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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Development of mutually orthogonal chemistries for multicomponent biomolecule labeling

DISSERTATION

submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in Chemistry

by

David N. Kamber

Dissertation Committee:

Professor Jennifer A. Prescher, Chair

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Chapter 3 © American Chemical Society

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DEDICATION

То

my family, friends, and mentors

for their support and inspiration.

Like everything metaphysical

the harmony between thought and reality

is to be found in the grammar of the language.

-Wittgenstein

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5) <u>Kamber, D.N.</u>; Liang, Y.; Briggs, J.; Houk, K.N.; Prescher, J. A: Scope and reactivity of 1,2,4-triazines in inverse electron demand Diels-Alder. *In preparation.*

4) <u>Kamber, D.N.</u>; Liang, Y.; Blizzard, R. J.; Liu, F.; Mehl, Y.; Houk, K.N.; Prescher, J. A. 1,2,4-Triazines are versatile bioorthogonal reagents. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 8388.

3) Shih, H-W.*; <u>Kamber, D.N.*</u>; Prescher, J. A. Building better bioorthogonal reactions. *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.* **2014**, *21*, 103. [*denotes equal contribution]

2) <u>Kamber, D.N.</u>; Nazarova, L.A.; Liang, Y.; Lopez, S.A.; Patterson, D.M.; Shih, H-W.; Houk, K.N.; Prescher, J.A. Isomeric cyclopropenes exhibit unique bioorthogonal reactivities. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 13680.

1) Patterson, D. M.; Nazarova, L. A.; Xie, B.; <u>Kamber, D. N.</u>; Prescher, J. A. Functionalized cyclopropenes as bioorthogonal chemical reporters. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 18638.

PRESENTATIONS

4) <u>David N. Kamber</u>, Yong Liang, Robert J. Blizzard, Fang Liu, Ryan A. Mehl, K. N. Houk, and Jennifer A. Prescher, "Development of mutually orthogonal chemistries for multicomponent labeling," oral presentation, Bader Awards Symposium, Milwaukee, WI, August 13, 2015.

3) <u>David N. Kamber</u>, Lidia A. Nazarova, Yong Liang, Steven A. Lopez, David M. Patterson, Hui-Wen Shih, K. N. Houk, and Jennifer A. Prescher, "Design and synthesis of isomeric cyclopropenes for bioorthogonal chemistry," poster presentation, *248th ACS National Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, August 10-14, 2014.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

Development of mutually orthogonal chemistries for multicomponent biomolecule labeling

By

David N. Kamber Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry University of California, Irvine, 2015 Professor Jennifer A. Prescher, Chair

The bioorthogonal chemical reporter strategy provides a method for selectively labeling biomolecules with detectable probes. This strategy relies on the incorporation of a unique reporter into a biomolecule, followed by a covalent ligation with a secondary reagent. This approach can be used to visualize or retrieve biomolecules in complex environments. Over the past decade, the bioorthogonal chemical reporter strategy has been successfully applied to label and study various biomolecules in complex systems. However, the scope of this method has been hindered by a lack of reactions that are compatible with each other. Most of the popular bioorthogonal reagents to date cross react, precluding multicomponent imaging studies and other applications. To address this issue and expand the scope of the chemical reporter strategy, new reagents and chemistries were developed and their reactivities were analyzed.

In Chapter 1, I highlight the most commonly used bioorthogonal reactions, discuss the reactivity of the different reactions, and emphasize areas of improvements and sources of inspiration for thinking about bioorthogonal reactions. In Chapter 2, I focus on the development of new candidate reactions for biomolecule labeling. More specifically, the reactivity of 1,3-disubstituted and 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes with tetrazines and nitrile imines is discussed.

3,3-Disubstituted cyclopropenes were shown to exhibit orthogonal reactivity with tetrazines, but still react robustly with nitrile imine probes. In Chapter 3, I discuss the development of 1,2,4-triazine as a novel diene for bioorthogonal labeling applications. 1,2,4-Triazines were synthesized via an expedient route, and their reactivity and stability were analyzed. 1,2,4-Triazines were shown to exhibit robust stability and selective reactivity with *trans*-cyclooctene over other commonly used strained dienophiles. Additionally, a non-canonical amino acid comprising the triazine motif was synthesized and successfully used to tag model proteins. In Chapter 4, the reactivity profile of the triazine scaffold is discussed. I analyzed the reactivity of isomeric 1,2,4-triazines with a panel of commonly used bioorthogonal reagents. A combination of steric and electronic perturbations was applied to the development of cycloaddition reactions that could be used simultaneously.

Collectively, this thesis explores novel chemical reagents for bioorthogonal chemistry. New chemical reagents that exhibit mutually orthogonal reactivity are developed and used to label biomolecules. Looking ahead, the chemistries described here will advance the scope of the chemical reporter strategy for multicomponent studies.

CHAPTER 1: Building better bioorthogonal reactions

Hui-Wen Shih contributed to the work presented in this chapter.

1.1 Introduction

Our understanding of living systems is being continually shaped and refined by unique chemical tools. Included in this group are selective, covalent reactions that can be used to target large biopolymers, small molecule metabolites, and other cellular species with probes for visualization or identification [1]. These reactions are minimally perturbing to biological systems and, thus, have been collectively termed 'bioorthogonal'. Bioorthogonal chemistries were initially employed to examine glycans and other biopolymers in cells, but they have since been applied in numerous other contexts. The early successes of these transformations also inspired nearly two decades of research toward building faster and more exquisitely selective reactions. Impressively, there are now over twenty unique chemistries suitable for tagging isolated biomolecules, with nearly half being reported within the past five years [2].

While the bioorthogonal toolkit continues to expand at a rapid pace, the seamless transition of these chemistries into the most complex settings — live cells and organisms — has not been fully realized. This is due, in part, to a lack of functional groups that operate under the most extreme conditions. These groups must be stable in aqueous environments, yet robustly reactive with complementary probes. The motifs must also be sufficiently bioavailable to reach their targets, yet remain inert to surrounding molecules, cells, and even tissues. Only a handful of bioorthogonal chemistries — out of the dozens

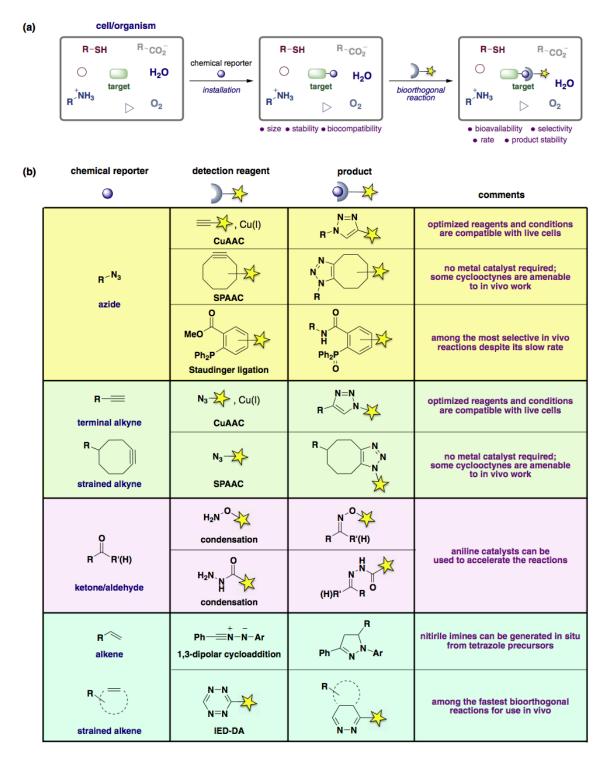


Figure 1-1. Chemical reporters and bioorthogonal chemistries for biomolecule tagging *in vivo*. (A) Considerations for bioorthogonal reaction development. Chemical reporters (blue circles) must be installed onto target biomolecules and remain stable in cellular environments. The covalent labeling reaction with a complementary functional groups (blue arc) must also provide stable adducts and be minimally perturbing to surrounding biomolecules (shapes). (B) Popular bioorthogonal reagents and reactions for *in vivo* use.

reported to date — satisfy these stringent criteria [2]. And, among these, no one reaction has emerged as a perfect fit for all applications.

Designing and building better bioorthogonal reactions thus remain important goals in chemical biology. Such efforts require exceptional functional groups that interface well with biological systems and exhibit reliable, biocompatible reactivities. In this chapter, individual functional groups that underlie the most successful bioorthogonal reactions *in vivo* are highlighted. Recent efforts to tune the reactivities and stabilities of these motifs using physical organic chemistry principles are also discussed. Last, ongoing work to not only identify improved bioorthogonal chemistries, but also *combinations* of reactions that are orthogonal to one another and can be used in concert for biomolecule tracking are discussed. An arsenal of such reactions will enable more complex biological networks to be examined in real time and paint a more complete picture of living systems.

1.2 Paving the way with 'privileged' scaffolds

Applications of bioorthogonal chemistries *in vivo* typically involve two steps. First, a metabolic substrate, biomolecule (e.g., antibody), or other target is outfitted with a biocompatible functional group (i.e., a 'chemical reporter') and introduced into the cell or organism (Figure 1-1a). Once the reporter has reached its target, the second step involves a selective (bioorthogonal) reaction with a complementary probe. In most cases, the secondary probe is outfitted with a visual tag or affinity agent to facilitate either the direct detection or isolation of the target biomolecule (Figure 1-1a) [3]. While both the reporter and its partner probe must be compatible with living systems, the criteria placed on the reporter are often more stringent. This group must be minimally perturbing to the target structure to avoid interfering with its normal activity. The

reporter must also tolerate cellular environments for extended periods of time. Few functional groups satisfy these requirements, and most are quite stable and small in size (Figure 1-1b). These 'privileged' scaffolds and their associated bioorthogonal reactions are briefly described below [4].

1.2a Azides

The organic azide is arguably the most recognized chemical reporter to date. This functional group is remarkably compatible with cells and nascent biosynthetic pathways owing to its small size and stability [5]. Azides can be readily detected with soft nucleophiles and dipolarophiles — motifs that are similarly bioorthogonal [6,7]. The most popular azide-specific ligation is the Huisgen 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with terminal alkynes. This reaction requires alkyne activation (often via a Cu (I) catalyst) to proceed under physiological conditions [8]. The copper-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) is ubiquitous in chemical biology, but has been historically difficult to apply *in vivo* due to its tri-component nature and concerns over copper cytotoxicity [9]. However, new metal-chelating reagents obviate the need for large quantities of copper [10,11] and are broadening the scope of CuAAC *in vivo* [12,13]. Other azide- alkyne cycloadditions eliminate metal catalysts altogether, relying instead on strain energies to promote reactivity (*vide infra*) [14]. Combinations of these reactions have recently been used to track biomolecules in human pathogens [15], visualize neuronal proteins [16] and examine cell wall biosynthesis [17,18].

1.2b Terminal alkynes

In addition to being popular reaction partners for azides, terminal alkynes are also 'privileged' chemical reporters. These functional groups are small and compatible with a variety of enzymatic pathways and cellular environments [19,20]. Terminal alkynes are also found in various natural products, indicating that these motifs possess some degree of metabolic stability. Unlike their azido counterparts, though, fewer bioorthogonal transformations exist to detect alkynes. CuAAC with azido probes remains the reaction of choice, and this chemistry has been slower to transition into live cells and organisms.

1.2c Ketones and aldehydes

Ketones and aldehydes rival azides and alkynes in terms of size, and were among the first reagents pursued for bioorthogonal reaction development. These functional groups, while abundant inside cells in the form of monosaccharides, are virtually absent on cell surfaces and in extracellular spaces. Thus, ketones and aldehydes achieve bioorthogonality by being used in *unnatural* contexts. Both motifs can be affixed to surface biomolecules using metabolic probes or other reagents, and then subsequently detected via covalent reaction with hydrazides or aminooxy probes. Aldehydes can also be tagged using a recently reported Pictet–Spengler-type reaction [21]. This transformation offers improved kinetics and more stable oxacarboline adducts than traditional aldehyde ligations.

1.2d Alkenes

Alkenes are the newest members of the bioorthogonal toolkit. They are attractive chemical reporters owing to their small size, stability, and propensity to react with either 1,3-dipoles or dienes. These latter cycloadditions typically require heating or high pressures to proceed at reasonable rates, but can also be driven using electronically modified or strained alkenes [22,23]. Indeed, the reaction between strained *trans*-cyclooctene (TCO) and tetrazines proceeds readily in biological solutions and live cells. This inverse electron-demand Diels–Alder

(IED-DA) reaction is among the fastest bioorthogonal reactions reported to date, with secondorder rate constants now approaching $10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in some cases [24]. IED-DA reactions with TCO and tetrazine have been used to visualize biological processes that occur on rapid time scales in preclinical models, where only minimal amounts of reagent can be used [24,25].

1.2e Tetrazines

Like alkenes, some tetrazines are both small and stable enough to be used as chemical reporters in living systems. Most harbor fewer electron-withdrawing substituents than tetrazines typically employed for IED-DA reactions. Electron-rich tetrazines are less susceptible to hydrolysis and attack by biological nucleophiles, and are thus more desirable for use *in vivo* and intracellular environments, in particular. Stabilized tetrazines have recently been introduced into recombinant proteins via unnatural amino acid mutagenesis. The heterocyclic amino acid derivatives survived prolonged incubation times in cellular media and could be covalently detected with strained alkenes (*vide infra*).

1.3 Tuning reagent reactivities and biocompatibilities

As noted above, bioorthogonal functional groups must often be tuned to achieve suitable reaction rates or biocompatibilities for use *in vivo*. Rapid transformations are essential for numerous imaging and drug delivery studies, as only small doses of probe can typically be used [25,26,27]. Reagents must also be sufficiently hydrophilic to avoid 'sticking' to surrounding biomolecules. Fortunately, most bioorthogonal functional groups can be readily modified to achieve desired properties (Figure 1-2).

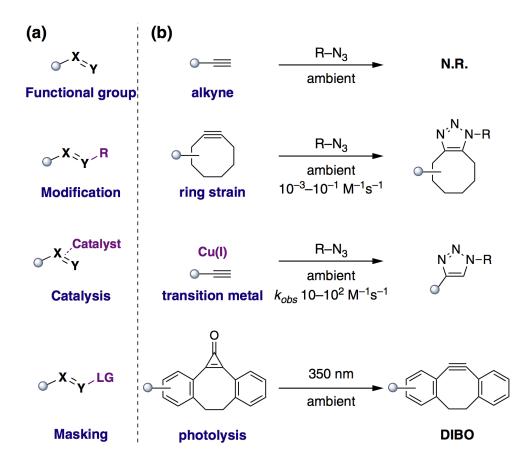


Figure 1-2. Functional group tuning for improved bioorthogonal reactivity. (A) Strategies to "activate" functional groups for efficient bioorthogonal ligation. (B) Examples of strategies used to activate alkynes for covalent reaction with organic azides. Under ambient conditions, no reaction between the functional groups is observed. Alkynes activated via ring strain or metal catalysis, though, are poised to undergo rapid bioorthogonal cycloaddition with azides. Reactive strained alkynes (e.g., DIBO) can also be liberated "on demand" via photolysis.

1.3a Modifying intrinsic properties

One of the most common methods to enhance bioorthogonal reactivity exploits ring strain. As noted above, alkenes and terminal alkynes are attractive chemical reporters based on size and stability. However, these motifs do not react with complementary bioorthogonal functional groups under mild conditions. Several groups have shown that alkene-based and alkyne-based reactions can be driven via ring strain (Figure 1-2b) [28]. For example, the strained alkenes TCO and cyclopropene react with electron-deficient dienes via IED-DA reactions in physiological environments. Similarly, over twelve different strained cycloalkynes have been reported to react with azides under ambient conditions and in live cells [1].

In recent years, efforts to further tune different classes of strained reagents have revealed even more rapid bioorthogonal ligations. For example, Fox demonstrated that when TCO is fused to a cyclopropane ring, the reagent is forced to adopt a highly strained half-chair conformation. This constrained alkene reacts more rapidly in IED-DA reactions than TCO itself [29] and is especially advantageous for detecting the electron-rich (and less reactive) tetrazines used in recombinant protein production [30]. Chin and Lemke also showed that cyclopropane-fused cyclooctynes (i.e., bicyclononynes) offer improved reaction speeds for protein tagging applications in live cells [31,32]. Most recently, Lin and colleagues reported a strained spirocyclic alkene that exhibits accelerated cycloaddition rates relative to parental cyclopropenes [33]. Such small, hydrophilic, and fast-reacting bioorthogonal reagents are desirable for cellular and *in vivo* imaging where excess probe and non-specific binding must be avoided.

In addition to reaction speed, steric and electronic modifications can also dramatically influence bioorthogonal reagent stability and lipophilicity [27,28]. Indeed, optimizing for ligation speed often comes at the expense of probe stability or biocompatibility. In the case of tetrazines, Hilderbrand and coworkers demonstrated that small, electron-withdrawing substituents enhanced IED-DA reactivity (due to favorable FMO interactions in the transition state); however, these same modifications also promoted hydrolytic degradation of the tetrazine scaffold [34]. Similarly, some of the fastest reacting TCO motifs are the least stable *in vitro* and *in vivo* [24,30,34], while many of the most stable alkenes exhibit the slowest IED-DA rates

[35,36]. Striking the right balance of stability and reactivity is an ongoing challenge in bioorthogonal reaction development. However, systematic tuning will continue to refine bioorthogonal reagents for applications in cells and organisms, and perhaps reveal entirely new classes of reactions. Indeed, efforts to modulate cycloalkynes uncovered new manifolds of reactivity between cyclooctynes and various 1,3-dipoles [37,38,39].

1.4 Engineering reagents for 'on demand' reactivity

Bioorthogonal reagents can also be tuned for desired levels of reactivity and stability using extrinsic controls. Many current strategies involve liberating bioorthogonal groups with mild chemistries or exposure to light. These exogenous triggers enable highly reactive (and perhaps unstable) functional groups to be generated only when needed.

1.4a Chemical activation

One straightforward approach to controlling bioorthogonal chemistries involves synthesizing the reactants 'on demand'. For example, nitrones are attractive chemical reporters owing to their small size and rapid reactivity with strained alkynes. However, some nitrones are chemically unstable and not amenable to long-term storage. These 1,3-dipoles can be generated *in situ* from more stable precursors, including aldehydes and methylhydroxylamine. Boons and van Delft used this strategy to introduce nitrones into model proteins for subsequent reaction with cyclooctynes [40]. Similar chemical activation strategies have been reported for nitrile oxides [41], some diazo compounds [38,39], and oxidation-prone dienes [42]. Catalytic chemical activation strategies are also possible (Figure 1-2b). The most well known example, of course, is alkyne activation via CuAAC, although other metal catalysts have been recently explored [43]. Metal catalysts can also promote alkene reactivity. In a recent example, Davis and co-workers

utilized a Ru(II) catalyst to drive cross-metathesis reactions with allylselenides and allylsulfides on model proteins [44]. Further developments in catalytic activation are expected following recent reports on biocompatible palladium-mediated reactions [45,46,47]. Ongoing work in organocatalysis will also obviate the need for toxic metals in generating bioorthogonal agents 'on demand' [48,49].

1.4b Photoactivation

In addition to exogenous chemicals, light can be used to activate bioorthogonal motifs for reactivity. Popik and Boons reported one of the earliest examples of this approach, using cyclopropenone to conceal a strained alkyne (dibenzocyclooctyne or DIBO, Figure 1-2b). DIBO reacts rapidly with organic azides, but is prone to nucleophilic attack by endogenous thiols. Cyclopropenone protects the alkyne from such non-specific reactivity, and upon exposure to UV light, the mask is released (as CO) and functional DIBO is generated. Photoactivation thus enables exquisite temporal and spatial control over the labeling reaction [50,51,52]. Lin and others exploited a similar strategy to generate reactive nitrile imines (for 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with unactivated alkenes) from tetrazoles [53,54]. Some recently reported tetrazoles can be photolyzed with near-IR light, improving the *in vivo* compatibility of this approach [55].

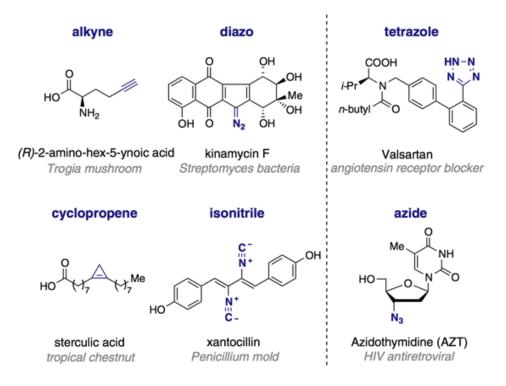


Figure 1-3. Inspiration for new bioorthogonal reagent discovery. Structures of representative natural products and therapeutic drugs harboring "bioorthogonal" functional groups (highlighted in blue).

1.5 Unfinished work

The majority of bioorthogonal functional groups are not 'bioorthogonal' in the truest sense of the word. Many are prone to hydrolysis over time, and some react with endogenous thiols or other biomolecules at high concentrations [20]. Additionally, many of the most popular bioorthogonal motifs are incompatible with one another and cannot be used concurrently to probe multiple biomolecules or cellular processes in vivo [2]. These limitations underscore the need for continued optimization of existing bioorthogonal reagents, along with efforts to discover new ones.

1.5a Establishing new platforms of reactivity

The hunt for new bioorthogonal functionality can take important cues from complex natural products. Microbes and other species produce an array of richly functionalized molecules harboring motifs not present in higher eukaryotes (Figure 1-3a). Translating such naturally occurring, 'privileged' groups into unnatural settings (e.g., mammalian cells) can be a fruitful starting point for reaction development. Indeed, popular bioorthogonal motifs, including terminal alkynes, have been identified in microbial metabolites and other natural products [56]. Several newly minted bioorthogonal reagents, including cyclopropenes and cyanobenzothiazoles, also have precedence in nature [57–59]. Careful analysis of natural product structures will likely reveal even more promising bioorthogonal functional groups.

Further inspiration for bioorthogonal motifs can be gleaned from drug discovery efforts [60]. Small molecule drugs are subjected to rigorous assays for toxicity, lipophilicity, and bioavailability-parameters relevant to bioorthogonality. The remarkable biocompatibility of organic azides was suggested over 30 years ago during preclinical work on azidothymidine (AZT). Similar data exist for tetrazoles, syndones, and other pharmacophores now gaining prominence in bioorthogonal reactions (Figure 1-3b) [61]. Efforts to improve reagent stabilities and reactivities will also benefit from drug discovery practices, where optimization of 'lead' scaffolds is routine. Indeed, Taran and colleagues recently employed modern screening techniques to rapidly identify new reaction partners for established bioorthogonal motifs [62].

1.5b Designing better reactions in silico

In parallel with new reaction discovery, efforts to improve existing bioorthogonal transformations will be beneficial. Toward this end, computational labs have identified algorithms that can reliably predict activation energy barriers for various bioorthogonal cycloadditions. Already, these approaches have revealed insights into improved cyclooctyne and cyclopropene structures, reactivities, and stabilities [33,63,64,65]. Equally as important, computational methods can provide information on scaffolds to avoid in designing new bioorthogonal chemistries.

1.5c Identifying 'orthogonal' bioorthogonal reactions

In silico analyses are also aiding in the identification of pairs and even groups of bioorthogonal chemistries that are compatible with one another and applicable to multicomponent tracking. A complete understanding of biological networks requires methods to track not just individual biomolecules, but combinations of molecules simultaneously. Unfortunately, many bioorthogonal reagents (especially strained alkenes and alkynes) are ill suited for such studies due to cross-reactivities [31]. Thus, identifying reactions that not only work well in vivo, but that also perform well in concert with established transformations is a major challenge (Figure 1-4a) [66,67,68]. Several efforts to map out pairs — and even groups — of mutually orthogonal reactions are well underway [66,69,70,71]. In 2012, we demonstrated that IED-DA with cyclopropenes and SPAAC with azides are mutually orthogonal and can be used concurrently for biomolecule visualization [36]. Others have since employed these mutually orthogonal reactions for the production of non-natural proteins and other applications [72,73]. Aided by computational work, we further identified a pair of regioisomeric cyclopropenes that exhibit unique cycloaddition preferences (Figure 1-4b) [63]. These and other 'orthogonal' bioorthogonal chemistries will enable more detailed looks into multi-component biological processes.

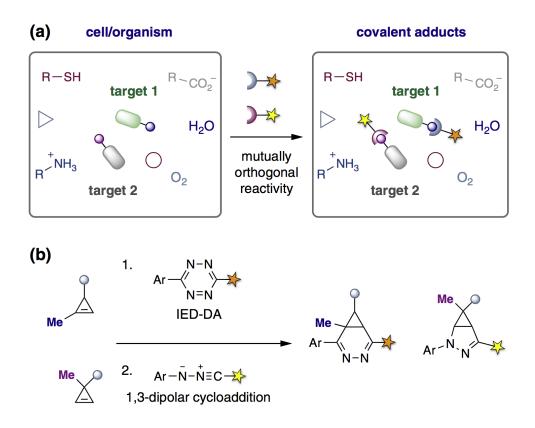


Figure 1-4. Expanding the bioorthogonal toolkit. (A) Compatible and "orthogonal" bioorthogonal reactions enable the detection of multiple biomolecules in complex environments. (B) Regioisomeric cyclopropenes exhibit unique cycloaddition reactivities and can be used in tandem for multi-component labeling experiments. 1,3-Disubstituted cyclopropenes can be selectively ligated with tetrazines via IED-DA ligation. 3,3-Disubstituted cyclopropenes can be readily reacted with nitrile imines via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition.

1.6 Conclusions

Bioorthogonal reactions have provided unprecedented views of biomolecule structures and functions in complex environments. Despite their success in revealing new facets of biology, limitations remain: (1) many bioorthogonal reagents are too large or unstable for tagging native biomolecules in live cells, and (2) many of the most common reactions are incompatible with one another, limiting their utility for studies of multiple biomolecules in tandem. Thus, identifying new bioorthogonal reagents and reactions that are not only suitable for use *in vivo* — but that also work well in tandem — remain important goals. A handful of 'privileged' motifs for in vivo use have been identified over the years, and efforts to improve their reactivities and biocompatibilities have benefited from a combi- nation of experimental work and computational chemistry. Continued, systematic optimization of these reagents and newly discovered ones will further expand the bioorthogonal toolkit.

In this thesis, new reagents and chemistries that expand the scope of the chemical reporter strategy are discussed. By tuning the steric properties of cyclopropenes, sequential labeling of biomolecules is accomplished. Additionally, 1,2,4-triazines are developed as alternative dienes for bioorthogonal chemistry. Furthermore, steric tuning of 1,2,4-triazines facilitated the development of compatible [4+2] cycloadditions. Collectively, these chemical transformations expand the bioorthogonal toolbox for multicomponent labeling.

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CHAPTER 2: Isomeric cyclopropenes exhibit unique

reactivities

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2.1 Introduction

The bioorthogonal chemical reporter strategy introduced in chapter 1, has been widely used to interrogate glycans and other biopolymers in living systems [1-5]. This approach relies on the introduction of a uniquely reactive functional group (i.e., a "chemical reporter") into a biomolecule of interest. The chemical reporter can be ligated to probes for visualization or retrieval using highly selective (i.e., "bioorthogonal") chemistries [2,6]. While powerful, this two-step strategy has been largely limited to examining one biological feature at a time in live cells and tissues. This is because many bioorthogonal reactions are incompatible with one another and cannot be used in tandem to monitor multiple species [7-12].

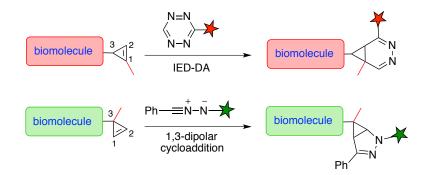


Figure 2-1. Cyclopropene scaffolds undergo bioorthogonal cycloadditions. 1,3-Disubstituted cyclopropenes (top) react with tetrazines. 3,3-Disubstituted scaffolds (bottom) react with 1,3-dipoles to afford covalent adducts.

Our long-term goal is to identify transformations that can be used concurrently to tag biomolecules in complex environments. As a starting point, we were drawn to the cycloaddition reactions of cyclopropenes. Functionalized cyclopropenes are stable in physiological environments, yet readily reactive with dienes and other biocompatible motifs [13-17]. We and others have shown that 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes can be metabolically incorporated into cellular glycans and selectively ligated via inverse-electron demand Diels–Alder (IED-DA) reactions with tetrazines (Figure 2-1) [14-16,18]. In related work, Lin and colleagues demonstrated that 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes can be introduced into proteins and ultimately detected via 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition with nitrile imines (Figure 2-1) [16]. This reaction, similar to the cyclopropene-tetrazine ligation, proceeds readily in cellular environments.

We were intrigued by cyclopropene IED-DA and dipolar cycloadditions for an additional reason: these reactions had the potential to be orthogonal to one another and, thus, applicable to multi-component biomolecule labeling. In earlier work, we observed that 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes react with tetrazines at the least-hindered face of the three-membered ring (i.e., the side bearing the C-3 H atom) [14]. Additional steric bulk at this position (as in the case of 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes) would, in theory, impede IED-DA reactivity but not impact cycloadditions with less sterically encumbered reactants (e.g., 1,3-dipoles).

