

Synthesis of Five-Membered Iodine–Nitrogen Heterocycles from Benzimidazole-Based Iodonium Salts

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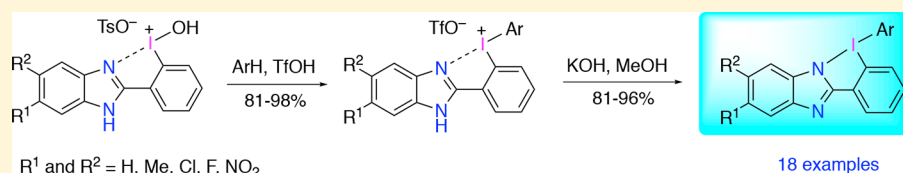
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Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: Pseudocyclic 2-benzimidazolyl-substituted diaryliodonium salts were obtained by the reaction of the corresponding [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes with arenes in the presence of trifluoromethanesulfonic acid. X-ray structural analysis of these iodonium salts confirmed their pseudocyclic structure with a short (2.57–2.58 Å) noncovalent I···N interaction. Treatment of 2-benzimidazolyl-substituted diaryliodonium triflates with a base afforded novel five-membered iodine–nitrogen heterocycles.

INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the interest in hypervalent iodine heterocycles has experienced an unprecedented growth.¹ The five-membered iodine–oxygen heterocycles (benziodoxoles) represent one of the most important classes of hypervalent iodine(III) reagents.^{1–6} Substituted benziodoxolones **1** (Scheme 1) are widely used as electrophilic or radical atom-transfer reagents for azidation,² amination,³ cyanation,⁴ alkynylation,⁵ or chlorination.⁶ Other important classes of five-membered hypervalent iodine(III) heterocycles include dibenziodolium derivatives **2** and **3** and benziodazolones **4**. Five-membered cyclic iodonium salts **2**, derivatives of the iodonium heterocyclic system, are particularly interesting because of the high thermal stability and applications in biological studies.^{7–9} For example, dibenziodolium chloride (also known as diphenyleneiodonium chloride or DPI) has found numerous applications in biological studies.^{8,9} In biochemical and pharmacological research, DPI is commonly used as an NADPH oxidase inhibitor.⁹ The neutral dibenziodolium derivatives, 5-aryl-5*H*-5*λ*³-dibenzo[*b,d*]iodoles **3**, have also been prepared as thermally unstable and air-sensitive compounds.¹⁰

The preparation of several five-membered iodine–nitrogen heterocycles, benziodazolones **4**, has been reported by Wolf and Steinberg,¹¹ Gougoutas,¹² Balthazor,¹³ and our group.¹⁴ Benziodazolone derivatives can be used as reagents for oxidative functionalization of organic substrates.^{14a,15,16} For example, azidobenziodazolone was used as an azidation reagent

with reactivity similar to that of azidobenziodoxoles.^{14a} Very recently, we reported the preparation of a novel bicyclic benziodazolone, which is an efficient reagent for oxidatively assisted coupling of carboxylic acids with alcohols or amines.¹⁶ To the best of our knowledge, all known five-membered iodine–nitrogen heterocycles have the benziodazolone structure **4**, which is characterized by the presence of the amido nitrogen in the ring. In this paper, we report the first synthesis of a stable polycyclic benziodazole system **5**, which represents a nitrogen analogue of the neutral diphenyleneiodonium system **4** (Scheme 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have developed an efficient three-step approach to the synthesis of benziodazole system **5** starting from readily available 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazoles **6**. Iodides **6** were initially oxidized to [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes **7** by treatment with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid in the presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (Scheme 2) according to the modified procedure of Yamamoto and Togo.¹⁷ Products with the general structure type **7** were isolated in high yields in the form of stable microcrystalline solids and were characterized by NMR and mass spectrometry. According to NMR, the nonsymmetrically substituted derivatives of **7** (R¹ ≠ R²) in solution exist in the form of two tautomers differing in the position of the protonated N-site in the benziodazole fragment.

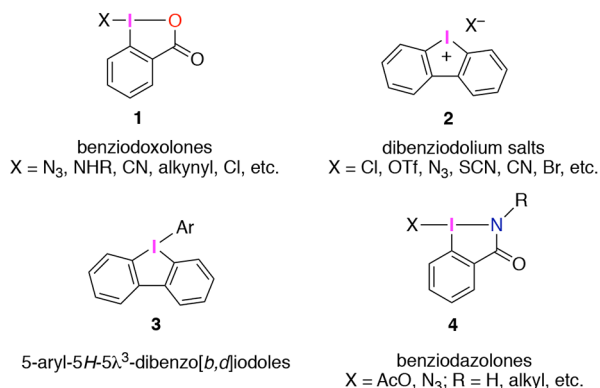
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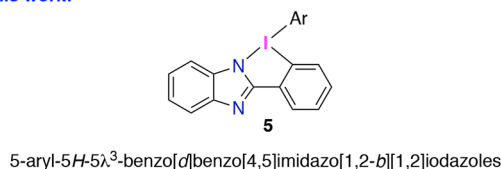


Scheme 1. Hypervalent Iodine Heterocycles: Benziodoxoles, Dibenziiodolium Derivatives, and Benziodazoles

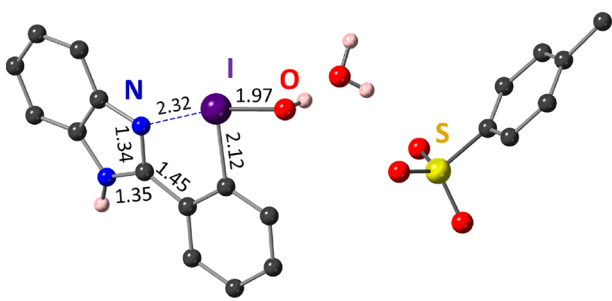
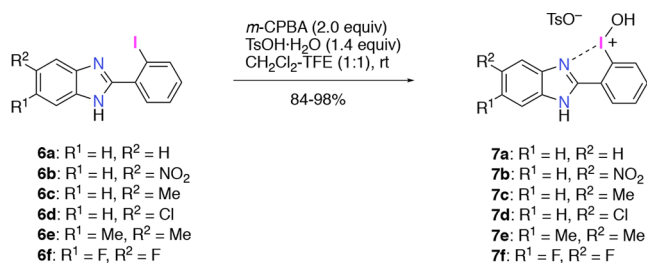
Previously known iodine heterocycles:



This work:



Scheme 2. Oxidation of 2-(2-Iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazoles **6** to [Hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes **7**. X-ray Structure Diagram of **7a**



Next we sought to convert the newly prepared [hydroxy-(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes **7** into diaryliodonium species by a direct reaction with arenes. Initially, the model tosylate **7a** demonstrated extremely low reactivity toward arenes, and even the treatment with the electron-rich mesitylene did not lead to the formation of desired iodonium salt **8a** after 32 h of stirring in trifluoroethanol according to Kita's procedure.¹⁸ Nevertheless, the addition of 1.5 equiv of TfOH led to a dramatic change in reactivity and allowed for the isolation of the iodonium salt **8a** in quantitative yield. Using this protocol, a series of N-coordinated diaryliodonium salts **8a–r** could be prepared in the presence of triflic acid, as shown in Scheme 3.

