

Supporting Information

for

Continuous-flow synthesis of highly functionalized imidazo-oxadiazoles facilitated by microfluidic extraction

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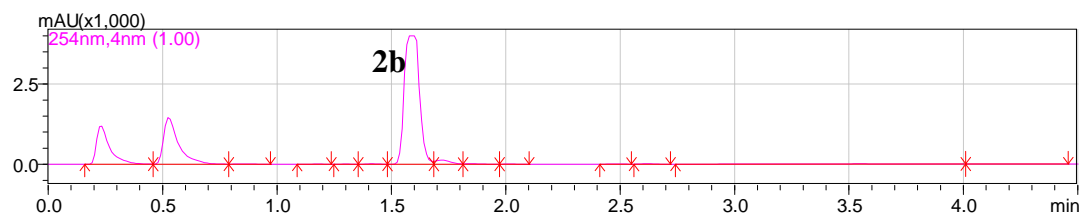
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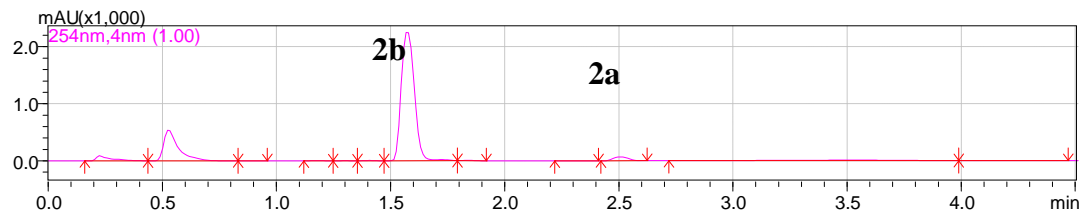
*Corresponding author

Experimental data

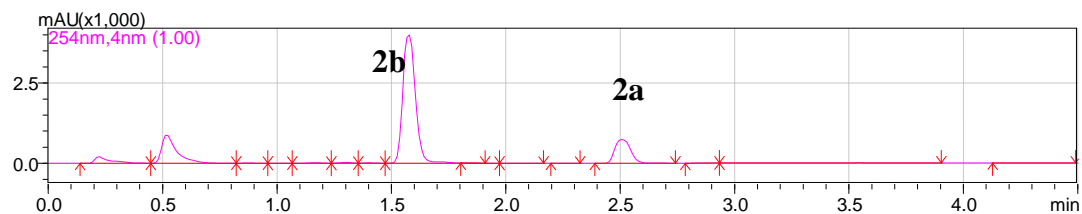
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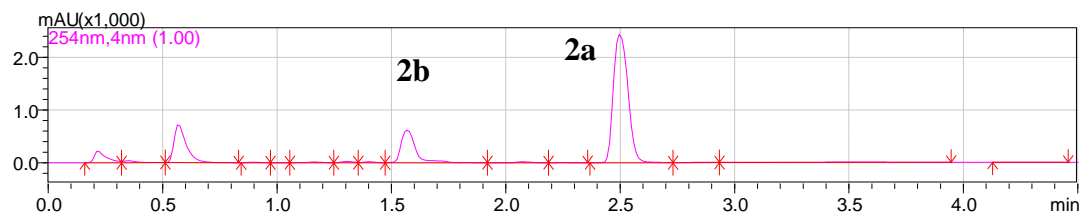
Entry 2, $T = 75\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Entry 3, $T = 100\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Entry 4, $T = 125\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Entry 5, $T = 150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

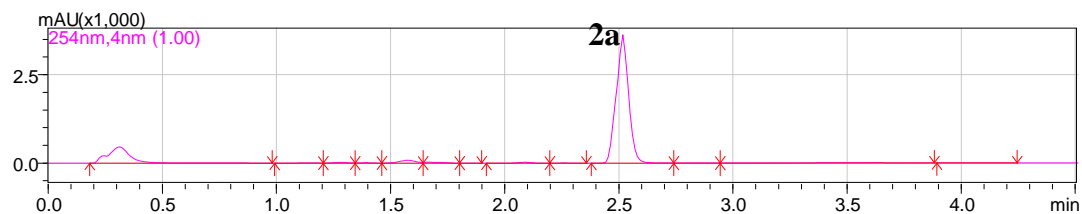


Figure S1: LC-MS traces used to determine compound ratios for experiments in Table 1.