2.2 Computational analysis on the reactivity of isomeric cyclopropenes

To predict whether cyclopropene reactivity could be tuned with steric modifications at C-3, we examined the reactions of 1,3- and 3,3-dimethylcyclopropene (Cp(1,3) and Cp(3,3)) with diphenyl-substituted nitrile imine (NI) and tetrazine (Tz), using density functional theory (DFT) calculations [19]. M06-2X [20,21], a density functional that provides relatively accurate energetics for cycloadditions [22,23], was used to generate the transition-state structures shown in Figure 2-2. We also analyzed activation barriers using the distortion/interaction model [24,25], in which the activation energy (E_{act}) is analyzed in terms of the distortion energy (E_{dist}) required for the reactants to achieve their transition-state geometries, and the interaction energy (E_{int}) arising from orbital overlap between the two distorted reactants in the transition state. The computed activation free energies in water (G_{water}), relative rate constants (k_{rel}), and distortion/interaction energies are provided in Figure 2-2 and Table S2.1.

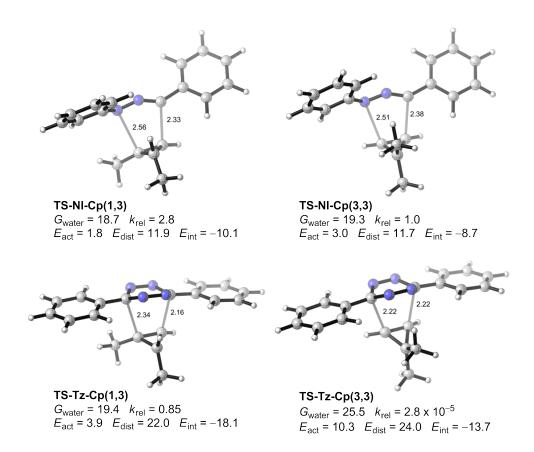


Figure 2-2. M06-2X/6-31G(d)-optimized transition-state structures for the cycloadditions of 1,3and 3,3-dimethylcyclopropene [Cp(1,3) and Cp(3,3)] with diphenyl-substituted nitrile imine (NI) and tetrazine (Tz). M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p)//6-31G(d)-computed energies and relative rate constants (distances in Å, energies in kcal/mol, k_{rel} based on G_{water} at 298 K) are also shown.

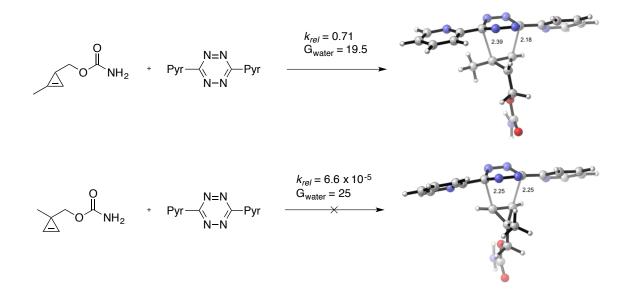


Figure 2-3. M06-2X/6-31G(d)-optimized transition-state structures for the cycloadditions of 3carbamoyloxymethyl-1-methylcyclopropene and 3-carbamoyloxymethyl-3-methylcyclopropene with dipyridyl-substituted tetrazine. M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p)//6-31G(d)-computed activation free energies and relative rate constants (distances in Å, energies in kcal/mol, k_{rel} based on G_{water} at 298 K) are also shown.

Our calculations indicated that for the sterically less encumbered nitrile imine, 1,3dimethylcyclopropene reacts only 2.8 times faster than 3,3-dimethylcyclopropene. The distortion and interaction energies are very close, suggesting that increased steric bulk at C-3 of the cyclopropene does not dramatically influence reactivity with linear 1,3-dipoles (Figure 2-3). However, for the bulkier tetrazine, placement of a single methyl group at C-3 reduces cyclopropene reactivity by over four orders of magnitude in the IED-DA reaction (Figure 2-3). In the transition state **TS-Tz-Cp(3,3)**, to avoid steric clashes between the C-3 methyl and tetrazine nitrogens, the dihedral angle between the cyclopropene plane and the C-C bondsforming plane increases to 120°, about 15° larger than the corresponding value in **TS-Tz-Cp(1,3)**. In Figure 2-2, note how the cyclopropene C-3 and methyl groups are tilted away from the tetrazine. This results in increased distortion energy (24.0 versus 22.0 kcal/mol) and less favorable interaction energy (13.7 versus 18.1 kcal/mol) due to poorer orbital overlap. Similar reactivities were predicted for more functionalized cyclopropenes and tetrazines (Figure 2-3). Collectively, these data suggest that isomeric cyclopropenes possess unique bioorthogonal reactivities: 3,3-disubstitued cyclopropenes should react readily with nitrile imines, but not tetrazines, under physiological conditions; 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes, by contrast, should react readily with both.

2.3 Synthesis and reactivity of isomeric cyclopropenes

To test these predictions, we synthesized a panel of disubstituted cyclopropenes bearing methyl groups at either C-1 or C-3. The scaffolds also comprise amide or carbamate groups as these linkages mimic those found in numerous bioconjugates. The amide-functionalized probes **2.1a-b** were synthesized similarly to previous reports (Scheme 2-1) [14-16]. In brief, esters **2.3a-b** were first subjected to base-catalyzed hydrolysis. The resulting acids (**2.4a-b**) were subsequently treated with PFP-TFA, followed by isopropylamine to access the desired probes. To prepare the carbamate scaffolds, esters **2.3a-b** were first reduced with DIBAL-H. The reaction with **2.3b** was prone to cyclopropane formation; over-reduction was avoided at -78 °C. Alcohols **2.5a-b** were ultimately converted to the desired carbamates (**2.2a-b**) via CDI coupling with isopropylamine, followed by TMS removal.

Scheme 2-1. Synthesis of disubstituted cyclopropenes.

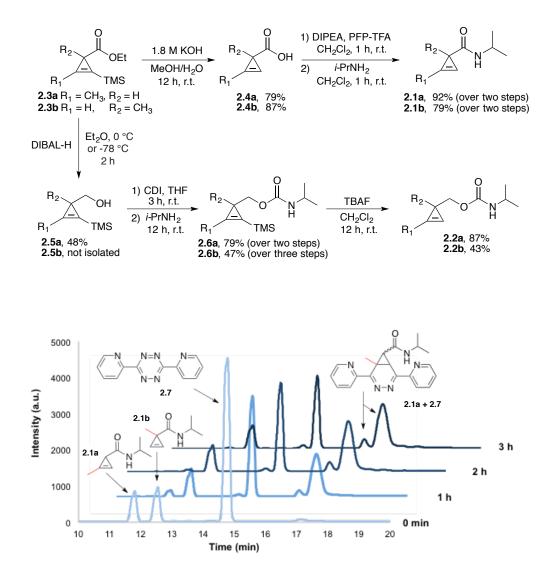


Figure 2-4. Tetrazines react selectively with 1,3-disubstitued cyclopropenes. Cyclopropenes **2.1a-b** (5 mM in 15% MeCN/PBS) were treated with tetrazine **2.7** (10 mM) and monitored by HPLC. The initial cycloadduct formed between **2.1a** and **2.7** can undergo further intramolecular cyclization in aqueous solution [14].

 Table 2-1.
 Second-order rate constants for the cyclopropene-tetrazine ligation. All rate constants were measured in 15% DMSO/PBS.
 *No reaction observed after 90 min.

	Cyclopropene		Tetrazine	<i>k</i> ₂ (x 10 ⁻² M ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)
2.1a	N N N	2.7	$ \overset{= N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} $	3.91 ± 0.45
2.1b	N H	2.7	$ \left< \!\!\! \begin{array}{c} \stackrel{N}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \stackrel{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \right> $	N/R*
2.1b	N N N	2.8		N/R*
2.2a	N↓	2.7	$ \overset{= N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} $	277.8 ± 36.6
2.2b	∑ o H H	2.7	$ \overset{= N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=N}{\longrightarrow} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} \overset{N=}{\bigwedge} $	N/R*
2.2b	∑ o L N L	2.8	N=N N-N OH	N/R*

With the desired cyclopropenes in hand, we analyzed their reactivity with model tetrazines (Figure 2-4) (Table 2-1). Tetrazines **2.7-2.8** were incubated with excess cyclopropene, and the cycloadditions were monitored by the change in tetrazine absorbance over time (Table 2-1). Robust IED-DA reactivity was observed with the 1,3-disubstituted scaffolds **2.1a** and **2.2a**, while no reactivity was detected with their 3,3-disubstituted counterparts in organic or aqueous solvents (**2.1b** and **2.2b**) (Figure 2-5). It should also be noted that the tetrazine-cyclopropene ligations revealed the expected trends, with the more electron-rich carbamates and less sterically hindered tetrazine exhibiting the fastest rates (Table 2-2 and Figure 2-6) [26-27].

Despite their extremely sluggish reaction kinetics with tetrazines, 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes react readily with nitrile imines in "photo-click" reactions [16]. Indeed, when micromolar concentrations of **2.1b** and **2.9** were subjected to UV light (generating **2.10** *in situ*), the fluorescent cycloadduct **2.11** was formed (Scheme 2-2). The corresponding 1,3-cyclopropene **2.1a** also reacted rapidly with **2.10** to provide the rearranged cycloadduct **2.12**. Similar rearrangements have been observed in cycloadditions with cyclopropenes and nitrile oxides [28]. Both ligation products **2.11** and **2.12** were found to be stable in aqueous solution for over three days. Importantly, nitrile imine **2.10** could also be generated in the presence of tetrazine **2.7** with no observable side reactivity, highlighting the compatibility of these reagents (Figure 2-7).

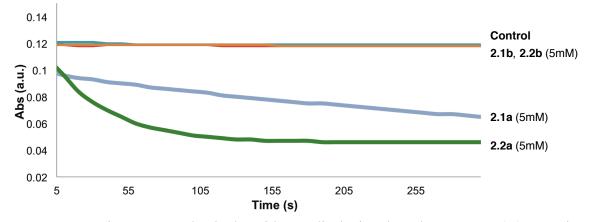
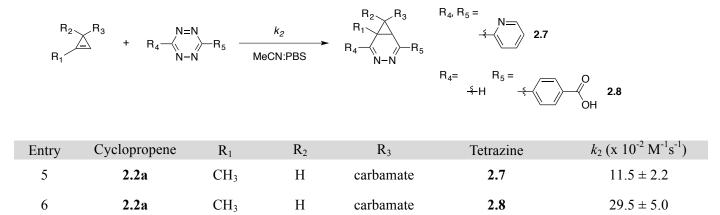


Figure 2-5. Tetrazines react selectively with 1,3-disubstitued cyclopropenes. (A) Reaction of cyclopropenes **2.1-2.2** (5 mM in 15% DMSO/PBS) with tetrazine **2.7** (0.2 mM) monitored by UV-visible spectroscopy

Table 2-2. Selective IED-DA reactivity observed between cyclopropene and tetrazine scaffolds.*No reaction observed after 90 min.



carbamate

carbamate

2.7

2.8

N/R*

N/R*

7

8

2.2b

2.2b

Η

Η

 CH_3

 CH_3

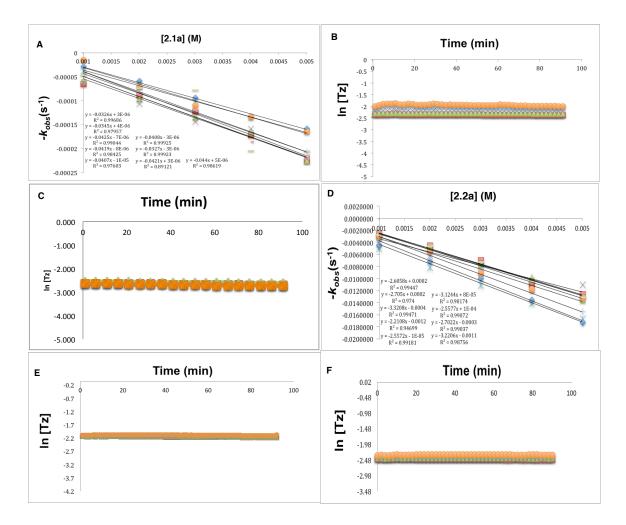


Figure 2-6. Plots used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) between: (A) 2.1a and 2.7 in 15% DMSO/PBS, (B) 2.1b and 2.7 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS, (C) 2.1a and 2.8 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS, (D) 2.2a and 2.7 in 15% DMSO/PBS, (E) 2.2b and 2.7 in 15% DMSO/PBS, (F) 2.2b and 2.8 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS,

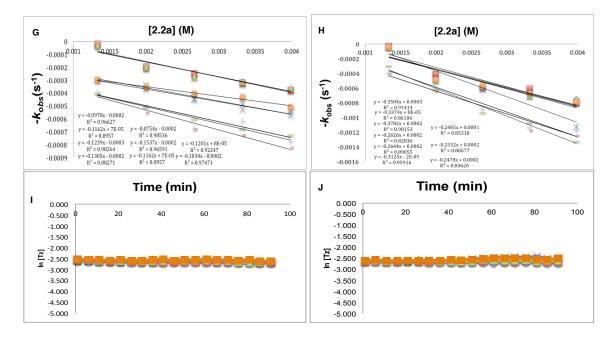
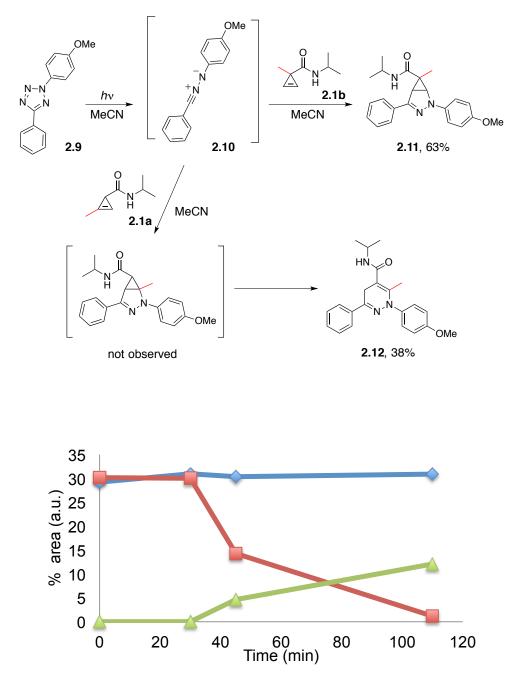


Figure 2-6. Plots used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) between: (G) 2.2a and 2.7 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS, (H) 2.2a and 2.8 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS, (I) 2.2b and 2.7 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS, and (J) 2.2b and 2.8 in 1:1 MeCN:PBS.



Scheme 2-2. Cyclopropenes react with nitrile imines to generate stable cycloadducts.

Figures 2-7. Nitrile imines and tetrazines exhibit no side reactivity. Tetrazole **2.9** (red) (2.2 mM), tetrazine **2.7** (blue) (2.2 mM), and cyclopropene **2.1b** (6 mM) were stirred for 30 min in a quartz test tube at RT prior to photoirradiation with a handheld UV lamp (110 min, 302 nm, Zilla, 20 watts). Reaction aliquots were analyzed by HPLC. The disappearance of tetrazole **2.9** was concurrent with the appearance of cycloadduct **2.11** (green). No change in peak area was observed for tetrazine **2.7**.

2.4 Chemical labeling of model proteins using isomeric cyclopropenes

The unique reactivity profiles of 1,3- and 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes suggested that the probes could be used in tandem for biomolecule labeling. To test this hypothesis, we functionalized model proteins (BSA and lysozyme) with the isomeric cyclopropenes 2.13a-b using standard coupling conditions (Figure 2-8). Mass spectrometry analysis was used to verify that equivalent numbers of cyclopropenes were appended to the biomolecules (Figure 2-8). When the proteins were treated with a tetrazine-rhodamine conjugate (Tz-Rho), only samples functionalized with 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes (Cp (1,3)) showed robust dose- and timedependent labeling, in agreement with our kinetic data (Figures 2-9B, 2-10, 2-12A-B). No labeling above background was observed with proteins outfitted with 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes (Cp (3,3)). Both Cp (1,3) and Cp (3,3) samples were covalently modified with nitrile imines using "photo-click" conditions (Figures 2-9C, 2-12C). The fluorescent intensities of the Cp (1,3) adducts were somewhat reduced, though, likely due to the decreased absorption efficiency of the products (2.12 versus 2.11, Figure 2-11). When conjugates Cp (1,3) and Cp (3,3) were subjected to both cycloaddition reactions (treatment with Tz-Rho, followed by 2.10), tetrazine labeling was again only observed for Cp (1.3) samples. The Cp (3.3) samples, along with unmodified scaffolds on Cp (1,3), were detected following nitrile imine generation (Figures 2-9D, 2-12D).

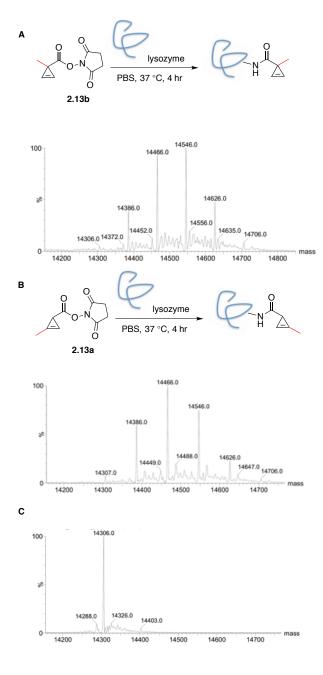


Figure 2-8. Mass spectrometry analysis of lysozyme treated with (A) 3,3-disubstituted cyclopropene 2.13b, (B) 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropene 2.13a, or (C) or no reagent.

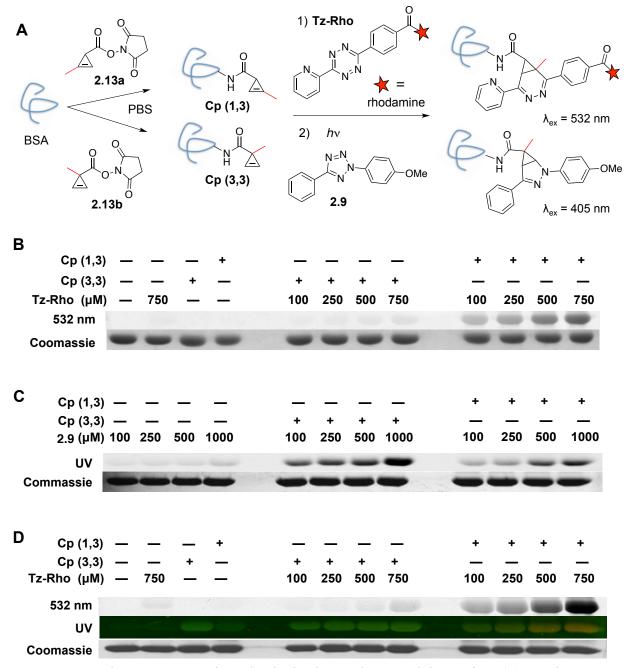


Figure 2-9. Cyclopropenes can be selectively detected on model proteins. (A) Cyclopropenes were appended to BSA. The modified proteins **Cp (1,3)** and **Cp (3,3)** were subsequently reacted with either a tetrazine-rhodamine conjugate (**Tz-Rho**) or **nitrile imine** (generated via photolysis of tetrazole). (B) Gel analysis of **Cp (1,3)** or **Cp (3,3)** incubated with **Tz-Rho** (100-750 μ M) or no reagent (—) for 1 h. (C) Gel analysis of **Cp (1,3)** or **Cp (3,3)** treated with **tetrazole** (100-1000 μ M) and UV irradiation. (D) Analysis of samples treated with **Tz-Rho** (100-750 μ M) or no reagent (—), followed by tetrazole (5 mM) and UV irradiation (in gel). The gel was scanned at 532 nm (top) to visualize rhodamine, and also illuminated with UV light (middle) to visualize nitrile imine cycloadducts (green). The red color in the UV-illuminated gel (middle) is due to rhodamine fluorescence. For B-D, protein loading was assessed with Coomassie stain.

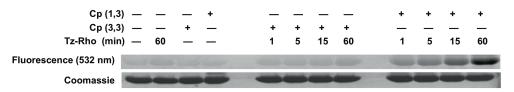


Figure 2-10. Proteins can be labeled with Tz-Rho in a time-dependent manner. Gel analysis of Cp (1,3) or Cp (3,3) incubated with Tz-Rho (500 μ M) for 0-60 min.

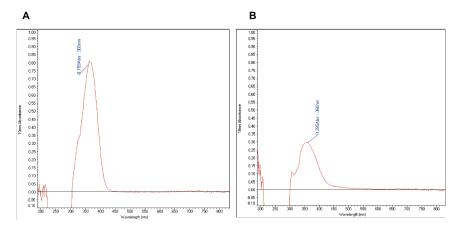


Figure 2-11. UV-Vis absorption traces for 100 µM solutions of 2.11 (A) and 2.12 (B) in MeCN.

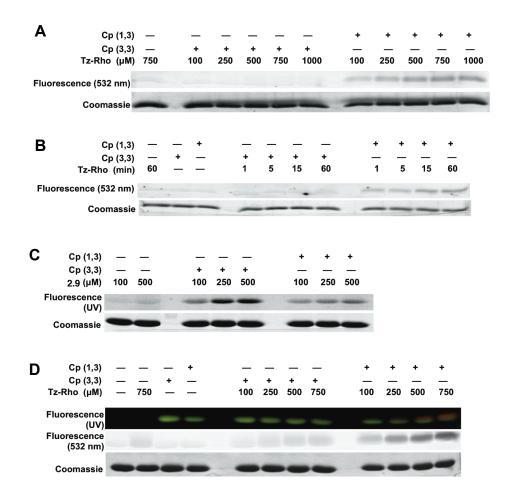


Figure 2-12. Selective cyclopropene reactivity observed with lysozyme conjugates. (A) Gel analysis of the cyclopropene-modified proteins Cp (1,3) or Cp (3,3) incubated with Tz-Rho (100-750 μ M) or no reagent (—) for 60 min. (B) Gel analysis of Cp(1,3) or Cp(3,3) treated with Tz-Rho (500 μ M) for 0-60 min. (C) Gel analysis of Cp (1,3) or Cp (3,3) treated with tetrazole (100-500 μ M) and irradiated with UV light. (D) Gel analysis of Cp (1,3) or Cp (3,3) treated with tetrazole with Tz-Rho (100-750 μ M) or no reagent (—), followed by tetrazole (500 μ M) and UV irradiation. The gel was illuminated with UV light (top panel) to visualize nitrile imine cycloadducts (green) and scanned at 532 nm (middle panel) to visualize rhodamine fluorescence. For B-D, protein loading was assessed with Coomassie stain (lower panels).

2.5 Conclusions and future work

In sum, we identified cyclopropenes that exhibit unique modes of bioorthogonal reactivity. Computational analyses predicted that 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropenes would undergo facile IED-DA reactions, while 3,3-disubstituted scaffolds would be minimally reactive with tetrazines. Upon synthesis and *in vitro* characterization of a panel of modified cyclopropenes, we discovered that scaffolds that differ in the placement of a single methyl group (C-1 vs. C-3) exhibit vastly different IED-DA reaction profiles: 1-methyl cyclopropenes can be selectively ligated with tetrazine probes in the presence of 3-methyl cyclopropenes; the unmodified 3-methyl substituted scaffolds can be efficiently ligated via dipolar cycloaddition. The ability to selectively modify isomeric cyclopropenes—and ultimately target them to discrete biomolecules—will facilitate multi-component imaging studies *in vitro* and in live cells. The cyclopropene scaffold also offers unique opportunities for further biocompatible reaction development, including selective nucleophilic additions and normal-demand Diels–Alder reactions. An arsenal of such orthogonal reactions will continue to provide insight into complex biological systems [29,30].

2.6 Materials and Methods

2.6a Computational studies

All calculations were performed with Gaussian 09 [19]. The geometry optimization of all minima and transition states involved was carried out at the M06-2X level of theory [20,21] with the 6-31G(d) basis set [31]. The vibrational frequencies were computed at the same level to check whether each optimized structure is an energy minimum or a transition state and to

evaluate zero-point vibration energy (ZPVE) and thermal corrections at 298 K. A quasiharmonic correction was applied during the entropy calculation by setting all positive frequencies that are less than 100 cm⁻¹ to 100 cm⁻¹ [32, 33]. Solvent effects in water were computed at the M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level using the gas-phase optimized structures at the M06-2X/6-31G(d) level. Solvation energies were evaluated by a self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) using the CPCM model [33], where UFF radii were used. Fragment distortion and interaction energies were computed at the M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level using the M06-2X/6-31G(d) geometries.

2.6b Rate studies

The reactions between cyclopropenes **2.1-2** and tetrazines **2.7-8** were conducted in 96well plates and monitored by the change in tetrazine absorbance at 536 nm. All runs were conducted in triplicate under pseudo-first order conditions and repeated at least three times. For each measurement, 150 μ L of a 0.2 mM tetrazine solution (in 1:1 MeCN:PBS or 15% DMSO/PBS) was added to a well containing 150 μ L of cyclopropene solution (2- 10 mM in 1:1 MeCN:PBS or 15% DMSO/PBS). The cyclopropene concentration at the start of each reaction ranged from 1.0-5.0 mM, while the tetrazine concentration was held at 0.1 mM. For reactions with **2.1a** and **2.2a** in 15% DMSO/PBS, the tetrazine concentration was held at 0.4 mM, and cyclopropene concentrations ranged from 2.0-10.0 mM. Absorbance values were recorded every 5 min over a 90 min interval or every 4 seconds over a 30 min interval for faster reactions (using a BioTek Epoch plate reader).

2.6c Cyclopropene conjugation to protein scaffolds

Bovine serum albumin (BSA) or lysozyme conjugates were prepared by treating the proteins with cyclopropene esters **2.13a-b** as previously described [14]. In brief, BSA or

lysozyme (400 μ L of a 20 mg/mL solution in PBS, pH 7.4) was treated with **2.13a-b** (100 μ L of a 25 mM solution in DMSO). The lysozyme solutions were incubated at 37 °C (with shaking) for 4 h, while the BSA solutions were allowed to stand at RT for 12 h. The modified proteins were isolated using P-10 BioGel[®] (BioRad), eluting with nanopure water.

2.6d In-gel fluorescence analysis of cyclopropene-tetrazine reactivity

Purified protein conjugates were diluted to 2 mg/mL with PBS (pH 7.4), treated with Tz-**Rho** (1-7.5 μ L of a 5 mM DMSO/PBS solution), and combined with additional PBS to total 50 μ L. The labeling reactions were run for 1-60 min, and protein isolates (4-9 μ g) were analyzed on SDS-PAGE as previously described [14]. Gels were analyzed by in-gel fluorescence scanning (GE Typhoon TRIO+ Variable Mode Imager, 532 nm excitation/580 nm emission). Gels were also stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue.

Purified protein conjugates (40 μ L of 2 mg/mL solutions in PBS) were treated with Tz-**Rho** (1-7.5 μ L of a 5 mM stock solution in 1:1 DMSO:PBS), and combined with additional PBS to total volume of 50 μ L. The labeling reactions were run for 1-60 min, and protein isolates (4-9 μ g) were analyzed on SDS-PAGE as previously described [14]. The gels were rinsed in destain buffer for 10 min, then in water for 10 min

2.6e In-gel fluorescence analysis of nitrile imine reactivity

Protein conjugates were labeled with nitrile imines using a procedure reported by Lin and coworkers [9]. Purified proteins (40 μ L of 2 mg/mL solutions in PBS) were added to a 96- well plate and treated with tetrazole **2.9** (1-10 μ L of a 5 mM solution in DMSO). The samples were irradiated with a UV lamp (302 nm, Zilla UVB 20 watts) for 5 min. For these experiments, the

lamp was placed directly on top of the 96-well plate. The labeled samples were subsequently analyzed via SDS-PAGE as described previously [14]. Gels were visualized with a UVtransilluminator (MultiDoc-It Digital Imaging System) and stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue.

2.6f Dual protein modification

2.6g Solution reactions

Protein conjugates (40 μ L of 2 mg/mL solutions in PBS) were added to a 96-well plate and treated with **Tz-Rho** (1-7.5 μ L of a 5 mM stock in 1:1 DMSO/PBS solution) for 1 h at RT. Tetrazole **2.9** (5.6 μ L of a 5 mM solution in DMSO) or no reagent was added to each well, and the mixtures were irradiated with a UV lamp for 5 min (302 nm, Zilla UVB 20 watts). For these experiments, the lamp was placed directly on top of the 96- well plate. The samples were then analyzed via SDS-PAGE as described [14]. Gels were visualized using a fluorescence scanner (GE Typhoon TRIO+ Variable Mode Imager, 532 nm excitation/580 nm emission) and a UVtransilluminator (MultiDoc-It Digital Imaging System) prior to staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue.

2.6h In-gel labeling

Following reaction with **Tz-Rho**, some protein samples were analyzed via SDS-PAGE and visualized by in-gel fluorescence scanning (GE Typhoon TRIO+ Variable Mode Imager, 532 nm excitation/580 nm emission). The gels were then soaked in a solution of **2.9** (5 mM in DMSO) for 1 h at RT, rinsed in destain buffer (10% AcOH, 40% MeOH), and photoirradiated (302 nm, Zilla UVB 20 watts). Gels were visualized using a UV- transilluminator (MultiDoc-It Digital Imaging System) and stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue.