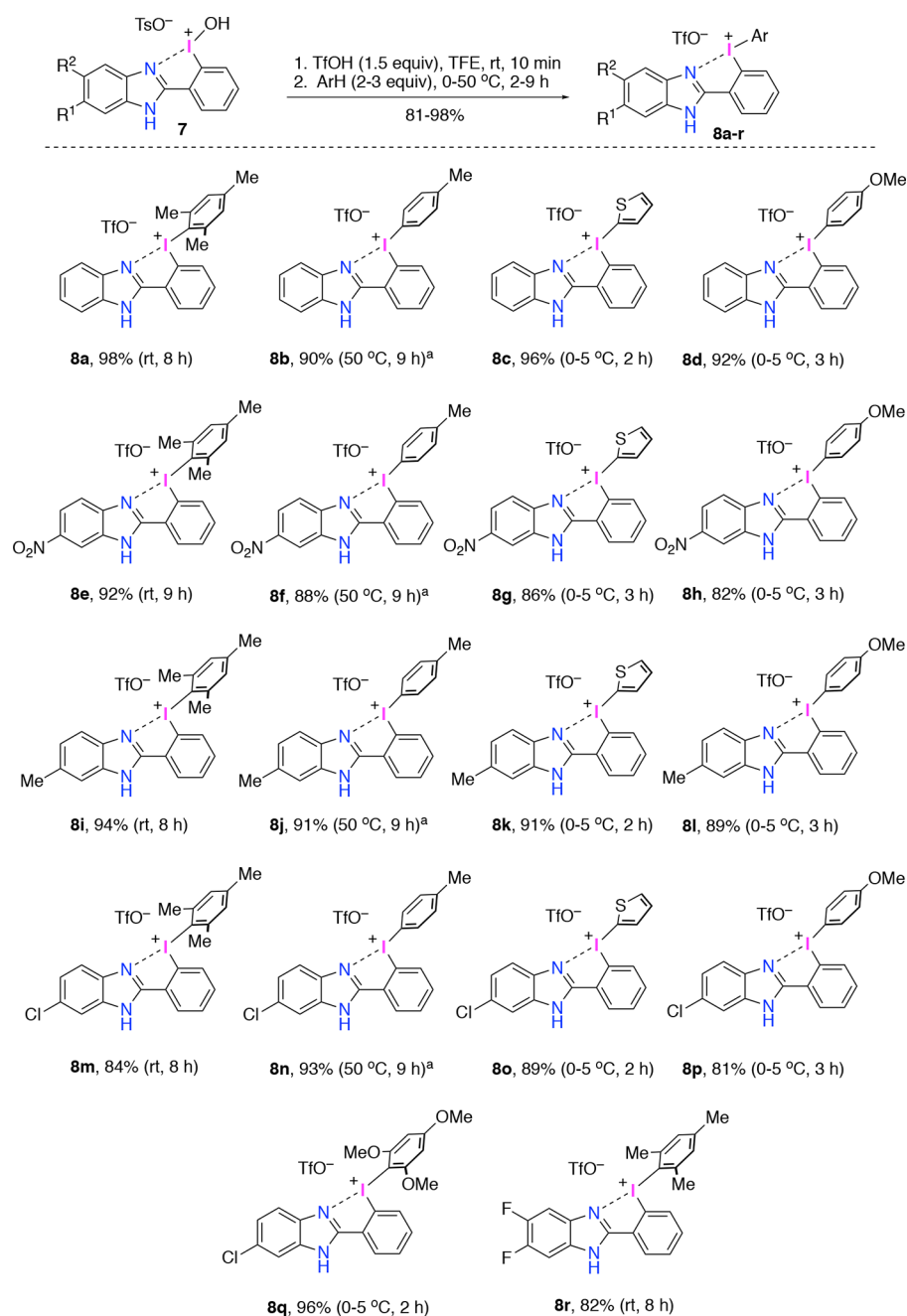
These salts were isolated in excellent yields in their N–H triflate forms and were characterized by NMR and mass spectrometry. The presence of a proton on one of the benzimidazole nitrogens should in principle lead to all four benzimidazole C–H sites in **8a** to be chemically distinct. Experimentally, the ¹H NMR spectrum of **8a** showed a fluxional behavior for the benzimidazole moiety, evidenced by two broad resonances each integrating for 2H, suggesting a rather rapid equilibration of the two sides of the molecule. Similar behavior was observed for the rest for the derivatives within this family. The solid-state structures of two such salts, the nitro derivative **8e** and the chloro derivative **8m**, were subsequently determined to be borderline pseudocyclic on the basis of the presence of a long nitrogen-to-iodine donor bond (Figure 1). It should be noted that the presence of a substituent on the benzimidazole fragment leads to the possibility of two tautomeric structures, both of which were found to coexist in the solid state (via disorder) and in solution.

At this point, we wondered whether the pseudocyclic species **8** could readily form the corresponding cyclic derivative upon deprotonation. This possibility was tested by examining the ¹H NMR spectrum of the thienyl pseudocycle **8c** in DMSO-*d*₆ before and after the addition of 1.0 equiv of KOH (Figure 2a,b). Consistent with our hypothesis, the addition of the base led to a significant change in the spectrum, with benzimidazole resonances shifted upfield by up to 0.2 ppm (Figure 2b). The original chemical shifts of **8c** could be largely restored by treating the resulting solution of **9c** with 1.0 equiv of TfOH (Figure 2c), attesting to the reversibility of the cyclic-pseudocyclic interconversion. As a synthetic procedure, treating the methanolic solution of **8c** with potassium hydroxide led to the precipitation of the cyclic **9c** in nearly quantitative yield. Similarly, a series of cyclic hypervalent iodine heterocycles **9** (Scheme 4) were isolated as thermally stable solids in excellent yields and were characterized by NMR and mass spectrometry. Unfortunately, we were not able to grow single crystals of **9** suitable for X-ray analysis.

Interestingly, unlike the pseudocyclic triflates, the NMR spectra of **9** were at odds with what was expected for a stronger N–I bond. Hence, while the ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of the pseudocyclic difluoro derivative **8r** showed two aromatic fluorine resonances (doublets in the proton-decoupled mode), the corresponding cyclic derivative **9r** showed a unique well-defined ¹⁹F singlet, indicating either a low rotation barrier around the C–C bond (Figure 3) or a preference for a C_s-symmetric noncyclic conformation with the Ar1 ring perpendicular to the benzimidazole plane.

Due to the same phenomenon, the asymmetrically substituted derivatives, such as **9o**, displayed an NMR spectrum consistent with a relatively facile rotamer interconversion. To shed light on this phenomenon, the conformational analysis of the chloro-substituted **9o** was carried out using DFT calculations. It was found that the two cyclic forms do indeed represent the energetic minima, and the noncyclic perpendicular form a transition state in rotamer interconversion (Figure 4). The “proximal” isomer proved to be somewhat more stable (about ~2 kcal/mol) than the “remote” one, with an interconversion barrier of ~16 kcal/mol consistent with a medium velocity rotamer interconversion on the NMR time scale. For comparison, the barrier for a degenerate exchange (via C–N) bond rotation in *N,N*-dimethylformamide is close to Δ*G*[‡] ~ 19 kcal/mol.¹⁹ Interestingly, in the case of the pseudocyclic derivatives such as **8o**, the apparently higher barrier for tautomerization may seem contrary to what would

Scheme 3. Formation and Examples of the Pseudocyclic Diaryliodonium Species 8



^aHexafluoro-2-propanol (HFIP) was used as a solvent instead of trifluoroethanol (TFE).

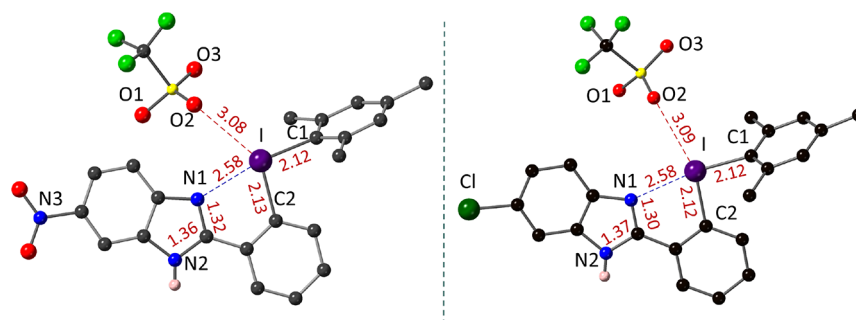


Figure 1. X-ray crystal structure diagrams for **8e** (left) and **8m** (right). All except N-bound protons have been omitted for clarity.

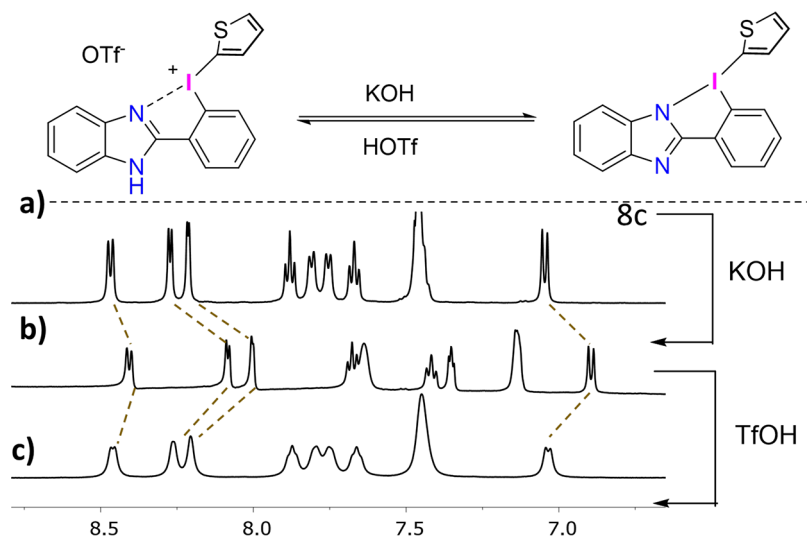


Figure 2. Changes observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum of **8c** upon addition of KOH (a and b). Bottom spectrum (c) was recorded upon addition of TfOH (1.0 equiv) to the sample b.

be expected for a weaker I–N bond. It should be noted, however, that while the tautomerization in **9o** may be achieved by a simple rotation (as shown in Figure 4), such a process in **8o** is precluded due to the protonation at the “remote” nitrogen atom. Hence, tautomerization in this case likely proceeds in a multistep sequence involving both a proton transfer and a rotation. In consequence, such a process would be more difficult to model and may show a strong medium dependence.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have reported the synthesis of a novel, stable hypervalent iodine polyheterocyclic system derived from benzimidazole. The hypervalent iodine heterocycles **9** were prepared starting from readily available 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazoles **6** via benzimidazole-based diaryliodonium salts **8**. The prepared iodazoles exhibit a fast interconversion between tautomers according to NMR experiment and theoretical calculations.

