Iridium-Catalyzed Borylation of 6-Fluoroquinolines: Access to 6-Fluoroquinolones

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INTRODUCTION

The C-H bond functionalization of heteroarenes has emerged as an important synthetic methodology,¹ considering the roles that heteroarenes play in pharmaceuticals, agrochemical products, and electronic materials.² Iridium-catalyzed C-H borylation has proven to be a useful method for the functionalization of heteroarenes because of its ability to produce highly versatile aryl organoboronate ester intermediates without the need for reactive groups, such as halides or sulfonates (Scheme 1a).³ In particular, the use of [Ir(OMe)-COD₂ with bidentate ligands such as 4,4'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'dipyridyl (dtbpy) has emerged as a powerful methodology for the borylation of arenes using both bis(pinacolato)diboron $(B_2 pin_2)$ and pinacolborane (HBpin).^{3,4} Given its role as a key scaffold in a plethora of synthetic and naturally occurring pharmacologically active compounds,⁵ the quinoline-nucleus has been used in a number of borylation-based methodologies. However, expansion of quinoline C-H borylation strategies requires additional developments regarding the regioselectivity control (Scheme 1b).^{3l,n,6}

Fluoroquinolone antibiotics are one of the world's most commonly prescribed classes of antimicrobials⁷ and are among the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines (Figure 1).⁸ Their bioavailability, broadspectrum activity, and potency profiles have established 6fluoroquinolones as the treatment of choice for a variety of infections, including urinary tract, soft tissue, and gastrointestinal infections.⁹ Synthesis of the core quinolone structure (and various analogues) is normally achieved through cyclization processes, carried out at elevated temperatures from the corresponding (substituted) aniline and an unsaturated coupling partner.¹⁰ These preparations are still widely employed but do suffer from a number of issues. The processes are dependent on the availability of highly functionalized starting materials and thus are not amenable to late-stage derivatization.¹¹ In addition, the cyclization process can result in the formation of regioisomers. This problem is particularly evident in the case of C-5/C-7 substitution of the quinolone, where the *meta*-substituted starting aniline can cyclize at either *ortho*-position.^{10a} However, considerable strides have also been made toward catalytic processes using halogenated precursors.¹²

Herein, we describe the C7-H borylation of 6-fluoroquinolines. We hoped that the fluorine atom would serve to guide the borylation to the C7 position¹³ and also act as a critical functional group, especially if a quinoline to quinolone transformation could be developed (Scheme 2).^{9d,14}

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We initiated our optimization experiments using fluoroquinoline 1a with $[Ir(OMe)COD]_2$, dtbpy, and B_2pin_2 (Table 1, see the Supporting Information (SI) for more detail). Although tetrahydrofuran (THF) proved to be the most effective solvent, it is worth noting the very good conversion achieved

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Figure 1. Fluoroquinolone antibiotics contained on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines 2021.

Scheme 2. Iridium-Catalyzed Borylation of Substituted Quinolines and Subsequent Access to 6-Fluoroquinolones



Table 1. Optimization of the Borylation of 1a

entry	$\begin{array}{c} B_2 pin_2 \\ (equiv) \end{array}$	Ir cat. (mol %)	ligand (mol %)	solvent ^a (mL)	yield (%)
1	1.1	3.0	dtbpy 6.0	CPME 3	0
2	1.1	3.0	dtbpy 6.0	MTBE 3	70
3	1.1.	1.5	dtbpy 3.0	MTBE 1	95
4	1.5	3.0	dtbpy 6.0	THF 3	88
5	1.1	3.0	phen 6.0	THF 3	80
6	1.5	3.0	phen 6.0	THF 3	91
7	1.1	3.0	dtbpy 6.0	THF 3	>99
8	0.75	3.0	dtbpy 6.0	THF 1	89
9	1.1	1.5	dtbpy 3.0	THF 1	98

^{*a*}Reactions carried out on the 0.2 mmol scale. Reaction temperatures are as follows: CPME 100 °C; MTBE 60 °C; THF 80 °C. ^{*b*}Yields calculated from ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

using methyl *tert*-butyl ether (MTBE), an easy to handle, relatively nonperoxidizable ether, which is already widely used in the industry, as the solvent (entries 2 and 3). No conversion to the borylated product was observed in cyclopentyl methyl ether (CPME) (entry 1). As a ligand, 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) also proved useful for this transformation (entries 5 and 6), but the superior reactivity profile of dtbpy is clearly demonstrated under otherwise identical conditions (entry 7). Optimized conditions allowed the formation of 2a in a 98% yield (by ¹H NMR analysis, entry 9).

Substrates for borylation were then selected with varying groups at C4 and either an H, Me, or ester group at C2 (Scheme 3). In our choice of groups at C4, we were conscious that a quinoline to quinolone transformation would be very

valuable as this methodology could provide an excellent route to substituted fluoroquinolones. We anticipated that compounds **2a**, **2b**, **2d**, and **2e** could undergo acid-hydrolysis to provide the corresponding 4-quinolone,¹⁵ while orthogonally, **2c** could be deprotected using palladium-catalyzed hydrogenation (*vide infra*).¹⁶

The borylated quinolines were unstable on silica gel and proved difficult to purify.³¹ However, we were able to isolate compounds **2a** and **2d** in good yields by recrystallization from methanol. Generally, the intermediate borylation steps gave very good yields (by ¹H NMR analysis, using an internal standard), with the exception of **2e**; here, the reduction in yield is attributed to **1e** having a competitive site for borylation (see the **SI**). In any case, and conveniently, the crude material could be converted to the C7-brominated products,¹⁷ which were purified and characterized (Scheme 3). The C7 selectivity of the C–H borylation was confirmed by the molecular structure of **2a** obtained by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

In our experience and that of others,¹⁸ quinolones tend to suffer from solubility issues, especially those lacking pendant organic groups. Here, however, the apparently increased solubility of the quinoline motif meant that the borylated quinoline compounds could undergo a range of synthetically valuable transformations (Scheme 4). Given the commonly encountered issues associated with employing heterocycles as substrates for cross-coupling and other reactions,¹⁹ it was critically important to demonstrate that the Bpin moiety could be transformed into useful substituted quinolines.