Optimization of liquid–liquid microfluidic extraction

The AFRICA[®] fluidic liquid-liquid extraction (FLLEX) module consists of a contactor, a separator, two optical sensors to monitor output stream purity and two back pressure regulators to accurately control fluid Pressure (Figure S2). Separation is achieved by passing the slug flow stream from the contactor over a porous poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE) membrane. This occurs inside the separator chip. The porous PTFE membrane is hydrophobic and repels the aqueous slugs but allows the organic stream to pass through. A pressure differential across this membrane is controlled using back pressure regulators. As the mixture moves through the channel, the differential in pressure drives the organic phase through the membrane while the aqueous phase is retained (Figure S2). We hypothesized that we could use this module to remove high boiling water soluble solvent from the reaction mixture. Initially, we focused our efforts on combining a simple one chip reaction with microfluidic extraction unit (Figure S3). Product exiting from the reactor was mixed with excess water and dichloromethane (introduced by an external pump - AcuFlow Series III pump). Next this stream was introduced in to the liquid–liquid extractor unit. Organic and aqueous layer analyzed by LC–MS and showed that the extraction of the product to dichloromethane (DCM) layer is successful at 165 or 100 (see Figure S3 below) mbar cross membrane pressure. A back pressure of 3.0 bar was maintained on the aqueous outlet of the FLLEX, while the organic outlet's back pressure was maintained at a 165 or 100 mbar deficit (see Figure S3 below) to the aqueous outlet by way of the FLLEX module's internal pressure differential control valve.

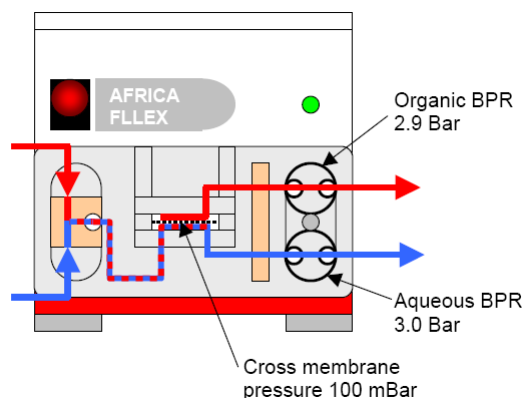


Figure S2: AFRICA[®] Fluidic Liquid-Liquid Extraction (FLLEX) Module.

