



# CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles: an efficient heterogeneous magnetically separable catalyst for synthesis of some novel propynyl-1*H*-imidazoles derivatives



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## ABSTRACT

The non-toxic magnetic CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles have been synthesized, characterized, and used as an efficient catalyst for synthesis of new derivatives for 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstituted imidazoles in excellent yields. The synthesized compounds work-up easy and purification of products are performed without chromatographic methods. The catalyst can be recovered for the subsequent reactions and reused without any appreciable loss.

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## 1. Introduction

During the past decades, advances in nanoscience and nanotechnology have pushed forward the synthesis of functional magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs), which is one of the most active research areas in advanced materials. MNPs that have unique magnetic properties and other functionalities have enabled a wide spectrum of applications.<sup>1</sup> CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic nanoparticles are approximately 20–30 nm in size containing a single magnetic domain with a single magnetic moment and exhibit superparamagnetism.<sup>2</sup> Copper/iron oxide based catalysts are environmentally compatible, air and moisture insensitive, and separation from reaction mixture is very simple by means of an external magnetic field.<sup>3–5</sup> Surface functionalized copper/iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) are a kind of novel functional materials, which have been widely used in biotechnology and analysis. Magnetic nanocatalysts can easily be separated and recycled from the products by an external magnet. Moreover, their catalytic performance is enhanced, for the available surface area of the nonporous MNPs is external and the internal diffusion is practically avoided.<sup>6</sup>

In recent years, being focused on green chemistry using environmentally benign reagents and conditions is one of the most fascinating developments in synthesis of widely used organic compounds.<sup>7–9</sup> Imidazoles are a class of heterocyclic compounds that contain nitrogen and are currently under intensive focus due to their wide range of applications, because they have many pharmacological properties and play important roles in biochemical processes.<sup>10,11</sup> The potential and wide range of application of the imidazole pharmacophore may be attributed to its hydrogen bond donor–acceptor ability as well as its high affinity for metals. Many of the substituted imidazoles are known as inhibitors of p38 MAP kinase, fungicides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, antibacterial, antitumor, pesticides, and therapeutic agents.<sup>12–17</sup> In 1882, Radziszewski and Japp reported the first synthesis of the highly substituted imidazole from a 1,2-dicarbonyl compound, different aldehydes, and ammonia.<sup>18,19</sup>

The propargyl moiety is known to play an important role in providing neuro- and mitochondria-protecting properties of propargyl group-containing anti-depressants, selegiline and rasagiline.<sup>20–22</sup> There are many methods for the synthesis of polysubstituted imidazoles such as condensation of diones, aldehydes, primary amines, and ammonia in the presence of various acid catalysts,<sup>23–25</sup> N-alkylation of trisubstituted imidazoles,<sup>26</sup> and condensation of benzil or benzoin acetate with aldehydes, primary amines, and ammonia in the presence of copper acetate.<sup>27,28</sup> The first mentioned method is the most well-known and classical

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method. However, some of these methods involve long reaction times and unsatisfactory yields. Therefore, improvements in these syntheses have been sought continuously.

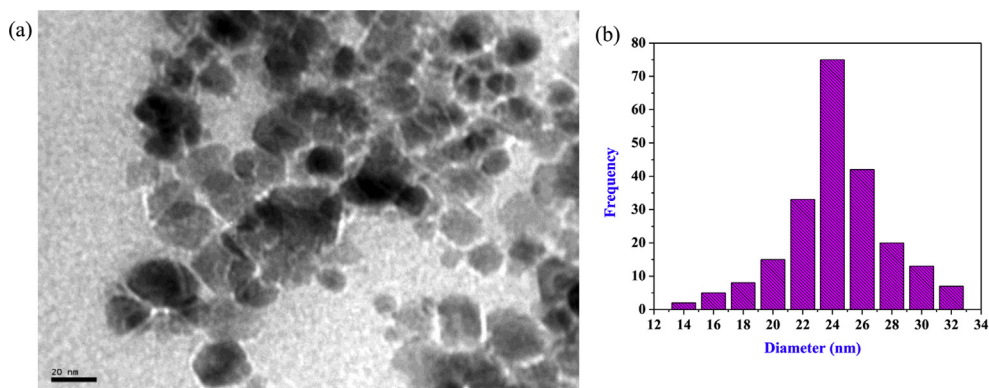
Herein, we report a simple and high yielding protocol for the synthesis of new derivatives of 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstituted imidazoles synthesized by four-component 1,2-diketone with an aldehyde, propargylamine, and ammonium acetate using magnetic  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles as a novel and eco-friendly heterogeneous catalyst.<sup>29–31</sup>