2.6i General synthetic procedures

Compounds 2.1a [14], 2.3a [34], 2.3b [16], 2.4a [14, 34], 2.4b [16], 2.5a [15], 2.8 [27], **2.9** [35], **2.13a** [14], **2.13b** [16], and **Tz-Rho** [14] were synthesized as previously reported, and spectroscopic data were consistent with literature values. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Reactions were run under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, unless otherwise indicated. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether (Et₂O), triethylamine (Net₃), dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂), *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), and methanol (CH3OH) were degassed with argon and run through two 4 x 36 inch columns of anhydrous neutral A-2 (8 x 14 mesh; LaRoche Chemicals; activated under a flow of argon at 350 °C for 12 h). Thin-layer chromatography was performed using Silica Gel 60 F254-coated glass plates (0.25 mm thickness), and visualization was realized with KMnO4 stain, CAM stain, and/or UV irradiation. Chromatography was accomplished with 60 Å (240-400 mesh) silica gel, commercially available from Sorbent Technologies. HPLC purifications were performed on a Varian ProStar equipped with 325 Dual Wavelength UV-Vis Detector. Analytical runs were performed using an Agilent C18 Scalar column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with a 1 mL/min flow rate. Semi-preparative runs were performed using an Agilent Prep-C18 Scalar column (9.4 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with a 5 mL/min flow rate. NMR spectra were collected on a Bruker DRX-400 (400 MHz ¹H, 100 MHz ¹³C, 376.5 MHz ¹⁹F) or CRYO-500 (500 MHz ⁻¹H, 125.7 MHz ⁻¹³C) instrument. All spectra were collected at 298 K. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm values relative to tetramethylsilane or residual non-deuterated NMR solvent, and coupling constants (J) are reported in Hertz (Hz). High-resolution mass spectrometry was performed by the University

of California, Irvine Mass Spectrometry Center.

2.6j Synthetic procedures

N-Isopropyl-1-methylcycloprop-2-enecarboxamide (2.1b): To an oven-dried round- bottom flask was added 2.4b (58 mg, 0.59 mmol) and CH₂Cl₂ (5.0 mL). *N*,*N*-Diisopropylethylamine (0.25 mL, 1.4 mmol) was added to the solution, followed by pentafluorophenyl trifluoroacetate (0.20 mL, 1.2 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 1 h, then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5.0 mL), and isopropylamine (0.50 mL, 5.8 mmol) was slowly added. The solution was stirred for 1 h, then filtered, concentrated, and purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to provide 2.1b (65 mg, 79% yield) as a light yellow solid. 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.10 (s, 2H), 5.15 (bs, 1H), 4.05-3.99 (m, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). 13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.4, 112.2, 41.5, 23.0, 22.5, 21.2 HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₈H₁₃NONa [M+Na]⁺ 162.0895, found 162.0894.

(2-Methylcycloprop-2-en-1-yl)methyl isopropylcarbamate (2.2a): To an oven-dried roundbottom flask was added 2.6a (0.10 g, 0.41 mmol) in THF (7.0 mL), followed by TBAF (0.50 mL of a 1.0 M solution in hexanes, 0.50 mmol). The reaction was stirred overnight, then diluted with H₂O and extracted with Et₂O (2 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude organic residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 20% Et₂O in hexanes) to provide 2.2a (61 mg, 87% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.50 (bs, 1H), 3.91-3.90 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.80 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 1.64 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 120.8, 102.2, 72.0, 43.0, 23.2, 17.3, 11.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for $C_{9}H_{15}NO_{2}Na [M+Na]^{+}$ 192.1001, found 192.0997.

(1-Methylcycloprop-2-en-1-yl)methyl isopropylcarbamate (2.2b): To an oven-dried roundbottom flask was added 2.6b (0.14 g, 0.58 mmol) in THF (8.6 mL), followed by TBAF (1.8 mL of a 1.0 M solution in hexanes, 1.8 mmol). The reaction was stirred overnight, then diluted with H₂O and extracted with Et₂O (2 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting crude residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 20% Et₂O in hexanes) to provide 2.2b (42 mg, 43% yield) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, (CD₃)₂CO): δ 7.43 (s, 2H), 5.90 (bs, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 3.72-3.70 (m, 1H), 1.13 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD3)₂CO) δ 155.7, 119.0, 72.4, 43.0, 23.1, 22.1, 18.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₁₆NO₂ [M+H]⁺ 170.1181, found 170.1178.

(1-Methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)cycloprop-2-en-1-yl)methanol (2.5b): To an oven-dried roundbottom flask was added 2.3b (0.13 g, 0.67 mmol) in Et2O (3 mL). The solution was chilled to -78 °C, and 0.70 mL DIBAL-H in hexanes (1.0 M, 0.70 mmol) was slowly added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C, then quenched with Rochelle's salt solution. The mixture was diluted with H₂O, extracted with Et₂O (2 x 25 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated slightly *in vacuo*. The crude organic residue was carried on without further purification due to volatility issues.

2-Methyl-3-(trimethylsilyl)cycloprop-2-en-1-yl)methyl isopropylcarbamate (2.6a): To an oven-dried round-bottom flask was added carbonyldiimidazole (CDI, 0.18 g, 1.1 mmol) and THF (6.0 mL). Compound **2.5a** (0.14 g, 0.90 mmol) was then added, and the resulting solution was stirred for 3 h. Isopropylamine (0.15 mL, 1.7 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, and the solution was stirred overnight. The reaction was then diluted with H_2O , extracted with Et_2O (2 x

10 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude organic residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 30% Et₂O in hexanes) to provide **2.6a** (0.17 g, 79% yield over two steps) as a clear oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.47 (bs, 1H), 3.95-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.76 (m, 2H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.53 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H), 0.15 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.3, 134.7, 111.0, 73.1, 42.9, 23.2, 18.7, 13.3, -1.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₂₃NO₂SiNa [M+Na]⁺ 264.1396, found 264.1406.

(1-Methyl-2-(trimethylsilyl)cycloprop-2-en-1-yl)methyl isopropylcarbamate (2.6b): To an oven-dried round-bottom flask was added CDI (0.11 g, 0.68 mmol) and THF (5.0 mL). Crude cyclopropene **2.5b** (isolated from the reduction of 0.67 mmol **2.3b**) was then added, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h. Isopropylamine (0.10 mL, 1.1 mmol) was subsequently added, and the solution was stirred overnight. The reaction was then diluted with H₂O, extracted with Et₂O (3 x 20 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude organic residue was purified by flash chromatography (eluting with 30% Et₂O in hexanes) to provide **2.6b** (77 mg, 47% yield over three steps) as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 4.50 (bs, 1H), 4.02-3.94 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.75 (m, 2H), 1.16 (m, 9H), 0.17 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 131.9, 129.6, 75.1, 42.9, 23.9, 23.1, 20.2, -1.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₂₃NO₂SiNa [M+Na]⁺ 264.1396, found 264.1405.

N-Isopropyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-4-phenyl-2,3-diazabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-3- ene-6carboxamide (2.11): A solution of 2.1b (22 mg, 0.16 mmol) and tetrazole 2.9 (20 mg, 0.079 mmol) in MeCN (15 mL) was added to a quartz test tube. The reaction was photoirradiated with a UV lamp (302 nm, Zilla UVB 20 watts) for 2 h. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and purified by preparative HPLC, eluting with 0-95% MeCN in water over 30 min. The desired fractions were collected and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide **2.11** (18 mg, 63% yield) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.75 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.21-4.16 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.72 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.24 (dd, J = 6.4, 2.5 Hz, 6H), 0.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 154.5, 146.8, 137.4, 133.0, 128.6, 128.4, 125.8, 114.8, 114.7, 55.8, 55.0, 42.1, 40.0, 23.1, 23.0, 15.8, 7.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₃O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 386.1844, found 386.1844.

N-Isopropyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methyl-6-phenyl-2,5-dihydropyridazine-4-

carboxamide (2.12): A solution of **2.1a** (23 mg, 0.17 mmol) and tetrazole **2.9** (21 mg, 0.083 mmol) in MeCN (26 mL) was added to a quartz test tube. The reaction was photoirradiated with a UV lamp (302 nm, Zilla UVB 20 watts) for 3 h. The reaction was then concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by preparative HPLC, eluting with 0-95% MeCN in water over 30 min. The desired fractions were collected and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide **2.12** (12 mg, 38% yield) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.29 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.24-4.16 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.41 (s, 2H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.8, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.1, 158.2, 141.8, 141.7, 137.8, 136.3, 129.3, 128.5, 127.7, 126.2, 114.2, 97.9, 55.7, 41.7, 25.4, 23.2, 17.0. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₂H₂₅N₃O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 386.1844, found 386.1840.

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Phys. **2008**, *10*, 2813. (b) Ribeiro, R. F.; Marenich, A. V.; Cramer, C. J.; Truhlar, D. G. Use of solution-phase vibrational frequencies in continuum models for the free energy of solvation. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2011**, *115*, 14556.

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Chapter 3: 1,2,4-Triazines are versatile bioorthogonal reagents

Yong Liang, Robert J. Blizzard, and Fang Liu contributed to the work presented in this chapter.

3.1 Introduction

As introduced in Chapter 1, numerous chemical reporters and bioorthogonal reactions have been reported in recent years, but significant limitations remain [1-3]. Many of the reagents are too bulky for general use or prone to hydrolysis in cellular environments [4]. Moreover, several popular bioorthogonal reagents cross-react with one another and cannot be used concurrently to visualize collections of biomolecules [4]. To address these issues and expand the scope of the chemical reporter strategy, new bioorthogonal reactions and combinations of reactions are being pursued. In recent years, we and others have developed compatible chemistries based on cyclopropenes and other strained alkenes [5-8]. In Chapter 2, our efforts tuning the reactivity of the cyclopropene ring, we developed a strategy for sequential labeling of distinct biomolecules.

The cyclopropene motifs are stable in physiological environments and have been used to target numerous biomolecules in live cells [9-12]. In nearly all cases, the strained alkenes were detected via inverse electron demand Diels–Alder (IED-DA) reactions with 1,2,4,5-tetrazines. A handful of tetrazine ligations can also be used simultaneously with azide–alkyne cycloadditions [5,11], setting the stage for multicomponent bioorthogonal imaging in vivo [8,11,13]. While much attention has been paid to strained alkenes for bioorthogonal reaction development, less attention has been given to the other half of the IED-DA reaction: the electron-deficient dienes.

To date, tetrazines have dominated the IED- DA landscape [14]. These moieties react robustly with trans-cyclooctene (TCO) and other strained dienophiles in a variety of settings [15]. Unfortunately, the most rapid-reacting tetrazines also tend to be the least stable in cells and *in vivo* [16]. Tetrazines are prone to hydrolysis and side reactions with endogenous thiols, limiting their applications in the most stringent environments (e.g., inside cells) [17-19]. More stable tetrazines are being pursued, but these reagents are generally large in size [20].

3.2 Computational analysis on reactivity profile of tetrazines and triazines

To develop improved bioorthogonal IED-DA reactions, we were drawn to triazine scaffolds. 1,2,4-Triazines have been identified in microbial natural products and pigments, suggesting that they are stable in physiological environments [21-23]. These motifs also react efficiently with electron-rich alkenes in IED-DA reactions [24-29]. Boger further showed that 1,2,3-triazines react with electron-rich dienophiles [30]. To compare the intrinsic DA reactivities of 1,2,3- and 1,2,4- triazines with that of 1,2,4,5-tetrazine, we evaluated the activation free energies for their reactions with ethylene by density functional theory (DFT) calculations (Figure 3-1A, Table 3-2) [31-33]. The computational analysis suggested that 1,2,4- triazine is much more reactive than 1,2,3-triazine (activation free energy: 29.3 versus 41.0 kcal/mol), but less reactive than 1,2,4,5-tetrazine (29.3 versus 21.9 kcal/mol). This is consistent with the inverse electron demand nature of the cycloaddition: the LUMO+1 (the π^* orbital that interacts with the dienophile HOMO in the DA reaction) of 1,2,4-triazine is increased by 0.49 eV as compared to 1,2,4,5-tetrazine (2.18 versus 1.69 eV, Figures 3-1A and 3-2). While highly reactive, tetrazines are prone to decomposition by biological nucleophiles [18-20]. Seitz and co-workers found that thiols rapidly decompose tetrazines via 1,4-addition and subsequent release of nitrogen [34]. DFT calculations revealed that formation of the 1,4-adduct of 3-phenyl- 1,2,4,5-tetrazine and

methanethiol is endergonic by 23.4 kcal/ mol in water and that the overall barrier for N₂ release is 28.6 kcal/mol (Figure 3-1B). However, the corresponding adduct and transition state of 6phenyl-1,2,4-triazine are significantly higher in energy. This implies that 6-aryl-1,2,4-triazine is inert to thiols relative to monoaryl tetrazine, although both are very similar in size. Thus, while 1,2,4-triazine is less reactive in the IED-DA reaction, considering the extremely fast rates of the tetrazine–TCO cycloaddition ($k_2 = 10^2-10^4$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹) [17,18], we hypothesized that triazines would be good candidates for bioorthogonal reaction development based on their size and stability.

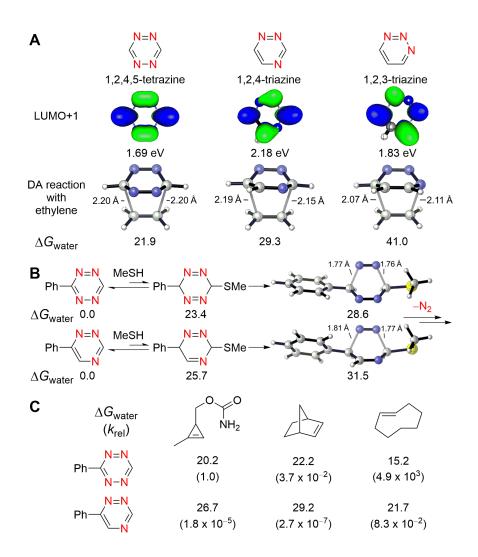


Figure 3-1. (A) Diels-Alder reactions of 1,2,4,5-tetrazine, 1,2,4-triazine, and 1,2,3-triazine with ethylene. LUMO+1 energies were computed with HF/6-311+G(d,p)//M06-2X/6-31G(d), and activation free energies (in kcal/mol) in water were computed with CPCM(water)-M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p)//M06-2X/6-31G(d). (B) Energetics of 1,4-adduct formation and subsequent N₂ release transition state for methanethiol and 3-phenyl-1,2,4,5-tetrazine or 6-phenyl-1,2,4-triazine. (C) DFT-computed activation free energies and predicted relative rate constants for tetrazine or triazine cycloaddition with 3-carbamoyloxymethyl-1-methylcyclopropene, norbornene, or *trans*-cyclooctene, in water at 25 °C.

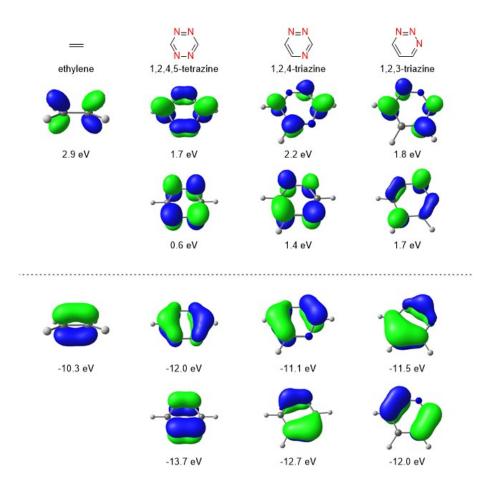


Figure 3-2. Frontier π orbitals of ethylene, 1,2,4,5-tetrazine, 1,2,4-triazine, and 1,2,3-triazine. The orbital energies were computed with HF/6-311+G(d,p)//M06-2X/6-31G(d).

We also predicted relative rate constants for the DA reactions of 3-phenyl-1,2,4,5tetrazine or 6-phenyl-1,2,4-triazine with 3-carbamoyloxymethyl-1-methylcyclopropene, norbornene, and trans-cyclooctene (Figures 3-1C and 3-3). These data suggest that 6-aryl-1,2,4triazines react efficiently with TCO, yet remain inert to other bioorthogonal scaffolds, including cyclopropene and norbornene. This unique reactivity profile could potentially be exploited for "orthogonal" bioorthogonal cycloaddition development [35-37].

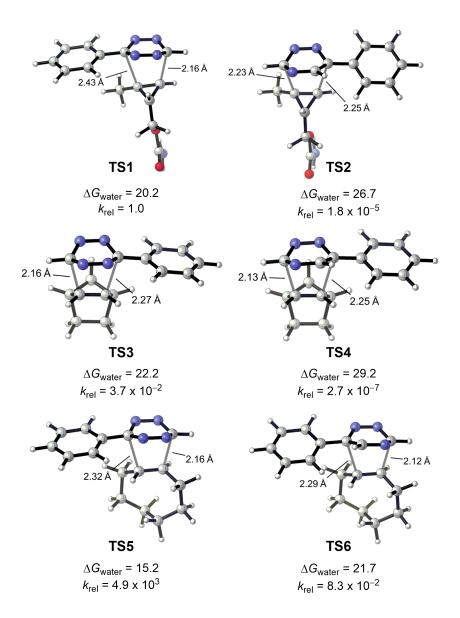
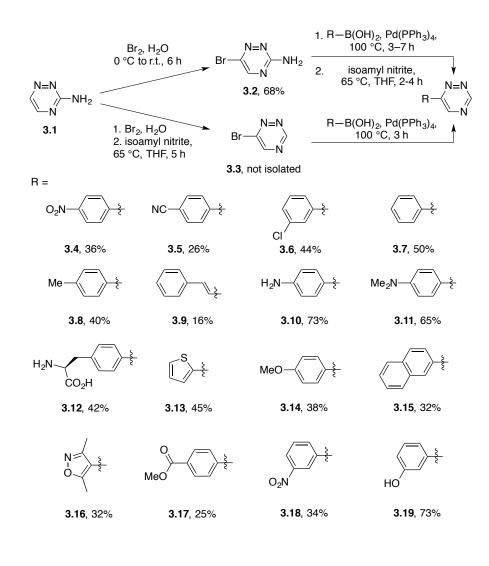


Figure 3-3. DFT-computed transition states **TS1-6** for tetrazine or triazine cycloaddition with 3-carbamoyloxymethyl-1-methylcyclopropene, norbornene, or *trans*-cyclooctene.

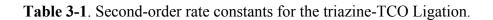
3.3 Synthesis and reactivity of 6-substituted-1,2,4-triazines

To test these hypotheses, we synthesized a panel of substituted 1,2,4-triazines using the reaction sequence pictured in Scheme 1. In brief, glyoxal was condensed with amino-guanidine to afford 3-amino-1,2,4-triazine (**3.1**). Bromination of this scaffold provided a convenient handle for diversification, and triazine **3.2** ultimately underwent Suzuki couplings with a variety of commercially available boronic acids (Schemes 3-1, top). Subsequent deamination of the products afforded triazines **3.4–3.9**, **3.13-3.19**. To access triazines containing nucleophilic substituents (**3.10-3.12** and **3.19**), the reverse sequence, deamination/Suzuki coupling, was employed (Schemes 3-1, bottom). This short reaction scheme can be used to access 6-substituted triazines with a broad array of functionality. By contrast, traditional syntheses of tetrazines are typically not compatible with free amino groups owing to the harsh oxidants employed, although milder conditions have recently been reported [38,39].

With the panel of triazines in hand, we analyzed their reactivities with TCO **3.20** (Table 3-1). The reactions were monitored by ¹H-NMR, and air oxidized cycloadducts were observed (Figures 3-5, 3-6, and 3-8). As expected, the most electron-poor triazine **3.4** exhibited the fastest rate (Table 1, entry 8), consistent with the inverse-electron-demand nature of the reaction. No reactivity was observed when electron-rich scaffolds **3.1** and **3.2** were incubated with TCO **3.20** (Figures 3-9 and 3-10). The triazine–TCO reaction is significantly slower than many of the tetrazine–TCO ligations [18], but on par with several copper- free click chemistries [40,41], and some IED-DA reactions with stabilized tetrazines [20,39]. Hammett analysis of the triazine–TCO rate constants gave a slope of $\rho = 0.49$ (Figure 3-4). This value is consistent with concerted IED-DA reactions and suggests that only partial charge separation occurs during the reaction.



Scheme 3-1. Synthesis of functionalized 1,2,4-triazines.



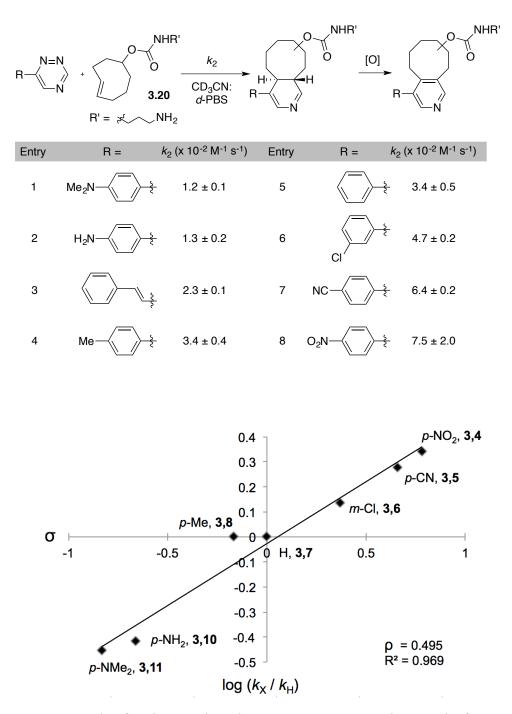
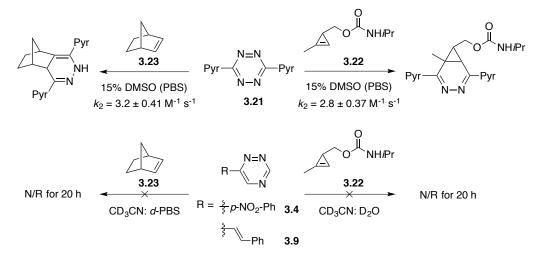


Figure 3-4. Hammet plot for the reactions between TCO **3.20** and a panel of 1,2,4-triazines. Sigma (σ) values derive from ref 42.

As predicted by our DFT calculations, no ligation was observed between the more reactive triazines (**3.4** and **3.9**) and other strained alkenes, including norbornene (**3.23**) and cyclopropene **3.22** (Scheme 3-2, Figures 3-11, 3-11, S3-1, S3-2). These alkenes do react robustly with the common tetrazine reagent **3.21** (Figure 3-7), suggesting that triazines and combinations of other bioorthogonal reagents can be used in tandem.

Scheme 3-2. Comparison of Tetrazine and Triazine Cycloadditions with Norbornene or 1,3-Disubstituted Cyclopropene^{*a*}



^{*a*} The rate constant for 3.21 + 3.22 is from ref [8]

The triazine scaffold also excels in a key aspect of bioorthogonality: stability. When monosubstituted triazines were dissolved in a mixture of d-PBS and CD₃CN, they remained stable for over 1 week at 37 °C (Figures 3-13, 3-14, S3-3, and S3-4). Triazine scaffolds were also inert to cysteine over a similar time period (Figures 3-15 to 3-17, S3-4 to S3-6). These results are in sharp contrast to monosubstituted tetrazines that have been observed to hydrolyze and/or react with cysteine under similar conditions (Figure 3-18) [17-20,39].

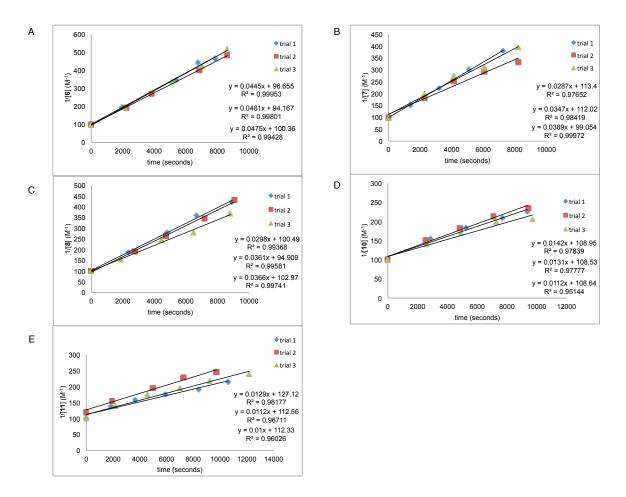


Figure 3-5. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for: (A) 3.6 and 3.20 in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (B) 3.7 and 3.20 in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (C) 3.8 and 3.20 in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (D) 3.10 and 3.20 in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (E) 3.11 and 3.20 in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS. The reactions between triazines 3.6-3.8, 3.10-3.11 and TCO 3.20 were run in 1:1 ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

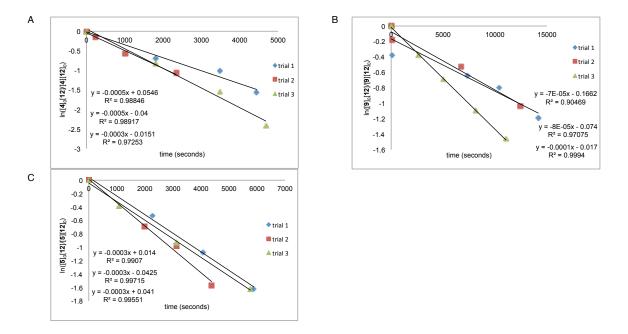


Figure 3-6. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for: (A) **3.4** and **3.20** in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (B) **3.9** and **3.20** in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS, (C) **3.5** and **3.20** in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS. The reactions between triazines **3.4-3.5**, **3.9** and TCO **3.20** were run in roughly 1:2 (triazine:TCO) ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

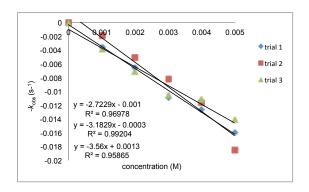


Figure 3-7. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for: **3.21** and **3.23** in 15% DMSO (PBS). The reactions between tetrazine **3.21** and norbornene **3.23** were run in 96-well plates and monitored by the change in tetrazine absorbance at 536 nm.