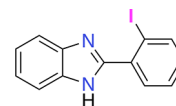
EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Comments. All reagents and solvents were from commercial sources and used without further purification from freshly opened containers. ^1H NMR spectra were recorded at 300, 400 and 500 MHz, ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded at 75, 100 and 125 MHz, and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded at 376 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm). ^1H and ^{13}C chemical shifts are referenced relative to tetramethylsilane. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on Thermo Fisher Scientific LC-MS LTQ-Orbitrap Velos and MicroTof-Q from Bruker Daltonics Instruments with electrospray ionization (ESI) in positive ionization mode.

Synthesis of Benzimidazoles 6: General Procedure. Benzimidazoles **6a–f** were prepared according to a slightly modified published procedure.²⁰ The mixture of appropriate *o*-phenylenediamine (20 mmol) and 2-iodobenzoic acids (20 mmol, 5.6 g) in polyphosphoric acid (200 mmol, 30.2 g) was heated to 100 °C. POCl_3 (65 mmol, 9.87 g, 6 mL) was added portionwise (1 mL every 15 min) to a stirred reaction mixture at 100 °C. The heating was continued until full conversion of starting material (monitored by TLC, eluent hexane:EtOAc = 2:7). The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature with the formation of solid material. The solid was suspended in water (70 mL) and was basified by the addition of solid NaHCO_3 until pH = 7–8. The precipitate was filtered off and washed on the filter with water 30 mL and recrystallized from a water–ethanol mixture. In the case of

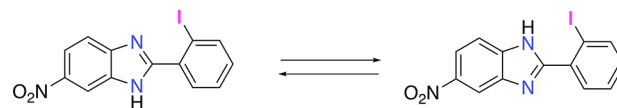
5,6-difluoro-2-(2-iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole, the precipitate was filtered off, resuspended in 600 mL of EtOAc, and filtered through a short pad of Celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure at room temperature.

2-(2-Iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (6a). Reaction of *o*-phenylenediamine (2.16 g, 20 mmol) according to the general



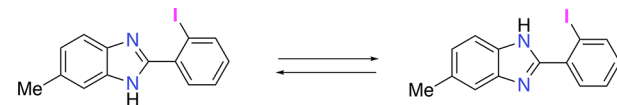
procedure afforded 5.12 g (80%) of product **6a**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 246–247 °C (lit.,²¹ mp 230–232 °C); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 12.70 (s, 1H), 8.06 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.53 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.20 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 152.6, 143.2, 139.6, 136.6, 134.3, 131.3, 131.1, 128.1, 122.5, 121.4, 119.1, 111.5, 97.3.

2-(2-Iodophenyl)-6-nitro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (6b). Reaction of 4-nitrobenzene-1,2-diamine (3.06 g, 20 mmol) according to the



general procedure afforded 5.69 g (78%) of product **6b** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a dark-orange solid: mp 207–208 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 10.20 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (s, 1H), 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 157.1, 143.5, 142.8, 142.0, 141.9, 139.8, 139.2, 139.1, 136.1, 135.5, 131.9, 131.6, 131.4, 128.4, 128.3, 124.5, 120.7, 120.0, 118.1, 114.9, 112.7, 97.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 365.9734, found: 365.9738. The crystal suitable for X-ray was prepared by slow evaporation of MeCN/ H_2O solution (the structure is provided in SI).

2-(2-Iodophenyl)-6-methyl-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole (6c). Reaction of 4-methylbenzene-1,2-diamine (2.44 g, 20 mmol) according to the general procedure afforded 5.41 g (81%) of product **6c** (mixture



Scheme 4. Formation and Examples of the Cyclic Diaryliodonium Species 9

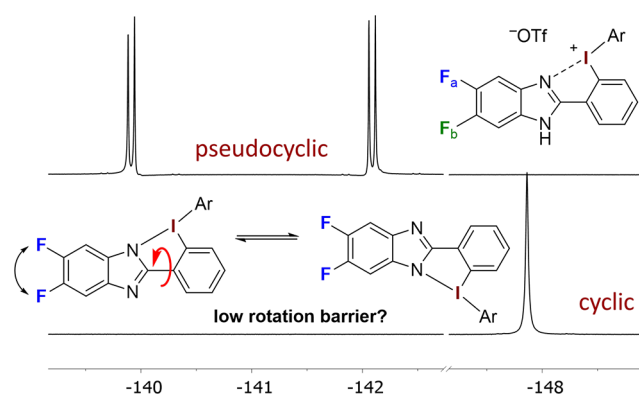
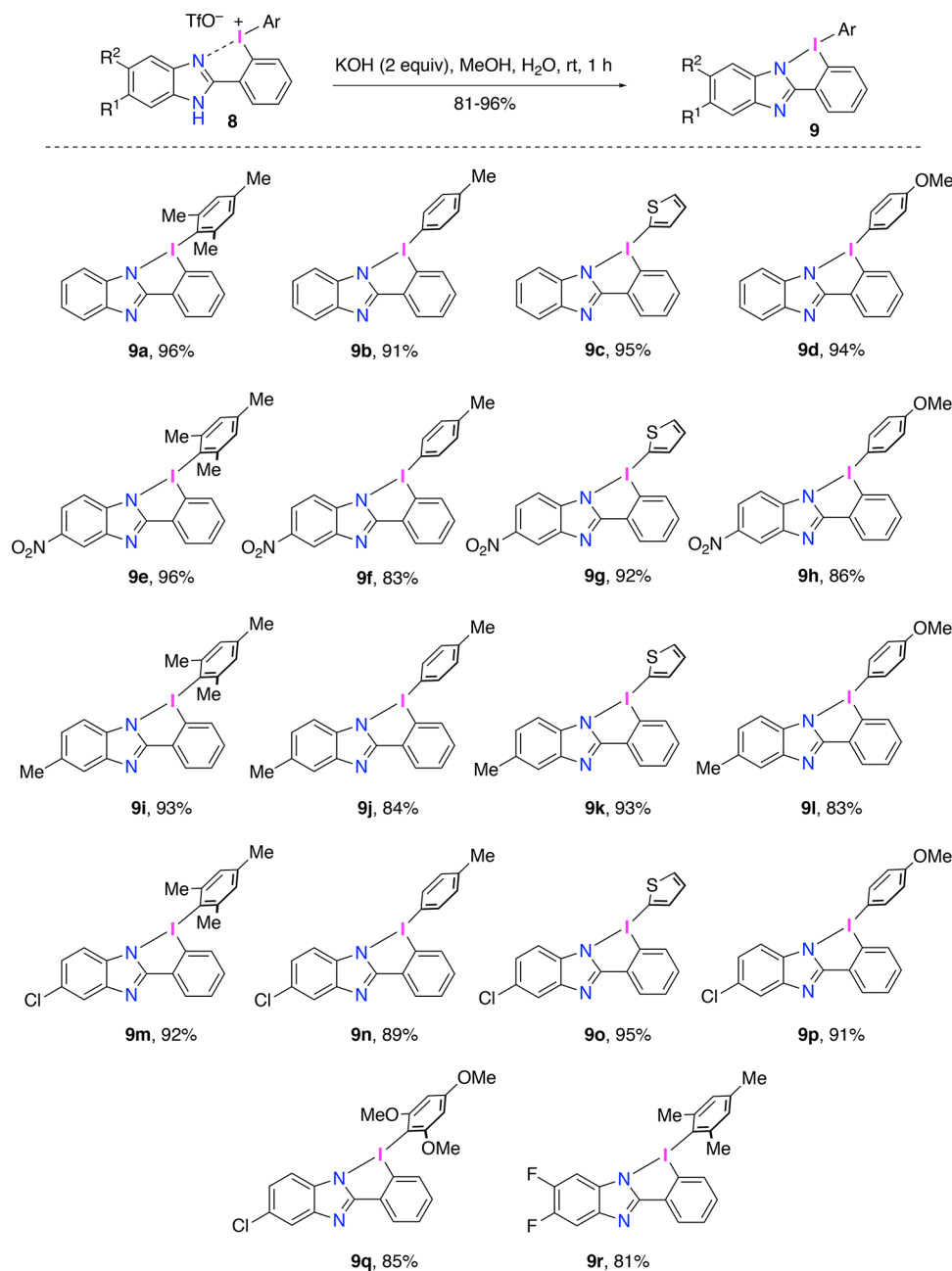
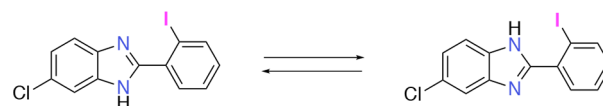


Figure 3. Aromatic region of the ^{19}F $\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra of the difluoro derivatives **8r** (top) and **9r** (bottom).

of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 85–86 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 12.59 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.26 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 152.5, 152.1, 143.6, 141.4, 139.7, 136.7, 134.7, 132.4, 131.9, 131.3, 131.1, 130.5, 128.1, 124.0, 123.1, 118.9, 118.7, 111.2, 111.0, 97.4, 21.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 335.0040, found: 335.0041.