The *in situ* borylated quinolines 2 were converted to the bromo-quinoline analogues in excellent yields over two steps using copper bromide (a). The iodinated compound was accessed in a moderate yield using copper iodide (b), again

Scheme 3. Borylated and Brominated Quinoline Substrates^{*a,b*}



"Yields are isolated. Yields in parentheses calculated from ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. ^{*b*} n.d. = not determined, see the SI for more information.

Scheme 4. Synthetic Transformations of C7-Borylated Quinolines^a



^{*a*}Conditions: (a) CuBr₂ (3.5 equiv), MeOH/H₂O (1:1 v/v), 80 °C, 3 h. (b) CuI (10 mol %), 1,10-phenanthroline (20 mol %), KI (1.5 equiv), MeOH/H₂O (4:1 v/v), N₂, 80 °C, 2 h. (c) [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (1 mol %), THF/D₂O (4:1 v/v), N₂, 80 °C, 12 h. (d) KHF₂ (6.0 equiv), THF/H₂O (3:1 v/v), rt, 16 h. (e) LiOH·H₂O (9.0 equiv), THF/H₂O (5:1 v/v), rt, 24 h. (f) Pd₂(dba)₃ (1 mol %), PPh₃ (4 mol %), K₂CO₃ (4.0 equiv), BnBr (1.2 equiv), THF/H₂O (50:1 v/v), N₂, 100 °C, 24 h. (g) Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5 mol %), K₃PO₄ (3.0 equiv), ethyl-4-bromobenzoate (1.5 equiv), THF/H₂O (5:1 v/v), N₂, 50 °C, 18 h. (h) Pd(dba)₂ (2 mol %), P(o-tol)3 (6 mol %), Na₂CO₃ (4.0 equiv), 5-bromoindole (0.8 equiv), THF/H₂O (10:1 v/v), N₂, 50 °C, 24 h. (i) Pd₂(dba)₃ (3 mol %), RuPhos (6 mol %), NaOtBu (2.5 equiv), Piperidine (2.0 equiv), Toluene, N₂, 80 °C, 16 h. (j) 30% H₂O₂ (1.2 equiv), MeOH, 0 °C to rt, 16 h.

over two steps. The purified C7-borylated product was converted to the deuterio and hydroxy analogues in good yields (c, j). The useful and more reactive trifluoroborate salt was obtained using potassium bifluoride in aqueous THF (d), and the boronic acid motif was subsequently accessed after reaction of the salt with lithium hydroxide in aqueous THF (e). The borylated quinoline substrate **2a** was coupled with a number of brominated substrates in high-yielding, palladiumcatalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura reactions (f, g, h). Finally, amination of the C7 position was achieved *via* a Hartwig-Buchwald coupling reaction of the brominated substrate **3b** with piperidine (i).

While this borylation protocol provides excellent access to a number of substituted quinolines, underpinning our choices for the moiety at C4 was the potential to furnish the quinolone scaffold, thus gaining access to some fluoroquinolones. Indeed, 4-Cl borylated quinoline **2a** and 4-OMe brominated quinoline **3b** were converted to the corresponding quinolones **13a** and **13b** in 68 and 82% yields, respectively. In the case of **2a**, concurrent hydrolysis to the boronic acid **13a** was observed. Debenzylation of compound **3c** was achieved *via* palladium-catalyzed hydrogenolysis in methanol (Scheme 5).

Scheme 5. Access to Substituted Fluoroquinolones



Finally, in the context of mapping onto the core antibiotic fluoroquinolone structure, initial attempts using our optimized conditions (Table 1) with 1f gave only trace amounts of the borylated product. However, using 2.2 equiv of B_2pin_2 allowed the borylation to 2f to occur in a very good yield, and subsequent bromination gave 3f in a yield of 88% (Scheme 6). Finally, the key fluoroquinolone framework was furnished by acid-catalyzed hydrolysis of 2f to give the boronate ester 13d (C7 = nucleophilic) in a 53% yield. The complementary brominated fluoroquinolone moiety (C7 = electrophilic) was also accessible by alcoholysis of 3f to give 13e in a 64% yield.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have developed an efficient protocol for the C-H functionalization/borylation of quinolines incorporating useful and useable substituents. Importantly, borylation is selective for C7, avoiding, for example, C3. Extensive diversification at C7 is demonstrated in the presence of the

Scheme 6. Synthesis of the 6-Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic Framework a



"Yields are isolated. Yields in parentheses calculated from ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard.