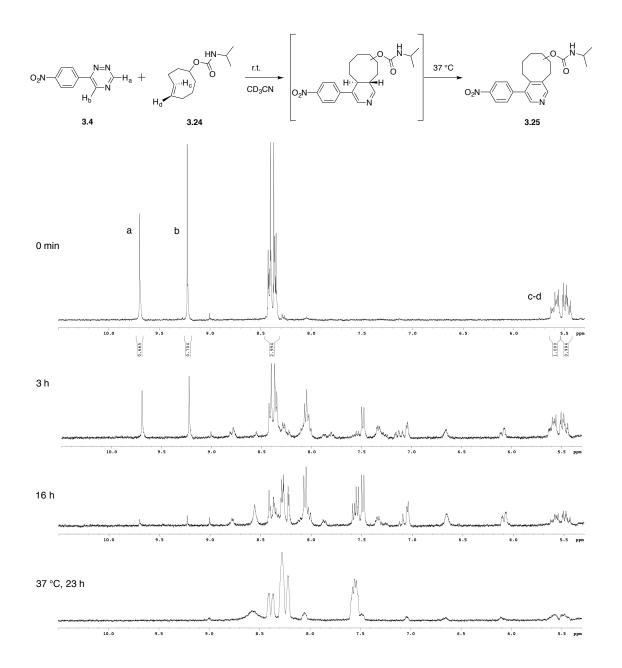


Figure 3-8. Formation of the initial dihydropyridine adduct and subsequent aromatization. Triazine **3.4** (0.3 mL of a 14 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added to a solution containing TCO **3.24** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted to 0.6 mL with CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

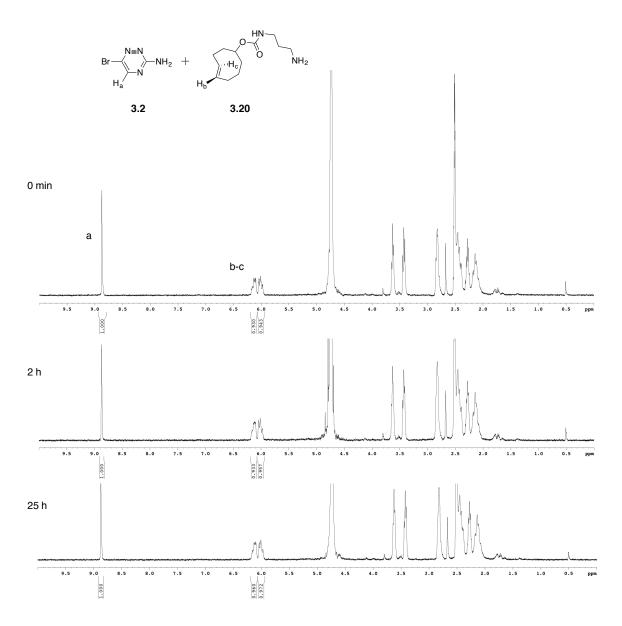


Figure 3-9. Triazine **3.2** does not react with TCO **3.20**. To a solution of triazine **3.2** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added TCO **3.20** (0.3mL of a 20 mM solution in *d*-PBS). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

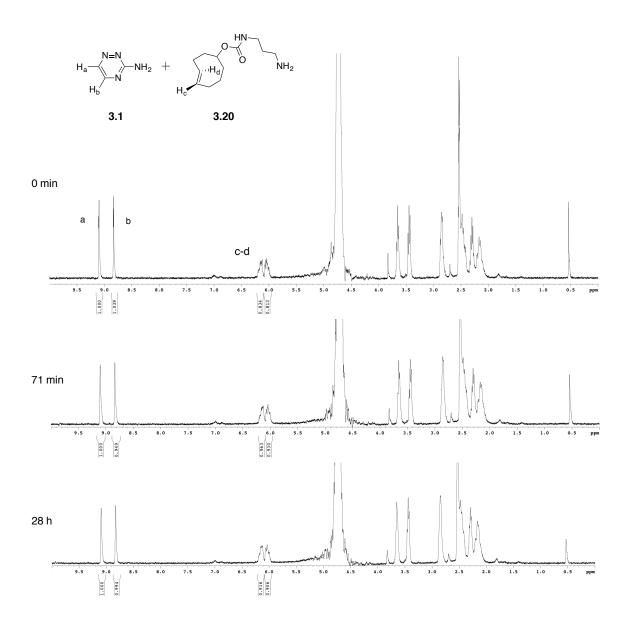


Figure 3-10. Triazine **3.1** does not react with TCO **3.20**. To a solution of triazine **3.1** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added TCO **3.20** (0.3mL of a 17 mM solution in *d*-PBS). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

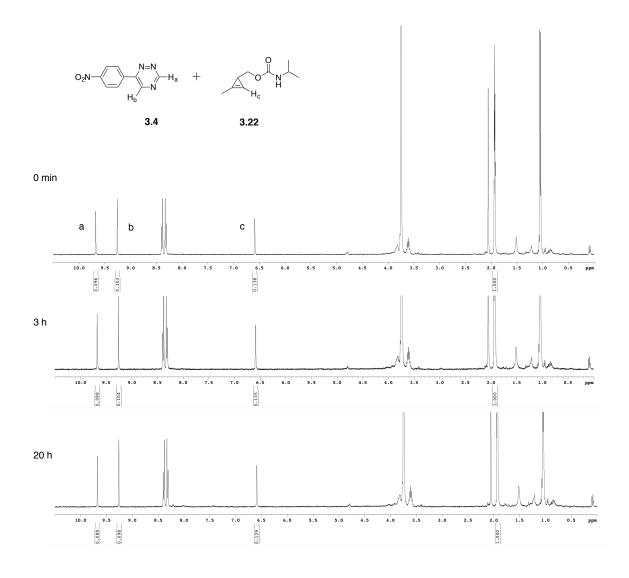


Figure 3-11. Triazine **3.4** does not react with cyclopropene **3.22**. To a solution of triazine **3.4** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added cyclopropene **3.22** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM in 1:1 CD₃CN:D₂O). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

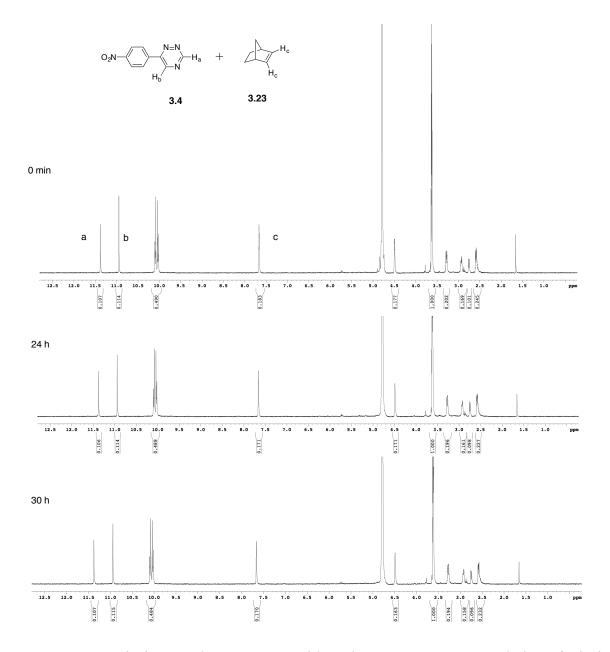


Figure 3-12. Triazine **3.4** does not react with norbornene **3.23**. To a solution of triazine **3.4** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added norbornene **3.23** (0.12 mL of a 40 mM solution in 1:1 $CD_3CN:d$ -PBS) and diluted with 0.12 mL CD_3CN and 0.12 mL *d*-PBS to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

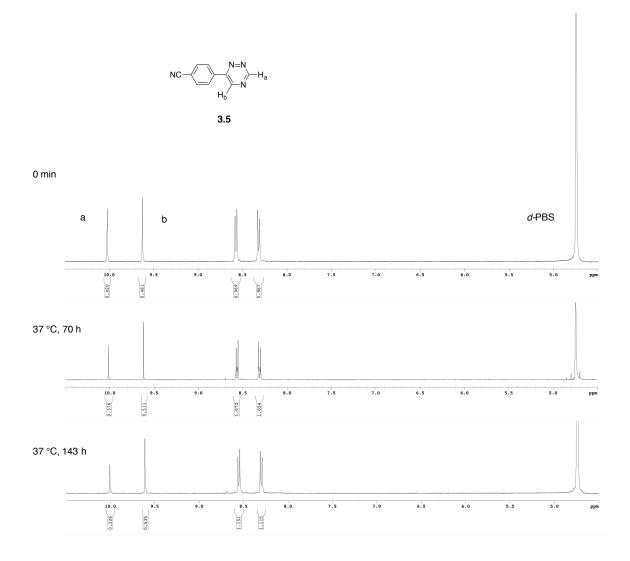


Figure 3-13. Triazine **3.5** is stable in aqueous buffer. A solution of triazine **3.5** (0.2 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD₃CN) was diluted with 0.4 mL *d*-PBS. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C for 0-143 h. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

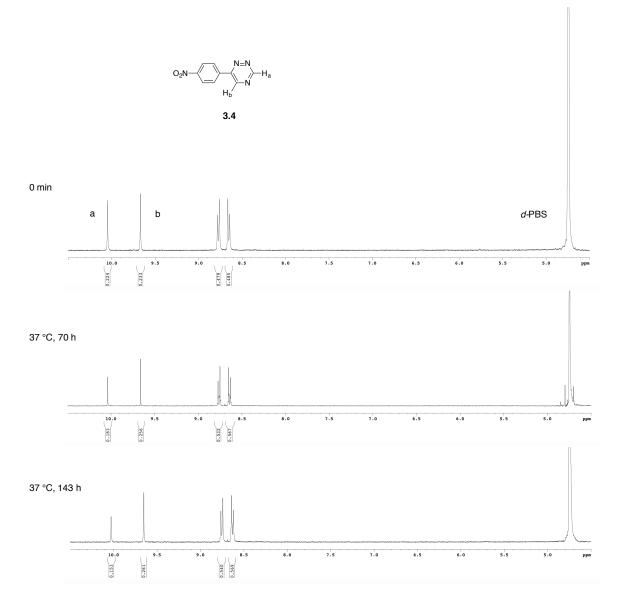


Figure 3-14. Triazine **3.4** is stable in aqueous buffer. A solution of triazine **3.4** (0.2 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was diluted with 0.4 mL *d*-PBS. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C for 0-143 h. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

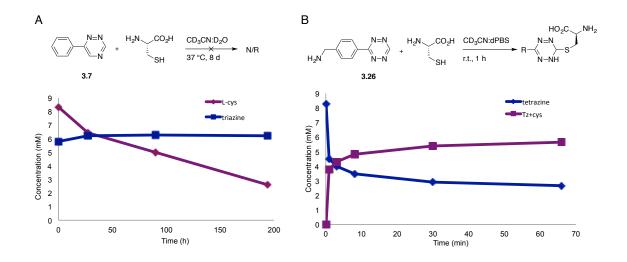


Figure 3-15. Stability profiles of model triazine and tetrazine probes. (A) Triazine **3.7** (0.1 mL of a 35 mM solution in CD₃CN) and cysteine (0.1 mL of a 50 mM solution in D₂O) were incubated at 37 °C for 8 d. Additionally, no cysteine reactivity was observed with a related triazine in solutions containing PBS (see Figure 3-22). (B) Tetrazine **3.26** (0.2 mL of a 25 mM solution in *d*-PBS) and cysteine (0.1 mL of a 50 mM solution in D₂O) were incubated at r.t. for 1 h.

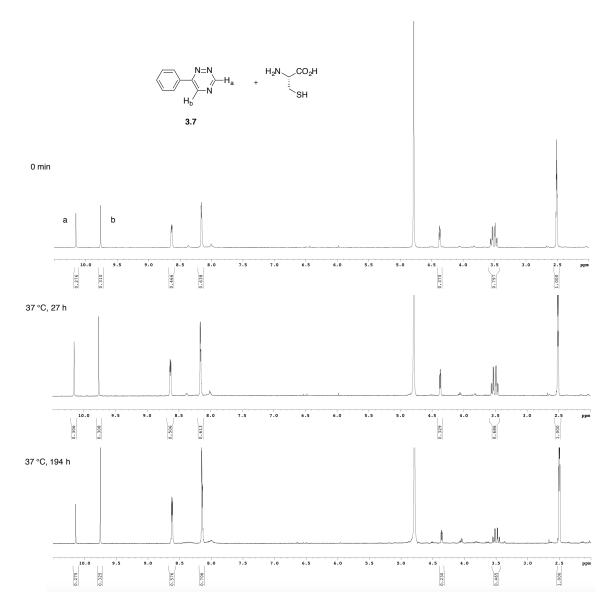


Figure 3-16. Triazine **3.7** is stable in the presence of cysteine. To a solution of triazine **3.7** (0.1 mL of a 35 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added L-cys (0.1 mL of a 50 mM solution in D₂O). The reaction was further diluted with 1:1 CD₃CN:D₂O to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C and monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

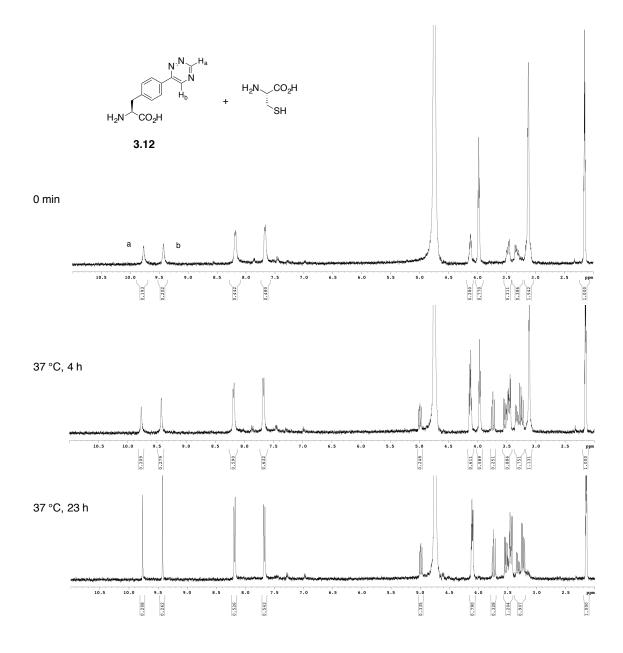


Figure 3-17. Triazine **3.12** is stable in the presence of cysteine. To a solution of triazine **3.12** (0.3 mL of a 4.2 mM solution in D_2O) was added L-cysteine (96 μ L of a 50 mM solution in *d*-PBS). The reaction was further diluted with 1:1 CD₃CN:*d*-PBS to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C and monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

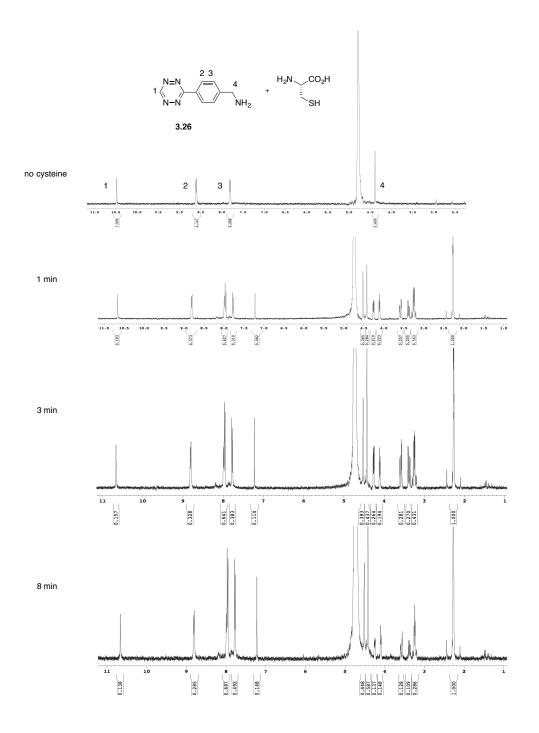


Figure 3-18. Monosubstituted tetrazine **3.26** reacts with cysteine. To a solution of tetrazine **3.26** (0.2 mL of a 25 mM solution in *d*-PBS) was added L-cysteine (0.1 mL of a 50 mM solution in D_2O), along with additional D_2O (0.1 mL) and CD_3CN (0.2 mL) to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

3.4 Incorporation of a triazine non-canonical amino acid into recombinant protein

The remarkable stability of the triazine scaffold suggested immediate application in environs that have been difficult to access with bioorthogonal reagents, including recombinant protein production in intracellular environments. Disubstituted tetrazines and cyclopropenes have been previously incorporated into recombinant proteins and tagged with TCO or tetrazine probes, respectively [9,43]. However, monosubstituted tetrazines have been more difficult to incorporate directly into proteins, due to the length of time required for protein production and the instability of the scaffolds [19,43]. Monosubstituted triazines offer unique advantages in terms of their size and stability.

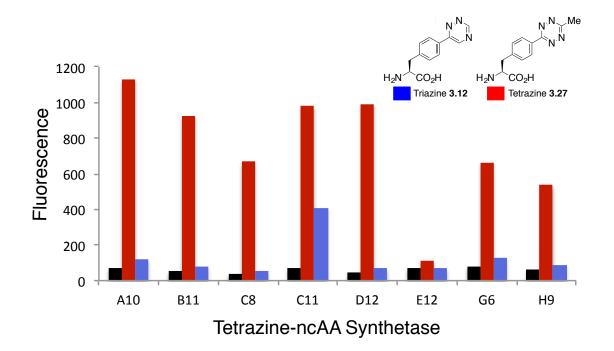


Figure 3-19. ncAA-GFP Expression. Fluorescence measurements of seven synthetases with GFP ncAA reporter. Blue bars represents colonies induced in media containing 1 mM triazine **3.12**, red bars represent 1 mM tetrazine **3.27**, while black represents colonies induced in the absence of ncAA.

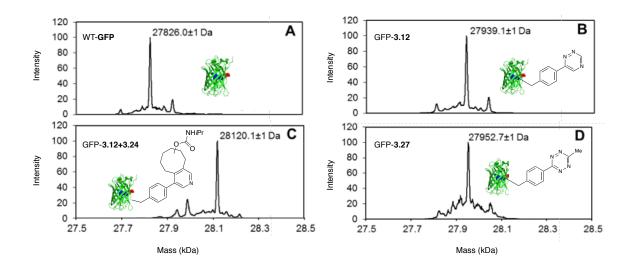


Figure 3-20. ESI-MS of amber codon interrupted GFP. (A) ESI-MS of WT GFP conforms to the expected mass, showing a single major peak at 27826.0 ± 1 Da (expected mass 27827.3). (B) ESI-MS of GFP-**3.12** shows a single major peak at 27939.1 ± 1 Da (expected mass 27939.4 Da). (C) ESI-MS of GFP-**3.12**+**3.24** demonstrates a mass of 28120.1 ± 1 Da (expected mass 28120.7 Da). The mass difference (181.0 Da) between GFP-**3.12** and GFP-**3.12**+**3.24** is consistent with the expected mass increase (181.3 Da) through addition of TCO **3.24**. (D) ESI-MS of GFP-**3.27** shows a mass of 27952.7 ± 1 Da and conforms to the expected mass of 27954.5 Da. Each sample showed a small secondary peak at -131 Da indicating cleavage of N-terminal methionines.

To demonstrate that monosubstituted triazines are compatible with protein labeling and sufficiently stable for genetic code expansion, we synthesized triazine amino acid **3.12** (Scheme 3-1). We screened a panel of seven *Methanocaldococcus jannaschii* tyrosyl tRNA synthetase (RS)/tRNA_{CUA} pairs for permissivity toward **3.12**, while maintaining fidelity against canonical AAs (Figure 3-25) [43,44]. The M. *jannaschii* (RS)/tRNA_{CUA} pairs were previously evolved to incorporate noncanonical amino acids (ncAAs) of similar structure (**3.27**, Figure 3-26) in response to an amber codon [45]. One of the seven RS/tRNA_{CUA} pairs efficiently incorporated **3.12** in response to an amber codon- disrupted GFP gene, resulting in expression of 18.8 mg/L of GFP-**3.12** in the presence of **3.12** (Figure 3-27, lane 3).

To verify that **3.12** is stable in complex media and can be incorporated into recombinant proteins, we compared the masses of GFP-**3.12** to GFP-wt using ESI-Q mass analysis. Native GFP-wt has a mass of 27826.0 \pm 1 Da and GFP-**3.12** exhibited the expected increase to 27939.1 \pm 1 Da, verifying that **3.12** is incorporated at a single site (Figures 3-26 and 3-27). To determine whether the triazine/TCO ligation is also quantitative on proteins, pure GFP-**3.12** (10 μ M) was incubated with TCO **3.24** (1 mM) in PBS (pH 7.0). ESI-Q mass analysis confirmed quantitative conversion of GFP-**3.12** to GFP-**3.12**+**3.24** (expected 28120.7 Da; observed 28120.1 \pm 1 Da, Figure 3C). These results demonstrate that triazines are stable in cells and can be incorporated into proteins efficiently and with high fidelity using genetic code expansion. Furthermore, the triazine/TCO ligation is suitable for site-specific protein labeling applications.

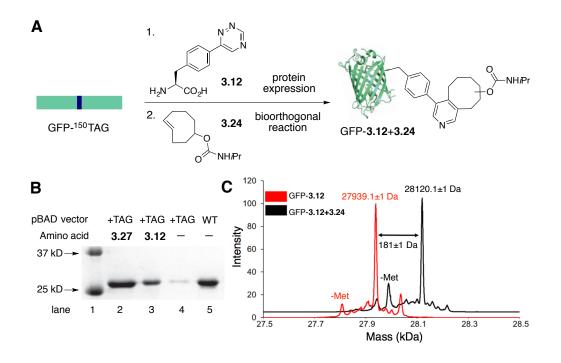


Figure 3-21. Triazines are suitable for recombinant protein production. (A) Genetic incorporation of 3.12 into proteins and reaction with TCO (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of site-specific incorporation in response to amber codon 150 in GFP. (C) MS analysis of GFP-3.12 shows a single major peak at 27939.1 \pm 1 Da. Reaction of GFP-3.12 with TCO 3.24 shows a single major peak at 28120.1 \pm 1 Da, consistent with the expected mass increase from selective reaction with TCO.

3.5 Conclusions and future work

In summary, we identified 1,2,4-triazines as a new class of bioorthogonal reagents. These scaffolds are remarkably stable in aqueous buffers, in the presence of biological nucleophiles, and in cells. Triazines can be easily assembled and decorated with diverse functional groups to tune reactivities. Triazines also react efficiently and selectively with TCO. These features render triazines suitable for a variety of intracellular applications, and we showed that a triazine amino

acid can be efficiently incorporated into recombinant proteins and labeled site-specifically with TCO. Triazines are also compatible with other strained alkenes and will enable different types of IED-DA reactions to be performed in tandem in cellular environments.

3.6 Materials and methods

3.6a Computational studies

Calculations were performed with Gaussian 09 [31]. The geometry optimization of all the minima and transition states involved was carried out at the M06-2X level of theory [32,33] with the 6-31G(d) basis set [46]. The vibrational frequencies were computed at the same level to check whether each optimized structure was an energy minimum or a transition state and to evaluate its zero-point vibration energy (ZPVE) and thermal corrections at 298 K. A quasiharmonic correction was applied during the entropy calculation by setting all positive frequencies that were less than 100 cm⁻¹ to 100 cm⁻¹ [47]. The single-point energies and solvent effects in water were computed at the M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p) level using the gas-phase optimized structures at the M06-2X/6-31G(d) level. Solvation energies were evaluated by a self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) using the CPCM model [48], where UFF radii were used. The frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) and their energies were computed at the HF/6-311+G(d,p) level using the M06-2X/6-31G(d) geometries.

3.6b Rate studies

The reactions between triazines and strained alkenes were monitored by ¹H-NMR. All runs were conducted at least three times. For *trans*-cyclooctene (TCO)-triazine reactions, 0.3 mL

of a 20 mM solution of TCO in *d*-PBS was added to a solution of the appropriate triazine in CD₃CN (0.12-0.24 mL), then diluted to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The final concentrations of all reactants were 5-10 mM. For cyclopropene-triazine reactions, 0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution of cyclopropene in CD₃CN: D₂O (1:1) was added to a solution of triazine in CD₃CN (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution or 0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution), and diluted with CD₃CN to a final volume of 0.6 mL. For norbornene-triazine reactions, 0.12 mL of a 40 mM of norbornene solution in CD₃CN:*d*-PBS (1:1) was added to a solution of triazine in CD₃CN (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution or 0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution are shown in the accompanying figures.

3.6c Stability studies

The stability studies for triazines in PBS or in the presence of cysteine were monitored by ¹H-NMR. For stability studies in PBS, each triazine stock solution (0.2 mL of a 25-50 mM solution in CD₃CN) was diluted with *d*-PBS to a final volume of 0.6 mL. For stability studies with cysteine, each triazine stock solution (0.12-0.24 mL of a 25-50 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added to a solution of cysteine (0.1 mL of a 50 mM solution in *d*-PBS or D₂O) and diluted to a volume of 0.6 mL. The samples were incubated at r.t. or 37 °C for 0-150 h. Representative spectra for each reaction are shown in the accompanying figures.

3.6d Permissivity screening of selected synthetases for triazine-ncAA

A *pALS* plasmid containing TAG 150-interrupted superfolder GFP (sfGFP) under an AraBAD promoter and an orthogonalized copy of the *Methanocaldococcus jannaschii* tyrosine tRNA_{CUA} under an lpp promoter, was transformed into DH10b cells with a *pBK* plasmid

containing one of seven *M. jannaschii* aminoacyl tyrosyl-tRNA synthetases selected to incorporate tetrazine **3.27**. Colonies of the transformed cells were picked and grown in 2XYT media containing kanamycin (50 μ g/mL) and tetracycline (25 μ g/mL) for 24 h before adding glycerol (18% v/v) and storing at -80 °C. Cell stocks were used to inoculate 5 mL Non-Inducing Media (NIM) containing kanamycin (50 μ g/mL) and tetracycline (25 μ g/mL). After 24 h of growth, 50 μ L NIM was used to inoculate 5 mL Auto-Inducing Media (AIM) containing **3.12** (1 mM), kanamycin (50 μ g/mL), and tetracycline (25 μ g/mL) for efficiency measurements and the same AIM without **3.12** for fidelity measurements. Fluorescence readings of the cultures were obtained at 36 h using a Turner Biosystems PicoFluor fluorimeter. Fluorescence of the media indicated that of the seven synthetases screened, only the C11 synthetase effectively incorporated **3.12**.

3.6e Characterization of GFP-3.12

Pure proteins were diluted to 10 μ M and reacted for 16 h with TCO **3.24** (1 mM in 300 mM NaCl, 50 mM NaH₂PO₄, pH 7.0). GFP-wt, GFP-**3.12**, and GFP-**3.12**+**3.24** were desalted using Vivaspin spin concentrators (500 μ L, 10kDa Molecular weight cut off) into ammonium acetate buffer (25 mM, pH 7.0). The concentrations of the resulting solutions were measured using a Bradford assay. The proteins were diluted to 10 μ M and were analyzed using an FT LTQ mass spectrometer and Millipore C₄ zip tips at the Oregon State University mass spectrometry facility.

3.6f SDS-PAGE of GFP-3.12 incorporation

Purified GFP-3.12, GFP-3.27, WT GFP, and TAG-interrupted GFP (GFP-150TAG)

expressed in the presence of the C11 synthetase, but without **3.12** present, were diluted to equal volumes. Samples were mixed with 2X Laemmli Buffer and heated at 95 °C for 15 min. The samples were then analyzed by SDS-PAGE (15 % gel, 200 V, 60 minutes).

3.6g General synthetic procedures

Compounds 3.22 [8], 3.26 [18], and 3.27 [45] were synthesized as previously reported. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Reactions were run under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen, unless otherwise indicated. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether (Et₂O), dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂), and methanol (CH₃OH) were degassed with argon and run through two 4 x 36 inch columns of anhydrous neutral A-2 (8 x 14 mesh; LaRoche Chemicals; activated under a flow of argon at 350 °C for 12 h). Thin-layer chromatography was performed using Silica Gel 60 F₂₅₄-coated glass plates (0.25 mm thickness), and visualization was performed with KMnO₄ stain and/or UV irradiation. Chromatography was accomplished with 60 Å (240-400 mesh) silica gel, commercially available from Sorbent Technologies. HPLC purifications were performed on a Varian ProStar equipped with 325 Dual Wavelength UV-Vis Detector. Analytical runs were performed using an Agilent C18 Scalar column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with a 1 mL/min flow rate. Semi-preparative runs were performed using an Agilent Prep-C18 Scalar column (9.4 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with a 5 mL/min flow rate. NMR spectra were collected on a Bruker DRX-400 (400 MHz ¹H, 100 MHz ¹³C, 376.5 MHz ¹⁹F) or CRYO-500 (500 MHz ¹H, 125.7 MHz ¹³C) instrument. All spectra were collected at 298 K. High-resolution mass spectrometry was performed by the University of California, Irvine Mass Spectrometry Center.

3.6h Synthetic procedures

3-Amino-1,2,4-triazine (3.1): To a solution of aminoguanidine (0.500 g, 4.52 mmol) in H₂O (20.0 mL) was added NaHCO₃ (0.417 g, 4.97 mmol) at 0 °C, followed by a solution of 8.8 M glyoxal in H₂O (0.570 mL, 5.01 mmol). The reaction was stirred overnight, then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide **3.1** (0.25 g, 59%) as a light-yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.70 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 8.22 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (bs, 2H). Spectral data were consistent with literature values [49].

3-Amino-6-bromo-1,2,4-triazine (3.2): To a solution of **3.1** (53.0 mg, 0.552 mmol) in H₂O (6 mL) was added bromine (70.0 μ L, 1.38 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 6 h, then the pH was adjusted to ~10 by addition of sat. NaHCO₃. The crude solution was then extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10-30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.2** (66 mg, 68%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO): δ 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.48 (bs, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO) δ 162.8, 153.0, 135.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₃H₂BrN₄ [M-H]⁻ 172.9463, found 172.9467. Spectral data were consistent with literature values [50].

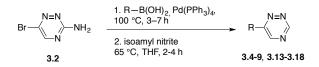
6-Bromo-1,2,4-triazine (3.3): To a pressure tube was added a solution of triazine **3.2** (120 mg, 0.685) in THF (5 mL) and isopentyl nitrite (0.280 mL, 2.08 mmol). The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 65 °C for 5 h. The crude product was gently concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide

3.3 as a volatile yellow oil. This material was immediately carried on to the next step.

(*E*)-Cyclooct-4-en-1-yl isopropylcarbamate (3.24): To a round-bottom flask containing a solution of commercially available TCO-NHS ester (12.0 mg, 0.0449 mmol) in 2.0 mL CH₂Cl₂ was added excess isopropylamine (0.10 mL, 1.2 mmol). The solution was gently stirred for 5 h. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.24** (9.0 mg, 95%) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.53 (m, 2H), 4.35 (m, 2H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 2.35 (m, 3H), 1.67-2.04 (m, 6H), 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.13 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.5, 134.9, 133.1, 80.3, 42.9, 41.2, 38.7, 34.4, 32.6, 31.0, 23.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₂₁NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 234.1470, found 234.1463.

4-(4-Nitrophenyl)-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydrocycloocta[*c*]**pyridin-8-yl** isopropylcarbamate (3.25): To a vial containing TCO 3.24 (8.00 mg, 0.0379 mmol) was added a solution of triazine **3.4** (8.00 mg, 0.0396 mmol) in 2 mL MeCN. The vial was placed in a 37 °C incubator for 2 d. The solution color changed from light yellow to red, then back to yellow over the course of the reaction. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10-20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide aromatized cycloadduct **3.25** as a mixture of two-regioisomers (12.0 mg, 83%) as a light-yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.45 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.25-8.32 (m, 6H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.30-4.52 (m, 4H), 3.74 (bs, 2H), 2.64-2.95 (m, 8H), 1.53-2.11 (m, 12H), 1.12 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.2, 155.0, 150.6, 150.4, 148.1, 147.9, 147.5, 146.2, 145.8, 145.3, 145.3, 136.4, 136.3, 135.5, 130.6, 130.5, 123.6, 74.4, 74.1, 43.1, 37.1, 35.6, 34.0, 33.1, 30.1, 29.7, 27.9, 27.7, 26.4, 26.3, 24.4, 23.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₅N₃O₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 406.1743, found 406.1742.