6-Chloro-2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (6d). Reaction of 4-chlorobenzene-1,2-diamine (2.85 g, 20 mmol) according to the



general procedure afforded 6.03 g (85%) of product **6d** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a creamy-white solid: mp 189–190 °C;

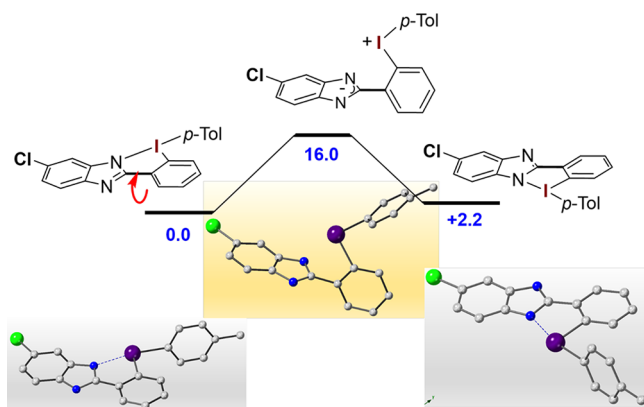
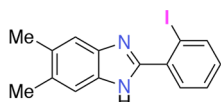


Figure 4. Energy profile for the rotamer interconversion of a cyclic benzimidazole-containing system. Values are given in kcal/mol: DFT: B3LYP, 6-31+G(d,p)/ LANL2DZ(d,p) for I.

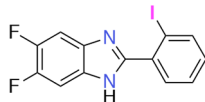
^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 12.91 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H); 7.31–7.23 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.1, 153.7, 144.0, 141.9, 139.7, 136.1, 135.0, 133.1, 131.4, 131.3, 128.1, 126.9, 126.0, 122.7, 121.9, 120.4, 118.5, 112.8, 111.2, 97.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{ClIN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 354.9493, found: 354.9494.

2-(2-Iodophenyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (6e). Reaction of 4,5-dimethylbenzene-1,2-diamine (2.72 g, 20 mmol) according



to the general procedure afforded 5.50 g (79%) of product **6e**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 203–204 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 12.41 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (td, J = 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.28–7.23 (m, 2H), 2.33 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 152.1, 142.4, 140.1, 137.2, 133.4, 131.7, 131.6, 131.4, 130.2, 128.5, 119.6, 111.9, 97.8, 20.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 349.0196, found: 349.0198.

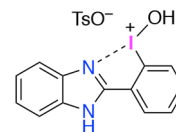
5,6-Difluoro-2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (6f). Reaction of 4,5-difluorobenzene-1,2-diamine (2.88 g, 20 mmol) according



to the general procedure afforded 4.98 g (70%) of product **6f**, isolated as a deep violet solid: mp 186–187 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 8.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.49, 154.48, 154.46, 148.2 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 16.4 Hz), 145.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 16.4 Hz), 139.7, 135.7, 131.6, 131.4, 128.2, 103.1 (br. s), 97.4; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –143.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_8\text{F}_2\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 356.9695, found: 356.9700.

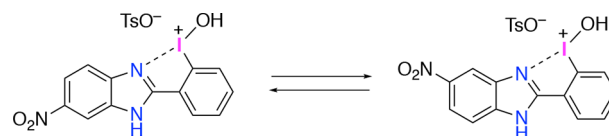
Synthesis of [Hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes 7: General Procedure. To a stirred solution of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazoles **6a–f** (1.0 equiv) in a mixture of DCM–TFE (1:1) were added mCPBA (77%, 2.0 equiv) and p -TsOH· H_2O (1.4 equiv). The stirring was continued at room temperature until full conversion of starting material (monitored by TLC, eluent hexane:EtOAc = 2:7), and solvents were evaporated at reduced pressure. The products were precipitated by the addition of Et_2O . The solids were filtered off, washed with Et_2O three times, and dried in a vacuum.

(2-(1H-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(hydroxy)iodonium Tosylate (7a). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole **6a**



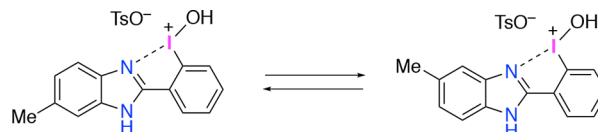
(1.60 g, 5 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 3.46 g, 10 mmol) and p -TsOH· H_2O (1.33 g, 7 mmol) in 25 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 2.49 g (98%) of product **7a**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 190–192 °C; ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 8.44 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.99–7.87 (m, 3H), 7.78–7.75 (m, 1H), 7.51–7.46 (m, 4H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 151.3, 145.2, 138.4, 136.7, 134.2, 131.5, 128.5, 128.2, 128.0, 125.8, 125.7, 125.3, 124.8, 121.1, 117.1, 113.7, 21.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTs}]^+$): 336.9838, found: 336.9832. The crystal suitable for X-ray was prepared by slow cooling of saturated MeCN/ H_2O solution followed by evaporation.

Hydroxy(2-(6-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)iodonium Tosylate (7b). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole



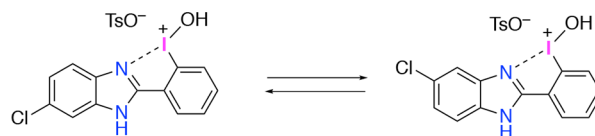
6b (1.83 g, 5 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 3.46 g, 10 mmol) and p -TsOH· H_2O (1.33 g, 7 mmol) in 25 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 2.49 g (90%) of product **7b** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a yellow solid: mp 220–221 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 9.00 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.61 (s, 1H), 8.55–8.51 (m, 2H), 8.32–8.30 (m, 2H), 8.12–8.09 (m, 2H), 8.05–7.93 (m, 4H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 2.28 (s, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 145.4, 144.1, 143.0, 141.3, 140.0, 139.2, 138.2, 136.5, 134.9, 133.6, 132.2, 131.6, 130.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 127.9, 125.7, 125.1, 121.4, 121.3, 120.6, 119.9, 118.4, 117.5, 114.6, 113.7, 110.6, 21.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_9\text{IN}_3\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTs}]^+$): 381.9689, found: 381.9685.

Hydroxy(2-(6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)iodonium Tosylate (7c). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole **6c** (1.67 g, 5 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 3.46 g,



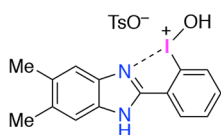
10 mmol) and p -TsOH· H_2O (1.33 g, 7 mmol) in 25 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 2.19 g (84%) of product **7c** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a creamy-white mp 175–176 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 14.52 (br. s, 1H), 14.46 (br. s, 1H), 8.44–8.41 (m, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.24 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 150.8, 150.6, 145.3, 138.0, 136.7, 135.4, 134.6, 134.2, 134.1, 133.7, 133.6, 132.0, 131.2, 128.2, 127.9, 127.7, 126.9, 126.0, 125.6, 125.2, 120.9, 120.8, 116.4, 116.3, 113.1, 112.9, 21.4, 21.3, 20.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTs}]^+$): 350.9994, found: 350.9994.

(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(hydroxy)iodonium Tosylate (7d). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole **6d** (1.77 g, 5 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 3.46 g,



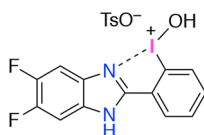
10 mmol) and *p*-TsOH·H₂O (1.33 g, 7 mmol) in 25 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 2.61 g (96%) of product **7d** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 188–190 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 9.22 (br. s, 1H), 8.44 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.98–7.86 (m, 3H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 152.3, 145.1, 138.1, 137.4, 135.6, 134.8, 134.2, 134.1, 133.0, 131.3, 129.8, 128.7, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 125.6, 125.0, 124.9, 121.0, 120.9, 118.3, 116.6, 115.0, 113.3, 20.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₁₃H₈ClIN₂ ([M – OH – OTs]⁺): 353.9415, found: 353.9415.

(2-(5,6-Dimethyl-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(hydroxy)iodonium Tosylate (**7e**). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole **6e** (0.70 g, 2 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 1.38 g,



4 mmol) and *p*-TsOH·H₂O (0.53 g, 2.8 mmol) in 10 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 0.97 g (91%) of product **7e**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 185–186 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 14.40 (s, 1H), 8.44 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H) 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 150.1, 145.6, 137.7, 135.0, 134.9, 134.0, 133.5, 132.4, 131.2, 128.1, 127.7, 125.5, 125.3, 120.7, 116.5, 113.1, 20.8, 20.1, 20.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₁₅H₁₃IN₂ ([M – OH – OTs]⁺): 348.0118, found: 348.0120.

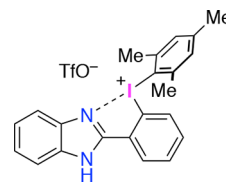
(2-(5,6-Difluoro-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(hydroxy)iodonium Tosylate (**7f**). Reaction of 2-(2-iodophenyl)-1*H*-benzo[d]imidazole **6f** (0.71 g, 2 mmol) with mCPBA (77%, 1.38 g, 4 mmol)



and *p*-TsOH·H₂O (0.53 g, 2.8 mmol) in 10 mL of DCM–TFE mixture (1:1) according to the general procedure afforded 0.95 g (87%) of product **7f**, isolated as a light brown solid: mp 167–168 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 8.48 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08–8.03 (m, 2H), 8.00–7.96 (m, 2H), 7.91 (td, *J* = 7.5, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 153.0, 145.5, 139.7, 137.9, 134.1, 132.5 (d, *J*_{C–F} = 11.7 Hz), 131.5, 131.3, 129.9 (d, *J*_{C–F} = 12.0 Hz), 128.2, 127.6, 125.5, 125.0, 120.8, 104.9 (d, *J*_{C–F} = 21.8 Hz), 102.1 (d, *J*_{C–F} = 23.1 Hz), 20.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = –138.6 (d, *J* = 23.2 Hz), –139.9 (d, *J* = 23.2 Hz); HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₁₃H₇F₂IN₂ ([M – OH – OTs]⁺): 355.9616, found: 355.9621.