basic quinoline group. Finally, the ubiquitous fluoroquinolone moiety can be generated in a simple hydrolysis step.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Considerations. The catalyst precursor [Ir(OMe)- COD_{2} was synthesized according to a literature procedure²⁰ and was stored in a glovebox under an argon atmosphere. Toluene and CPME were dried and stored over flame-dried 4 Å molecular sieves. THF was either freshly distilled from sodium/benzophenone under a nitrogen atmosphere and stored over molecular sieves under the nitrogen atmosphere (University College Cork) or dried using a solvent purification system (SPS) from Innovative Technology, degassed with argon, and stored over molecular sieves under the argon atmosphere (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg). K₂CO₃ and Na2CO3 were stored in an oven at 150 °C. All other solvents and reagents were used as obtained from commercial sources and without further purification. Melting points were measured using a Thomas Hoover Capillary Melting Point apparatus. Infrared spectra were measured on a PerkinElmer FT-IR spectrometer as thin films in DCM. Column chromatography was carried out using 60 Å (35-70 μ m) silica. TLC was carried out on precoated silica gel plates (Merck 60 PF254), and the developed plates were visualized under UV light. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters LCT Premier Tof LC-MS instrument in electrospray ionization (ESI) mode (University College Cork) or using a Thermo Scientific Exactive Plus Orbitrap MS system with an Atmospheric Sample Analysis Probe (ASAP) (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg). Samples were run using 50% acetonitrile-water containing 0.1% formic acid as the eluent and were prepared at a concentration of ca. 1 mg mL⁻¹. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded in CDCl₃, (CD₃)₂SO, or CD₃OD, as specified. ¹H NMR (600 MHz), ¹H NMR (500 MHz), ¹H NMR (400 MHz), and ¹H NMR (300 MHz) spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 600, Bruker Avance 500, Bruker Avance 400, and Bruker Avance III 300 NMR spectrometers, respectively. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz), ¹³C NMR (125 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz), and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz) spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 600, Bruker Avance 500, Bruker Avance 400, and Bruker Avance III 300 NMR spectrometers, respectively, in proton decoupled mode. ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz), ¹⁹F NMR (376

MHz), and ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz) spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 500, Bruker Avance 400, and Bruker Avance III 300 NMR spectrometers, respectively, in proton decoupled mode. All NMR analyses were carried out at 300 K unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed as parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) are expressed in Hertz (Hz).

Synthesis of Quinoline Starting Materials. 4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (1a).²¹ 6-Fluoro-2-methylquinolin-4(1H)-one (1.77 g, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to a Schlenk flask, dissolved in POCl₃ (4.6 mL, 50 mmol, 5.0 equiv), and the mixture was stirred in an oil bath at 110 °C for 3 h. The cooled reaction mixture was slowly added to iced water (20 mL) with stirring. Solid NaHCO3 was then added gradually until the pH reached ca.~ 7, and the mixture was allowed to stir until effervescence ceased. The mixture was transferred to a separating funnel, and the organic layer was collected. The aq. layer was extracted with DCM (3×20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (20 mL), H₂O (20 mL), and brine (20 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. White solid (1.860 g, 95%); m.p. 84-86 °C $(\text{lit.}^{22} 83-84 \text{ °C}); {}^{1}\text{H NMR} (300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_{3}) \delta: 8.02 \text{ (dd, } I = 9.2,$ 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, J = 9.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (ddd, J = 9.2, 8.3, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 160.7 (d, J = 248 Hz), 158.2 (d, J = 3 Hz), 145.7, 141.7 (d, J = 6 Hz), 131.6 (d, J = 9 Hz), 125.6 (d, J = 10 Hz), 122.5, 120.5 (d, J = 26 Hz), 107.8 (d, J = 24 Hz), 25.0 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -112 ppm; m/z (ES+): 196 ((M + H)⁺ 100%).

6-Fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (1b). 4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline 1a (500 mg, 2.6 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in MeOH (8 mL) was added dropwise to a freshly prepared solution of sodium (20 mmol, 8.0 equiv) in MeOH (12 mL) over ice. The mixture was warmed to r.t. and then heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for 18 h. cooled to room temperature, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in a mixture of EtOAc/H₂O (1:1, 20 mL), and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 \times 10 mL), and the combined organic layers were then washed with H₂O (10 mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Beige solid (0.473 g, 97%); m.p. 52–54 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1632, 1514, 1353, 1201, 1180 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.92 (dd, J = 9.2, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, J = 9.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (ddd, J = 9.2, 8.3, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H) ppm; $^{13}\mathrm{C}\{^{1}\mathrm{H}\}$ NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.8 (d, J = 5 Hz), 159.7 (d, J = 245 Hz), 159.3 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 145.7, 130.4 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 120.4 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 119.5 (d, *J* = 25 Hz), 105.6 (d, J = 23 Hz), 101.0, 55.6, 25.8 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -116 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C11H11FNO: 192.0819; found: 192.0817.

4-((3,5-Dimethylbenzyl)oxy)-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (1c). To a solution of 6-fluoro-2-methylquinolin-4(1H)-one (265.8 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (30 mL) was added K₂CO₃ (414.6 mg, 3.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv). The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 1 h before the portion-wise addition of 3,5-dimethylbenzyl bromide (358.4 mg, 1.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv), and the resulting suspension was heated to 60 °C in an oil bath for 16 h. The mixture was poured onto ice water and extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water $(2 \times 20 \text{ mL})$, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc, 90:10). White solid (0.373 g, 84%); m.p. 93–95 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1604, 1514, 1478, 1348, 1185, 1083 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.94 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd, J = 9.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (ddd, J = 9.2, 8.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.02 (bs, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 2H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 6H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.1 (d, J = 5 Hz), 159.7 (d, J = 245 Hz), 159.3 (d, J = 2 Hz), 145.8, 138.5, 135.4, 130.4 (d, J = 9 Hz), 130.2, 125.4, 120.6 (d, J = 10 Hz), 119.6 (d, J = 25 Hz), 105.8 (d, J = 23 Hz), 102.0, 70.5, 25.8, 21.3 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -115 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₉FNO: 296.1445; found: 296.1451.

Methyl 4-chloro-6-fluoroquinoline-2-carboxylate (1d). Prepared via the method described for compound 1a using methyl 6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylate (221.2 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0

equiv). White solid (0.230 g, 96%); m.p. 140–141 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1751, 1623, 1558, 1208, 1104, 1006, 831 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.42–8.25 (m, 2H), 7.89 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 9.2, 8.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 164.8, 162.5 (d, J = 254 Hz), 147.1 (d, J = 3 Hz), 145.3, 143.1 (d, J = 6 Hz), 134.0 (d, J = 10 Hz), 128.8 (d, J = 11 Hz), 121.9, 121.8 (d, J = 26 Hz), 108.0 (d, J = 25 Hz), 53.5 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -107 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₈CIFNO₂: 240.0222; found: 240.0221.