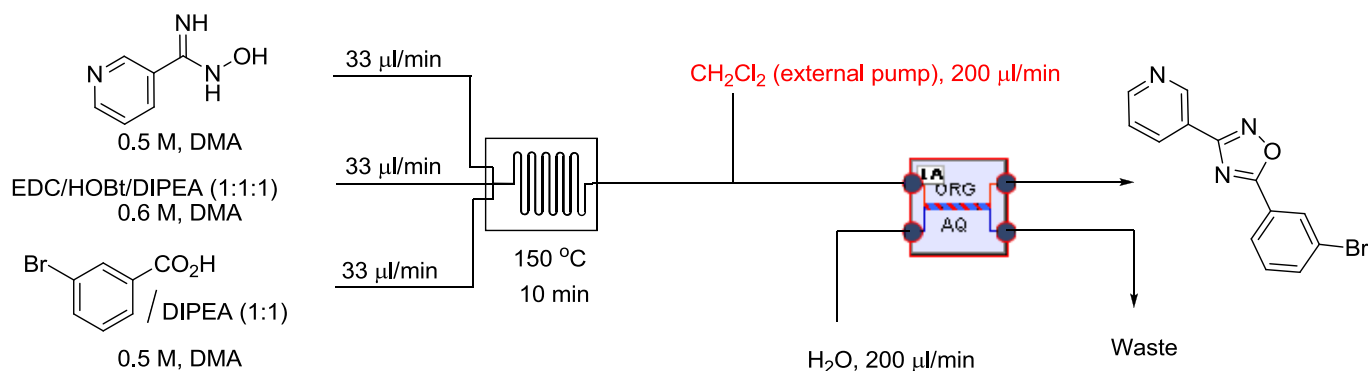
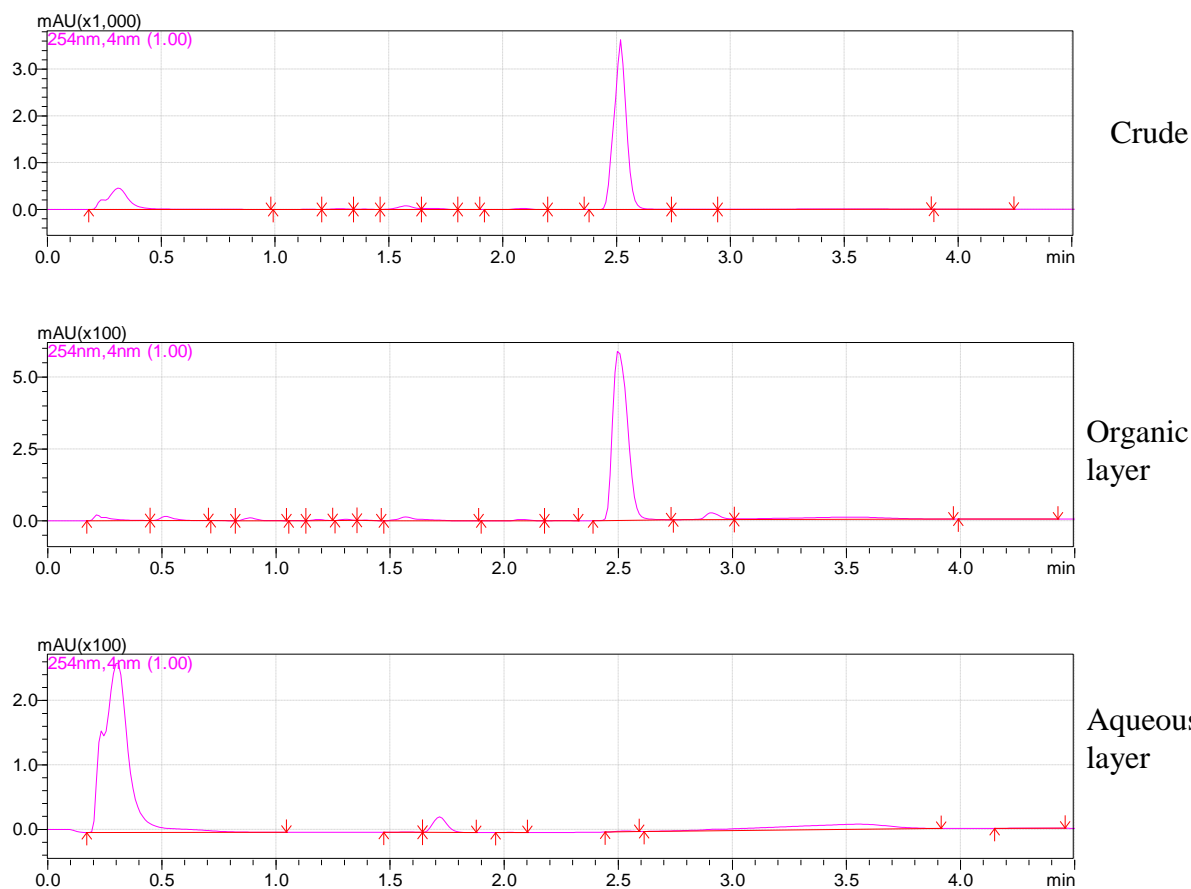


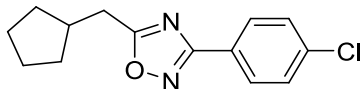
Figure S3: Flow synthesis of oxadiazoles in combination with microfluidic extraction.



The Syrris AFRICA FLLEX module (FLLEX module controlled with a computer) was successfully combined with a Vapourtec system to remove solvent (DMA) and impurities from the reaction medium. Further experimentation showed that toluene is much better than CH_2Cl_2 for the extraction. On a preparative scale using the three reactor flow reaction setup (Schemes 2 and 3 of main article), the desired oxadiazole derivatives were obtained in good yield with a throughput of ≈ 0.5 g/h.