General procedure to access mono-substituted triazines (Scheme 1, top):



6-(4-Nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.4): To a pressure tube was added (4-nitrophenyl)boronic acid (55.0 mg, 0.329 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (38.0 mg, 0.0329 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (116 mg, 0.663 mmol) in 6.5 mL of 4:2.5 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (91.0 mg, 0.279 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 7 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (81.0 mg, 0.373 mmol) was dissolved in THF (9 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.150 mL, 1.11 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0.30% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 9.70 (s, 1H), 9.23 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.9, 156.1, 149.6, 146.9, 138.9, 128.0, 124.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₇N₄O₂ [M+H]⁺ 203.0569, found 203.0575.

4-(1,2,4-Triazin-6-yl)benzonitrile (3.5): To a pressure tube was added (4-cyanophenyl)boronic acid (78.0 mg, 0.531 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (61.0 mg, 0.0528 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (93.0 mg,

0.531 mmol) in 5.5 mL of 4.5:1 tol:EtOH, and K₂CO₃ (146 mg, 1.06 mmol) in 1.4 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 110 °C for 5 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (62.0 mg, 0.314 mmol) was dissolved in THF (4 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (80.0 µL, 0.595 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% to provide **3.5** (25 mg, 26% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 9.08 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.8, 156.4, 146.8, 137.2, 133.2, 127.6, 118.1, 115.0 HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₅ [M+NH₄]⁺ 200.0936, found 200.0938.

6-(3-Chlorophenyl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.6): To a pressure tube was added (3-chlorophenyl)boronic acid (113 mg, 0.723 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (84.0 mg, 0.0727 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (127 mg, 0.726 mmol) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (200 mg, 0.613 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then diluted with 50 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (127 mg, 0.615 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.250 mL, 1.86 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 4 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude

product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.6** (62 mg, 45% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 9.14 (s, 1H), 8.17 (m, 1H), 8.07 (dt, *J* = 6.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.53-7.62 (m, 2H) . ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 156.7, 156.5, 147.6, 135.6, 134.8, 130.9, 130.8, 126.9, 125.5. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₆ClN₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 214.0148, found 214.0157.

6-Phenyl-1,2,4-triazine (3.7): To a pressure tube was added phenylboronic acid (89.0 mg, 0.730 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (84.0 mg, 0.0727 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (128 mg, 0.731 mmol) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and a solution of Cs₂CO₃ (202 mg, 0.620 mmol) in 1 mL of H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10-30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (122 mg, 0.708 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.280 mL, 2.08 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.66 (s, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1 H), 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.58 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 156.2, 146.7, 133.1, 131.3, 129.5, 127.0. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₇N₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 180.0538, found 180.0537.

6-(p-Tolyl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.8): To a pressure tube was added p-tolylboronic acid (97.0 mg,

0.713 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (82.0 mg, 0.0710 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (125 mg, 0.714 mmol) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (197 mg, 0.605 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (130 mg, 0.698 mmol) was dissolved in THF (10 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.280 mL, 2.08 mmol) was added. The reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% etOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.8** (49 mg, 40% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 9.24 (s, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 157.8, 155.6, 147.6, 141.7, 130.3, 129.7, 126.7, 20.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₃ [M+H]⁺ 172.0875, found 172.0868.

(*E*)-6-Styryl-1,2,4-triazine (3.9): To a pressure tube was added (*E*)-styrylboronic acid (176 mg, 1.19 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (92 mg, 0.080 mmol), a solution of 3.2 (139 mg, 0.794 mmol) in 5 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (388 mg, 1.19 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 6 h. The reaction was then quenched with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (114 mg, 0.575 mmol) was dissolved in THF (6 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.150 mL, 1.12 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 2 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was

concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.9** (24 mg, 16% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.54 (s, 1H), 8.76 (s, 1 H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 157.1, 155.6, 147.9, 136.6, 135.7, 129.6, 129.0, 127.6, 121.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₉N₃Na [M+Na]⁺ 206.0694, found 206.0693.

6-(Thiophen-2-yl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.13): To a pressure tube was added thiophen-2-ylboronic acid (116 mg, 0.907 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (52.0 mg, 0.045 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (79.0 mg, 0.451 mmol) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and $C_{2}CO_{3}$ (294 mg, 0.903 mmol) in 0.5 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 50 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (85.0 mg, 0.477 mmol) was dissolved in THF (6 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.200 mL, 1.49 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 4 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude produt was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide 3.13 (33 mg, 45% over two steps) as a light orange solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.54 (s, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.8, 154.1, 145.3, 137.0, 130.9, 128.7, 127.6. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C₇H₆N₃S [M+H]⁺ 164.0282, found 164.0282.

6-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.14): To a pressure tube was added (4methoxyphenyl)boronic acid (78.0 mg, 0.513 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (59.0 mg, 0.051 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (90.0 mg, 0.514 mmol) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (142 mg, 0.436 mmol) in 1.0 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 50 mL H_2O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (102 mg, 0.504 mmol) was dissolved in THF (6 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.200 mL, 1.49 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide 3.14 (37 mg, 38% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.57 (s, 1H), 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.3, 157.4, 155.6, 146.1, 128.5, 125.4, 114.9, 55.6. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₀H₁₀N₃O [M+H]⁺ 188.0824, found 188.0827.

6-(Naphthalen-2-yl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.15): To a pressure tube was added naphthalen-2ylboronic acid **2** (149 mg, 0.866 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (50.0 mg, 0.0433 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (76.0 mg, 0.434 mmol) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and Cs_2CO_3 (283 mg, 0.869 mmol) in 0.5 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (88.0 mg, 0.398 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.160 mL, 1.19 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated with a reflux condenser at 65 °C for 4 h. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-10% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.15** (29 mg, 32% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1 H), 8.69 (s, 1H), 8.69 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59-8.11 (m, 3H), 7.60-7.65 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 157.8, 156.1, 147.7, 134.4, 133.2, 130.9, 129.1, 128.9, 128.9, 127.8, 127.3, 127.1, 123.6. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₃H₁₀N₃ [M+H]⁺ 208.0875, found 208.0868.

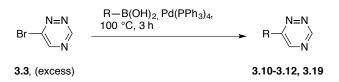
(3,5-Dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)boronic acid (3.16): To a pressure tube was added (3,5dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)boronic acid (101 mg, 0.717 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (55.0 mg, 0.0480 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (84.0 mg, 0.480 mmol) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (172 mg, 0.528 mmol) in 0.5 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 50 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (103 mg, 0.538 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.220 mL, 1.64 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 4 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-30% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.16** (27 mg, 32% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 158.4, 155.5, 153.3, 147.3, 110.6, 13.1, 11.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₈H₉N₄O [M+H]⁺ 177.0776, found 177.0770.

Methyl-4-(1,2,4-triazin-6-yl)benzoate (3.17): To a pressure tube was added (4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl)boronic acid (98.0 mg, 0.545 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (63.0 mg, 0.0545 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (96.0 mg, 0.549 mmol) in 7 mL of 5:2 tol:EtOH, and K₂CO₃ (151 mg, 1.09 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 110 °C for 4 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H_2O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 30-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (88.0 mg, 0.382 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.150 mL, 1.12 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 3 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated in vacuo, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide 3.17 (29 mg, 25% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.71 (s, 1H), 9.09 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 157.1, 156.6, 146.9, 137.1, 132.6, 130.6, 127.0, 126.9, 52.5. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}N_4O_2$ [M+NH₄]⁺ 233.1039, found 233.1038.

6-(3-Nitrophenyl)-1,2,4-triazine (3.18): To a pressure tube was added (3-nitrophenyl)boronic acid (100 mg, 0.599 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (63.0 mg, 0.0545 mmol), a solution of **3.2** (95.0 mg, 0.543 mmol) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (150 mg, 0.460 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 5 h. The reaction was then diluted with 50 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was

purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂). The isolated material (92.0 mg, 0.423 mmol) was dissolved in THF (8 mL), then isopentyl nitrite (0.170 mL, 1.27 mmol) was added and the reaction was heated at 65 °C for 4 h, using a reflux condenser. The crude product was concentrated *in vacuo*, then purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.18** (38 mg, 34% over two steps) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 9.69 (s, 1H), 9.25 (s, 1H), 8.95 (m, 1H), 8.52 (m,1H), 8.40 (m, 1H), 7.86 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 156.8, 156.2, 149.1, 147.8, 135.3, 133.0, 130.7, 125.4, 121.8. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₅N₄O₂ [M-H]⁻ 201.0412, found 201.0419.

General procedure to access mono-substituted triazines (Scheme 1, bottom):



4-(1,2,4-Triazin-6-yl)aniline (3.10): To a pressure tube was added 4-aminophenylboronic acid pinacol ester (42.0 mg, 0.192 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (22.0 mg, 0.0190 mmol), a solution of **3.3** (91.0 mg, 0.569 mmol) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (185 mg, 0.568 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 20-40% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide

3.10 (24 mg, 73%) as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 9.42 (s, 1H), 8.99 (s, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.64 (bs, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 158.4, 155.8, 152.0, 147.1, 129.0, 122.4, 115.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₈N₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 195.0647, found 195.0643.

N,*N*-Dimethyl-4-(1,2,4-triazin-6-yl)aniline (3.11): To a pressure tube was added (4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)boronic acid (48.0 mg, 0.291 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (34.0 mg, 0.0294 mmol), a solution of triazine 3.3 (92.0 mg, 0.575 mmol) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (120 mg, 0.368 mmol) in 1.0 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O, extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 0-10 % EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide 3.11 (38.0 mg, 65%) as yellow solid.¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 8.93 (s, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (s, 6H).¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃Cl) δ 157.6, 154.8, 152.3, 145.7, 127.9, 119.9, 112.3, 40.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₁H₁₂N₄Na [M+Na]⁺ 223.0960, found 223.0965.

3-(1,2,4-Triazin-6-yl)phenol (3.19): To a pressure tube was added (3-hydroxyphenyl)boronic acid (46.0 mg, 0.334 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (38.0 mg, 0.0329 mmol), a solution of **3.3** (159 mg, 0.994) in 7 mL of 4:3 tol:EtOH, and Cs_2CO_3 (216 mg, 0.663 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then diluted with 40 mL H₂O and extracted with EtOAc (2 x 60 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over MgSO₄, then filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* The crude product was purified by flash

column chromatography (eluting with 10-40 % EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide **3.19** (42.0 mg, 73%) as a light-yellow solid.¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 9.60 (s, 1H), 9.20 (s, 1H), 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 6.99 (apparent dd, *J* = 7.0, 2.1 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 158.2, 157.9, 155.9, 147.8, 134.3, 130.2, 117.9, 117.8, 113.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₉H₈N₃O [M+H]⁺ 174.0667, found 174.0667.

(*S*)-3-(4-(1,2,4-Triazin-6-yl)phenyl)-2-aminopropanoic acid (3.12): To a pressure tube was added (*S*)-2-amino-3-(4 boronophenyl)propanoic acid (30.0 mg, 0.144 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (16.0 mg, 0.0138 mmol), a solution of **3.3** (70.0 mg, 0.438) in 5 mL of 3:2 tol:EtOH, and Cs₂CO₃ (143 mg, 0.437 mmol) in 1 mL H₂O. The tube was flushed with nitrogen, sealed, and heated at 100 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then quenched with 40 mL H₂O, extracted with EtOAc (2 x 40 mL). The aqueous layer was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by preparative HPLC, eluting with 0-95% MeCN in water over 30 min. The desired fractions were collected and concentrated *in vacuo* to provide **3.12** (15 mg, 42%) as light-orange solid.¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O): δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 9.25 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 7.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, D₂O) δ 175.4, 158.2, 155.4, 149.5, 139.5, 131.6, 130.5, 127.9, 56.2, 37.2. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N4O₂ [M-H]⁻ 243.0882, found 243.0889.

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Chapter 4: Isomeric 1,2,4-triazines exhibit distinct profiles of bioorthogonal reactivity

Yong Liang, Fang Liu, Jeffrey Briggs, and Hui-Wen Shih contributed to the work presented in this chapter.

4.1 Introduction

In the previous chapter, I discussed the reactivity of 6-substituted 1,2,4-triazines. These motifs react robustly with *trans*-cyclooctene (TCO), but are orthogonal to other bioorthogonal alkenes and are stable in cells (in contrast to structurally related tetrazine scaffolds). In this chapter, I will discuss our efforts to tune 1,2,4-triazines to exhibit unique reaction profiles with strained alkenes and alkynes.

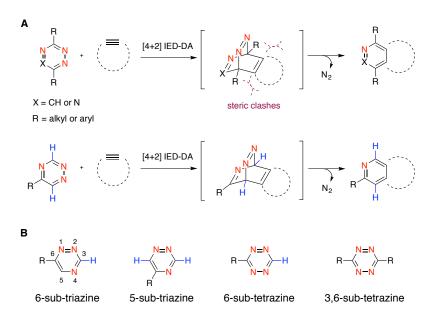


Figure 4-1. Inverse electron-demand Diels-Alder (IED-DA) reactivity of substituted tetrazine and triazine scaffolds. (A) Model IED-DA reactivity of strained alkynes with tetrazine or 1,2,4-traizine motifs. (B) Isomeric triazines and tetrazines examined in this work.

The success of bioorthogonal transformations is critically dependent on the reagents being exquisitely stable in cells and tissues, yet robustly reactive with complementary probes [1, 2]. This chemical paradox has often frustrated efforts to develop reagents that exhibit selective reactivity, let alone multiple reactions that can function in concert. In fact, there are only a handful of bioorthogonal reaction pairs that can be used simultaneously [3], and of these, none involve concurrent [4+2] cycloadditions [4-10].

To address this void, we are developing "privileged" scaffolds that not only meet the requirements for bioorthogonality, but also are compatible with each other for simultaneous reactivity [11]. Such mutually orthogonal reagents will enable selective and concurrent chemical tagging of multiple biomolecules [12]. One such "privileged" scaffold is 1,2,4-triazine. As I highlighted in Chapter 3, triazines offer robust reactivity and exquisite stability for biomolecule labeling.

To capitalize on the unique features of triazines and further explore reactivity, we aimed to synthesize and analyse isomeric scaffolds (Figure 4-1). 1,2,4-Triazines react with alkene and alkyne dienophiles via inverse electron-demand Diels-Alder (IED-DA) cycloaddition across C3-C6 (Figure 4-1) [25]. The regioselectivity of this addition could potentially be exploited for orthogonal reaction development: bulky dienophiles would be more likely to react with 5-substituted triazines than their 6-substituted counterparts (Figure 4-1). Similar steric "tuning" tactics have been used to develop mutually compatible reactions with strained alkynes and alkenes [10, 14, 26]. For example, C3- and C6-substituted tetrazines exhibit differential reactivities with sterically modified cyclooctynes [26]. Cyclooctynes with substitutents near the reactive alkyne center react

exclusively with mono-substituted (versus di-substitued tetrazines) due to steric clashes in the transition state.

4.2 Computational analysis of 1,2,4-triazine reactivity

We hypothesized that 1,2,4-triazine reactivity could be similarly modulated to generate mutually orthogonal reactions. To examine this possibility, we first used density-functional theory (DFT) calculations to evaluate the reactivity of model 1,2,4- triazines with a series of strained dienophiles and known bioorthogonal motifs (Table 4-1) [20-24].

Table 4-1. DFT-computed activation free energies (kcal/mol) and predicted relative rate constants ($M^{-1} s^{-1}$) for tetrazine and triazines cycloadditions with strained dienophiles, in water at 25 °C.

ΔG^{\ddagger} ($k_{\rm rel}$)	NH ₂		\bigcirc	F		$\overline{\langle s \rangle}$
NI NI	Ср	NB	тсо	DIFO	DIBAC	тмтн
Ph-V=N 6-sub-triazine	26.7 (1.8 x 10 ⁻⁵)	29.2 (2.7 x 10 ⁻⁷)	21.7 (8.3 x 10 ⁻²)	26.1 (5.4 x 10 ⁻⁵)	33.2 (<mark>3.0 x 10⁻¹⁰)</mark>	25.6 (1.1 x 10 ⁻⁴)
N=N Ph 5-sub-triazine	26.5 (2.4 x 10 ⁻⁵)	29.9 (7.7 x 10 ⁻⁸)	22.7 (1.6 x 10 ⁻²)	26.7 (1.8 x 10 ⁻⁵)	32.3 (1.5 x 10 ⁻⁹)	21.1 (2.4 x 10 ⁻¹)
N=N N Ph 3-sub-triazine	26.5 (<mark>2.4 x 10⁻⁵)</mark>	30.0 (6.8 x 10 ⁻⁸)	23.1 (7.6 x 10 ⁻³)	27.0 (1.1 x 10 ⁻⁵)	35.1 (1.2 x 10 ⁻¹¹)	26.8 (1.4 x 10 ⁻⁵)
Ph── <mark>│ N=N</mark> N─N 6-sub-tetrazine	20.2 (1.0)		15.2 (4.9 x 10 ³)		26.7 (1.8 x 10 ⁻⁵)	19.6 (3.2)
N=N Ph-√↓ → Ph N−N 3,6-disub-tetrazine	21.4 (1.5 x 10 ⁻¹)	22.0 (4.8 x 10 ⁻²)	15.9 (1.5 x 10 ³)	25.6 (1.1 x 10 ⁻⁴)	30.8 (1.7 x 10 ⁻⁸)	30.8 (1.7 x 10 ⁻⁸)

Isomeric 1,2,4-triazines differed in the placement of subsitutents, either at the sites of new bond formation (C3 or C6) or removed from these sites (C5). Similar calculations were

performed with substituted tetrazines. In agreement with our previous work, 6substituted-triazines were predicted to react robustly with TCO, although slower than their tetrazine counterparts. Minimal or no triazine reactivity was predicted with strained alkenes, including cyclopropene and norbornene. These results are in stark contrast to tetrazines, which harbor lower LUMO+1 energies and thus react robustly with a variety of strained alkenes [14].

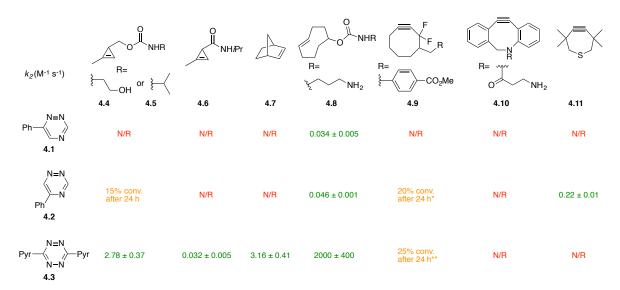
A surprising result emerged in the predicted reactivity profiles of triazines with strained alkynes. The 5-substituted-triazine and monosubstituted tetrazine were predicted to be robustly reactive with tetramethylthiacycloheptyne (TMTH), one of the most sterically encumbered strained alkynes. TMTH was previously developed by the Bertozzi group for strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition [32]. TMTH can also react with dienes, though, including minimally substituted tetrazines [32,33]. As expected, the 3- and 6-subsituted triazine isomers were predicted to react slowly with TMTH due to steric clashes at the reactive centers. Calculations further suggested that 5-substituted-triazines would not react efficiently other bioorthogonal strained alkynes, including DIBAC and DIFO (molecules with lower HOMO energies). Monosubstituted tetrazines are also predicted to react with TMTH. However, due to their instability, monosubstituted tetrazines are not utilized as the primary labelling reagent [17].

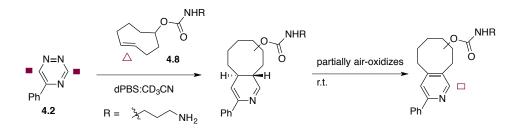
4.3 Reactivity profile of isomeric 1,2,4-triazines

The predicted rate data were verified experimentally. We synthesized the panel of reagents shown in Table 4-2, and monitored the relevant reactions by ¹H-NMR. The measured bimolecular rate constants closely matched the DFT predictions (Table 4-2).

As expected, the 6-substituted triazine **4.1** reacted exclusively with TCO **4.8**. The 5phenyl triazine isomer **4.2** was similarly reactive with TCO **4.8** (Figure 4-2), but also underwent cycloaddition (albeit minimally) with carbamate-cyclopropenes **4.4-4.5** (Figure 4-3) and DIFO **4.9** (Figure S4-2). Minimal reactivity was also observed between tetrazine **4.3** and DIFO **4.9** (Figure S4-3). Triazine **4.2** was also stable in the presence of L-cysteine at 37 °C (Figure S4-4). Importantly, the most tantalizing prediction—robust reactivity between TMTH **4.11** and 5-phenyl triazine **4.2**—was also validated experimentally (Table 4-2 and Figure S4-5). Disubstituted tetrazine **4.3** did not react with TMTH **4.11** for up to 2 d- likely due to steric clashes between the methyl groups on TMTH **4.11** and dipyridyl groups on tetrazine **4.3** (Figure S4-6). 6-Phenyl-triazine also did not react with TMTH for 2 d (Figure S4-7), and only minimal reactivity was observed with *para*-nitrophenyl-triazine over 2 d (Figure S4-8). Our experimental data correlate with the computational values (Table 4-1 and Figures S4-5 to S4-8).

Table 4-2. Second order rate constants (M⁻¹ s⁻¹) for tetrazine and triazine cycloadditions with strained dienophiles. All rates were monitored by ¹H-NMR at 25 °C. N/R indicates no reaction after 24 h and a rate constant $< k_2 = 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Calculated rate constants: $*k_2 = 2.29 \pm 0.16 \text{ x}$ $10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, $** k_2 = 3.35 \pm 0.80 \text{ x} 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.





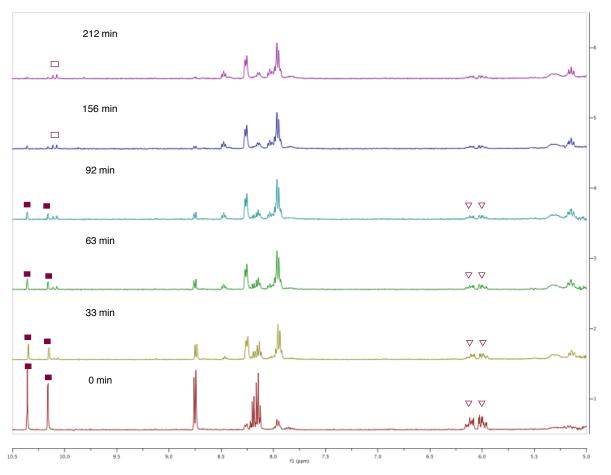


Figure 4-2. Reaction between triazine **4.2** and TCO **4.8**. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of TCO **4.8** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in dPBS). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

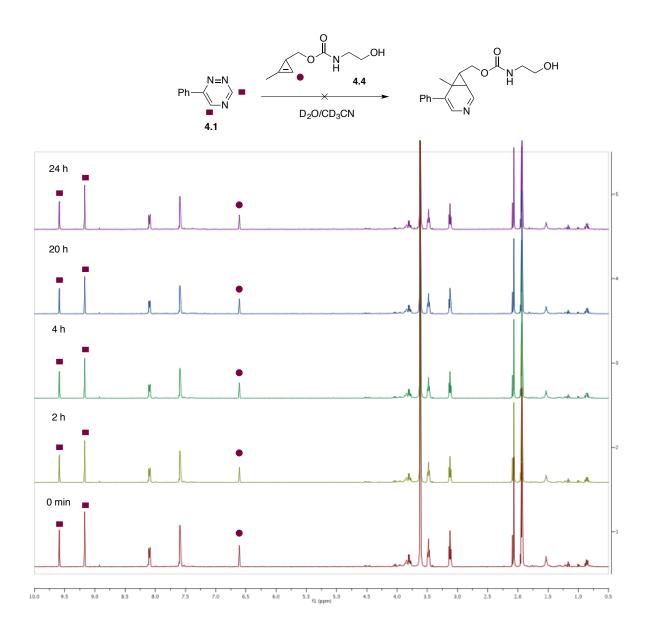


Figure 4-3. Triazine **4.1** is orthogonal to cyclopropene **4.4**. Triazine **4.1** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of cyclopropene **4.4** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in 25% D₂O in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.12 mL CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

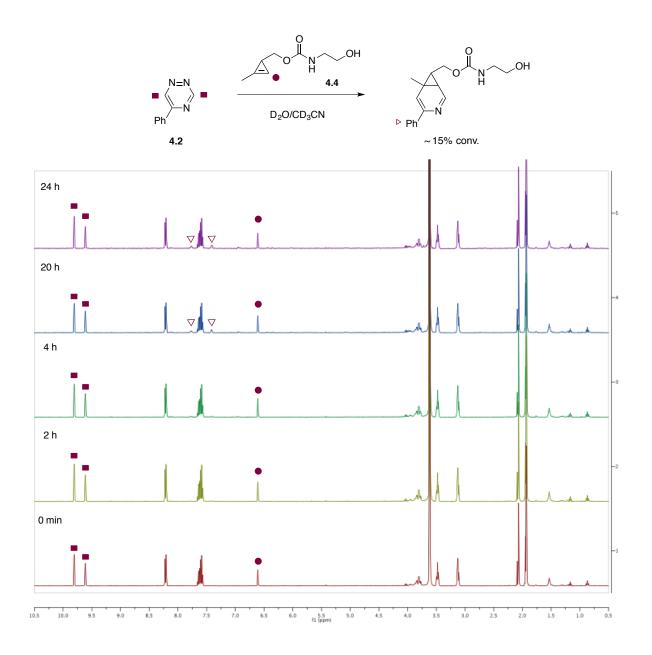


Figure 4-4. Minimum reactivity is observed between triazine **4.2** and cyclopropene **4.4**. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of cyclopropene **4.4** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in 25% D₂O in CD₃CN) and diluted with 60 μ L CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

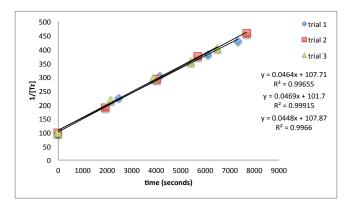


Figure 4-5. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for **4.2** and **4.8** in 1:1 CD₃CN: *d*-PBS. The reactions between triazine **4.2** and TCO **4.8** were run in 1:1 ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

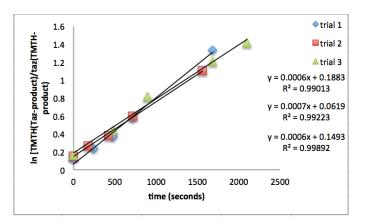


Figure 4-6. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for **4.2** and **4.11** CD₃CN. The reactions between triazine **4.2** and TMTH **4.11** were run in roughly 1:2 (triazine:TMTH) ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

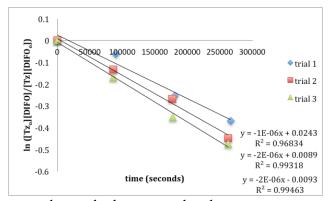


Figure 4-7. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for **4.3** and **4.9** in CD₃CN. The reactions between tetrazine **4.3** and DIFO **4.9** were run in roughly 1:2 (tetrazine:DIFO) ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

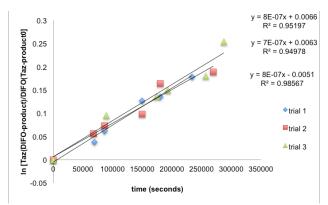


Figure 4-8. Kinetic data used to calculate second-order rate constants (k_2) for **4.2** and **4.9** in CD₃CN. The reactions between triazine **4.2** and DIFO **4.9** were run in roughly 1:2 (triazine:DIFO) ratios and monitored by ¹H-NMR.

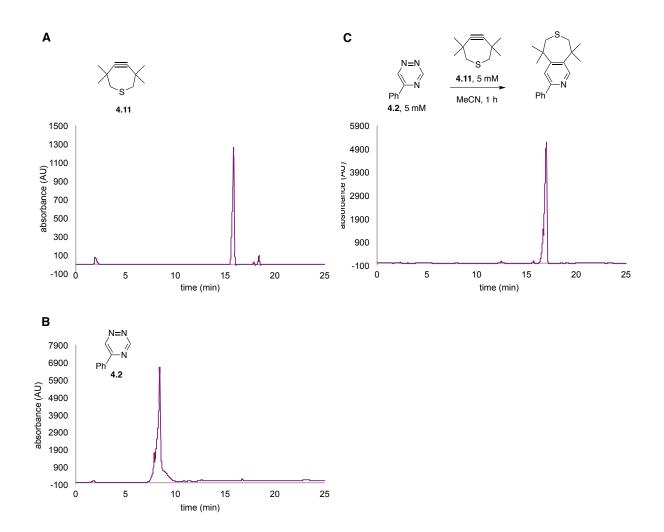


Figure 4-9. 5-Phenyl-1,2,4-triazine **4.2** reacts quantitatively with TMTH **4.11**. (A) HPLC trace of starting TMTH **4.11** reagent. (B) HPLC trace of starting triazine **4.2** trace. (C) Triazine **4.2** (5mM in MeCN) was reacted with TMTH **4.11** (5 mM in MeCN) for 1 h, and monitored by HPLC. HPLC traces are monitored at 210 nm wavelength.