6-Fluoro-4-methoxyquinoline (1e). Prepared via the method described for compound 1b using 4-chloro-6-fluoroquinoline (320 mg, 1.76 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.295 g, 95%); m.p. 50–53 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1631, 1598, 1309, 1189, 1069 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.71 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 9.2, 8.2, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 162.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 160.2 (d, *J* = 247 Hz), 150.7 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 146.3, 131.4 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 122.2 (d, *J* = 10 Hz), 119.8 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 105.8 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 100.5, 55.8 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -114 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₉FNO: 178.0663; found: 178.0658.

Ethyl-4-chloro-6-fluoroquinoline-3-carboxylate (1f).²³ Prepared *via* the method described for compound 1a using ethyl 6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (352.8 mg, 1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.352 g, 93%); m.p. 67–69 °C (lit.²⁴ 62–63 °C); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 9.16 (s, 1H), 8.17 (dd, J = 9.2, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (ddd, J = 9.2, 7.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 163.7, 161.1 (d, J = 251 Hz), 148.8, 145.9, 142.1 (d, J = 6 Hz), 131.9 (d, J = 9 Hz), 126.9 (d, J = 7 Hz), 123.1, 121.7 (d, J = 26 Hz), 108.7 (d, J = 25 Hz), 61.7, 13.7 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -109 ppm; m/z (ES+): 254 ((M + H)⁺ 100%).

Borylation of 6-Fluoroquinolines. General Procedure for the Borylation of 6-Fluoroquinolines. A 15 mL Schlenk flask was ovendried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: quinoline (1.0 equiv), dtbpy (3 mol %), B_2pin_2 (1.1 equiv), and $[Ir(OMe)COD]_2$ (1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (2.5 mL/mmol) was added *via* a syringe through the septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 12–18 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t., diluted with MeOH (20 mL/mmol), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified *via* recrystallization from hot MeOH.

4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methyl-7-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)quinoline (2a). Prepared via the general procedure using 1a (391.2 mg, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv); X-ray quality crystals were obtained via vapor diffusion from a saturated solution of DCM in Et₂O; and the CCDC number is 2159956. White solid (0.422 g, 66%); m.p. 97–100 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1627, 1500, 1370, 1331, 1261, 1147, 1049, 854 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.56 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 2.77 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 12H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 164.0 (d, *J* = 251 Hz), 158.1 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 145.1, 141.6 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 139.8 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 127.6 (d, *J* = 11 Hz), 123.2, 107.5 (d, *J* = 27 Hz), 84.5, 25.0, 24.9 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : –105 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 30 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₁₉BCIFNO₂: 322.1176; found: 322.1182.

Methyl 4-chloro-6-fluoro-7-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)quinoline-2-carboxylate (2d). Prepared via the general procedure using 1d (47.9 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.040 g, 55%); m.p. 156–158 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1727, 1625, 1498, 1336, 1326, 1230, 1118, 1049, 849 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.84 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 12H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 165.7 (d, J = 257 Hz), 164.9, 147.1 (d, J = 3 Hz), 144.8, 142.8 (d, J = 6 Hz), 142.5 (d, J = 10 Hz), 130.5 (d, J = 11 Hz), 122.3,

107.7 (d, J = 28 Hz), 84.6, 53.4, 24.9 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -100 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 30 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₉BClFNO₄: 366.1074; found: 366.1071.

General Procedure for the Borylation and Subsequent Bromination of 6-Fluoroquinolines. A 15 mL Schlenk was ovendried (150 $^\circ\text{C})$ and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: quinoline (1.0 equiv), dtbpy (3 mol %), B₂pin₂ (1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (2.5 mL/mmol) was added via a syringe through the septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 12-18 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to r.t., diluted with Et₂O, and concentrated under reduced pressure. An internal standard 1,3,5trimethoxybenzene (~10 mol %) was added to the residue to determine the yield of the C7-borylated product 2a-2e by ¹H NMR analysis. The residue was redissolved in MeOH (20 mL/mmol), and a solution of CuBr₂ (3.5 equiv) in H₂O (20 mL/mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for 3 h, cooled to r.t. diluted with 10% NH4OH (40 mL/mmol), and then extracted with Et₂O (3×10 mL/mmol). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (10 mL/mmol) and brine (10 mL/mmol), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc gradient, unless otherwise specified).

7-Bromo-4-chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (**3a**). Prepared *via* the general procedure using **1a** (39.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.052 g, 95%); m.p. 100–101 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1612, 1588, 1016, 845, 707 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.27 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 158.8 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 156.2 (d, *J* = 250 Hz), 145.2 (d, *J* = 1 Hz), 141.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 133.6 (d, *J* = 1 Hz), 124.2 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 122.2, 113.7 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 108.1 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 24.5 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : –108 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₇BrClFN: 273.9429; found: 273.9424.

7-Bromo-6-fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methylquinoline (**3b**). Prepared *via* the general procedure using **1b** (49.8 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). 95% yield **2b** by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. White solid (0.051 g, 94%); m.p. 113–115 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1612, 1588, 1352, 1203, 1010, 726 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.23 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 4.03 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 162.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 160.6 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 155.9 (d, *J* = 247 Hz), 145.6, 132.9, 119.6 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 113.4 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 106.7 (d, *J* = 25 Hz), 101.3, 55.9, 25.6 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -110 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₀BrFNO: 269.9924; found: 269.9923.

7-Bromo-4-((3,5-dimethylbenzyl)oxy)-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (3c). Prepared via the general procedure using 1c (59.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). 99% yield 2c by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. White solid (0.055 g, 73%); m.p. 138–140 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1601, 1561, 1500, 1347, 1193, 1099, 747 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.20 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 160.9 (d, J = 5 Hz), 160.6 (d, J = 2 Hz), 155.8 (d, J = 247 Hz), 146.1, 138.5, 135.2, 133.1, 130.3, 125.5, 119.7 (d, J = 8 Hz), 113.2 (d, J = 24 Hz), 106.9 (d, J = 25 Hz), 102.3, 70.7, 25.8, 21.3 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -111 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₁₈BrFNO: 374.0550; found: 374.0558.