## 2. Results and discussion

In this contribution, the preparation, high activation, and regeneration of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles as a high efficient catalyst in organic synthesis are shown.

The morphology and structure of the prepared  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were characterized by SEM, EDS (see [Supplementary data](#)), TEM, and XRD, which confirmed the successful preparation of nanoparticles.

[Fig. 1\(a\)](#) shows the TEM images of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles. The mean diameter is about 24 nm from the calculated histogram (see [Fig. 1\(b\)](#)).

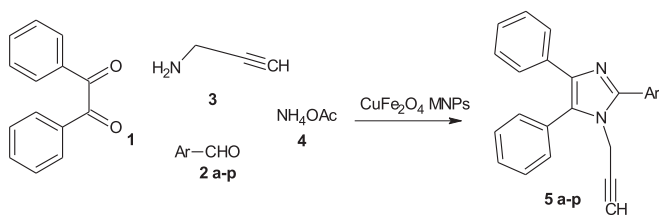


**Fig. 1.** (a) TEM image for the prepared  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles. (b) Calculated histogram.

The crystal structure of the  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles was studied by XRD analyses after calcination at 800 °C.

The sizes of magnetic  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles were determined from the XRD pattern by using Scherrer's equation and found to be 23.5 nm, which is matched with the value obtained from the calculated histogram.

Using magnetic  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles not only gives high yield, purity, and short reaction time but also is a cheap, speedy, facile, and eco-friendly method throughout the course of the reaction. When reacted benzil **1** with aldehyde **2**, propargylamine **3**, and ammonium acetate **4** using magnetic  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles as a novel and eco-friendly heterogeneous catalyst gave new derivatives for 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstitutedimidazoles **5a–p** ([Scheme 1](#)).



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstitutedimidazoles **5a–p**.

Designing organic reactions in aqueous media is another attractive area in green chemistry. Water is an abundant and

environmentally benign solvent. This protocol offers flexibility in tuning the molecular complexity and diversity. The reactions proceeded to completion almost instantaneously, and pure product was obtained, without using any chromatographic techniques, simply by recrystallization from ethanol. Moreover the structure of compound **5b** was confirmed via X-ray crystallographic analysis, the data of X-ray were given in [Supplementary data](#) (see [Fig. 2](#), [Table 1](#)).

The investigated reaction in a magnetically recoverable  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles produced a high yield. The results are presented in [Table 2](#) show that the optimum condition was obtained with 10 mol %  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  MNPs. The reaction yield with increasing amount of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  MNPs was not substantially increased.

The reaction mixture worked up by using three types of catalysts were examined, *i.e.*,  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  powder,  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles fresh, and recovered  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles.<sup>32</sup> The highest yield of product in the shortest time was obtained using  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles, which may be due to greater diffusion of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles in the reaction mixture. The recovered catalyst was found to be similar to the fresh  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles. See [Table 3](#).

