl amide IV occurs rapidly intramolecular cyclization in the presence of Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and TBAI to give the 3-

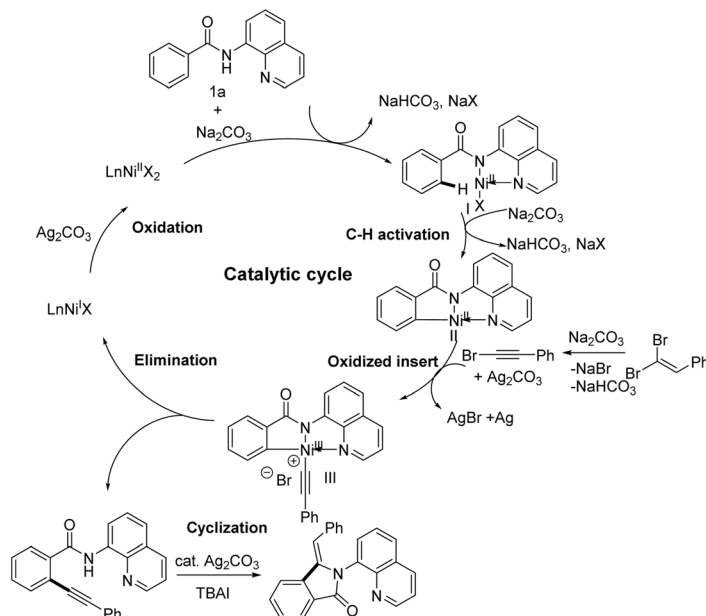


Scheme 4 Scope of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamides<sup>a,b</sup>. <sup>a</sup>Reaction condition: compound **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv.), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4 equiv.), TBAI (3 equiv.), solvent (2.0 mL), under air, 140 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield of **3** by flash column chromatography. Q = quinolin-8-yl, TBAI = tetrabutylammonium iodide.



Scheme 5 Scope of various dibromoalkenes<sup>a,b</sup>. <sup>a</sup>Reaction condition: compound **1a** (0.1 mmol), **2a** (0.2 mmol), Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%), Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2 equiv.), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4 equiv.), TBAI (3 equiv.), solvent (2.0 mL), under air, 140 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Isolated yield of **3** by flash column chromatography. Q = quinolin-8-yl, TBAI = tetrabutylammonium iodide.





Scheme 6 Plausible mechanism.

methyleneisoindolin-1-one products **3aa**. Additionally, the possible pathway of a part of products is through the radical exchange of intermediate II with alkynyl radical and subsequent reductive elimination to give the alkynylated product IV through a  $\text{Ni}(\text{III})/\text{Ni}(\text{I})$  mechanism.<sup>22</sup>

## Conclusions

In conclusion, we have developed an efficient, operationally simple, and scalable nickel/silver-catalyzed unactivated C $^{\text{sp}^2}$ -H bond activation and cyclization for the synthesis of isoindolinones divergently with excellent selectivity from readily available *gem*-dibromoalkenes. This protocol enables operational convenience with good tolerance of various aromatic amides and dibromoalkenes. Furthermore, this practical methodology may provide insight into the development of transition metal catalyzed C-H functionalization and further complement existing synthetic methods.

## Experimental

### General information

Unless otherwise noted, all of the reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without purification. All product mixtures were analyzed by thin layer chromatography glass-backed silica TLC plates with a fluorescent indicator from Branch of Qingdao Haiyang Chemical CO. LTD. UV-active compounds were detected with a UV lamp ( $\lambda = 254 \text{ nm}$ ). For flash column chromatography, silica gel (200–300 mesh) was used as stationary phase.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III 400 MHz spectrometer in deuterated chloroform. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million relative to tetramethylsilane. The multiplicities of signals are designated by the following abbreviations: s

(singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Coupling constants ( $J$ ) are given in hertz.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded using a 100 MHz spectrometer. The chemical shifts are reported relative to residual  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $\delta \text{ C} = 77.00 \text{ ppm}$ ). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured with a Waters Micromass GCT instrument, accurate masses were reported for the molecular ion ( $[\text{M}]^+$  or  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ).