Methyl 7-bromo-4-chloro-6-fluoroquinoline-2-carboxylate (3d). Prepared via the general procedure using 1d (24.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and purified via column chromatography (DCM). 97% yield 2d by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. White solid (0.025 g, 78%); m.p. 153–155 °C; IR (film) $ν_{max}$ 1725, 1613, 1544, 1345, 1204, 1019, 787, 696 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 8.62 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 164.6, 158.7 (d, *J* = 255 Hz), 148.1, 145.4 (d, *J* = 1 Hz), 143.2 (d, *J* = 6 Hz), 136.4 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 127.9 (d, *J* = 9 Hz), 122.1, 115.9 (d, *J* = 25 Hz), 108.8 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 53.6 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -102 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₇BrClFNO₅: 317.9327; found: 317.9328.

7-Bromo-6-fluoro-4-methoxyquinoline (**3e**). Prepared *via* the general procedure using **1f** (35.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.021 g, 41%); m.p. 139–141 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1596, 1570, 1499, 1348, 1181, 1093, 717 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.72 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 162.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 156.2 (d, *J* = 248 Hz), 151.6 (d, *J* = 3 Hz), 146.3 (d, *J* = 1 Hz), 133.9, 121.2 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 113.6 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 106.8 (d, *J* = 25 Hz), 100.7, 56.0 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -109 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₈BrFNO: 255.9768; found: 255.9767.

Ethyl 7-*bromo-4-chloro-6-fluoroquinoline-3-carboxylate* (**3f**). Prepared *via* the general procedure using **1e** (25.4 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and B₂pin₂ (55.9 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.2 equiv) and purified *via* column chromatography (hexane/Et₂O, 9:1). 95% yield **2c** by ¹H NMR analysis using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. White solid (0.029 g, 88%); m.p. 119–120 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1727, 1609, 1551, 1336, 1153, 1037, 788, 689 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 9.17 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) pm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 164.0, 157.9 (d, *J* = 252 Hz), 150.5, 142.6, 142.6 (d, *J* = 6 Hz), 135.1, 126.6 (d, *J* = 8 Hz), 123.7, 116.6 (d, *J* = 25 Hz), 110.1 (d, *J* = 26 Hz), 62.4, 14.2 pm; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -104 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/zm/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₂H₉BrClFNO₂: 331.9484; found: 331.9481.

Derivatization of C7-Borylated-6-fluoroquinolines. 4-Chloro-6-fluoro-7-iodo-2-methylquinoline (4a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: 1a (39.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dtbpy (1.6 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol %), B₂pin₂ (55.9 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (2.0 mg, 0.003 mmol, 1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (0.5 mL) was added via syringe through a septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 14 h, cooled to r.t., and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (1.6 mL) and added to a 5 mL screwcapped vial containing CuI (3.8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %), 1,10phenanthroline (7.2 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and KI (49.8 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 5 min, H₂O (0.4 mL) was then added, the vial was sealed, and the solution was heated to 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ in an aluminum heating block for 2 $h.^{25}$ The solution was cooled to r.t., diluted with DCM and H2O, and the layers were separated. The aqueous portion was extracted with DCM $(2 \times 5 \text{ mL})$, and the combined organic layers were then washed with brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc, 95:5). White solid (0.038 g, 64%); m.p. 108–111 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1594, 1538, 1097, 704, 628 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ : 8.52 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 159.1 (d, J = 3 Hz), 159.0 (d, J = 247 Hz), 146.1, 141.7, 140.8 (d, J = 3 Hz),125.6 (d, J = 9 Hz), 122.9, 107.5 (d, J = 27 Hz), 87.2 (d, J = 29 Hz), 25.0 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -95 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₀H₇ClFIN: 321.9290; found: 321.9286.

4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline-7-d (5a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was flame-dried and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, 2a (64.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and $[Ir(OMe)COD]_2$ (1.3 mg, 0.002 mmol, 1.0 mol %) were added, and the Schlenk flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen 3 times.

THF (0.8 mL) and D₂O (0.2 mL) were added, the vessel was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for 12 h. The solution was cooled to r.t. and extracted with Et₂O ($2 \times 5 \text{ mL}$).²⁶ The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified *via* column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc, 95:5). Colorless crystalline solid (0.022 g, 57%); m.p. 85–86 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1617, 1555, 1025, 830 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.02 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 160.8 (d, J = 249 Hz), 158.3 (d, J = 3 Hz), 145.6, 142.1 (d, J = 5 Hz), 131.5 (d, J = 9 Hz), 125.0 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -113 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₇DCIFN: 197.0387; found: 197.0380.

(4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinolin-7-yl)trifluoroborate potassium salt (6a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: 1a (195.6 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dtbpy (8.1 mg, 0.03 mmol, 3 mol %), B2pin2 (279.3 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (9.9 mg, 0.015 mmol, 1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (5 mL) was added via a syringe through a septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for 18 h. The solution was cooled, H₂O (3 mL) and KHF₂ (468.6 mg, 6.0 mmol, 6.0 equiv) were added, and the mixture was allowed to stir for a further 24 h before being diluted with acetone and H2O. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, and the resulting precipitate was isolated by suction filtration and washed with H₂O (15 mL) and cold hexane (15 mL).²⁷ Beige solid (0.215 g, 71%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1640, 1583, 1120, 1033, 799 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 7.93 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (150 MHz, $(CD_3)_2$ SO) δ : 164.8 (d, J = 245 Hz), 156.7 (d, J =2 Hz), 145.2, 139.8, 134.3 (d, J = 15 Hz), 123.5 (d, J = 11 Hz), 121.1, 104.8 (d, J = 30 Hz), 24.4 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$ δ : -105, -138 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) δ : 2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{10}H_7BClF_3N$: 244.0307; found: 244.0311.