To understand the role of iron in the present catalytic system, two independent reactions with 10 mol % of nano  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and

$\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  catalysts were carried out under the optimized reaction conditions. As can be seen in [Table 4](#), low yield was observed with nano  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ , clearly indicating that Cu is the active catalytic center in this reaction. An increase in yield ([Table 4](#)) with  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles shows that iron plays a constructive role, possibly in the reoxidation of copper during the catalytic cycle.<sup>33</sup>

The stability of magnetically recoverable  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles and its activity were investigated in recycling experiments for the reaction between benzil, benzaldehyde propargylamine, and ammonium acetate under the optimized conditions. After each cycle, the catalyst was separated magnetically, washed with ethanol, and dried at 60 °C under vacuum to remove residual solvents then used for the next cycle.  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  MNPs could be reused up to six times without any significant loss of the initial catalytic activity (cf. [Fig. 3](#)).

The plausible mechanism for the synthesis of highly substituted propynyl-1*H*-imidazoles in the 10 mol % of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  magnetic nanoparticles is outlined in [Scheme 2](#). The reaction proceeds via the diamine intermediate **A**, which is formed by the activation of aldehyde carbonyl group by  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  magnetic nanoparticles. Condensation of diamine with 1,2-diketone followed by dehydration, and then rearrangement through the imino intermediate **B** yielded the desired product.

Finally after sixth cycle of using the prepared  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  catalyst for the investigated reaction, we make TEM analysis and the size found to be 26 nm (see [Fig. 4](#)).

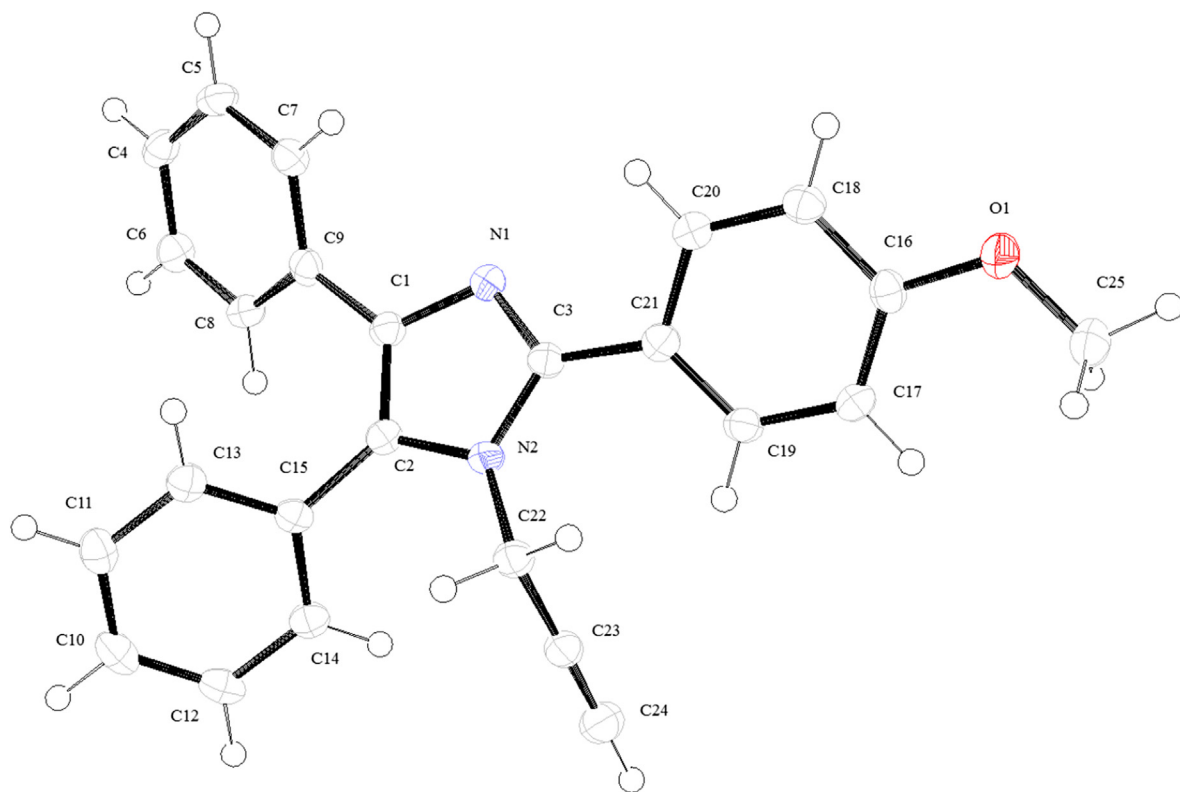


Fig. 2. X-ray crystal structure of compound **5b**.