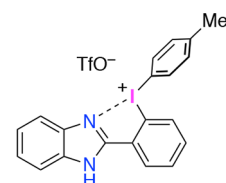
Synthesis of (2-(1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(aryl)iodonium Triflates **8: General Procedure.** To a stirred solution of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arenes **7a–f** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) in 1.5 mL of TFE or HFIP was added trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (0.026 mL, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and reaction mixture was stirred during 10 min. Then arene was added, and stirring was continued until full conversion of starting material according to NMR (temperature and reaction times are provided in the text). The solvent was evaporated at room temperature. The products were precipitated by the addition of Et₂O. The solids were filtered off, washed with Et₂O three times, and dried in a vacuum.

(2-(1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(mesityl)iodonium Triflate (**8a**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7a** (0.102 g, 0.2 mmol) with mesitylene (0.056 mL, 0.048 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at room



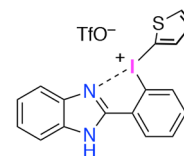
temperature during 8 h afforded 0.115 g (98%) of product **8a**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 195–196 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 13.90 (s, 1H), 8.47 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.78–7.76 (m, 2H), 7.60–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.37 (s, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 149.3, 144.0, 143.0, 133.8, 131.4, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9, 127.8, 124.2, 124.1, 121.0, 120.71 (q, *J*_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF₃SO₃[–]), 111.6, 26.0, 20.8; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = –77.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₂₂H₂₀IN₂ ([M – OTf]⁺): 439.0671, found: 439.0666.

(2-(1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(*p*-tolyl)iodonium Triflate (**8b**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7a** (0.102 g,



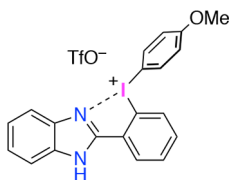
0.2 mmol) with toluene (0.064 mL, 0.055 g, 0.6 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE (HFIP) according to the general procedure at 50 °C during 48 h (9 h with HFIP) afforded 0.092 g (82%) [or 0.101 g (90%) with HFIP] of product **8b** (contains 20% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 234–235 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 13.93 (s, 1H), 8.45 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.63–7.57 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 149.3, 145.7, 143.7, 142.3, 140.1, 138.8, 137.7, 137.4, 134.6, 133.9, 133.7, 133.4, 132.9, 131.8, 131.4, 131.2, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.1, 127.4, 127.1, 124.8, 123.6, 120.70 (q, *J*_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF₃SO₃[–]), 118.4, 114.3, 113.0, 112.7, 111.9, 24.7, 21.3; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₂₀H₁₆IN₂ ([M – OTf]⁺): 411.0353, found: 411.0360.

(2-(1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)iodonium Triflate (**8c**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7a** (0.102 g,



0.2 mmol) with thiophene (0.032 mL, 0.034 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 2 h afforded 0.106 g (96%) of product **8c**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 221–222 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 14.03 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.85 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (br s, 3H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = 149.5, 143.5, 139.5, 139.2, 134.4, 133.7, 131.7, 130.6, 129.5, 128.6, 126.6, 124.9, 123.8, 120.67 (q, *J*_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF₃SO₃[–]), 118.0, 116.9, 112.8, 102.2; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for C₁₇H₁₂IN₂S ([M – OTf]⁺): 402.9760, found: 402.9754.

(2-(1*H*-Benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(4-methoxyphenyl)iodonium Triflate (**8d**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7a** (0.102 g, 0.2 mmol) with 4-anisole (0.040 mL, 0.043 g, 0.4 mmol) in



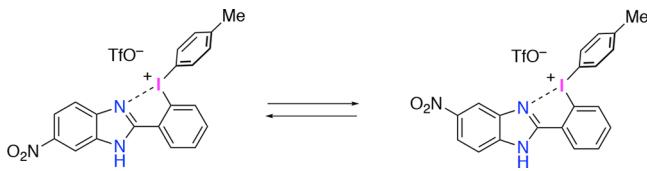
1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 3 h afforded 0.099 g (92%) of product **8d** (contains 15% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 151–152 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 8.44 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.26–8.21 (m, 2H), 8.19 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94–7.92 (m, 2H), 7.89–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.84 (td, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (br. s, 2H), 7.73 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.68–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.60 (ddd, J = 8.7, 7.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.54–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.41 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 162.8, 149.3, 140.1, 139.4, 134.1, 133.4, 132.3, 131.1, 131.0, 130.3, 130.2, 128.9, 128.6, 127.0, 126.5, 120.68 (q, J_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 118.0, 114.7, 114.4, 104.3, 55.8, 55.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 427.0302, found: 427.0301.

Mesityl(2-(6-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)iodonium Triflate (8e). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7b** (0.111 g,



0.2 mmol) with mesitylene (0.056 mL, 0.048 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at room temperature during 9 h afforded 0.106 g (92%) of product **8e** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 241–242 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 14.47 (s, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.51–8.44 (m, 1H), 8.26 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96–7.88 (m, 2H), 7.65 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 2H), 6.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (s, 6H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.0, 153.4, 144.5, 144.3, 144.0, 143.6, 143.1, 139.5, 139.1, 137.1, 134.8, 134.7, 134.0, 131.5, 130.3, 130.1, 129.2, 127.1, 126.8, 120.71 (q, J_{CF} = 321 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 120.6, 119.9, 119.0, 114.6, 113.2, 112.0, 109.0, 26.1, 20.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 484.0516, found: 484.0534. The crystal suitable for X-ray was prepared by diffusion of ether to the saturated solution of **8e** in MeOH.

(2-(6-Nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)iodonium Triflate (8f). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7b** (0.111 g,



0.2 mmol) with toluene (0.064 mL, 0.055 g, 0.6 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE (HFIP) according to the general procedure at 50 °C during 48 h (9 h with HFIP) afforded 0.096 g (79%) [or 0.106 g (88%) with HFIP] of product **8f** (mixture of tautomers, contains 20% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 228–229 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 8.61 (s, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.82–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.65 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.51–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.6, 143.8, 143.4, 142.3, 138.8, 137.3, 134.0, 132.9, 131.8, 131.2, 130.7, 129.9, 129.7, 127.3, 122.3, 120.91 (q, J_{CF} = 322 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-),

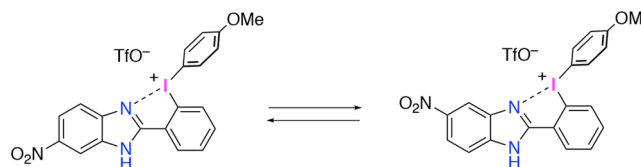
119.1, 115.9, 115.6, 114.8, 113.5, 111.7, 24.7, 21.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 456.0203, found: 456.0205.

(2-(6-Nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)iodonium Triflate (8g). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7b**



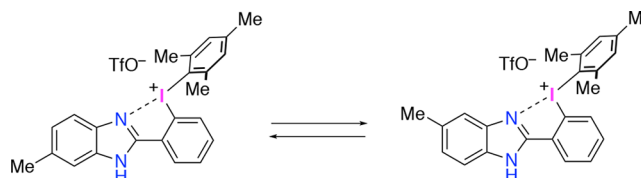
(0.111 g, 0.2 mmol) with thiophene (0.032 mL, 0.034 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 3 h afforded 0.103 g (86%) of product **8g** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 229–230 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 8.63 (br. s, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95–7.89 (m, 2H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.0, 153.4, 144.1, 143.9, 143.7, 140.1, 138.9, 138.7, 134.6, 133.9, 131.5, 130.7, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 125.9, 120.67 (q, J_{CF} = 321 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 120.1, 119.2, 118.6, 117.2, 114.2, 113.4, 109.2, 100.9, 100.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 447.9611, found: 447.9622.

(2-(6-Nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(4-methoxyphenyl)iodonium Triflate (8h). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7b**



(0.111 g, 0.2 mmol) with 4-anisole (0.040 mL, 0.043 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 3 h afforded 0.102 g (82%) of product **8h** (mixture of tautomers, contains 15% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 191–192 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 14.08 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.91–7.89 (m, 1H), 7.87–7.80 (m, 3H), 7.64–7.60 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.44 (m, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 162.9, 139.5, 133.7, 131.2, 130.5, 129.1, 128.1, 126.8, 123.9, 123.87 (q, J_{CF} = 322 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 118.0, 114.7, 104.0, 55.8; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = –77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 472.0158, found: 472.0149.