(6-Fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methylquinolin-7-yl)trifluoroborate potassium salt (**6b**). Prepared via the procedure described for **6a** using **1b** (153 mg, 0.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Brown solid (0.174 g, 73%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1645, 1592, 1146, 1017, 834 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 8.01 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 2.80 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 166.9 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 164.6 (d, *J* = 247 Hz), 156.8, 135.4, 125.1 (d, *J* = 14 Hz), 118.7 (d, *J* = 10 Hz), 104.7 (d, *J* = 30 Hz), 102.4, 58.2, 20.7 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : -103, -139 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 2 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₀BF₃NO: 240.0802; found: 240.0807.

(6-Fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methylquinolin-7-yl)boronic Acid (7b). 6b (98 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was suspended in THF (11 mL), and a solution of LiOH.H₂O (124.6 mg, 2.97 mmol, 9.0 equiv) in H₂O (2.5 mL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at r.t. for 24 h. THF was removed under reduced pressure, and the mixture was acidified to pH~5 using saturated NH₄Cl (4 mL) and 1 M HCl (2 mL). The resulting precipitate was collected by suction filtration, redissolved in 1 M HCl, and extracted once with Et₂O. The aqueous portion was then neutralized using solid NaHCO₃ and extracted with DCM/iPrOH (9:1, 3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. White solid (0.058 g, 75%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1646, 1504, 1362, 1250, 1202, 1091 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 8.52 (s, 2H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 2.59 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 161.8 (d, *J* = 243 Hz), 160.9 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 159.2 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 144.9, 136.1 (d, *J* = 10 Hz), 120.6 (d, *J* = 10 Hz), 104.3 (d, *J* = 27 Hz), 101.9, 56.1, 25.4 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : –108 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 27 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₁₂BFNO₃: 236.0889; found: 236.0894.

7-Benzyl-4-chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinoline (8a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was dried under vacuum, cooled to r.t., and refilled with nitrogen. **2a** (64.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (1.8 mg, 0.002 mmol, 1.0 mol %), PPh3 (2.1 mg, 0.008 mmol, 4.0 mol %), and K₂CO₃ (110.6 mg, 0.8 mmol, 4.0 equiv) were added, and the Schlenk flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen 3 times. Benzyl bromide (0.03 mL, 0.24 mmol, 1.2 equiv), THF (1 mL), and H₂O (0.02 mL) were added, the vessel was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 100 °C in an aluminum heating block for 24 h.²⁴ The solution was cooled to r.t., diluted with H2O, and extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over ${\rm MgSO}_4$, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM). Off-white solid (0.049 g, 86%); m.p. 94-96 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1635, 1598, 1551, 1027, 871 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) *b*: 7.88–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.14 (m, 6H), 4.16 (s, 2H), 2.66 (s, 3H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 159.7 (d, J = 250 Hz), 158.1 (d, J = 2 Hz), 145.6, 141.6 (d, J = 5 Hz), 138.5, 134.3 (d, J = 20 Hz), 131.0 (d, J = 6 Hz), 129.1, 128.7, 126.6, 124.4 (d, J = 10 Hz), 121.9, 107.7 (d, J = 26 Hz), 35.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 24.9 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -117 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₄ClFN: 286.0793; found: 286.0785.

Ethyl-4-(4-chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinolin-7-yl)benzoate (9a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: 1a (39.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dtbpy (1.6 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol %), B₂pin₂ (55.9 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (2.0 mg, 0.003 mmol, 1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (0.5 mL) was added via septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 14 h, cooled to r.t., and concentrated under reduced pressure. A 15 mL Schlenk was heated under vacuum, cooled to r.t., and refilled with nitrogen. The crude reaction mixture for 2a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (11.6 mg, 0.01 mmol, 5.0 mol %), and K₃PO₄ (127.4 mg, 0.6 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added, and the Schlenk flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen 3 times. Ethyl-4-bromobenzoate (0.05 mL, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv), THF (2 mL), and H_2O (0.4 mL) were added, the vessel was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 60 °C for 18 h.³¹ The solution was cooled to r.t., diluted with H₂O, and extracted with Et_2O (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM:Et₂O, 90:10); X-ray quality crystals were obtained via vapor diffusion from a saturated solution of DCM in Et₂O; and the CCDC number is 2159957. White solid (0.052 g, 76%); m.p. 120–122 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1710, 1610, 1598, 1383, 1291, 1027, 857 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.25–8.09 (m, 3H), 7.89 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.42 (s, 1H),4.42 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 166.2, 158.9 (d, *J* = 2 Hz), 158.1 (d, J = 251 Hz), 145.6, 141.5 (d, J = 6 Hz), 139.1 (d, J = 2 Hz), 133.1(d, J = 18 Hz), 131.3 (d, J = 4 Hz), 130.4, 129.8, 129.2 (d, J = 3 Hz),125.3 (d, J = 10 Hz), 122.6, 108.9 (d, J = 26 Hz), 61.1, 25.1, 14.4 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: -116 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{19}H_{16}ClFNO_2$: 344.0848; found: 344.0839.

Ethyl-4-(6-fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methylquinolin-7-yl)benzoate (**9b**). Prepared *via* the procedure described for **9a** using **1b** (57.4 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv). White solid (0.063 g, 62%); m.p. 93–95 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1712, 1608, 1556, 1348, 1280, 1201, 1107, 1024 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.19–8.11 (m, 2H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 7.79–7.69 (m, 2H), 6.66 (s, 1H),

4.42 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 1.42 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 166.4, 161.7 (d, J = 5 Hz), 160.1 (d, J = 2 Hz), 157.1 (d, J = 248 Hz), 145.8, 139.9, 132.0 (d, J = 17 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 4 Hz), 130.0, 129.7, 129.2 (d, J = 3 Hz), 120.2 (d, J = 10 Hz), 106.8 (d, J = 25 Hz), 101.2, 61.1, 55.7, 25.9, 14.4 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -120 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₉FNO₃: 340.1343; found: 340.1336.