**Table 1**  
CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles catalyzed benzyl for the synthesis of 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstituted imidazoles **5a–p**

Entry	No	Ar	Time (min)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)	Entry	No	Ar	Time (min)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)
1	<b>5a</b>	Ph	30	95	9	<b>5i</b>	4-OH-Ph	30	91
2	<b>5b</b>	4-MeO-Ph	40	95	10	<b>5j</b>	2-OH-Ph	50	85
3	<b>5c</b>	4-Cl-Ph	35	93	11	<b>5k</b>	4-Br-Ph	35	90
4	<b>5d</b>	4-NO <sub>2</sub> -Ph	40	92	12	<b>5l</b>	4-NMe <sub>2</sub> -Ph	40	86
5	<b>5e</b>	3-NO <sub>2</sub> -Ph	50	90	13	<b>5m</b>	2-pyridyl	45	85
6	<b>5f</b>	4-F-Ph	45	90	14	<b>5n</b>	3-Pyridyl	50	84
7	<b>5g</b>	4-Me-Ph	50	93	15	<b>5o</b>	2-Furyl	50	86
8	<b>5h</b>	3,5-MeO-Ph	50	92	16	<b>5p</b>	2-Thiophenyl	45	89

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yield.

**Table 2**  
Amount of catalyst<sup>b</sup> and the corresponding yield of the product

Entry	Catalyst (mol %)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)	Entry	Catalyst (mol %)	Yield <sup>a</sup> (%)
1	2	62	5	9	90
2	4	75	6	10	95
3	6	80	7	11	95
4	8	88	8	12	95

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yields.

<sup>b</sup> Reaction conditions: **1** (1 mmol), **2a** (1 mmol), **3** (1 mmol), **4** (1 mmol), and catalyst (0.1 mmol) in solvent.

### 3. Conclusion

CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic nanoparticles are excellent catalyst for organic reactions. Additionally, the magnetic properties make possible the complete recovery of the catalyst by means of an external magnetic field, could be reused up to sixth times without any significant loss of the initial catalytic activity. These advantages

**Table 3**  
The effect of different morphological structures of CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> on the reaction yield

Entry	Catalyst (mol %)	Time (min)	Yield <sup>a,b</sup> (%)
1	CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> powder	180	61
2	CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> MNPs fresh	30	95
3	CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> MNPs recovered <sup>c</sup>	30	95

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yields.

<sup>b</sup> Reaction conditions: **1** (1 mmol), **2a** (1 mmol), **3** (1 mmol), **4** (1 mmol), and catalyst (0.1 mmol) in solvent.

<sup>c</sup> Recovered CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs after fourth cycle.

**Table 4**  
The reaction yield in presence of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> catalysts

Entry	Catalyst (mol %)	Time (min)	Yield (%)
1	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> MNPs	30	88
2	CuFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> MNPs	30	95