The unique reactivity profile of 5-phenyl triazine suggested further opportunities for mutually orthogonal reaction development. The reaction between TMTH **4.11** and 5phenyl-1,2,4-triazine **4.2** proceeded with a rate constant of $k_2 = 0.22 \pm 0.01$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Figure 4-6). This rate is on par with many commonly used strain promoted azide-alkyne cycloadditions [2,34,35]. The reactivity of 5-substituted triazine with TMTH in the presence of 6-substituted triazine was further analysed by ¹H-NMR (Figure 4-10). Isomeric triazines were mixed at equal concentrations with excess TMTH. Over the course of the reaction, the concentration of TMTH and 5-phenyl-triazine decreased concurrently (Figure 4-10). By contrast, 6-phenyl-triazine was not consumed.

4.4 Dual [4+2] IED-DA reactions

The 5-substituted isomer (4.2) is also non-reactive with cyclopropene 4.6 (a scaffold known to react robustly with tetrazines), setting the stage for dual [4+2] IED-DA reactions. To examine this possibility, cyclopropene 4.6 was mixed with tetrazine 4.2. Over the course of the reaction, the concentration of 5-phenyl-triazine remained constant, while cyclopropene 4.6 and tetrazine 4.3 were consumed (Figure 4-10). Collectively, these data suggested that the 5-substituted-triazine/TMTH reaction could be used concurrently with cyclopropene/disubstituted-tetrazine cycloadditon.

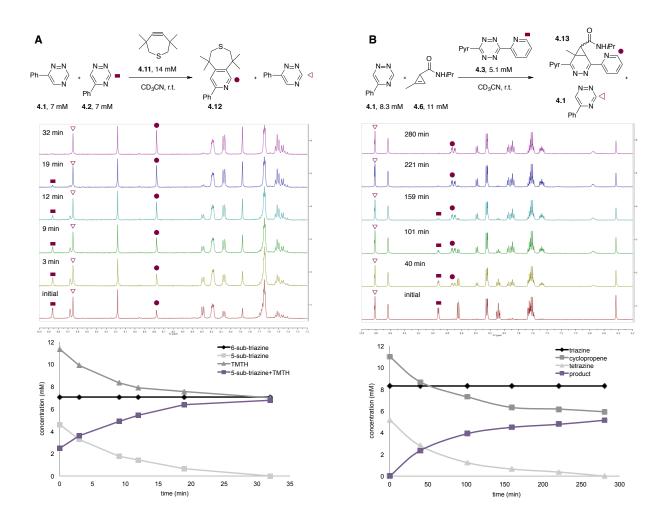


Figure 4-10. Isomeric triazines exhibit unique bioorthogonal reactivities. (A) Triazine **4.2** reacts exclusively with TMTH **4.11**. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR (top), with the reaction progress is plotted below. (B) 5-Phenyl-triazine **4.2** can be used in combination with disubstituted tetrazine **4.3** and cyclopropene. The reaction was monitored by 1H NMR (top), with the reaction progress plotted below.

To investigate this possibility, we combined all four reagents (2.5 mM) and monitored the reactions by ¹H-NMR and HPLC (Figures 4-11 and S4-9 to S4-11). The reactions proceeded quantitatively to the expected two distinct cycloadducts. To our knowledge, this is the first example of a pair of [4+2] IED-DA cycloadditions that can be used simultaneously for bioorthogonal reactivity.[3]

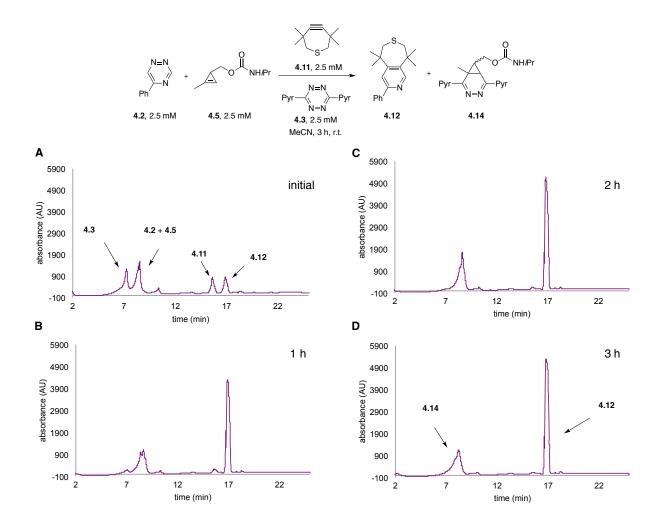


Figure 4-11. Compatible cycloadditions between triazine **4.2**, cyclopropene **4.5**, **4.11**, and **4.3**. All four reagents were combined together (2.5 mM), and the reactions were monitored by HPLC (210 nm) for 3 h.

4.5 Conclusions and future work

In conclusion, computational analyses were used to identify candidate orthogonal reactions, and the predictions were verified experimentally. Notably, 5-substituted triazines were shown to undergo rapid [4+2] cycloadditions with sterically encumbered strained alkynes. This unique, sterically controlled reactivity was exploited for dual bioorthogonal labeling. Mutually orthogonal traizines and cycloaddition chemistries will enable multi-component imaging applications. This reaction could be used in combination with another popular IED-DA reaction, the tetrazine ligation of cyclopropene units. These mutually compatbile chemistries will bolster further multi-component imaging applications and bioorthogonal reaction development.

Collectively, this thesis introduced the development of new bioorthogonal reactions for multicomponent biomolecule labeling. Using a combination of steric and electronic perturbations, new reagents were developed that exhibit selective reactivity and offer the potential to be used together to label multiple targets of interest.

4.6 Materials and methods

4.6a Computational studies

Calculations were performed with Gaussian version 09 [30]. The geometry optimization of the transition states involved was carried at M06-2X level of theory [28-29] with the 6-31G(d) basis set [37]. Vibrational frequencies were computed at the same level to check whether each optimized structure was an energy minimum or a transition state and to evaluate its zero-point vibration energy (ZPVE) and thermal corrections at 298 K. A quasiharmonic correction was applied during the entropy calculation by setting all positive frequencies that were less than 100 cm⁻¹ to 100 cm⁻¹ [38]. The single-point energies and solvent effects in water were computed at level of M06-2X/6-311+G(d,p)using the gas-phase optimized structures at the level of M06-2X/6-31G(d). CPCM model was used to evaluate solvation energies by a self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) [39], where UFF radii were used. The frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) and their energies were computed using M06-2X/6-31G(d) geometries at the HF/6-311+G(d,p) level.

4.6b Rate studies

The reactions between tetrazines **4.3** and 1,2,4-triazine **4.1-4.2** with strained dienophiles **4.4-4.11** were monitored by ¹H-NMR. For reactions between tetrazine or 1,2,4-triazine with strained dienophiles, 0.12-0.3 mL of a 20-50 mM solution of the appropriate strained dienophile was added to a solution of the appropriate 1,2,4-triazine or tetrazine in CD₃CN (0.12-0.24 mL, 20-50 mM), and then diluted to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The final concentrations of all reactants were 5-10 mM and reactions were monitored for at least 24 h. No reaction indicates a rate constant of not faster than $k_2 \sim 10^{-5}$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹. All reactions were carried out at 25 °C. Representative spectra and experimental conditions for each reaction are shown in the accompanying figures.

4.6c General synthetic procedures

Compounds S4.1 [12], S4.3 [12], 4.1 [12], 4.2 [40], 4.4 [15], 4.6 [10], 4.9 [41], 4.11 [32] were synthesized as previously reported. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Reactions were run under ambient conditions, unless otherwise indicated. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether (Et₂O), dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂), and acetonitrile (MeCN) were degassed with argon and run through two 4 x 36 inch columns of anhydrous neutral A-2 (8 x 14 mesh; LaRoche Chemicals; activated under a flow of argon at 350 °C for 12 h). Thin-layer chromatography was performed using Silica Gel 60 F_{254} -

coated glass plates (0.25 mm thickness), and visualization was performed with KMnO₄ stain and/or UV irradiation. Chromatography was accomplished with 60 Å (240-400 mesh) silica gel, commercially available from Sorbent Technologies. HPLC purifications were performed on a Varian ProStar equipped with 325 Dual Wavelength UV-Vis Detector. Analytical runs were performed using an Agilent C18 Scalar column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm) with a 1 mL/min flow rate, and visualized with 210nm wavelength. NMR spectra were collected on a Bruker DRX-400 (400 MHz ¹H, 100 MHz ¹³C, 376.5 MHz ¹⁹F) or CRYO-500 (500 MHz ¹H, 125.7 MHz ¹³C) instrument. All spectra were collected at 298 K. High-resolution mass spectrometry was performed by the University of California, Irvine Mass Spectrometry Center.

4.6d Synthetic procedures

5,5,9,9-Tetramethyl-3-phenyl-5,6,8,9-tetrahydrothiepino[**4,5-***c*]**pyridine** (**4.12**): To three separate NMR tubes containing triazine **4.2** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution) was added TMTH **4.11** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution) in CD₃CN. After the reaction was complete, the solutions were concentrated *in vacuo* to provide the cycloadduct. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN): δ 8.73 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (s, 1H), 7.39-7.49 (m, 3H), 2.87 (s, 2H), 2.86 (s, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H), 1.57 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃CN) δ 157.2, 153.6, 151.0, 141.5, 139.1, 128.7, 126.6, 119.7, 42.9, 41.8, 41.4, 41.1, 32.0, 31.7. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₁₉H₂₄NS [M+H]⁺ 298.1629, found 298.1639.

N-Isopropyl-2-(3-phenyl-5,6,7,8,9,10-hexahydrocycloocta[*c*]pyridin-8-yl)acetamide S4.2: To a vial containing TCO-isopropylamine S4.1 (16.0 mg, 0.0757 mmol) was added a solution of triazine 4.2 (12.0 mg, 0.0763 mmol) in 1 mL MeCN. The vial was placed in a 37 °C incubator for 3 d to facilitate air-oxidation to the pyridine adduct. After 3 d, the crude product was concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by flash column chromatography (eluting with 10-20% EtOAc in CH₂Cl₂) to provide aromatized cycloadduct **S4.2** as a mixture of two-regioisomers (11.0 mg, 43%) as a light-yellow oil.¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.40 (s, 1H), 7.98 (apparent d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4 H), 7.38-7.51 (m, 8H), 4.39-4.58 (m, 3H), 3.77 (m, 2H), 2.76-2.94 (m, 6H), 1.48-2.20 (m, 17 H), 1.14 (m, 13H).¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 156.0, 150.1, 150.0, 149.8, 139.5, 139.4, 134.5, 134.4, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 126.8, 120.8, 74.7, 74.5, 43.0, 37.3, 36.6, 33.0, 31.8, 29.8, 29.1, 28.9, 27.9, 27.2, 25.9, 23.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₁H₂₆N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 361.1892, found 361.1882.

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Appendix A: Computational data for Chapter 2

Table S2.1. Coordinates and Energies of Stationary Points



 $G_{\text{water}} = -195.131186$ Hartree; E = -195.214932 Hartree

			-
С	-0.685716	0.206784	0.034439
С	0.003444	1.281046	-0.188019
С	0.743755	0.170246	0.498557
Н	0.071276	2.282536	-0.585351
С	-1.930745	-0.588044	-0.047853
Н	-2.268156	-0.869273	0.955190
Н	-2.729430	-0.032687	-0.545229
Н	-1.751504	-1.516576	-0.599893
С	1.793558	-0.656829	-0.223730
Н	2.785056	-0.196606	-0.147229
Н	1.865357	-1.666757	0.195570
Н	1.544061	-0.746137	-1.286163
Н	0.937560	0.266279	1.572748

 $G_{\text{water}} = -195.125864$ Hartree; E = -195.209797 Hartree

			-
С	1.262218	0.000000	-0.647393
С	1.262251	0.000000	0.647586
С	-0.094543	0.000000	-0.000408
Н	1.808131	0.000000	1.579301
С	-0.937031	-1.267285	0.000024
Η	-1.586720	-1.305168	0.882845
Н	-1.585151	-1.306582	-0.883882
Н	-0.304718	-2.159209	0.001161
С	-0.937031	1.267285	0.000024
Η	-1.585151	1.306582	-0.883882
Η	-1.586720	1.305169	0.882845
Η	-0.304717	2.159209	0.001161
Η	1.809858	0.000000	-1.578546

 $\overset{\mathsf{Ph-C}\equiv\mathsf{N-NPh}}{{}_{\oplus}{}_{\ominus}} \mathbf{NI}$

 $G_{\text{water}} = -610.561731$ Hartree; E = -610.711307 Hartree

			-
С	-0.929904	-0.625562	-0.000063
С	-2.291680	-0.210331	-0.000015
С	-3.315537	-1.171208	0.000353
С	-2.611625	1.156569	-0.000337
С	-4.641117	-0.759662	0.000387

Н	-3.061517	-2.225638	0.000609
С	-3.942993	1.549243	-0.000283
Н	-1.815938	1.894105	-0.000631
С	-4.960686	0.597031	0.000073
Н	-5.429973	-1.504860	0.000667
Н	-4.186537	2.606753	-0.000531
Η	-5.999156	0.911115	0.000106
Ν	0.176906	-0.991934	-0.000090
Ν	1.332102	-1.493421	-0.000138
С	2.389061	-0.569760	-0.000059
С	2.235545	0.823145	0.000151
С	3.681500	-1.113310	-0.000194
С	3.356425	1.647282	0.000221
Н	1.241562	1.261702	0.000269
С	4.790834	-0.281467	-0.000124
Н	3.783272	-2.193627	-0.000356
С	4.638473	1.105853	0.000084
Н	3.222289	2.725176	0.000389
Н	5.784936	-0.718636	-0.000231
Н	5.508223	1.754449	0.000140
			-

	N=N		
Ph	— 🖌 🏸 Р	'n	
	N-Ń	Tz	
$G_{ m wa}$	$t_{ter} = -758.159$	9878 Hartree	; $E = -758.329060$ Hartree
			-
С	-0.000124	-1.287597	-0.000573
С	0.000124	1.287597	-0.000573
Ν	1.183187	0.651657	-0.001373
Ν	1.183061	-0.652015	-0.001280
Ν	-1.183061	0.652015	-0.001280
Ν	-1.183187	-0.651657	-0.001373
С	0.000214	2.764533	0.000244
С	1.210798	3.465467	0.001564
С	-1.210325	3.465451	-0.000733
С	1.206617	4.855025	0.001864
Н	2.143368	2.912363	0.002220
С	-1.206155	4.855025	-0.000518
Η	-2.142875	2.912278	-0.002082
С	0.000214	5.552030	0.000788
Η	2.147731	5.395799	0.002879
Η	-2.147320	5.395715	-0.001343
Η	0.000236	6.637766	0.001079
С	-0.000214	-2.764533	0.000244
С	-1.210798	-3.465467	0.001564
С	1.210325	-3.465451	-0.000733
С	-1.206617	-4.855025	0.001864
Η	-2.143368	-2.912363	0.002220
С	1.206155	-4.855025	-0.000518
Η	2.142875	-2.912278	-0.002082

С	-0.000214	-5.552030	0.000788
Н	-2.147731	-5.395799	0.002879
Н	2.147320	-5.395715	-0.001343
Н	-0.000236	-6.637766	0.001079
			-

TS-NI-Cp(1,3) *G*_{water} = -805.663047 Hartree; *E* = -805.923388 Hartree

			-	
С	-1.173412	-0.139874	-0.328353	
Ν	-0.145854	-0.631460	-0.691817	
Ν	1.010317	-0.484744	-1.181569	
С	2.075049	-0.965123	-0.401779	
С	3.348352	-0.902504	-0.983126	
С	1.939800	-1.451238	0.906149	
С	4.465803	-1.302231	-0.262875	
Η	3.430960	-0.546306	-2.005323	
С	3.065449	-1.855517	1.614975	
Н	0.952720	-1.514932	1.355387	
С	4.332338	-1.780592	1.040300	
Н	5.447333	-1.248232	-0.724170	
Н	2.950178	-2.232655	2.626913	
Н	5.206304	-2.098206	1.599535	
С	-0.440489	2.075250	-0.336111	
С	0.603104	2.033092	0.747529	
С	0.821282	2.031780	-0.727709	
С	-2.579963	-0.403870	-0.127719	
С	-3.217669	-1.462469	-0.789927	
С	-3.307490	0.424468	0.733730	
С	-4.572573	-1.686128	-0.583552	
Н	-2.642175	-2.096172	-1.456984	
С	-4.662196	0.190347	0.938107	
Н	-2.795328	1.239307	1.236319	
С	-5.294548	-0.861999	0.279477	
Н	-5.067598	-2.505001	-1.095570	
Η	-5.225525	0.829661	1.609953	
Η	-6.353422	-1.041094	0.437645	
Η	0.725292	1.084579	1.288118	
С	1.851316	2.367802	-1.739244	
Η	2.750391	1.761724	-1.597919	
Н	1.472953	2.208299	-2.751733	
Н	2.140212	3.421561	-1.638370	
Н	-1.415967	2.478544	-0.571165	
С	0.952917	3.250770	1.585822	
Н	0.310411	3.324153	2.470716	
Н	1.990785	3.206788	1.933727	
Η	0.828814	4.169623	1.002448	

TS-NI-Cp(3,3) $G_{\text{water}} = -805.656784$ Hartree; E = -805.916333 Hartree

			_
С	-1.078797	-0.204813	-0.303942
Ν	-0.012448	-0.624510	-0.648565
Ν	1.114077	-0.400554	-1.168768
С	2.238094	-0.882929	-0.470185
С	3.486651	-0.568000	-1.017951
С	2.174718	-1.633154	0.710887
С	4.650804	-0.985631	-0.388608
Н	3.516437	0.010484	-1.936004
С	3.347410	-2.050393	1.330467
Н	1.207006	-1.888389	1.133535
С	4.589828	-1.729378	0.789603
Н	5.613702	-0.731205	-0.821614
Н	3.287934	-2.632911	2.245263
Н	5.501282	-2.057901	1.278444
С	-0.617697	2.081795	-0.791772
С	0.417250	2.644638	0.148462
С	0.631905	2.066158	-1.215820
Н	1.296174	2.073859	-2.064482
С	-2.462187	-0.569477	-0.102815
С	-2.980298	-1.763066	-0.625560
С	-3.289434	0.295034	0.622280
С	-4.314963	-2.083995	-0.415857
Н	-2.329784	-2.423007	-1.190742
С	-4.624245	-0.033266	0.826494
Н	-2.868546	1.214490	1.018294
С	-5.136788	-1.220668	0.308217
Н	-4.716592	-3.008124	-0.819081
Η	-5.264920	0.635775	1.391805
Н	-6.180018	-1.474716	0.468441
С	0.845448	1.895736	1.401443
Η	1.886629	2.132814	1.651378
Н	0.225616	2.186386	2.259528
Н	0.772102	0.814177	1.277744
С	0.515306	4.155352	0.327294
Н	-0.125164	4.493065	1.151652
Η	1.542453	4.453843	0.569651
Н	0.210663	4.682799	-0.581313
Н	-1.644418	2.210352	-1.107005
			-

TS-Tz-Cp(1,3) $G_{water} = -953.260183$ Hartree; E = -953.537839 Hartree

			-
С	-1.168019	-0.701568	-0.339577
Ν	-0.528455	-0.339192	-1.489289
Ν	0.755193	-0.324681	-1.462519
С	1.345888	-0.649437	-0.270979
Ν	0.720682	-1.553830	0.559350
Ν	-0.556099	-1.569982	0.528386
С	-0.583430	1.175429	0.927905

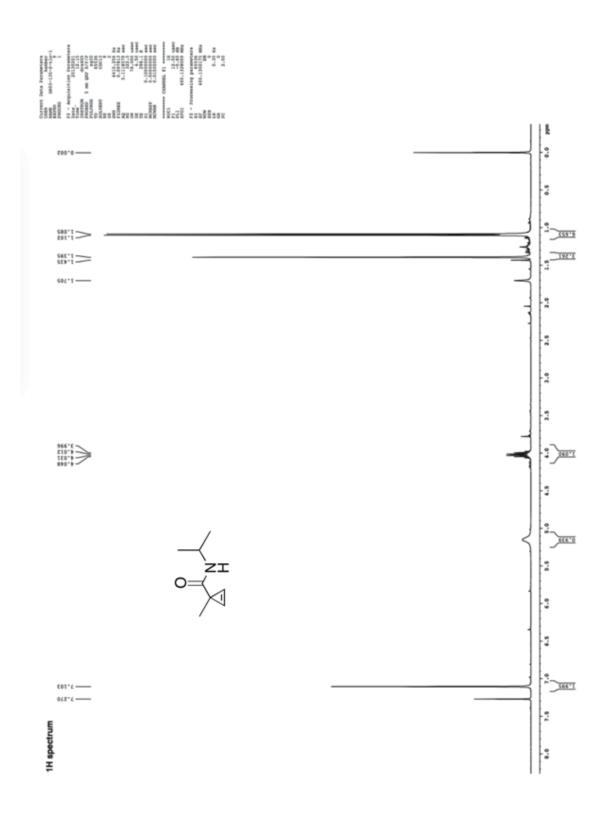
C 0.754269 1.097658 0.862438			
C 0.097072 2.146293 0.015992			
Н 1.604120 1.012673 1.525837			
Н 0.052734 1.946539 -1.057971			
C 2.824936 -0.558255 -0.197087			
C 3.525112 -1.240993 0.800824			
C 3.516046 0.244723 -1.107601			
C 4.909152 -1.126883 0.877957			
Н 2.977451 -1.863620 1.500240			
C 4.899449 0.354492 -1.024562			
Н 2.960885 0.769425 -1.878265			
C 5.599041 -0.330707 -0.033157			
Н 5.450108 -1.663751 1.651080			
Н 5.433906 0.975943 -1.736442			
Н 6.679495 -0.243312 0.029442			
C -2.643922 -0.631675 -0.326730)		
C -3.382484 -1.399324 0.577977			
C -3.302071 0.245473 -1.193458			
C -4.768400 -1.288899 0.611855			
Н -2.861431 -2.079305 1.243622			
C -4.687503 0.353161 -1.152705			
Н -2.717204 0.835837 -1.891850			
C -5.423588 -0.412428 -0.249747	7		
Н -5.338971 -1.890228 1.312913			
Н -5.194522 1.036733 -1.826759			
Н -6.505394 -0.325555 -0.21873	7		
C 0.182079 3.617554 0.374496			
Н 1.060819 4.077632 -0.088078			
Н -0.703254 4.157758 0.024022			
Н 0.258471 3.756619 1.457828			
C -1.693074 1.177910 1.920205			
Н -2.669955 1.292368 1.445308			
Н -1.688499 0.258257 2.511725			
Н -1.541334 2.024637 2.600320			

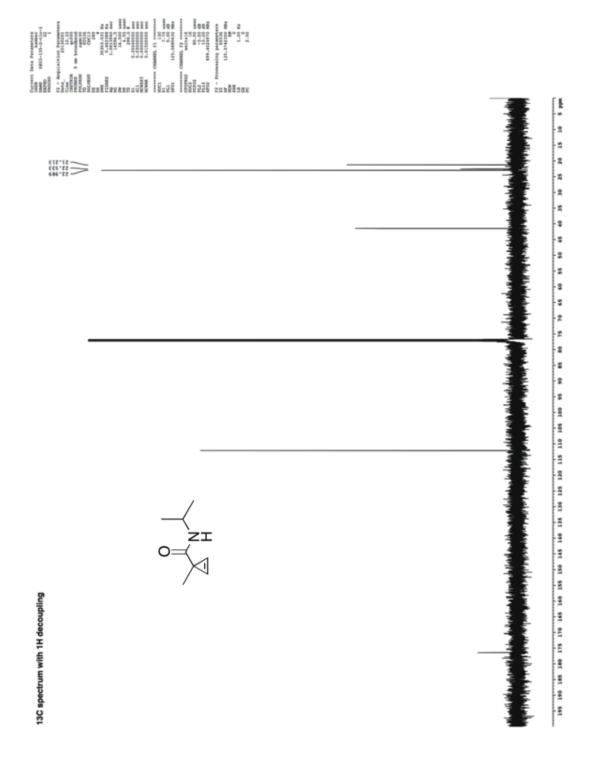
TS-Tz-Cp(3,3) $G_{water} = -953.245086$ Hartree; E = -953.522432 Hartree

С	1.257223	-0.750901	-0.261619
С	-1.257232	-0.750883	-0.261616
Ν	-0.638409	-1.687065	0.536993
Ν	0.638393	-1.687069	0.536996
Ν	-0.641253	-0.381130	-1.422918
Ν	0.641232	-0.381162	-1.422918
С	0.670780	0.911906	1.080881
С	-0.670795	0.911890	1.080694
С	0.000048	2.170409	0.597593
Н	-1.489933	0.654327	1.739073
Η	1.489765	0.654227	1.739409
С	-2.734369	-0.650963	-0.202746

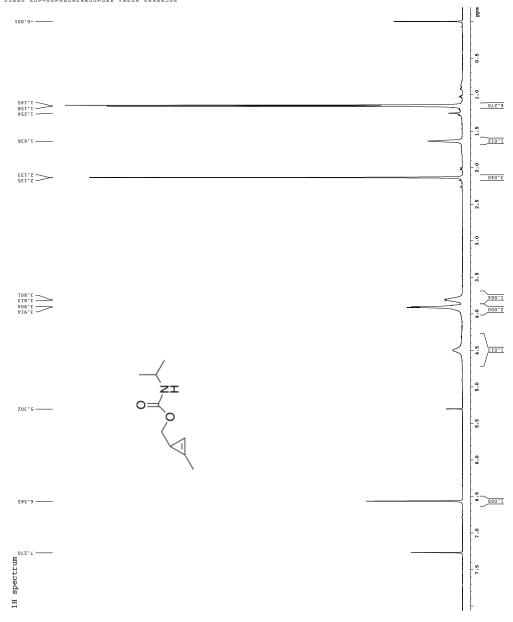
С	-3.405757	0.196202	-1.088101
С	-3.453225	-1.368257	0.756689
С	-4.788837	0.314957	-1.019240
Н	-2.834456	0.749711	-1.826417
С	-4.837391	-1.243873	0.820474
Η	-2.921527	-2.026008	1.436102
С	-5.507639	-0.404223	-0.065894
Н	-5.307663	0.971329	-1.710816
Η	-5.393904	-1.807434	1.562798
Н	-6.587795	-0.309019	-0.013673
С	2.734354	-0.650971	-0.202738
С	3.405745	0.196259	-1.088029
С	3.453210	-1.368332	0.756648
С	4.788824	0.315014	-1.019154
Н	2.834454	0.749828	-1.826306
С	4.837376	-1.243949	0.820447
Н	2.921513	-2.026134	1.436012
С	5.507624	-0.404232	-0.065858
Н	5.307649	0.971439	-1.710681
Н	5.393887	-1.807562	1.562732
Н	6.587781	-0.309029	-0.013628
С	0.000284	2.658925	-0.843496
Н	-0.884054	3.284122	-1.011281
Н	0.882895	3.286936	-1.009887
Η	0.002216	1.866494	-1.586020
С	-0.000191	3.344502	1.571490
Η	-0.884261	3.971982	1.411824
Η	-0.001083	3.007541	2.611964
Η	0.884578	3.971357	1.413170