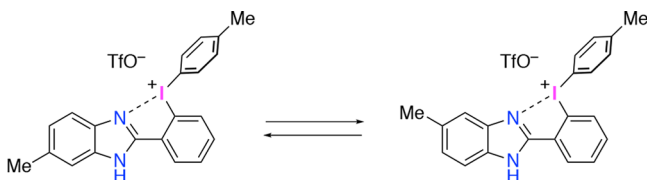
Mesityl(2-(6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)iodonium Triflate (8i). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7c** (0.104 g,



0.2 mmol) with mesitylene (0.056 mL, 0.048 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at room temperature during 8 h afforded 0.113 g (94%) of product **8i** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 221–222 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 13.78 and 13.73 (2s, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.31 (s, 2H), 7.26 and 7.22 (2d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 149.1, 148.8, 144.0, 143.0, 140.4, 138.3, 134.9, 134.5, 133.6, 133.5, 132.8, 132.7, 131.4, 130.0, 129.2, 128.8, 127.8, 126.3, 125.1, 121.1, 121.0, 120.70 (q, J_{CF} = 321 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 118.0, 112.1,

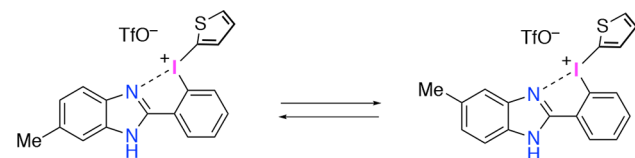
111.4, 111.4, 26.0, 21.4, 21.3, 20.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 453.0822, found: 453.0824.

(2-(6-Methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)-iodonium Triflate (**8j**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7c**



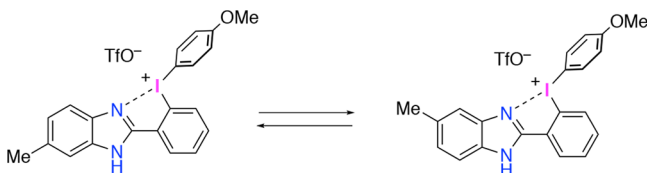
(0.104 g, 0.2 mmol) with toluene (0.064 mL, 0.055 g, 0.6 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE (HFIP) according to the general procedure at 50 °C during 48 h (9 h with HFIP) afforded 0.094 g (82%) [or 0.104 g (91%) with HFIP] of product **8j** (mixture of tautomers, contains 5% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 223–224 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) $\delta = 13.71$ (s, 1H), 8.41 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.19 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.82 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.64–7.49 (m, 5H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = 148.8, 143.7, 138.2, 137.3, 134.8, 134.5, 133.1, 132.8, 131.1, 130.4, 128.7, 128.1, 127.1, 126.2, 125.5, 125.1, 120.68$ (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 321$ Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 117.8, 114.1, 112.1, 111.9, 24.7, 21.3, 21.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.7$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 425.0509, found: 425.0504.

(2-(6-Methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)-iodonium Triflate (**8k**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7c**



(0.104 g, 0.2 mmol) with thiophene (0.032 mL, 0.034 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 2 h afforded 0.103 g (91%) of product **8k** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 220–221 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) $\delta = 13.91$ (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.20 (t, $J = 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.60 (m, 2H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, $J = 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = 149.3, 149.1, 143.5, 139.5, 137.4, 134.8, 134.7, 133.6, 133.5, 133.2, 132.5, 131.4, 130.6, 129.5, 128.5, 126.7, 126.5, 125.4, 120.70$ (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 320$ Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 117.6, 117.5, 116.8, 112.4, 112.3, 102.5, 102.4, 21.4, 21.3; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 416.9917, found: 416.9918.

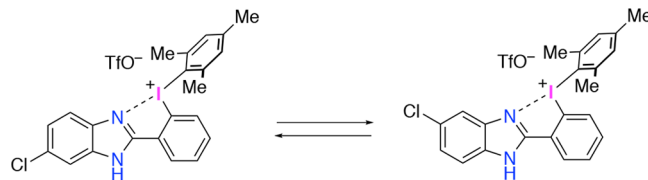
(4-Methoxyphenyl)(2-(6-methyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-phenyl)iodonium Triflate (**8l**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]-arene **7c** (0.104 g, 0.2 mmol) with 4-anisole (0.040 mL, 0.043 g,



0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 3 h afforded 0.105 g (89%) of product **8l** (mixture of tautomers, contains 35% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 189–190 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) $\delta = 13.80$ (s, 1H), 13.75 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.85–7.82 (m, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.68–7.46 (m, 4H), 7.46–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.03

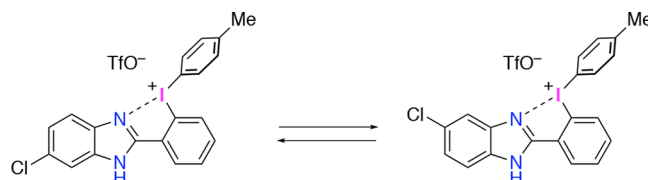
(d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = 162.8, 148.9, 139.6, 139.5, 138.3, 134.9, 134.5, 133.3, 132.2, 132.1, 131.1, 130.3, 128.7, 128.5, 125.2, 124.66$ (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 329$ Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 118.0, 114.5, 112.1, 104.4, 55.8, 21.4, 21.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 441.0458, found: 441.0468.

(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(mesityl)-iodonium Triflate (**8m**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene



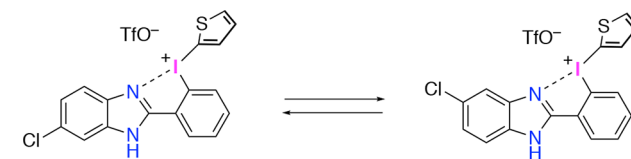
7d (0.109 g, 0.2 mmol) with mesitylene (0.056 mL, 0.048 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at room temperature during 8 h afforded 0.105 g (84%) of product **8m** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 222–223 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) $\delta = 14.05$ (d, $J = 12.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (td, $J = 7.6, 0.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (br. s, 2H), 7.59 (ddd, $J = 8.6, 7.5, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (br. s, 1H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 2.43 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = 150.8, 150.6, 144.1, 143.0, 141.0, 139.0, 135.4, 134.1, 133.5, 131.5, 130.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.2, 127.5, 124.8, 123.9, 120.9, 120.72$ (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 321$ Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 119.9, 117.9, 114.1, 112.3, 111.7, 26.0, 20.9; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClIN}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 473.0276, found: 473.0274. The crystal suitable for X-ray was prepared by diffusion of ether to the saturated solution of **8m** in MeOH.

(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)iodonium Triflate (**8n**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7d** (0.109 g,



0.2 mmol) with toluene (0.064 mL, 0.055 g, 0.6 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE (HFIP) according to the general procedure at 50 °C during 48 h (9 h with HFIP) afforded 0.096 g (81%) or 0.111 g (93%) with HFIP of product **8n** (mixture of tautomers, contains 20% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 158–159 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) $\delta = 14.09$ (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.43 (dd, $J = 8.0, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.88–7.76 (m, 4H), 7.63–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.54 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.50–7.48 (m, 1H), 7.44 (dd, $J = 8.4, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = 150.7, 148.8, 143.8, 142.3, 138.8, 137.3, 133.9, 133.6, 132.9, 131.8, 131.3, 131.2, 130.0, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 127.2, 126.9, 120.67$ (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 321$ Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 119.9, 114.4, 113.0, 111.6, 111.1, 24.7, 21.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): $\delta = -77.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClIN}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 444.9963, found: 444.9956.

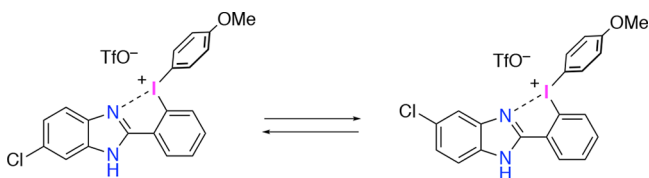
(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)-iodonium Triflate (**8o**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)iodo]arene **7d**



(0.109 g, 0.2 mmol) with thiophene (0.032 mL, 0.034 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during

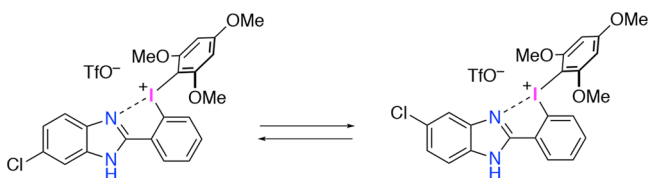
2 h afforded 0.104 g (89%) of product **8o** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 238–239 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.43 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82–7.74 (m, 2H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 151.0, 150.8, 143.8, 140.2, 139.8, 138.2, 135.3, 134.1, 134.0, 133.5, 131.5, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.9, 128.0, 126.5, 126.4, 125.1, 124.3, 120.72 (q, J_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 119.4, 117.5, 117.0, 114.3, 112.6, 101.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = -77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClIN}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 436.9371, found: 436.9373.