### General procedure for the preparation of carboxamides

To the solution of carboxylic acid (10 mmol) and 10 drops of DMF in 30 mL dry DCM at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , oxalyl chloride (20 mmol) was added dropwise under Ar. The mixture was then warm to r.t and stirred for another 5 h. The solvent was removed under vacuum to give crude acid chloride, which was used directly for next step without further purification.

To the mixture of 8-aminoquinoline (10 mmol) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (12 mmol) in dry DCM (30 mL) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , the crude acid chloride obtained from previous step in 20 mL dry DCM was added dropwise. The mixture was then warm to r.t and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The mixture was extracted, washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution. The combined organic layers were dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and concentrated in vacuum and then purified by silica gel chromatography with a mixture of hexanes and ethyl acetate as the eluent to afford the corresponding amide products (reference: *Chem. Commun.*, 2015, **51**, 7863–7866).

### General procedure for the preparation of *gem*-dibromoalkenes

To an ice cooled stirred solution of aldehyde (5.0 mmol) and carbon tetrabromide (2.5 g, 7.5 mmol) in anhydrous  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (40 mL) was added slowly a solution of triphenylphosphine (4.0 g, 15.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 mL) by several portions. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After the reaction was



complete, the mixture was diluted with hexane (100 mL) and purified directly by column chromatography on silica gel. If it is not specified, hexane was used as an eluent for the column chromatography (reference: *RSC Adv.*, 2014, 4, 2322–2326).

### Typical procedure for copper(II)/silver(I)-catalyzed sequential alkynylation and annulation of arenes with *gem*-dibromoalkenes

A mixture of *N*-(quinolin-8-yl) benzamides (1, 24.8 mg, 0.1 mmol), Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mol%, 6.2 mg), Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (110.3 mg, 0.4 mmol), TBAI (110.8 mg, 0.3 mmol), *gem*-dibromoalkenes (2, 0.2 mmol) and xylene (2.0 mL) was added to a 25 mL open tube. The tube was stirred at 140 °C for 12 h under air. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After the reaction was complete, then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and the reaction solution was treated with dilute *p*-toluenesulfonic acid for half hour. A saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (10.0 mL) was added to the reaction tube and the pH of the solution in the reaction tube is neutralized to about 6–7. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 15 mL), and the organic phase was combined and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and was concentrated *in vacuo*. Then the mixture was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 2 : 1 as eluent to afford the desired products (3). And then calculated the yields.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3a)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.86 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.60–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.58–6.51 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.25, 150.47, 144.47, 138.77, 136.16, 135.92, 134.26, 133.62, 132.36, 130.14, 129.19, 128.94, 128.49, 128.38, 128.22, 126.39, 126.12, 125.75, 124.03, 121.33, 119.76, 107.49, 77.50, 77.18, 76.86. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 348.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-5-fluoro-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3b)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.85 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.85 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.99–7.95 (m, 2H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.27 (m, 3H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.69 (dt, *J* = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.21, 150.49, 144.32, 135.95, 135.34, 133.99, 133.14, 130.09, 128.94, 128.58, 128.16, 126.43, 126.34, 126.21, 125.75, 124.50, 121.37, 117.16, 116.92, 108.49, 106.98, 106.73, 77.44, 77.12, 76.81. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 366.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-5-chloro-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3c)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.28 (m, 2H), 6.78