4-Chloro-6-fluoro-7-(1H-indol-5-yl)-2-methylquinoline (10a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C), cooled to r.t. under vacuum, and refilled with nitrogen. 5-Bromoindole (23.5 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 2a (48.2 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.25 equiv), Pd(dba)₂ (1.4 mg, 0.0024 mmol, 2.0 mol %), P(o-tol)₃ (2.2 mg, 0.0072 mmol, 6.0 mol %), and Na2CO3 (50.9 mg, 0.48 mmol, 4.0 equiv) were added, and the Schlenk flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (0.45 mL) and H₂O (0.05 mL) were added, the vessel was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 50 °C in an oil bath for 24 h.²⁸ The mixture was cooled to r.t., filtered through a short plug of Celite with DCM, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc, 98:2). Bright yellow solid (0.032 g, 86%); m.p. 160-162 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 3415, 1626, 1596, 1545, 1011, 867 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$ δ : 11.30 (bs, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.97– 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.51-7.32 (m, 2H), 6.54 (bs, 1H), 2.64 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO) \delta$: 158.9 (d, J = 2 Hz), 158.0 (d, J = 249 Hz), 145.2, 140.1 (d, J = 5 Hz), 135.9, 135.1 (d, J = 18 Hz), 130.4 (d, J = 3 Hz), 128.0, 126.4, 124.7 (d, J = 1 Hz), 123.4 (d, J = 11 Hz), 122.27, 122.24, 121.1 (d, J = 3 Hz), 111.8, 108.0 (d, J = 26 Hz), 101.8, 24.5 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) δ : -116 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₃ClFN₂: 311.0746; found: 311.0741.

6-Fluoro-4-methoxy-2-methyl-7-(piperidin-1-yl)quinoline (11b). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was dried under vacuum, cooled to r.t., and refilled with nitrogen. 3b (27.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), RuPhos (2.8 mg, 0.006 mmol, 6.0 mol %), and NaOt-Bu (24 mg, 0.25 mmol, 2.5 equiv) were added, and the Schlenk flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen 3 times. Piperidine (0.02 mL, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and toluene (1 mL) were added, and the mixture was degassed with nitrogen for 5 min. Pd₂(dba)₃ (2.7 mg, 0.003 mmol, 2.0 mol %) was then added, the vessel was sealed, and the suspension was heated to 80 °C in an oil bath for 16 h. The product was purified via column chromatography (DCM/EtOAc, 98:2 with 1% NEt₃ as modifier). Yellow oil (0.024 g, 88%); IR (film) ν_{max} 1605, 1514, 1381, 1350, 1241, 1131, 1019 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.64 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 3.99 (s, 3H), 3.23-3.09 (m, 4H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.86-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.68-1.56 (m, 2H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 161.9 (d, J = 5 Hz), 159.2 (d, J = 2 Hz), 154.5 (d, J = 249 Hz), 146.6, 145.9 (d, J = 12 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 3 Hz), 114.3 (d, J = 10 Hz), 106.4 (d, J = 24 Hz), 99.3, 55.6, 51.9 (d, J = 4 Hz), 26.0, 25.5, 24.2 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : -120 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₆H₂₀FN₂O: 275.1554; found: 275.1555.

4-Chloro-6-fluoro-2-methylquinolin-7-ol (12a). A solution of 2a (64.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in MeOH (0.5 mL) in a 5 mL screwcapped vial was cooled to 0 °C over ice. 30% H₂O₂ solution (0.02 mL, 0.24 mmol, 1.18 equiv) was gradually added, and the mixture was allowed warm slowly to r.t. and stirred at this temperature for 16 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with MeOH, quenched using saturated Na₂S₂O₃ solution (~1 mL), and MeOH was removed under reduced pressure. The mixture was then extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. White solid (0.036 g, 85%); m.p. 192-195 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1629, 1539, 1261, 1032, 797 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO) \delta$: 11.09 (bs, 1H), 7.78 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (s, 3H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (150 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$ δ : 158.7 (d, J = 2 Hz), 152.1 (d, J = 249 Hz), 149.2 (d, J = 15 Hz), 146.5, 140.0 (d, J = 5 Hz), 119.8, 117.8 (d, J = 9 Hz), 113.2 (d, J = 3 Hz), 108.1 (d, J = 21 Hz), 24.5 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$ δ : -131 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₀H₈ClFNO: 212.0273; found: 212.0269.

Methods to Access 4-Fluoroguinolones. (6-Fluoro-2-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinolin-7-yl)boronic Acid (13a). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: 1a (39.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dtbpy (1.6 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol %), B₂pin₂ (55.9 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (2.0 mg, 0.003 mmol, 1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (0.5 mL) was added via a syringe through a septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 14 h, cooled to r.t., and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude reaction mixture for 2a (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and NaOAc (32.8 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a 5 mL screwcapped vial followed by glacial acetic acid (1.25 mL). The vial was sealed and stirred at 120 °C in an aluminum heating block for 1 h, cooled to r.t., concentrated under reduced pressure, diluted with H₂O, and allowed to stand for 1 h. The resulting precipitate was isolated by suction filtration and washed with H2O and cold Et2O. Pink solid (0.030 g, 69%); m.p. 245–249 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1655, 1608, 1505, 1375, 1275, 1110 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO)$ δ : 11.68 (bs, 1H), 8.48 (s, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO) \delta$: 176.0 (d, J = 3 Hz), 160.9 (d, J = 241 Hz), 149.9, 136.3, 126.4 (d, J = 7 Hz), 125.0 (d, J = 10 Hz), 108.0 (d, J = 26 Hz), 107.6, 19.5 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: -111 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: 27 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀BFNO₃: 222.0732; found: 222.0738.