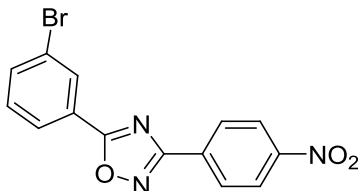
Procedures and data for the flow synthesis of 1,2,4-oxadiazoles in Table 2.

3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-(cyclopentylmethyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 2, entry 1)



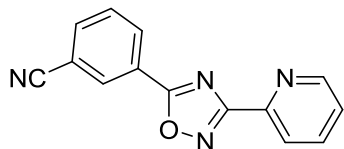
Following the general procedure the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (70 mg, 81%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02 (m, 2H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (septet, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 179.8, 167.4, 137.1, 129.1, 128.7, 125.5, 37.9, 32.4, 32.3, 24.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₁₅ClN₂O [M+H]⁺ 263.0946, found 263.0947.

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole¹ (Table 2, entry 2)



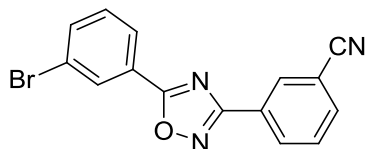
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (61 mg, 53%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (m, 5H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.1, 167.5, 149.6, 136.1, 132.5, 131.1, 130.8, 128.5, 126.7, 125.5, 124.1, 123.3; LCMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₈BrN₃O₃ [M+H]⁺ 345.9749, found 346.00.

3-(3-(Pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)benzonitrile² (Table 2, entry 3)



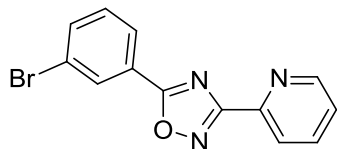
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (61 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.81 (m, 1H), 8.54 (m, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 169.0, 150.5, 145.8, 138.0, 136.2, 132.4, 132.0, 130.5, 126.3, 125.5, 123.8, 117.6, 114.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₈N₄O [M+H]⁺ 249.0698, found 249.0770.

3-(5-(3-Bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)benzonitrile (Table 2, entry 4)



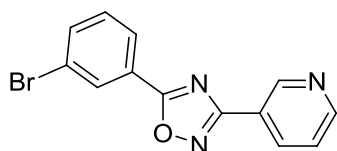
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (94 mg, 88%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.40 (m, 2H), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 0.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.66 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.0, 167.4, 136.1, 134.5, 131.4, 131.11, 130.09, 130.8, 129.9, 128.1, 126.7, 125.6, 123.3, 118.0, 113.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₈BrN₃O [M+H]⁺ 324.9924, found 324.9916.

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole³ (Table 2, entry 5)



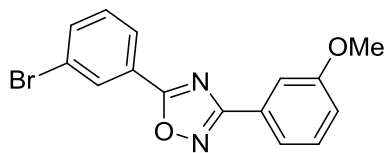
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (68 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.83 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.19 (m, 2H), 7.86 (dt, *J* = 1.8, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 175.1, 168.9, 150.5, 146.2, 137.1, 135.9, 131.2, 130.6, 126.8, 125.7, 125.6, 123.3, 123.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₈BrN₃O [M+H]⁺ 301.9852, found 301.9924.

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole⁴ (Table 2, entry 6)



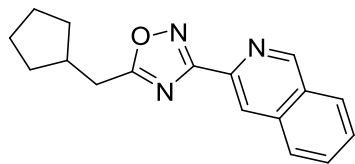
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (79 mg, 80%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.37 (m, 1H), 8.75 (d, *J* = 1.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (dt, *J* = 1.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (m, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.43 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.8, 167.1, 152.2, 148.7, 136.0, 134.7, 131.1, 130.7, 126.7, 125.7, 123.7, 123.2, 123.0; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₈BrN₃O [M+H]⁺ 301.9853, found 301.9925.

5-(3-Bromophenyl)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole⁵ (Table 2, entry 7)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (84 mg, 78%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.3, 169.0, 159.9, 135.7, 131.0, 130.7, 130.0, 127.8, 126.6, 126.0, 123.1, 120.0, 117.9, 112.0, 55.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₁₁BrN₂O₂ [M+H]⁺ 331.0608, found 331.0607.