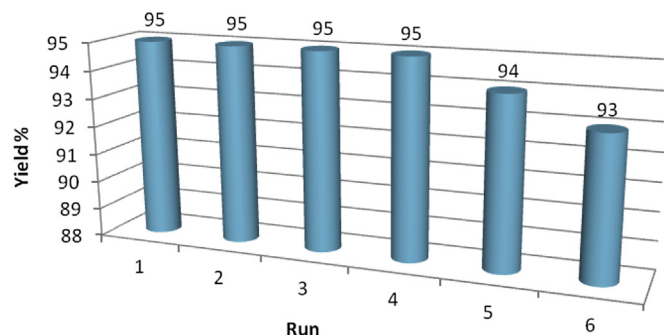
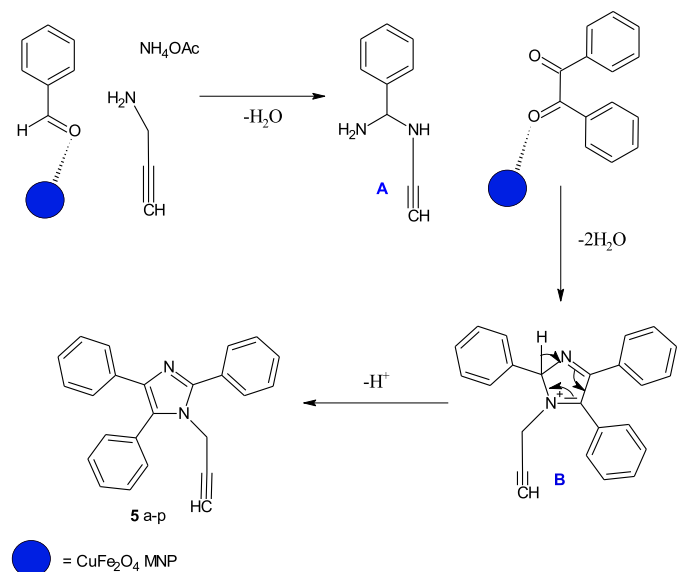


Fig. 3. Recyclability of CuFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic nanoparticles in the model reaction.

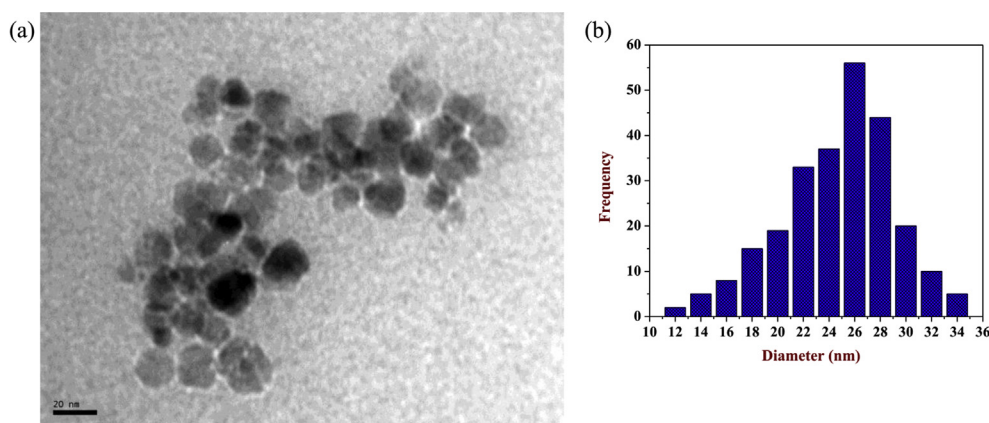


**Scheme 2.** Proposed mechanism for the formation of substituted propynyl-1H-imidazoles **5a–p**.

calcined at 800 °C for 2 h. The Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) data were obtained on a Perkin Elmer 577 Spectrophotometer, using the KBr pellet technique, in the wavelength range of 400–1800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The stoichiometry was examined using energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEOL 2000 EX II) observations were obtained at an acceleration voltage of 200 kV. FTIR and X-ray diffraction confirmed the formation of the  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$ <sup>34a,b</sup> (see [Supplementary data](#)).

#### 4.3. General procedure for 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstitutedimidazoles (**5a–p**)

In a 50 ml round bottom flask benzil (1 mmol), aldehyde (1 mmol), propargylamine (1 mmol), and ammonium acetate (1 mmol) were taken in the presence of 10 mol% of  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  nanoparticles in ethanol/water (15 ml) 1:3 (v/v). Then the reaction mixture was refluxed for a specified time. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC. After completion of the reaction, the catalyst was separated magnetically. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand overnight. The solid material was filtered off, washed with water, dried, and recrystallized from ethanol to furnish pure propynyl-1H-imidazoles derivatives.