(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(4-methoxyphenyl)iodonium Triflate (**8p**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)i]do]arene **7d**



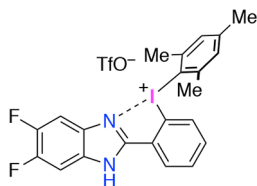
(0.109 g, 0.2 mmol) with 4-anisole (0.040 mL, 0.043 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the general procedure at 0–5 °C during 3 h afforded 0.099 g (81%) of product **8p** (mixture of tautomers, contains 13% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 191–192 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 14.06 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.87–7.80 (m, 3H), 7.64–7.59 (m, 1H), 7.53–7.48 (m, 2H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 162.9, 150.6, 139.5, 138.4, 133.7, 132.2, 131.2, 130.5, 129.1, 128.1, 126.8, 124.9, 123.9, 120.67 (q, J_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 119.7, 114.7, 114.1, 112.3, 104.0, 55.8; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = -77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClIN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 460.9912, found: 460.9914.

(2-(6-Chloro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)iodonium Triflate (**8q**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)i]do]arene **7d** (0.109 g, 0.2 mmol) with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (0.067 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL of TFE according to the



general procedure at 0–5 °C during 2 h afforded 0.129 g (96%) of product **8q** (mixture of tautomers), isolated as a beige solid: mp 236–237 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 14.10 (s, 1H), 8.44 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87–7.73 (m, 3H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 4H), 3.89 (s, 7H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 167.3, 161.0, 150.8, 150.6, 140.7, 138.7, 135.3, 134.0, 133.9, 133.4, 131.3, 129.4, 129.0, 128.2, 127.7, 127.0, 124.9, 124.0, 122.3, 120.71 (q, J_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 119.7, 117.7, 114.1, 112.6, 112.4, 92.4, 85.7, 57.4, 56.4; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = -77.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClIN}_2\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 521.0123, found: 521.0117.

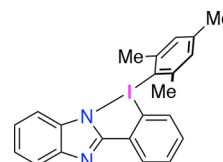
(2-(5,6-Difluoro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)(mesityl)iodonium Triflate (**8r**). Reaction of [hydroxy(tosyloxy)i]do]arene **7f**



(0.109 g, 0.2 mmol) with mesitylene (0.056 mL, 0.048 g, 0.4 mmol) in 1.5 mL HFIP according to the general procedure at room temperature during 8 h afforded 0.102 g (82%) of product **8r**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 166–167 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 14.14 (s, 1H), 8.45 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88–7.83 (m, 3H), 7.61–7.56 (m, 1H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 151.3, 144.1, 142.9, 135.8 (d, J_{CF} = 10.3 Hz), 134.0, 131.5, 130.3 (d, J_{CF} = 10.3 Hz), 130.0, 129.6, 129.0, 128.3, 128.2, 127.5, 120.9, 120.63 (q, J_{CF} = 320 Hz, CF_3SO_3^-), 111.5, 106.0 (d, J_{CF} = 21.3 Hz), 100.8 (d, J_{CF} = 23.0 Hz), 26.0, 20.8; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = -77.8, -139.9 (d, J = 5.8 Hz), -142.1 (d, J = 5.8 Hz); HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} - \text{OTf}]^+$): 475.0477, found: 475.0480.

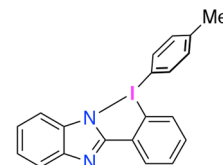
Synthesis of 5-aryl-5H-5 λ^3 -benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b]-[1,2]iodazoles **9: General Procedure.** A pseudocyclic iodonium salt **8a–8f** (0.2 mmol) was dissolved in methanol until the formation of a clear solution (2.5–10.0 mL of MeOH). An aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide (0.1 mL of solution containing 0.4 mmol, 2 equiv of KOH) was added to the solution under vigorous stirring. An immediate precipitation of cyclic iodonium products **9** was observed. The stirring was continued for 1 h. The methanol was removed using rotary evaporation and water (3 mL) was added. The stirring was continued for 15 min. The solid was filtered off, washed by water (2 $\times$ 1.5 mL), and dried under vacuum.

5-Mesityl-5H-5 λ^3 -benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b]-[1,2]iodazole (9a**).** Reaction of **8a** (0.118 g, 0.2 mmol) according to the general



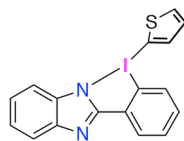
procedure afforded 0.084 g (96%) of product **9a**, isolated as a creamy-white solid: mp 235–236 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (br. s, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.34 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 150.2, 143.5, 142.7, 133.2, 131.1, 129.8, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 124.0, 123.7, 123.5, 123.4, 122.1, 118.9, 113.5, 26.0, 20.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 439.0666, found: 439.0668.

5-(p-Tolyl)-5H-5 λ^3 -benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b]-[1,2]iodazole (9b**).** Reaction of **8b** (0.112 g, 0.2 mmol) according to the



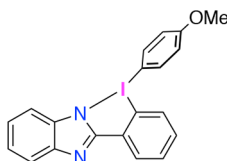
general procedure afforded 0.075 g (91%) of product **9b** (contains 10% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 228–229 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.65–7.63 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 143.0, 141.3, 137.1, 132.5, 131.6, 130.7, 129.5, 128.4, 128.0, 125.5, 121.7, 116.0, 114.2, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 411.0353, found: 411.0356.

5-(Thiophen-2-yl)-5H-5 λ^3 -benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b]-[1,2]iodazole (9c**).** Reaction of **8c** (0.110 g, 0.2 mmol) according to the general procedure afforded 0.076 g (95%) of product **9c**, isolated as a linen solid: mp 210–211 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.44 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, J = 5.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66–7.63



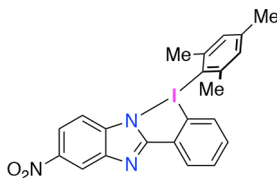
(m, 2H), 7.52–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.39 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.19–7.17 (m, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 153.4, 142.2, 138.1, 131.7, 130.9, 130.7, 130.3, 128.6, 127.9, 121.57, 121.55, 121.54, 116.8, 116.0, 107.4$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{12}\text{IN}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 402.9760, found: 402.9762.

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9d). Reaction of **8d** (0.115 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



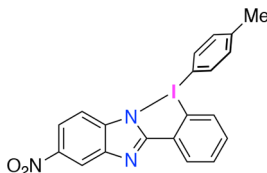
the general procedure afforded 0.080 g (94%) of product **9d** (contains 15% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 229–230 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.45$ (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.83 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (br. s, 2H), 7.62 (s, 2H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.56 (m, 2H), 7.52 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.40–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 163.2, 150.2, 140.1, 139.9, 133.6, 131.8, 131.7, 131.6, 130.7, 129.3, 128.6, 127.9, 124.3, 118.4, 115.1, 105.1, 56.3$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 427.0302, found: 427.0304.

5-Mesityl-9-nitro-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9e). Reaction of **8e** (0.127 g, 0.2 mmol) according to the



general procedure afforded 0.093 g (96%) of product **9e**, isolated as a light yellow solid: mp 237–238 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.55$ –8.52 (m, 2H), 8.12 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.81–7.78 (m, 2H), 7.53 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (s, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 157.7, 157.6, 145.8, 143.7, 142.9, 142.0, 140.7, 134.0, 133.3, 132.7, 132.6, 131.8, 131.2, 130.48, 130.46, 130.3, 129.8, 129.2, 128.3, 127.6, 121.6, 111.9, 25.9, 20.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 484.0516, found: 484.0526.

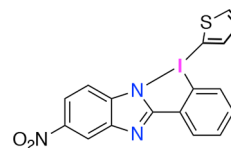
5-(p-Tolyl)-9-nitro-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9f). Reaction of **8f** (0.121 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



the general procedure afforded 0.076 g (83%) of product **9f** (contains 30% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a yellow solid: mp 208–209 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.57$ (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.54 (dd, $J = 7.6, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.32 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.01 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.67 (m, 3H), 7.51 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.49–7.44 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H), 2.48

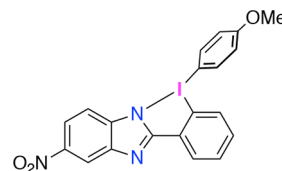
(s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 160.3, 143.1, 142.7, 142.1, 141.0, 139.0, 137.1, 133.4, 132.5, 132.3, 132.0, 131.7, 131.4, 130.8, 130.7, 129.4, 129.3, 129.2, 128.8, 121.7, 116.2, 116.0, 114.3, 113.9, 113.0, 112.7, 24.6, 21.2$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 456.0203, found: 456.0208.

5-(Thiophen-2-yl)-9-nitro-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9g). Reaction of **8g** (0.119 g, 0.2 mmol)



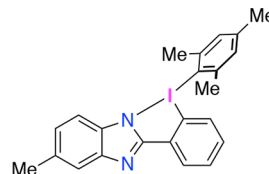
according to the general procedure afforded 0.082 g (92%) of product **9g**, isolated as a light yellow solid: mp 231–232 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.51$ (dd, $J = 6.0, 1.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.29 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2H), 8.19 (dd, $J = 5.2, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.13 (dd, $J = 3.6, 0.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.00 (dd, $J = 8.8, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.74–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.54–7.50 (m, 1H), 7.41 (dd, $J = 5.2, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 160.6, 142.4, 141.0, 138.3, 132.1, 131.7, 130.9, 130.4, 128.6, 128.4, 117.0, 116.1, 112.75, 112.71, 112.0, 106.7$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 447.9611, found: 447.9617.