7-Bromo-6-fluoro-2-methylquinolin-4(1H)-one (13b). 3b (27.0 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added to a 5 mL screw-capped vial followed by 48% HBr solution (0.25 mL) and glacial acetic acid (0.5 mL). The vial was sealed and stirred at 150 °C in an aluminum heating block for 6 h, cooled to r.t., diluted with H₂O, and neutralized using 6 M NaOH. The resulting precipitate was isolated by suction filtration and washed with H₂O and cold Et₂O. Off-white solid (0.021 g, 82%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1639, 1601, 1558, 1272, 1021, 751 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: 11.73 (bs, 1H), 8.00–7.62 (m, 2H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: 175.4, 154.2 (d, *J* = 242 Hz), 150.5, 137.3, 125.0 (d, *J* = 5 Hz), 122.8, 113.0 (d, *J* = 24 Hz), 110.4 (d, *J* = 23 Hz), 108.1, 19.5 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: -115 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₈BrFNO: 255.9768; found: 255.9772.

6-Fluoro-2-methyl-7-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2yl)quinolin-4(1H)-one (13c). A 15 mL Schlenk flask was oven-dried (150 °C) and cooled under vacuum. The Schlenk flask was refilled with nitrogen, and all reagents were added under a positive pressure of nitrogen in the order: 1c (59.1 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), dtbpy (1.6 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol %), B2pin2 (55.9 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1.1 equiv), and [Ir(OMe)COD]₂ (2.0 mg, 0.003 mmol, 1.5 mol %). The Schlenk flask was then placed under vacuum for 20 min before being refilled with nitrogen 3 times. THF (0.5 mL) was added via a syringe through a septum, the reaction was sealed, and the mixture was heated to 80 °C in an aluminum heating block for 16 h. The reaction was cooled to r.t., diluted with MeOH, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (2 mL) and added to a small Schlenk flask, followed by 10% Pd/C (2.0 mg, 0.02 mmol, 10 mol %). The resulting suspension was purged with H₂ and then stirred under a balloon of H₂ at 50 °C for 16 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with DCM, filtered through a short plug of Celite, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product was purified via trituration from DCM/Et₂O (1:1). Beige solid (0.032 g, 53%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1643, 1561, 1373, 1340, 1265, 1142, 1035 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 11.71 (bs, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 12H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 175.7, 161.4 (d, J = 246 Hz), 150.2, 136.2, 127.9 (d, J = 7 Hz), 127.4 (d, J = 8 Hz), 108.7 (d, J = 25 Hz), 107.9, 84.2, 24.7, 19.5 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F

NMR (282 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) δ : -110 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) δ : 30 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{16}H_{20}BFNO_3$: 304.1515; found: 304.1515. *Note that compound **13c** contained a trace impurity **13a**; over time, complete conversion from **13c** to **13a** was observed in solution.

Ethyl 6-fluoro-4-oxo-7-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carboxylate (13d). Prepared via the procedure described for 13a using 1f (50.7 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), with the acid-catalyzed hydrolysis step being carried out for 2 h at 120 °C. The product was purified via trituration from a mixture of hot acetone/MeOH. White solid (0.039 g, 53%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 1694, 1613, 1534, 1401, 1334, 1265, 1143, 1043 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: 8.60 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, J= 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.39–1.18 (m, 15H) ppm; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (150 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ : 172.5, 164.8, 162.5 (d, J = 248 Hz), 145.5, 135.6, 131.0 (d, J = 6 Hz), 128.6, 109.8 (d, J = 25 Hz), 109.1, 84.2, 59.6, 26.7, 14.3 ppm; a signal for the carbon directly attached to the boron atom was not observed; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$ δ : -108 ppm; ¹¹B NMR (96 MHz, $(CD_3)_2SO$) δ : 30 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₈H₂₂BFNO₅: 362.1570; found: 362.1577. *Note that compound 13d was highly insoluble in $(CD_3)_2SO$ and degraded in solution over a matter of hours; once synthesized, the compound (~ 2 mg) was dissolved in (CD₃)₂SO with gentle heating and immediately taken for NMR analysis.

Ethyl 7-bromo-6-fluoro-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroguinoline-3-carboxylate (13e). 3f (30 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was dissolved in EtOH (2.5 mL), and 1 M HCl (0.5 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at 100 °C in an oil bath for 3 h. Upon cooling, a white precipitate formed, which was isolated via suction filtration and rinsed with H_2O , cold EtOH, and Et_2O to give 13e as a white solid (0.018 g, 64%); m.p. >250 °C; IR (film) ν_{max} 1694, 1549, 1507, 1358, 1250, 1192, 1103 cm $^{-1}$; ^1H NMR (water suppression, 600 MHz, 313 K, $(CD_3)_2SO) \delta$: 8.59 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR (150 MHz, 313 K, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: 172.2, 164.8, 155.2 (d, J = 244 Hz), 146.3 (d, J = 2 Hz), 137.3 (d, J = 3 Hz), 128.2 (d, J = 6 Hz), 124.8, 113.7 (d, J = 25 Hz), 111.3 (d, J = 23 Hz), 109.4, 59.7, 14.3 ppm; ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ: -113 ppm; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{12}H_{10}BrFNO_3$: 313.9823; found: 313.9826.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.joc.2c00973.

Supplementary experiments, experimental details, and copies of NMR spectra (PDF)

Accession Codes

CCDC 2159956–2159957 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

CCDC (2159956 (2a) and 2159957 (9a)) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ data_request/cif, by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, U.K.; Fax: +44 1223 336033.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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