**Fig. 4.** (a) TEM image for reused  $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  catalyst after sixth cycle. (b) Calculated histogram.

become even more attractive if such reactions can be conducted in aqueous media.

## 4. Experimental

### 4.1. General

All chemicals used in the investigation were commercial products and distilled or recrystallized before use. All melting points were recorded on Melt-Temp II melting point apparatus. IR spectra were measured as KBr pellets on a Shimadzu DR-8001 spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX 400 MHz using TMS as an internal reference and  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  as a solvent. Mass spectra were performed on a Shimadzu GC-MS-QP 1000 mass spectrometer at 70 eV. All compounds were checked for their purity on TLC plates.

### 4.2. Preparation of the magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs)

Nano- $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  was prepared with a modified method according to the literature.<sup>33</sup> 1.51 g  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 5.04 g  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were dissolved in 100 ml distilled water, then added into 50 ml 4 mol/l NaOH solution followed by heating and aging at 90 °C for 2 h. The prepared nanoparticles were centrifuged, washed with water, and dried at 80 °C overnight. Finally the powder was

### 4.4. 2,4,5-Triphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole **5a**

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2951, 2122, 1646, 1490;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.82–7.12 (m, 15H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 135.1, 133.6, 132.5, 130.2, 128.7, 128.2, 127.7, 127.6, 126.8, 126.1, 125.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.5, 80.9, 76.2, 40.2; ESI MS ( $m/z$ ): 334.4 (M+).

### 4.5. 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole **5b**

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2944, 2123, 1646, 1491;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.98–6.86 (m, 14H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 160.2, 135.1, 132.3, 132.4, 130.2, 128.7, 126.8, 126.1, 126.0, 125.0, 124.8, 124.4, 123.5, 117.2, 80.9, 76.2, 56.0, 40.2; ESI MS ( $m/z$ ): 364.4 (M+).

### 4.6. 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole **5c**

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2949, 2120, 1646, 1490;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.87–7.12 (m, 14H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 135.3, 135.0, 132.6, 132.5, 130.8, 130.2,

130.0, 128.7, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.4, 80.9, 76.3, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 368.8 (M+).

#### 4.7. 2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5d

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2933, 2121, 1648, 1494;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.08–7.14 (m, 14H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 147.9, 141.8, 135.0, 132.5, 130.3, 130.2, 128.7, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 125.7, 124.8, 124.6, 123.4, 80.9, 76.2, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 379.3 (M+).

#### 4.8. 2-(3-Nitrophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5e

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2935, 2122, 1648, 1491;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.05–7.11 (m, 14H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  167.6, 149.4, 135.0, 134.4, 132.9, 132.6, 131.3, 130.3, 128.7, 127.2, 126.4, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 125.4, 124.7, 121.8, 80.9, 76.3, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 379.4 (M+).

#### 4.9. 2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5f

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2937, 2120, 1649, 1497;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.71–7.07 (m, 14H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 162.78 (dm,  $J_{\text{C-F}}=260.1$  Hz), 135.0, 132.5, 131.9, 131.7, 130.2, 128.7, 128.6, 126.8, 125.9, 124.8, 123.4, 116.30, 115.6, 80.9, 76.2, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 352.4 (M+).

#### 4.10. 2-(4-Methylphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5g

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2944, 2122, 1645, 1494;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.88–7.11 (m, 14H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.49 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$ , 3H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 142.9, 135.0, 132.6, 132.3, 131.4, 130.5, 130.3, 128.7, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.5, 80.9, 76.2, 40.2, 21.8; ESI MS (*m/z*): 348.4 (M+).