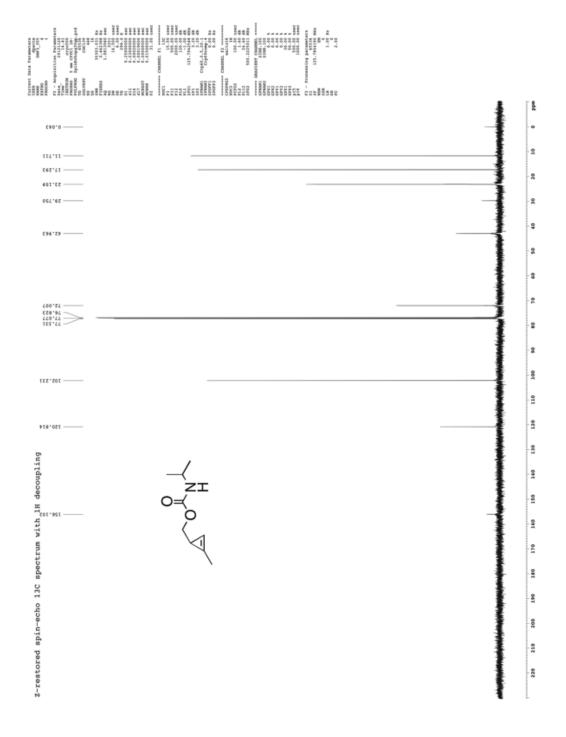
Appendix B: NMR spectra for Chapter 2

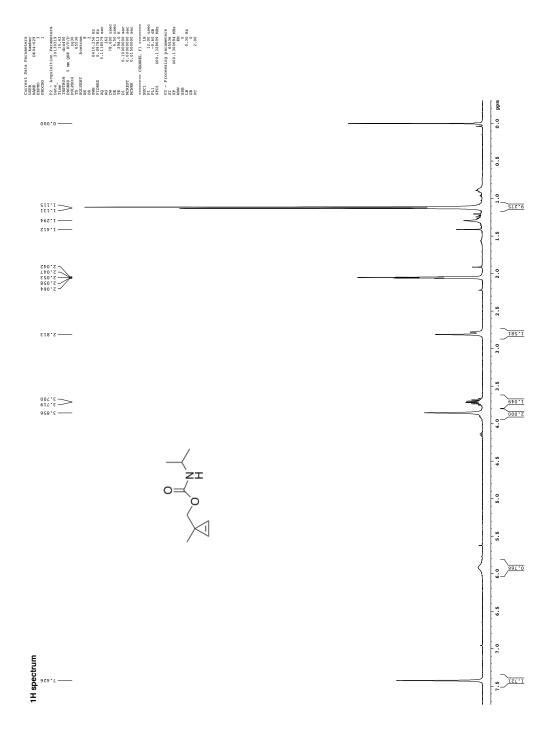


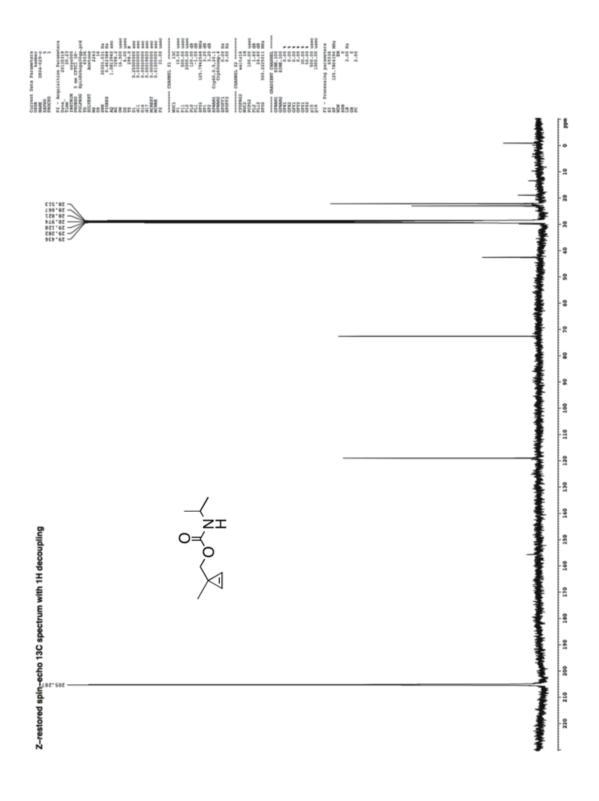


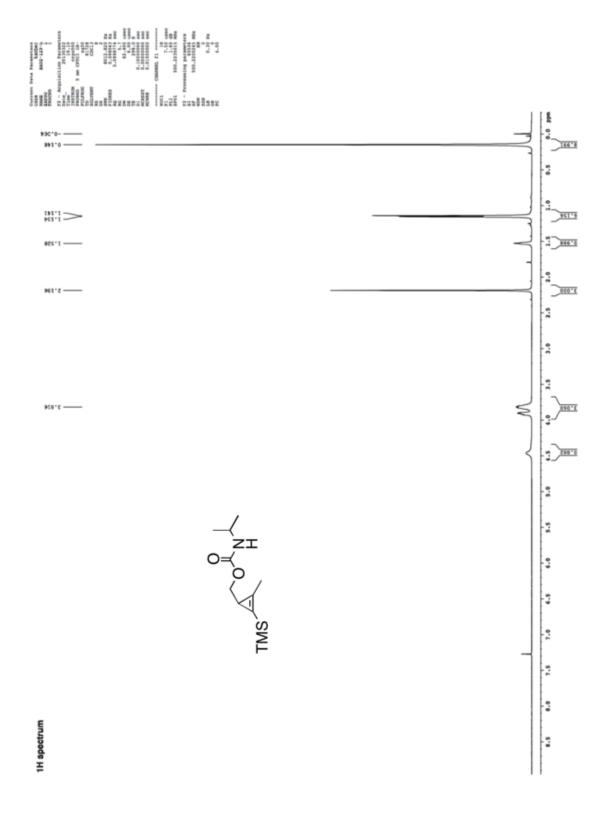
Current: Into Automateria Current: Into Automateria Discose and Automateria Pra-Automateria Pra-Automatical Pranting Pran

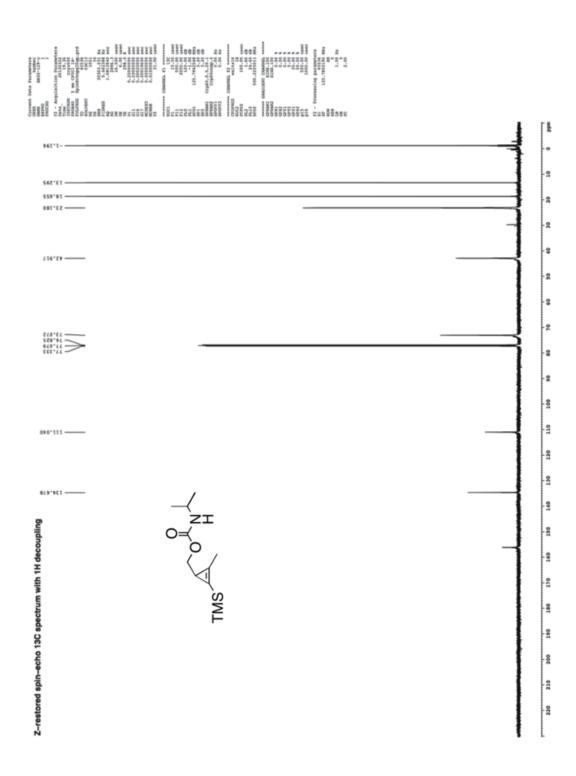


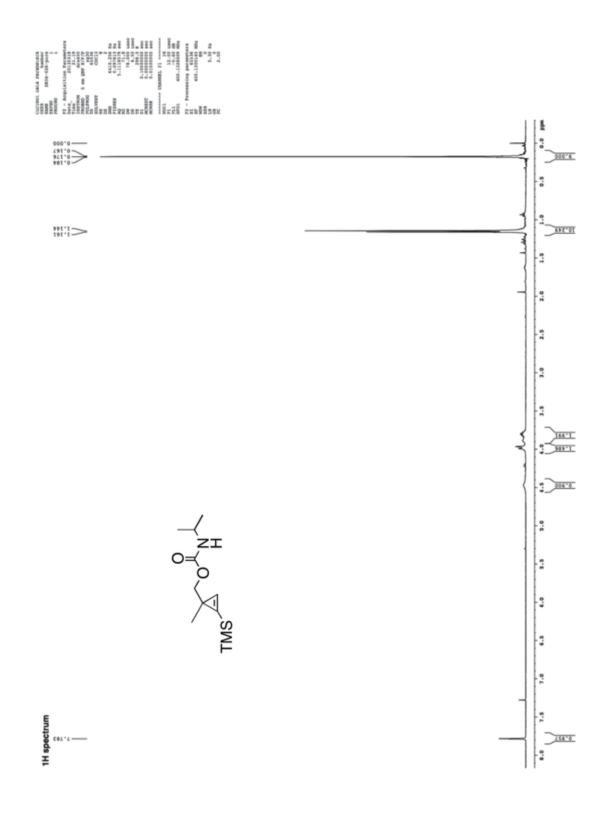


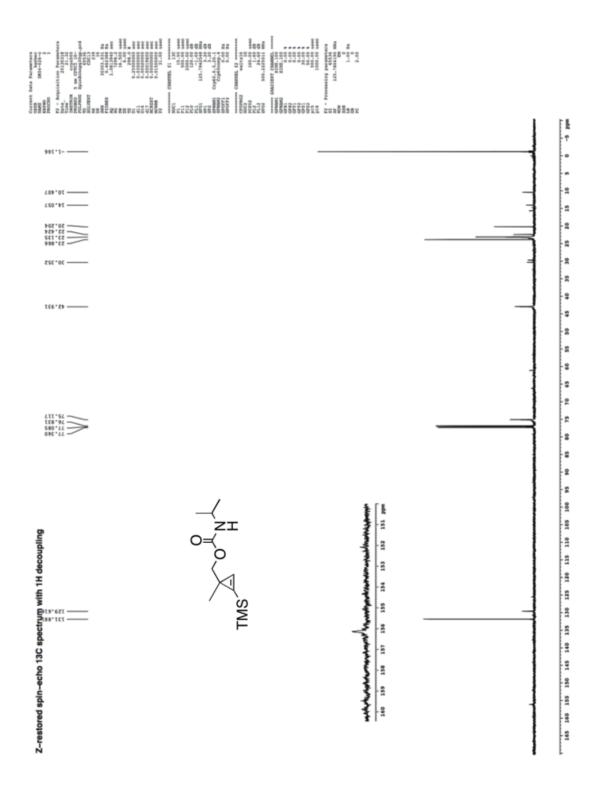


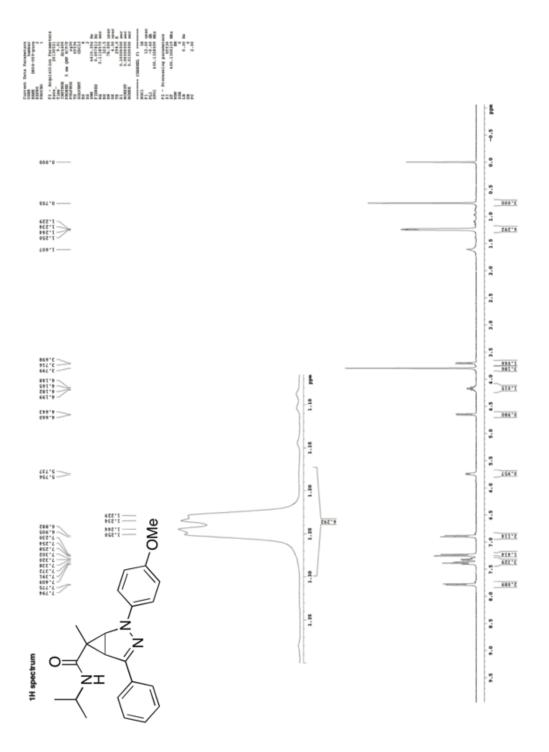


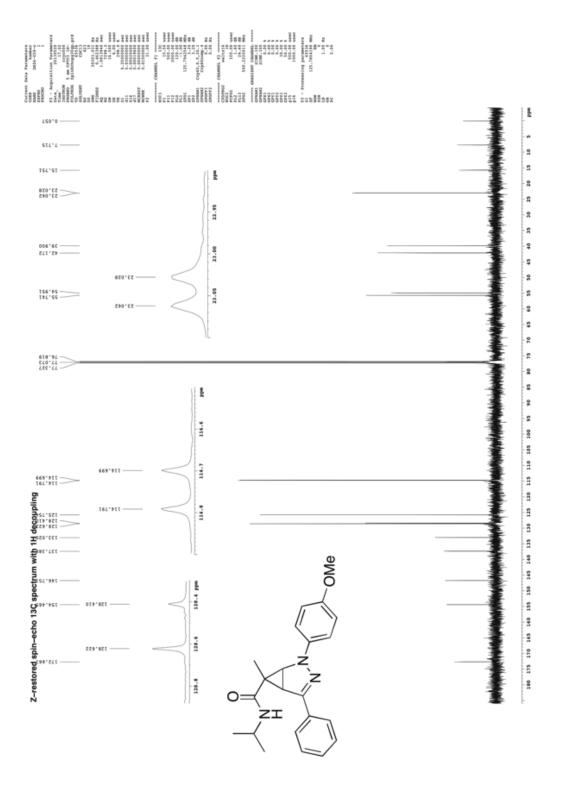




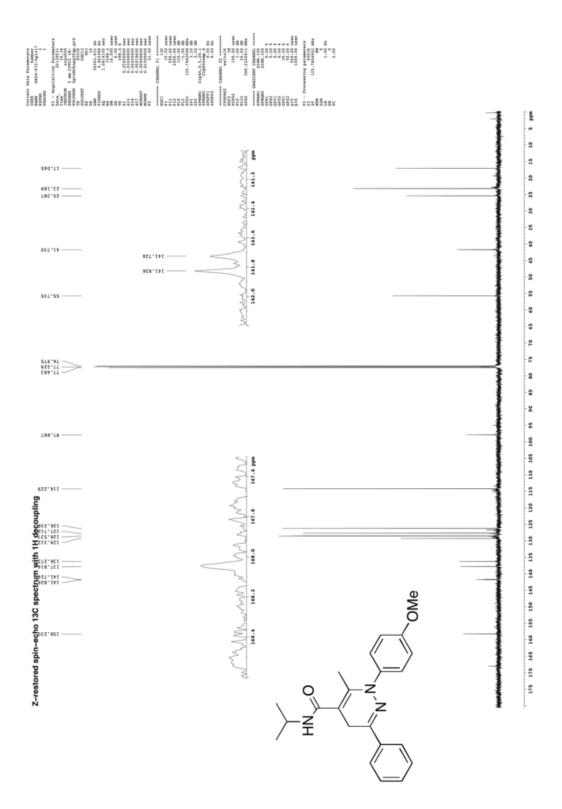












Appendix C: Additional computational data for Chapter 3

Table S3.1 Coordinates and energies of stationary points

K N-	=N -N vater) = -290	6.264818 Ha	rtree
С	1.260460	0.000000	0.000001
С	-1.260460	0.000000	-0.000001
Н	2.345050	0.000000	-0.000003
Н	-2.345050	0.000000	0.000003
Ν	-0.656986	-1.190085	0.000000
Ν	0.656986	-1.190086	0.000000
Ν	-0.656986	1.190086	0.000000
Ν	0.656986	1.190085	0.000000

N=N

G(water) = -280.251744 Hartree

С	0.865860	0.992684	0.000004
С	-1.251104	0.275588	-0.000012
С	1.257122	-0.348729	0.000001
Н	1.595773	1.799211	0.000000
Н	-2.316274	0.488177	0.000018
Н	2.300916	-0.646420	-0.000003
Ν	0.365019	-1.331397	0.000001
Ν	-0.922299	-1.012485	0.000001
Ν	-0.415817	1.321278	0.000000

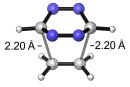


G(water) = -280.227078 Hartree

Ν	0.000000	0.000000	1.376240
С	0.000000	0.000000	-1.351893
Ν	0.000000	1.148053	0.732876
Ν	0.000000	-1.148053	0.732876
С	0.000000	-1.163704	-0.602986
С	0.000000	1.163704	-0.602986
Η	0.000000	-2.151344	-1.055436
Н	0.000000	2.151344	-1.055436
Н	0.000000	0.000000	-2.435883

Ethylene G(water) = -78.534176 Hartree

С	0.000000	0.000000	0.663557
Η	0.000000	0.923717	1.234715
Н	0.000000	-0.923717	1.234715
С	0.000000	0.000000	-0.663557
Н	0.000000	-0.923717	-1.234715
Н	0.000000	0.923717	-1.234715



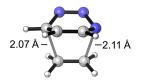
G(water) = -374.764048 Hartree

С	-0.438261	1.227407	0.000016
С	-0.438222	-1.227418	-0.000005
С	1.690521	-0.685849	-0.000037
Η	1.854314	-1.233138	-0.922941
Н	1.854347	-1.233154	0.922854
С	1.690488	0.685893	-0.000028
Η	1.854282	1.233195	0.922869
Η	1.854255	1.233204	-0.922926
Ν	-0.776559	-0.642457	-1.186379
Ν	-0.776576	0.642460	-1.186370
Ν	-0.776482	-0.642481	1.186402
Ν	-0.776501	0.642435	1.186413
Н	-0.350803	2.307704	0.000024
Н	-0.350729	-2.307711	-0.000020



G(water) = -358.739167 Hartree

С	0.521832	1.226127	0.146486
С	0.312709	-1.265939	-0.013119
Н	0.535183	2.306020	0.249316
С	-1.704193	-0.557113	-0.216848
Н	-2.049022	-1.102806	0.654955
Н	-1.818801	-1.059070	-1.172211
С	-1.602373	0.817884	-0.170998
Н	-1.640919	1.399118	-1.086396
Н	-1.859738	1.351496	0.738041
Ν	0.505397	-0.746853	1.246935
Ν	0.618950	0.527748	1.325252
Ν	0.885417	-0.712235	-1.118812
С	1.003627	0.582696	-1.023977
Η	1.449026	1.137517	-1.847256



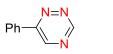
G(water) = -358.695934 Hartree

Ν	-0.382891	-1.311636	0.097615
С	1.585294	0.677893	-0.396304
С	-0.329470	1.258773	0.134590
С	1.578341	-0.711931	-0.409931
Н	1.592679	1.217764	-1.337605
Н	-0.196283	2.331676	0.226339
Н	1.975968	-1.269965	0.429953
Н	2.058387	1.188667	0.436643
Н	1.524770	-1.254611	-1.346509
Ν	-0.341475	-0.671919	1.319425
С	-1.135150	0.696550	-0.885991
Н	-1.633121	1.289676	-1.643459
Ν	-0.330511	0.591103	1.358281
С	-1.100485	-0.663864	-0.868354
Н	-1.529443	-1.300550	-1.636670

 $Ph \longrightarrow \stackrel{N=N}{\underset{N=N}{\overset{N=N}{\overset{}}}}$

G(water) = -527.213293 Hartree

С	0.795954	-0.000001	-0.000312
С	3.344786	0.000000	0.000332
Ν	2.735472	-1.186514	0.000292
Ν	1.426931	-1.186701	-0.000008
Ν	2.735472	1.186514	-0.000108
Ν	1.426931	1.186700	-0.000451
С	-0.681194	-0.000001	-0.000145
С	-1.381274	1.210967	0.000099
С	-1.381274	-1.210966	-0.000212
С	-2.770752	1.206739	0.000257
Н	-0.828010	2.143429	0.000139
С	-2.770754	-1.206738	-0.000063
Н	-0.828012	-2.143429	-0.000401
С	-3.467186	0.000000	0.000177
Н	-3.311732	2.147647	0.000449
Н	-3.311730	-2.147649	-0.000139
Н	-4.552928	0.000003	0.000302
Η	4.428939	0.000000	0.000779



G(water) = -511.197341 Hartree

0.779183	0.013130	0.000499
3.386889	-0.068209	-0.033570
2.863080	1.127688	0.260984
2.714818	-1.189031	-0.270907
1.393616	-1.143256	-0.258470
-0.700656	0.013439	-0.003058
-1.392570	-1.183361	0.211540
-1.421563	1.190864	-0.224579
-2.781702	-1.195642	0.217865
-0.826008	-2.094434	0.371487
-2.812337	1.174522	-0.219253
-0.901160	2.121930	-0.429722
-3.495167	-0.017550	0.005618
-3.309776	-2.128116	0.390764
-3.361531	2.093117	-0.400063
-4.580655	-0.029630	0.010384
4.469062	-0.146334	-0.073090
1.544020	1.158636	0.286596
1.072887	2.100691	0.559044
	3.386889 2.863080 2.714818 1.393616 -0.700656 -1.392570 -1.421563 -2.781702 -0.826008 -2.812337 -0.901160 -3.495167 -3.309776 -3.361531 -4.580655 4.469062 1.544020	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$

MeSH

G(water) = -438.656253 Hartree

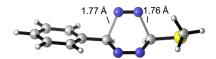
S	-0.662844	-0.086584	0.000048
С	1.154810	0.019179	0.000083
Η	1.522202	-1.008042	-0.001406
Н	1.525074	0.522090	-0.893925
Н	1.526001	0.520821	0.894490
Н	-0.896636	1.235410	-0.000422

$$Ph \xrightarrow{N=N} SMe$$

G(water) = -965.832220 Hartree

N	0.295361	1.055955	-0.319223
С	-0.406242	-0.067415	0.343872
С	2.110527	-0.246654	0.221673
Ν	1.522469	0.970480	-0.380635
Ν	1.361785	-1.446596	-0.191933
Ν	0.134549	-1.357621	-0.133431
С	-1.899490	0.017551	0.158156
С	-2.674544	-1.142340	0.183866
С	-2.516225	1.260146	0.009234
С	-4.058050	-1.057451	0.059546

Н	-2.190446	-2.107698	0.285751
С	-3.900112	1.339699	-0.114851
Н	-1.909368	2.158678	-0.024214
С	-4.673679	0.182377	-0.089842
Н	-4.655093	-1.963848	0.075713
Н	-4.373562	2.309070	-0.235153
Н	-5.752851	0.246310	-0.188635
Н	-0.133144	-0.002578	1.411152
S	3.832287	-0.471981	-0.256754
С	4.463002	1.095191	0.405116
Н	5.520585	1.144391	0.141199
Н	3.938187	1.936981	-0.048551
Н	4.369361	1.131611	1.493507
Н	1.999466	-0.143376	1.313223



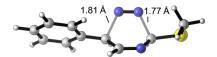
G(water) = -965.824023 Hartree

Ν	-0.288085	0.910404	-0.640143	
С	0.441783	-0.232048	-0.409749	
С	-2.148220	-0.401074	-0.450015	
Ν	-1.567975	0.827084	-0.667786	
Ν	-1.423215	-0.934892	1.060935	
Ν	-0.258375	-0.870132	1.082408	
С	1.903005	-0.059037	-0.220501	
С	2.735347	-1.177408	-0.285256	
С	2.449223	1.195822	0.057253	
С	4.104846	-1.046402	-0.081080	
Н	2.307177	-2.155147	-0.494512	
С	3.819239	1.325219	0.255801	
Н	1.792018	2.057449	0.102568	
С	4.648558	0.207018	0.188599	
Н	4.746262	-1.920326	-0.134220	
Н	4.242241	2.302633	0.465705	
Н	5.717389	0.312611	0.346440	
Н	0.175883	-1.130288	-0.980579	
S	-3.916392	-0.435442	-0.325637	
С	-4.145196	1.056348	0.682681	
Н	-3.815891	1.938759	0.136349	
Н	-5.211672	1.123481	0.902580	
Н	-3.588035	0.961476	1.617491	
Н	-1.791040	-1.261442	-1.025929	

N=N	1
Ph-	∕—SMe

G(water) = -949.812627 Hartree

- ('			
С	0.453808	0.238583	-0.425344
С	-2.141584	0.019126	-0.343048
Ν	-1.575505	0.685411	0.801767
Ν	-1.364701	-1.197005	-0.755538
Ν	-0.143380	-1.105876	-0.774722
С	1.934568	0.124120	-0.204539
С	2.439400	-0.931446	0.556637
С	2.806578	1.089703	-0.704541
С	3.804276	-1.020139	0.809908
Н	1.758452	-1.690625	0.932217
С	4.172328	1.003458	-0.448145
Н	2.416117	1.911502	-1.300084
С	4.672457	-0.051986	0.309517
Η	4.191253	-1.846819	1.397334
Н	4.844943	1.757827	-0.844009
Н	5.737421	-0.122263	0.507350
Η	0.235319	0.871355	-1.300339
S	-3.829956	-0.570619	-0.042404
С	-4.549450	1.023064	0.435889
Η	-5.578309	0.827857	0.742741
Η	-3.992559	1.446306	1.272895
Η	-4.557676	1.723544	-0.403300
Η	-2.121549	0.694558	-1.213184
С	-0.309950	0.783169	0.746875
Н	0.236390	1.213036	1.587062



G(water) = -949.803454 Hartree

	,		
С	0.494698	-0.490756	-0.255194
С	-2.199810	-0.590460	-0.226819
Ν	-1.619757	0.314280	-1.066969
Ν	-1.452844	-0.303093	1.352799
Ν	-0.288188	-0.239285	1.362252
С	1.940332	-0.204317	-0.130418
С	2.885259	-1.228668	-0.226803
С	2.376380	1.104329	0.099727
С	4.243119	-0.947861	-0.119549
Н	2.552459	-2.249834	-0.395304
С	3.733724	1.385450	0.208929
Н	1.642952	1.899193	0.212068
С	4.670144	0.360309	0.095681
Н	4.968851	-1.750816	-0.203430
Н	4.061017	2.404434	0.390865

Н	5.729848	0.579050	0.182858
Н	0.247764	-1.555062	-0.266841
S	-3.969596	-0.516555	-0.034751
С	-4.139867	1.284149	0.086102
Н	-3.768149	1.755506	-0.823265
Н	-5.202543	1.495651	0.213731
Н	-3.589406	1.653840	0.954506
Н	-1.883214	-1.638753	-0.284985
С	-0.316315	0.345547	-1.085918
Н	0.153489	1.162027	-1.635184

G(water) = -439.038604 Hartree

	/		
		0.155500	
С	-2.166718	0.175532	0.058874
С	-2.006027	-0.469760	1.170833
С	-1.431480	-1.126459	-0.044027
Н	-2.131475	-0.535413	2.240679
С	0.062086	-1.177135	-0.308638
Н	0.539951	-2.010779	0.217916
Н	0.269937	-1.302805	-1.377421
0	0.637711	0.050638	0.139259
С	1.974764	0.141012	-0.018915
0	2.668768	-0.713420	-0.519492
Ν	2.429227	1.320799	0.498171
Н	3.369185	1.583352	0.247576
Н	1.764153	2.052257	0.695037
Н	-1.937570	-1.997520	-0.475794
С	-2.622171	1.345280	-0.722413
Н	-3.287944	1.031457	-1.532692
Н	-3.146818	2.067822	-0.092923
Η	-1.758564	1.837471	-1.181998



G(water) = -272.545754 Hartree

			-
С	-1.275344	-0.668267	-0.500391
С	-0.084771	-1.124602	0.325215
С	1.179937	-0.777633	-0.521120
С	1.179960	0.777613	-0.521143
С	-1.275321	0.668278	-0.500390
С	-0.084742	1.124606	0.325239
С	-0.030779	0.000005	1.376394
Н	-1.915633	-1.325220	-1.079425
Н	-0.114261	-2.151779	0.692510
Н	2.080314	-1.172541	-0.039936

Η	1.123410	-1.201886	-1.526509	
Н	1.123255	1.201826	-1.526539	
Η	2.080396	1.172565	-0.040118	
Н	-1.915564	1.325267	-1.079429	
Н	-0.114276	2.151779	0.692547	
Н	-0.897291	0.000013	2.042551	
Н	0.896013	-0.000019	1.961528	

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G(water) = -312.998444 Hartree

	,		
С	-0.413966	-0.522065	-1.358397
Н	-1.490184	-0.336794	-1.334889
С	0.413966	0.522065	-1.358397
Н	1.490184	0.336794	-1.334889
С	0.034981	-1.871510	-0.901221
Н	-0.510280	-2.704358	-1.358222
Н	1.102540	-2.008137	-1.112700
С	-0.034981	1.871510	-0.901221
Н	-1.102540	2.008137	-1.112700
Н	0.510280	2.704358	-1.358222
С	0.183001	1.877834	0.635533
Н	1.260794	1.924503	0.841500
Н	-0.248046	2.798155	1.048278
С	-0.413966	0.660993	1.376189
Η	-0.560669	0.965017	2.418884
Н	-1.420918	0.465721	0.984525
С	-0.183001	-1.877834	0.635533
Η	0.248046	-2.798155	1.048278
Н	-1.260794	-1.924503	0.841500
С	0.413966	-0.660993	1.376189
Н	0.560669	-0.965017	2.418884
Н	1.420918	-0.465721	0.984525

For structures of TS1-6, see Figure S1. **TS1**

G(water) = -966.219637 Hartree

С	-1.785023	1.002564	0.065584
Ν	-1.499250	1.599124	1.253867
Ν	-0.755036	2.653157	1.217687
С	-0.317368	3.018589	-0.016008
Ν	-1.075656	2.783947	-1.131608
Ν	-1.818109	1.739234	-1.087522
С	0.488480	0.264690	-0.381988
С	1.117914	1.446633	-0.379553
С	1.295785	0.581859	0.830007
Н	1.723713	2.047359	-1.043074
Н	0.778461	0.886927	1.744089

С	-2.516616	-0.279705	0.094626
С	-2.515449	-1.054113	1.259192
С	-3.825457	-1.971959	-1.023342
С	-3.167220	-2.281677	1.276707
Н	-2.003938	-0.682638	2.141414
С	-3.822644	-2.743702	0.136696
Н	-4.338732	-2.326589	-1.911781
Н	-3.164317	-2.879842	2.182545
Н	-4.330863	-3.703017	0.153526
С	2.598546	-0.135144	1.108721
Н	3.266996	0.482748	1.716903
Н	2.429443	-1.072951	1.648662
С	0.175577	-0.897472	-1.253360
Н	-0.415957	-1.654083	-0.733022
Н	-0.361488	-0.579017	-2.151016
Н	1.128538	-1.348610	-1.552765
0	3.223891	-0.414042	-0.145919
С	4.426542	-1.030211	-0.049049
0	4.944131	-1.351051	0.994274
Ν	4.967337	-1.200207	-1.287750
Н	5.772273	-1.802837	-1.350644
Н	4.390050	-1.076008	-2.104252
С	-3.173886	-0.743971	-1.048182
Н	-3.170978	-0.133000	-1.944473
Н	0.342527	3.877216	-0.055999

TS2

G(water) = -950.193369 Hartree

0.394356	2.963677	0.259283
0.830392	2.536526	1.467336
1.790983	0.845760	0.129312
1.815633	1.690598	-0.955670
1.103297	2.755731	-0.898063
-1.096567	1.401715	-0.280304
-0.357867	0.280304	-0.235414
-1.273432	0.522197	0.916120
-0.056368	-0.544091	-0.865070
-0.835136	0.861498	1.860706
2.515768	-0.440316	0.007305
2.292948	-1.451136	0.947341
4.100378	-1.867707	-1.124248
2.978074	-2.657927	0.857740
1.561526	-1.297401	1.737747
3.886371	-2.867184	-0.177226
4.806442	-2.028750	-1.933079
2.797761	-3.437212	1.591582
4.421776	-3.808903	-0.248732
-2.521641	-0.307094	1.121565
-2.313588	-1.192030	1.732552
-3.305079	0.267341	1.627446
-1.956116	2.177822	-1.221824
	0.830392 1.790983 1.815633 1.103297 -1.096567 -0.357867 -1.273432 -0.056368 -0.835136 2.515768 2.292948 4.100378 2.978074 1.561526 3.886371 4.806442 2.797761 4.421776 -2.521641 -2.313588 -3.305079	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$