(s, 1H), 6.69 (dt, *J* = 8.8, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.27, 150.53, 144.35, 140.32, 138.84, 135.95, 135.19, 134.00, 133.19, 130.12, 129.60, 128.98, 128.66, 128.21, 126.79, 126.48, 126.41, 125.78, 125.37, 121.43, 120.18, 108.69, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 382.0 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-5-methyl-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3d)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.56–6.49 (m, 4H), 2.55 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.33, 150.41, 144.47, 143.04, 139.14, 136.24, 135.90, 134.36, 133.73, 130.32, 130.13, 129.60, 128.92, 128.37, 128.21, 126.35, 126.01, 125.74, 123.87, 121.27, 120.07, 107.04, 77.46, 77.14, 76.83, 22.30. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 362.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-5-methoxy-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3e)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 6.67 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 4.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.57–6.50 (m, 4H), 3.96 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.05, 163.62, 150.40, 144.52, 141.05, 136.20, 135.91, 134.41, 133.63, 130.16, 128.95, 128.34, 128.23, 126.38, 126.09, 125.76, 125.56, 121.38, 121.27, 116.58, 107.12, 103.81, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 55.94. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 378.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-6-methyl-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3f)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.84 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.79–7.78 (m, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 6.69–6.64 (m, 1H), 6.56–6.49 (m, 4H), 2.51 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.42, 150.45, 144.56, 139.52, 136.40, 136.30, 135.90, 134.44, 133.83, 133.44, 130.17, 128.96, 128.63, 128.41, 128.28, 126.39, 126.00, 125.76, 124.12, 121.31, 119.59, 106.74, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 21.72. MS (ESI) *m/z*: 362.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

#### (*Z*)-3-Benzylidene-5-phenyl-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3g)

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.86 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.07–8.04 (m, 2H), 7.97 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 3H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.71–6.65 (m, 1H), 6.58–6.51 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 168.10, 150.49, 145.82, 144.48, 140.81, 139.42, 136.25, 135.95, 135.12, 134.33, 133.64, 130.23, 129.14, 129.00, 128.58, 128.51, 128.27, 127.69, 127.28, 126.43, 126.16,



125.81, 124.47, 121.36, 118.54, 107.58, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 424.1  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-Benzylidene-5-nitro-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3h)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.83 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.76 (d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.42 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.9$  Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd,  $J = 7.4, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.36–7.31 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.76–6.70 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.11, 150.86, 150.64, 144.02, 139.58, 136.09, 134.65, 133.49, 132.79, 132.59, 130.03, 129.03, 128.17, 126.81, 126.59, 125.82, 125.28, 124.09, 121.61, 115.70, 110.61, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 393.1  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(4-Chlorobenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3i)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.83 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.04–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 7.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.38–7.30 (m, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.50–6.43 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.13, 150.54, 144.38, 138.52, 136.86, 136.01, 134.17, 132.49, 132.09, 131.91, 130.25, 129.43, 129.38, 129.00, 128.62, 128.39, 126.36, 125.89, 124.14, 121.54, 119.81, 105.91, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 382.0  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(2-Chlorobenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3j)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.89 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.02–7.92 (m, 3H), 7.71 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.62–7.54 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.28 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.62 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.14 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.24, 150.79, 144.49, 138.40, 137.24, 135.85, 133.82, 133.01, 132.50, 132.44, 130.49, 130.00, 129.52, 128.76, 128.62, 128.54, 127.89, 127.72, 125.77, 124.34, 124.09, 121.39, 120.13, 104.37, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 382.0  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(2-Iodobenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3k)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.94 (dd,  $J = 3.3, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 8.02–7.97 (m, 2H), 7.95 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.58 (s, 1H), 6.39–6.33 (m, 2H), 6.21 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.23, 150.99, 144.46, 138.38, 137.86, 137.25, 136.58, 135.93, 133.80, 132.51, 130.14, 129.87, 129.50, 128.76, 128.64, 128.48, 127.81, 125.79, 125.75, 124.12, 121.42, 120.03, 110.49, 99.83, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 474.0  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(2-Methoxybenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3l)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.86 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.99–7.98 (m, 1H), 7.97–7.95 (m, 1H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.67 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.55 (td,  $J = 7.9, 4.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd,  $J =$