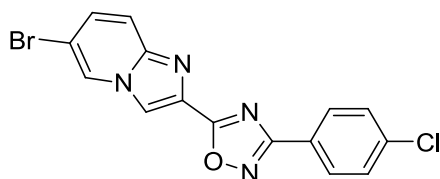
5-(Cyclopentylmethyl)-3-(isoquinolin-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole⁶ (Table 2, entry 8)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (2.5 mL) was collected, and this was purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (64 mg, 69%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.37 (s, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (m, 2H), 2.46 (septet, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.32 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 180.2, 168.4, 153.3, 140.1, 135.8, 131.1, 129.3, 128.7, 127.8, 127.4, 120.6, 38.0, 32.5, 32.4, 24.9; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₇H₁₇N₃O [M+H]⁺ 280.1444, found 280.1430.

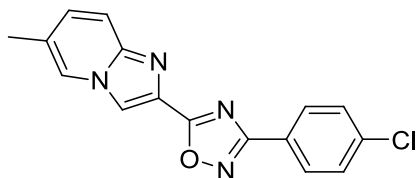
General procedure for the continuous flow synthesis of imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine-2-yl-1,2,4-oxadiazoles (Table 3).

5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 1)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (51 mg, 46%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 168.2, 144.6, 137.6, 131.7, 130.5, 129.2, 129.0, 126.2, 125.2, 119.4, 114.7, 109.4; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₈BrClN₄O [M+H]⁺ 376.9621, found 376.9622.

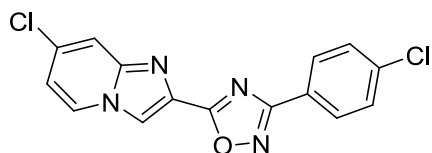
3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-(6-methylimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 2)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (30 mg, 32%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 8.16 (m, 2H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.1, 168.2, 145.3, 137.5, 130.6, 130.0, 129.1,

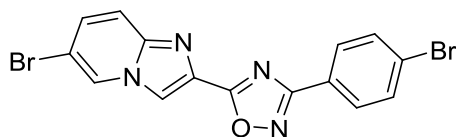
129.0, 125.3, 124.1, 123.6, 118.1, 114.5, 18.0; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{16}H_{11}ClN_4O$ $[M+H]^+$ 311.0694, found 311.0678.

5-(7-Chloroimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 3)



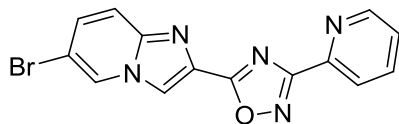
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO_2 chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (43 mg, 44%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.33 (s, 1H), 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.48 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 6.93 (dd, J = 1.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 170.5, 138.4, 137.4, 134.6, 132.4, 129.1, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 127.4, 125.5, 111.6, 110.4; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_8Br_2N_4O$ $[M+H]^+$ 420.9118, found 420.9120.

5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(4-bromophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 4)



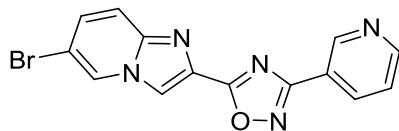
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO_2 chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (52 mg, 42%). 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.64 (m, 3H), 7.37 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 171.3, 168.4, 144.8, 132.1, 131.7, 130.5, 129.2, 126.1, 125.91, 125.89, 119.5, 114.9, 109.3; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{15}H_8Br_2N_4O$ $[M+H]^+$ 418.9066, found 418.9127.

5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 5)



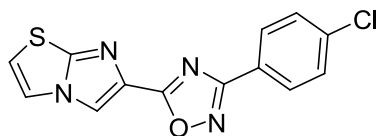
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (56 mg, 55%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.84 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dt, *J* = 1.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 168.7, 150.4, 146.3, 144.6, 137.1, 130.5, 126.2, 125.6, 123.5, 119.5, 115.2, 109.2; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₈BrN₅O [M+H]⁺ 341.9985, found 341.9980.