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-9-nitro-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9h). Reaction of **8h** (0.124 g, 0.2 mmol)



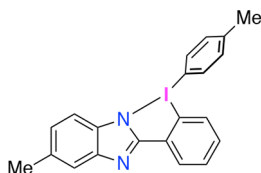
according to the general procedure afforded 0.081 g (86%) of product **9h**, isolated as a yellow solid: mp 227–228 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.54$ (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.70–7.65 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 162.4, 160.8, 149.6, 143.2, 140.7, 139.1, 131.8, 132.5, 129.0, 128.0, 125.4, 117.6, 116.0, 115.8, 114.6, 112.7, 106.8, 55.7$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{IN}_3\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 472.0158, found: 472.0154.

5-Mesityl-9-methyl-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9i). Reaction of **8i** (0.120 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



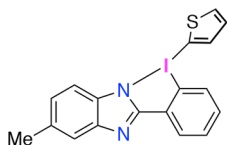
the general procedure afforded 0.084 g (93%) of product **9i**, isolated as a creamy-white solid: mp 198–199 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.45$ (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.46 (m, 2H), 7.34 (s, 2H), 7.11–7.09 (m, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6): $\delta = 143.5, 142.8, 132.4, 131.1, 129.7, 128.9, 128.2, 128.04, 128.99, 127.6, 125.5, 124.1, 122.1, 111.4, 25.8, 21.4, 20.8$; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{22}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 453.0822, found: 453.0826.

5-(p-Tolyl)-9-methyl-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9j). Reaction of **8j** (0.115 g, 0.2 mmol) according to the general procedure afforded 0.071 g (84%) of product **9j**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 204–205 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) $\delta = 8.42$ (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H);



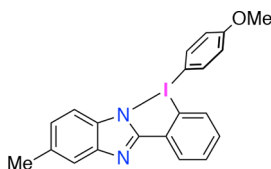
^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 152.9, 142.8, 141.9, 140.1, 137.1, 137.0, 136.9, 132.4, 131.4, 131.2, 131.1, 130.6, 129.4, 128.2, 123.0, 115.8, 115.6, 115.5, 114.7, 114.1, 21.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 425.0509, found: 425.0512.

5-(Thiophen-2-yl)-9-methyl-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9k**). Reaction of **8k** (0.113 g, 0.2 mmol)



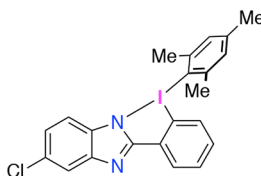
according to the general procedure afforded 0.077 g (93%) of product **9k**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 222–223 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.42 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.42 (dd, J = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 142.9, 138.91, 138.89, 136.8, 132.70, 132.66, 132.3, 131.1, 130.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 116.7, 21.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 416.9917, found: 416.9922.

5-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-9-methyl-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9l**). Reaction of **8l** (0.118 g, 0.2 mmol)



according to the general procedure afforded 0.073 g (83%) of product **9l** (contains 20% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a creamy-white solid: mp 235–236 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 13.81 (s, 1H), 13.76 (s, 1H), 8.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (dd, J = 9.2, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67–7.51 (m, 3H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 3H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7. Thirty (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 162.8, 149.1, 148.9, 140.4, 139.7, 139.4, 138.3, 134.9, 134.5, 133.2, 132.9, 132.7, 131.1, 130.3, 128.7, 127.1, 125.2, 122.3, 121.5, 119.1, 118.0, 117.9, 114.7, 114.6, 114.4, 112.2, 112.1, 104.5, 104.4, 55.8, 21.4, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{18}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 441.0458, found: 441.0463.

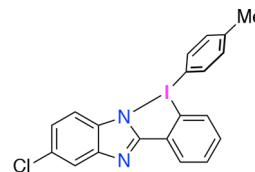
9-Chloro-5-mesityl-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9m**). Reaction of **8m** (0.125 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



the general procedure afforded 0.087 g (92%) of product **9m**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 223–224 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.48 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65–7.61 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (s, 6H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 155.2, 143.8, 143.2, 141.1, 132.7, 131.9, 131.4, 130.2, 129.6, 128.4, 126.1, 122.8, 121.9, 117.7, 115.9, 115.8,

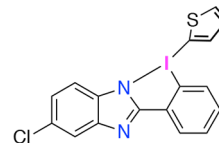
112.0, 26.3, 21.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClIN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 473.0276, found: 473.0279.

9-Chloro-5-(*p*-tolyl)-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9n**). Reaction of **8n** (0.119 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



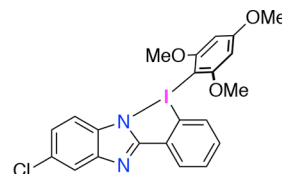
the general procedure afforded 0.079 g (89%) of product **9n** (contains 20% of ortho-isomer), isolated as a beige solid: mp 175–176 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.46 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.73–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.65 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 156.7, 142.7, 142.0, 138.4, 137.0, 132.5, 132.3, 130.96, 130.64, 130.5, 129.0, 128.4, 124.3, 122.7, 120.1, 117.3, 115.6, 115.0, 114.1, 112.7, 24.5, 21.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClIN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 444.9963, found: 444.9959.

9-Chloro-5-(thiophen-2-yl)-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9o**). Reaction of **8o** (0.117 g, 0.2 mmol)



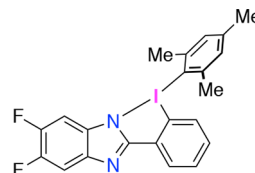
according to the general procedure afforded 0.083 g (95%) of product **9o**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 227–228 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.43 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.64 (m, 2H), 7.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (dd, J = 4.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 154.2, 142.7, 141.5, 139.5, 138.6, 132.4, 131.0, 130.4, 128.8, 128.3, 122.27, 122.16, 122.14, 116.8, 105.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClIN}_2\text{S}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 436.9371, found: 436.9376.

9-Chloro-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9p**). Reaction of **8p** (0.122 g, 0.2 mmol)



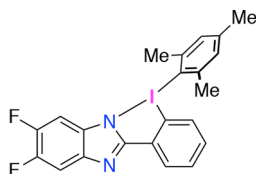
according to the general procedure afforded 0.084 g (91%) of product **9p**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 196–197 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.45 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (dd, J = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ = 162.2, 156.8, 144.91, 144.88, 142.68, 142.65, 139.0, 132.6, 130.9, 130.4, 128.9, 128.3, 124.2, 120.1, 117.4, 117.3, 115.6, 114.4, 107.8, 55.6. HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClIN}_2\text{O}$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 460.9912, found: 460.9919.

9-Chloro-5-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)-5H-5λ³-benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (**9q**). Reaction of **8q** (0.115 g,



0.2 mmol) according to the general procedure afforded 0.089 g (85%) of product **9q**, isolated as a beige solid: mp 178–179 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.44 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61–7.58 (m, 2H), 7.43 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 166.6, 161.1, 155.6, 131.8, 131.5, 130.6, 128.6, 127.8, 125.0, 120.9, 117.2, 115.5, 112.8, 92.0, 88.7, 57.0, 56.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{19}\text{ClIN}_2\text{O}_3$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 521.0123, found: 521.0121.

8,9-Difluoro-5-mesityl-5H- λ^3 -benzo[d]benzo[4,5]imidazo[1,2-b][1,2]iodazole (9r). Reaction of **8r** (0.125 g, 0.2 mmol) according to



the general procedure afforded 0.077 g (81%) of product **9r**, isolated as a light brown solid: mp 178–179 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 8.44 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31–7.27 (m, 3H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 6H), 2.36 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = 158.4, 146.8 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 17.5 Hz), 144.4 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}}$ = 17.5 Hz), 142.9, 142.6, 134.2, 130.8, 130.7, 129.5, 128.6, 127.2, 123.2, 111.2, 102.8, 25.8, 20.8; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ = –147.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF-positive ionization): calcd for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_2\text{IN}_2$ ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$): 475.0477, found: 475.0483.

■ COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

All calculations were performed using Gaussian 09²² by adapting a method described by Vasdev, Liang, and co-workers for a series of iodine(III)-containing species.²³

Geometry Optimizations. All calculations were performed at the DFT level using the B3LYP functional with an ultrafine integration grid. The 6-31+G(d,p) basis set was used for C, H, O, and S, while using for iodine the augmented LANL2DZ(dp) set described by Gilbert, Sunderlin, and co-workers.²⁴ Empirical dispersion was applied using the D3 version of Grimme dispersion with Becke–Johnson damping (gd3BJ keyword).²⁵ All structures were fully optimized in DMSO using the SMD continuum model. Transition states were identified by having one imaginary frequency in the Hessian matrix. It was confirmed that transition states connect with the corresponding intermediates by means of application of the eigenvector corresponding to the imaginary frequency and subsequent optimization of the resulting structures. All energies collected in the text are Gibbs energies in solvent at 298 K.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

● Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.8b01995.

Copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR, details of computational studies, and ORTEP-style ellipsoid diagrams (PDF)

Crystallographic file for **6b** (CIF)

Crystallographic file for **7a** (CIF)

Crystallographic file for **8e** (CIF)

Crystallographic file for **8m** (CIF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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