7.3, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 2H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.67 (ddd,  $J = 8.5, 7.6, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.30 (t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 5.92 (td,  $J = 7.4, 0.7$  Hz, 1H), 3.58 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.33, 156.18, 150.34, 144.60, 138.77, 136.38, 135.95, 134.10, 132.22, 130.05, 130.00, 129.00, 128.79, 128.46, 128.39, 127.93, 125.52, 123.91, 122.52, 121.11, 120.10, 118.57, 108.84, 103.92, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 55.03. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 378.1  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(4-Methylbenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3n)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.83 (dd,  $J = 4.1, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.85 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.42 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.31 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 1.99 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.17, 150.38, 144.52, 138.81, 135.82, 135.72, 134.38, 132.25, 130.53, 130.07, 128.99, 128.91, 128.28, 128.14, 128.06, 127.00, 125.72, 123.93, 121.29, 119.67, 107.67, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 20.95. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 362.1  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(4-Propylbenzylidene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3o)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.83 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.00–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.86 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.66 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 (dd,  $J = 7.4, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.26 (m, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.45 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 6.32 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.22 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H), 1.42–1.32 (m, 2H), 0.80 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.18, 150.40, 144.54, 140.56, 138.80, 135.89, 135.81, 134.38, 132.26, 130.89, 130.11, 129.02, 128.88, 128.32, 128.08, 126.53, 125.72, 123.98, 121.25, 119.70, 107.73, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 37.53, 24.47, 13.80. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 390.1  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-4-Benzylidene-5-(quinolin-8-yl)-4,5-dihydro-6H-thieno[2,3-c] pyrrol-6-one (3p)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.92 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd,  $J = 7.3, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.44–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.04–6.99 (m, 1H), 6.94 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 6.79 (s, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  159.32, 151.10, 146.16, 145.52, 144.79, 136.93, 136.37, 136.27, 134.06, 130.99, 129.48, 129.00, 128.96, 128.87, 128.12, 127.41, 125.89, 124.66, 121.68, 104.66, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 354.0  $[M]^+$ .

**(Z)-3-(Cyclohexylmethylene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3q)**

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.89 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.24 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.00–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.80 (dd,  $J = 7.3, 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 1H), 7.60 (td,  $J = 7.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td,  $J = 7.5, 0.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.42 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d,  $J = 10.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.72 (dt,  $J = 14.6, 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 1.48–1.42 (m, 1H), 1.41–1.35 (m, 1H), 1.26 (d,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.23–1.17 (m, 1H), 1.15–1.07 (m, 1H), 0.93–0.85 (m, 2H), 0.74 (ddd,  $J = 12.0, 10.8, 3.5$  Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )



$\delta$  168.48, 151.33, 145.68, 138.84, 136.21, 135.72, 134.04, 131.93, 130.67, 129.30, 129.27, 128.42, 128.39, 126.35, 123.76, 121.92, 119.40, 115.12, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 35.28, 33.32, 33.15, 25.69, 25.57, 25.45. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 353.1  $[M]^+$ .

### (Z)-3-(Cyclopropylmethylene)-2-(quinolin-8-yl) isoindolin-1-one (3r)

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.92 (dd,  $J = 4.2, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.19 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.85 (dd,  $J = 7.3, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.66–7.62 (m, 2H), 7.57 (td,  $J = 7.7, 0.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd,  $J = 8.3, 4.2$  Hz, 1H), 5.13–5.06 (m, 1H), 0.40–0.32 (m, 2H), 0.28 (dd,  $J = 9.2, 6.5$  Hz, 1H), 0.11 (ddd,  $J = 11.9, 8.6, 3.6$  Hz, 1H),  $-0.04$  (tdd,  $J = 8.5, 6.4, 4.5$  Hz, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  168.07, 151.23, 145.52, 138.15, 136.16, 135.46, 135.28, 131.89, 130.66, 129.20, 129.14, 128.16, 127.82, 126.26, 123.74, 121.82, 118.97, 113.93, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 8.76, 8.66. MS (ESI)  $m/z$ : 312.1  $[M]^+$ .

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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