5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(pyridin-3-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 6)



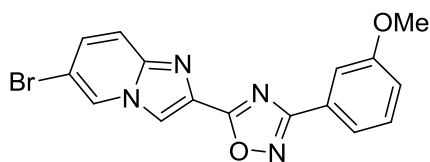
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (60 mg, 59%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.45 (s, 1H), 8.78 (m, 1H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.6, 167.1, 152.1, 148.8, 144.6, 135.0, 131.5, 130.6, 126.1, 123.7, 123.0, 119.5, 115.0, 109.3; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₈BrN₅O [M+H]⁺ 341.9985, found 341.9976.

3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5-(imidazo[2,1-*b*]thiazol-6-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 7)



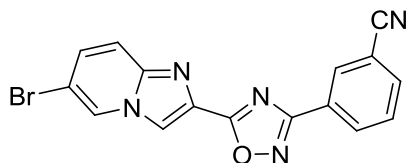
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (60 mg, 59%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.75 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (m, 2H), 8.03 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 171.7, 167.1, 151.3, 136.4, 131.2, 129.4, 128.9, 125.1, 120.1, 117.6; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₇ClN₄OS [M+H]⁺ 303.0102, found 303.0099.

5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 8)



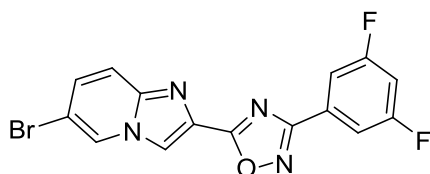
Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a yellow solid (39 mg, 35%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.06 (dd, *J* = 2.3, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.1, 169.0, 159.9, 144.6, 131.8, 130.4, 129.9, 127.8, 126.1, 120.1, 119.4, 118.1, 114.8, 112.0, 109.2, 55.5; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₁₁BrN₄O₂ [M+H]⁺ 371.0138, found 371.0119.

3-(5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)benzonitrile (Table 3, entry 9)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (38 mg, 35%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.85 (s, 1H), 8.46 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H); HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₈BrN₅O [M+H]⁺ 365.9985, found 365.9983.

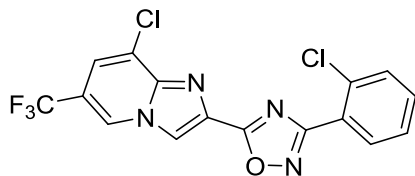
5-(6-Bromoimidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole (Table 3, entry 10)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (33 mg, 29%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.7, 167.5, 164.5, 161.8, 144.7, 130.6, 126.2, 119.3, 115.1, 110.9, 110.7, 109.4, 106.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₅H₇BrF₂N₄O [M+H]⁺ 376.9844, found 376.9846.

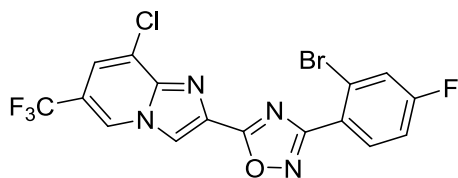
5-(8-Chloro-6-(trifluoromethyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole⁷

(Table 3, entry 11)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (24 mg, 20%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 8.53 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.0, 167.9, 143.5, 133.6, 133.2, 132.0, 131.9, 130.9, 126.9, 126.1, 125.7, 123.8, 121.4, 121.0, 119.0, 118.6, 117.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₇Cl₂F₃N₄O [M+H]⁺ 398.9950, found 399.0024.

3-(2-Bromo-4-fluorophenyl)-5-(8-chloro-6-(trifluoromethyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazole⁷ (Table 3, entry 12)



Following the general procedure, the reaction mixture (3.0 mL) was collected, purified using automated SiO₂ chromatography to provide the title compound as a white solid (34 mg, 25%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.01 (dd, *J* = 5.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dt, *J* = 2.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.1, 168.0, 164.7, 162.2, 143.6, 133.7, 133.6, 133.0, 126.1, 124.2, 123.9, 123.0, 122.9, 121.8, 121.6, 121.0, 119.0, 118.7, 117.8, 115.0, 114.8; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₆BrClF₄N₄O [M+H]⁺ 460.9351, found 460.9424.

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6. Compound is commercially available.
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