#### 4.11. 2-(3,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5h

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2947, 2128, 1647, 1490;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84–7.08 (m, 12H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 3.64 (s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ , 6H), 2.27 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  166.2, 163.3, 135.1, 132.6, 131.2, 130.2, 128.7, 127.3, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 125.5, 124.8, 124.6, 104.5, 102.3, 80.9, 76.2, 55.6, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 394.5 (M+).

#### 4.12. 2-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5i

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2944, 2124, 1645, 1494;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.98–6.68 (m, 14H), 5.11 (s, OH), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 160.7, 135.0, 132.6, 131.9, 130.2, 128.7, 126.8, 126.4, 126.0, 124.8, 124.7, 124.6, 123.5, 115.8, 80.9, 76.2, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 350.4 (M+).

#### 4.13. 2-(2-Hydroxyphenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5j

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2949, 2121, 1645, 1493;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.94–6.68 (m, 14H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 4.39 (s, OH), 2.27 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  169.6, 157.7, 135.3, 133.1, 132.9, 130.2, 128.7, 127.2, 126.8, 126.4, 126.0, 125.9, 124.7, 123.5, 120.8, 118.7, 117.4, 80.9, 76.2, 40.3; ESI MS (*m/z*): 350.4 (M+).

#### 4.14. 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5k

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2947, 2120, 1646, 1497;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.79–7.10 (m, 14H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 135.0, 133.2, 132.6, 132.2, 131.0, 130.2, 128.7, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 124.8, 124.7, 123.5, 80.9, 76.3, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 413.3 (M+).

#### 4.15. 2-(4-Dimethylaminophenyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5l

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2950, 2123, 1646, 1497;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.84–6.81 (m, 14H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 2.85 (s, 6H), 2.27 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 151.3, 135.0, 130.3, 130.2, 128.7, 127.9, 126.8, 126.4, 126.0, 125.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.5, 112.7, 80.9, 76.2, 40.5, 40.2; ESI MS (*m/z*): 377.5 (M+).

#### 4.16. 2-(2-Pyridyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5m

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2944, 2120, 1646, 1495;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.98 (d, 1H), 8.68 (d, 1H), 7.84–7.09 (m, 12H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  162.2, 151.3, 150.4, 137.6, 135.0, 130.7, 130.2, 128.8, 128.3, 127.4, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.7, 123.5, 118.1, 80.8, 76.2, 40.8; ESI MS (*m/z*): 335.4 (M+).

#### 4.17. 2-(3-Pyridyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5n

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2947, 2122, 1647, 1494;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.51 (s, 1H), 8.51 (d, 1H), 7.71–7.04 (m, 12H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.28 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  165.3, 150.5, 149.8, 135.8, 133.8, 133.4, 130.2, 128.8, 127.4, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 124.8, 124.6, 123.4, 80.9, 76.3, 40.3; ESI MS (*m/z*): 335.4 (M+).

#### 4.18. 2-(2-Furyl)-4,5-diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-1H-imidazole 5o

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2945, 2121, 1644, 1492;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.75–6.64 (m, 13H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  147.9, 144.9, 140.8, 134.6, 132.2, 130.7, 129.5, 129.1, 126.8, 126.0, 125.9, 125.6, 124.4, 118.6, 114.4, 79.2, 76.2, 39.9; ESI MS (*m/z*): 324.4 (M+).

#### 4.19. 4,5-Diphenyl-1-(2-propynyl)-2-(2-thienyl)-1H-imidazole 5p

FTIR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2946, 2123, 1642, 1494;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.30 (d, 1H), 7.71–7.14 (m, 11H), 6.59 (d, 1H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.29 (s, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  161.6, 140.4, 135.0, 132.7, 130.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 126.8, 126.0, 125.7, 124.7, 124.4, 124.0, 122.9, 79.2, 76.2, 40.3; ESI MS (*m/z*): 340.4 (M+).

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#### Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2015.02.057>.

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