Н	-2.358601	3.081355	-0.756188
Н	-1.388527	2.460290	-2.111672
Н	-2.799574	1.546105	-1.519784
Ο	-2.990940	-0.723386	-0.162749
С	-4.102885	-1.494986	-0.132282
Ο	-4.688640	-1.806126	0.877941
Ν	-4.436817	-1.885409	-1.393969
Н	-5.342865	-2.309923	-1.511721
Η	-4.006260	-1.432864	-2.184786
С	3.418244	-0.658957	-1.037211
Н	3.577099	0.127807	-1.766636
Н	-0.264348	3.826455	0.245086
С	1.559781	1.452984	1.392819
Η	1.984466	1.039377	2.305727

TS3

G(water) = -799.723669 Hartree

1.142263	1.919608	1.357410	
-0.013107	1.355546	1.351933	
-0.587018	1.148580	0.129651	
-0.356460	2.073407	-0.864681	
0.792986	2.632801	-0.865547	
1.648111	2.225818	0.130772	
0.857358	-0.350557	-0.764744	
2.088527	0.283851	-0.700373	
0.948097	-1.582284	0.115451	
1.882713	-2.540851	-0.686880	
2.953581	-0.553547	0.232113	
3.266560	-1.833467	-0.601713	
1.916913	-1.122017	1.217360	
0.211892	-0.321464	-1.636914	
2.520957	0.806585	-1.548608	
-0.003390	-2.021019	0.421405	
1.540540		-1.715336	
1.908690	-3.522249	-0.203607	
3.828409	-0.056739	0.655118	
3.683602	-1.594818	-1.584100	
3.996111	-2.452780	-0.071271	
2.319585	-1.968255	1.783499	
1.503226	-0.392867	1.910797	
-1.839324	0.361439	0.076105	
-2.622079	0.357630	-1.081906	
-2.219558	-0.416318	1.173834	
-3.776806	-0.415336	-1.136746	
-2.323094	0.971543	-1.925532	
-3.374506	-1.188224	1.111804	
-1.607202	-0.399895	2.069855	
-4.155122	-1.190320	-0.042418	
-4.384434	-0.410838	-2.036354	
-3.667253	-1.787974	1.968023	
-5.056503	-1.793755	-0.088086	
	-0.587018 -0.356460 0.792986 1.648111 0.857358 2.088527 0.948097 1.882713 2.953581 3.266560 1.916913 0.211892 2.520957 -0.003390 1.540540 1.908690 3.828409 3.683602 3.996111 2.319585 1.503226 -1.839324 -2.622079 -2.219558 -3.776806 -2.323094 -3.374506 -1.607202 -4.155122 -4.384434 -3.667253	-0.013107 1.355546 -0.587018 1.148580 -0.356460 2.073407 0.792986 2.632801 1.648111 2.225818 0.857358 -0.350557 2.088527 0.283851 0.948097 -1.582284 1.882713 -2.540851 2.953581 -0.553547 3.266560 -1.833467 1.916913 -1.122017 0.211892 -0.321464 2.520957 0.806585 -0.003390 -2.021019 1.540540 -2.684426 1.908690 -3.522249 3.828409 -0.056739 3.683602 -1.594818 3.996111 -2.452780 2.319585 -1.968255 1.503226 -0.392867 -1.839324 0.361439 -2.622079 0.357630 -2.219558 -0.416318 -3.776806 -0.415336 -2.323094 0.971543 -3.374506 -1.188224 -1.607202 -0.399895 -4.155122 -1.190320 -4.384434 -0.410838 -3.667253 -1.787974	

TS4

G(water) = -783.696583 Hartree

S(water) 705.090505 Hardee			
N	1.166999	1.877319	1.317935
Ν	0.003900	1.337572	1.290625
С	-0.584994	1.136918	0.066953
Ν	0.922380	2.663078	-0.917169
С	1.712704	2.204533	0.102306
С	0.885437	-0.359166	-0.749060
С	2.129252	0.259500	-0.652840
С	0.928227	-1.580548	0.150686
С	1.860181	-2.569071	-0.615770
С	2.951613	-0.594370	0.305762
С	3.257236	-1.889056	-0.505675
С	1.880831	-1.130861	1.271359
Н	0.292385	-0.367295	-1.657900
Η	2.598902	0.739804	-1.506495
Η	-0.040730	-1.992263	0.440707
Η	1.540863	-2.719633	-1.650920
Η	1.854534	-3.544824	-0.120105
Η	3.826418	-0.113358	0.747226
Η	3.701188	-1.670650	-1.481148
Η	3.960621	-2.519353	0.047180
Η	2.251052	-1.982998	1.851231
Η	1.468423	-0.388140	1.949654
С	-1.849145	0.365479	0.042528
С	-2.489021	0.099210	-1.172500
С	-2.399414	-0.138866	1.226072
С	-3.667774	-0.638651	-1.204302
Н	-2.060119	0.461830	-2.103774
С	-3.575055	-0.880342	1.190158
Н	-1.897013	0.067145	2.164909
С	-4.215043	-1.130245	-0.022178
Η	-4.154695	-0.834382	-2.154696
Н	-3.995188	-1.263743	2.115010
Η	-5.132561	-1.709881	-0.045867
Η	2.726592	2.589544	0.149394
С	-0.259571	2.121802	-0.920215
Н	-0.986426	2.444823	-1.663839

TS5

G(water) = -840.187486 Hartree

С	-1.012127	1.217003	-0.071701
С	1.047417	2.567439	-0.371057
С	1.880567	0.575300	-0.219291
Η	2.301894	0.644720	-1.224137
С	0.787513	-0.247208	-0.067038
Н	0.499175	-0.515263	0.950951

Ν	0.469568	2.641470	0.863788
Ν	-0.589427	1.933004	1.017422
Ν	0.277100	2.409408	-1.487025
Ν	-0.784494	1.704997	-1.329095
С	0.441437	-1.242532	-1.131181
Н	-0.624575	-1.491756	-1.144768
Н	0.707005	-0.834113	-2.114236
С	2.864215	0.727700	0.908849
Η	3.406566	1.679197	0.869204
Η	2.327453	0.698150	1.864578
С	1.260192	-2.525979	-0.858926
Η	1.094223	-3.215599	-1.694761
Η	0.853951	-3.021074	0.032823
С	3.870637	-0.440944	0.833545
Η	4.513833	-0.391042	1.719825
Н	4.529660	-0.289653	-0.031835
С	3.242632	-1.844236	0.740987
Н	3.993536	-2.555743	1.100807
Η	2.411428	-1.915586	1.455529
С	2.773122	-2.313278	-0.667130
Н	3.263218	-3.268048	-0.885587
Η	3.139397	-1.617001	-1.433589
С	-2.143947	0.285067	0.121294
С	-2.909736	-0.135884	-0.970243
С	-2.436058	-0.196976	1.400312
С	-3.958825	-1.028911	-0.779003
Н	-2.677083	0.249475	-1.957508
С	-3.484752	-1.090684	1.584596
Η	-1.843294	0.144976	2.243113
С	-4.248079	-1.508801	0.496289
Н	-4.553973	-1.347923	-1.629055
Н	-3.708217	-1.460641	2.580480
Н	-5.066011	-2.207653	0.642263
Н	1.977325	3.109964	-0.501540

TS6

G(water) = -824.161176 Hartree

С	-1.004112	1.196477	-0.033370
С	1.108634	2.548884	-0.356698
С	1.888700	0.584231	-0.230986
Н	2.293339	0.623240	-1.243544
С	0.787732	-0.233873	-0.046927
Н	0.545899	-0.521130	0.977526
Ν	0.563978	2.702192	0.883637
Ν	0.323478	2.353856	-1.470875
Ν	-0.743954	1.667165	-1.298483
С	0.409228	-1.227876	-1.103421
Η	-0.659754	-1.467032	-1.093211
Н	0.649956	-0.814913	-2.090764

С	2.907268	0.704102	0.872285
Н	3.463545	1.647422	0.826444
Н	2.393532	0.680037	1.841313
С	1.219561	-2.521329	-0.863175
Н	1.024334	-3.202316	-1.699960
Н	0.830786	-3.020081	0.034723
С	3.893797	-0.477455	0.771737
Н	4.559485	-0.439243	1.642191
Н	4.534117	-0.333229	-0.108875
С	3.247995	-1.873052	0.690115
Н	3.999815	-2.594422	1.028406
Η	2.433752	-1.939215	1.424619
С	2.739443	-2.330900	-0.707563
Н	3.210456	-3.292118	-0.939937
Η	3.097700	-1.637250	-1.479952
С	-2.156963	0.285410	0.131843
С	-3.037336	0.039003	-0.927564
С	-2.358996	-0.367312	1.352473
С	-4.104952	-0.835384	-0.758304
Н	-2.870492	0.542631	-1.873575
С	-3.429135	-1.239671	1.518979
Н	-1.664743	-0.202934	2.173331
С	-4.305921	-1.475529	0.463185
Н	-4.785767	-1.017209	-1.584332
Η	-3.573823	-1.740124	2.471415
Η	-5.139458	-2.159387	0.589974
Н	2.043233	3.067925	-0.548709
С	-0.525669	2.005163	1.039186
Н	-1.066059	2.071536	1.982197

Appendix D: NMR spectra for Chapter 3

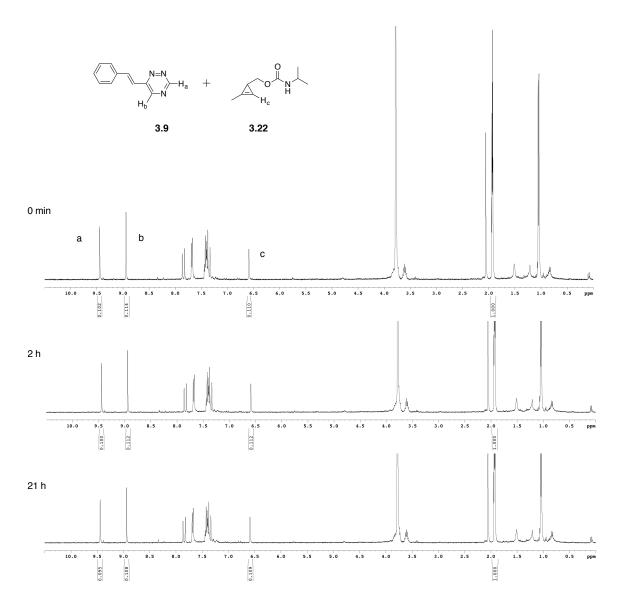


Figure S3-1. Triazine **3.9** does not react with cyclopropene **3.22.** To a solution of triazine **3.9** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution CD_3CN) was added cyclopropene **3.22** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution in 1:1 $CD_3CN:D_2O$) and added CD_3CN to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

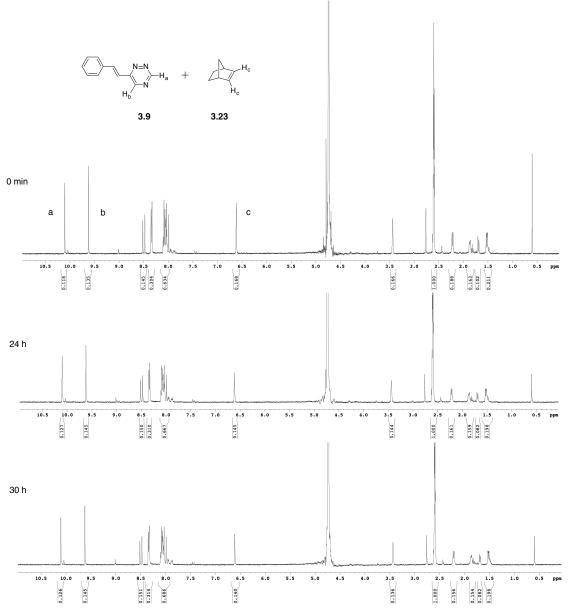


Figure S3-2. Triazine **3.9** does not react with norbornene **3.23.** To a solution of triazine **3.9** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added norbornene **3.23** (0.12 mL of a 40 mM solution in 1:1 $CD_3CN:d$ -PBS) and diluted with 0.24 mL CD_3CN and 0.24 mL *d*-PBS to a final volume of 0.72 mL. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

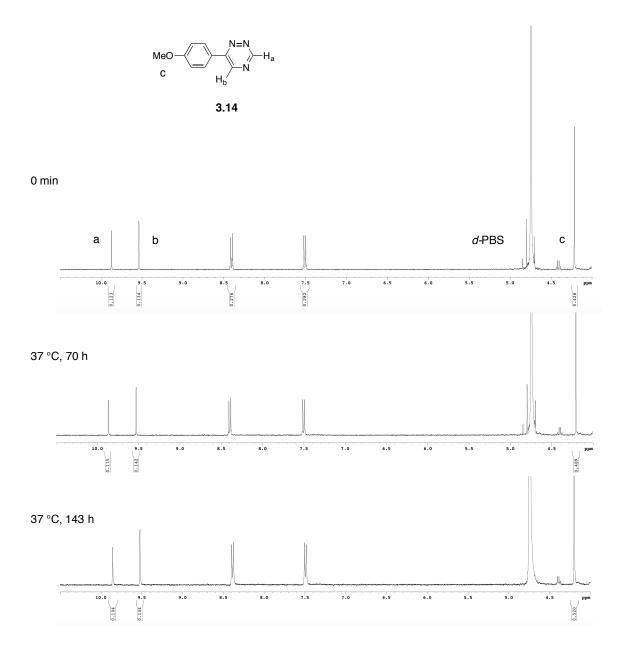


Figure S3-3. Triazine **3.14** is stable in aqueous buffer. A solution of triazine **3.14** (0.2 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was diluted with 0.4 mL *d*-PBS. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C for 0-143 h. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

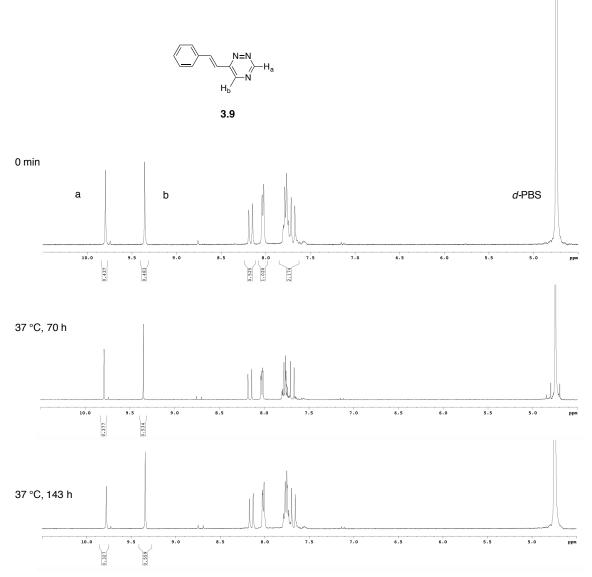


Figure S3-4. Triazine **3.9** is stable in aqueous buffer. A solution of triazine **3.9** (0.2 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD_3CN) was diluted with 0.4 mL *d*-PBS. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C for 0-143 h. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

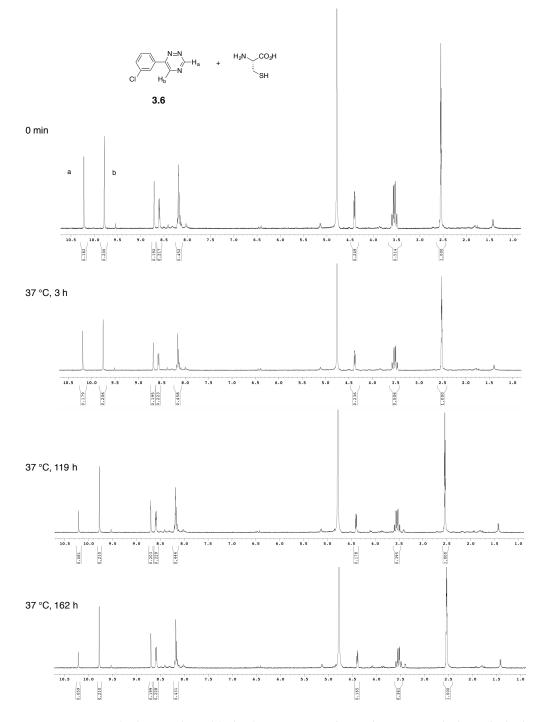


Figure S3-5. Triazine **3.6** is stable in the presence of cysteine. To a solution of triazine **3.6** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added L-cysteine (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in D_2O). The reaction was further diluted with 1:1 $CD_3CN:D_2O$ to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C and monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

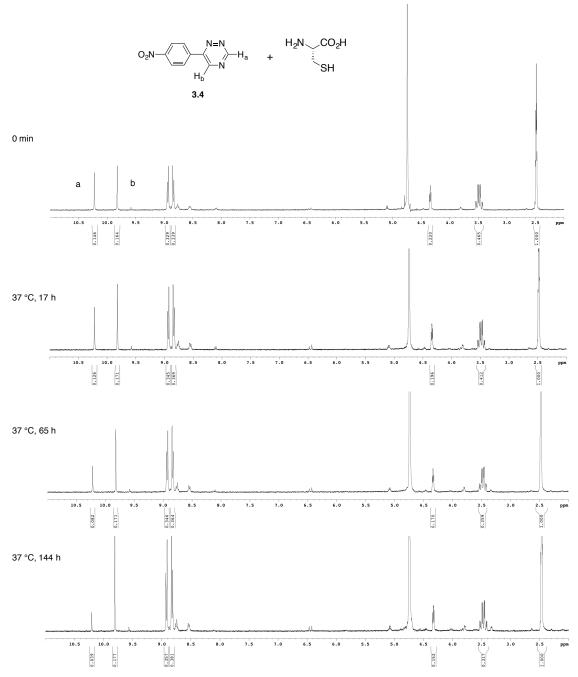
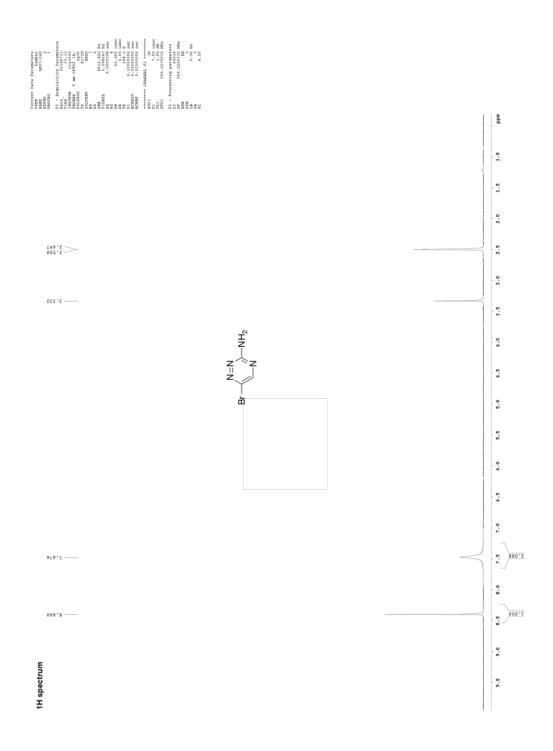
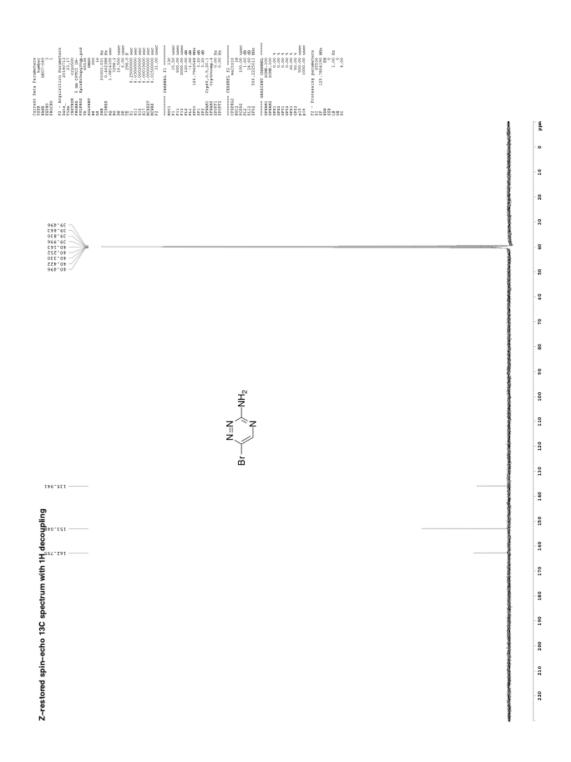
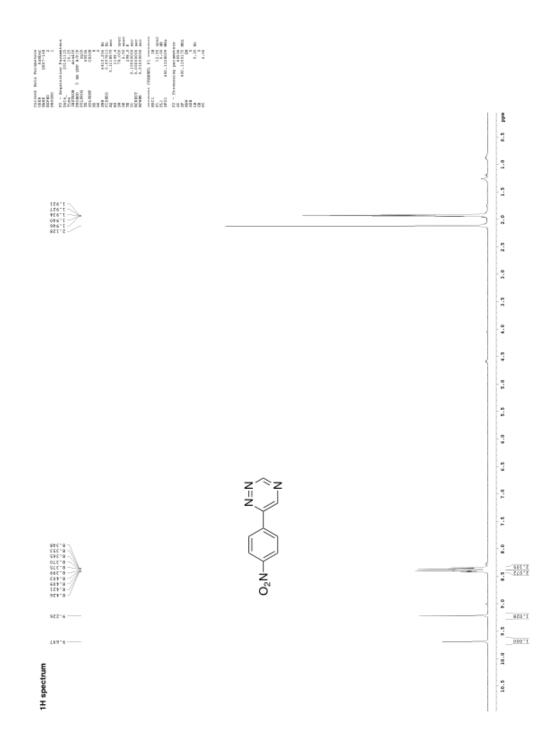
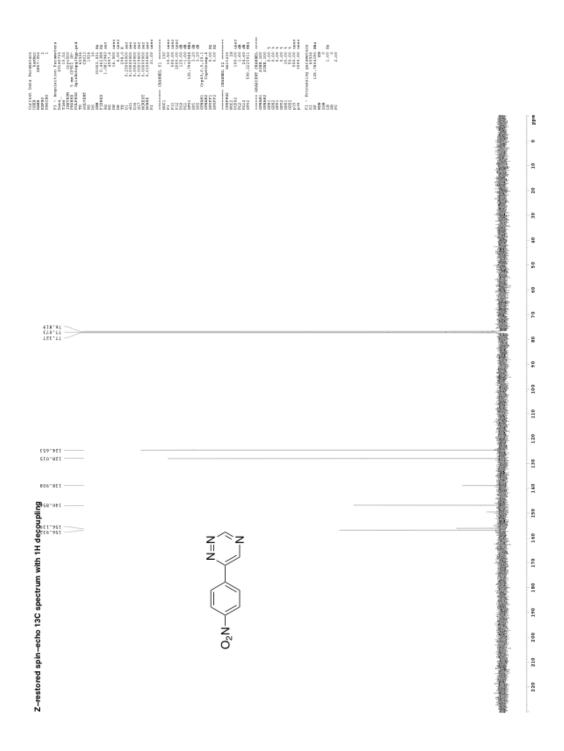


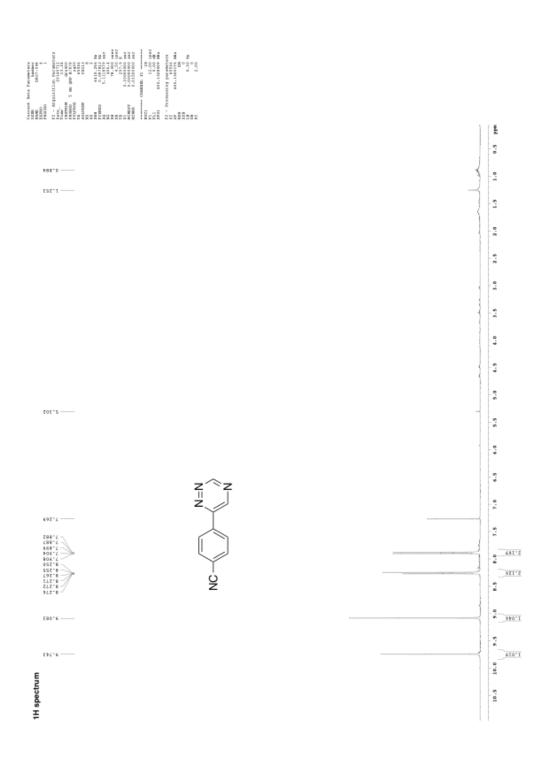
Figure S3-6. Triazine **3.4** is stable in the presence of cysteine. To a solution of triazine **3.4** (0.3 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added L-cysteine (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in D₂O). The reaction was further diluted with 60 μ L D₂O to a final volume of 0.6 mL. The reaction was incubated at 37 °C and monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.



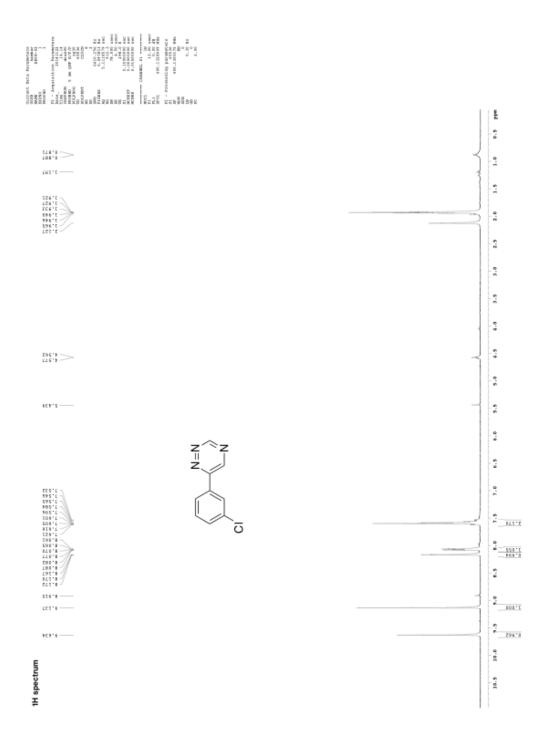


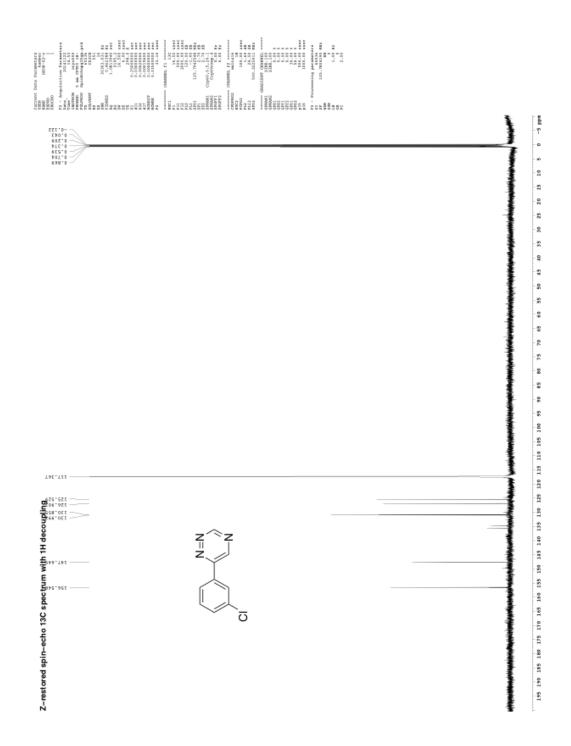


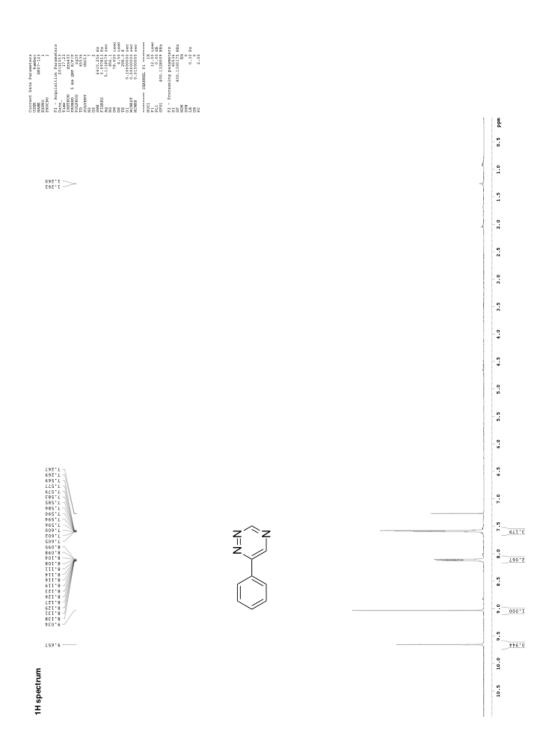


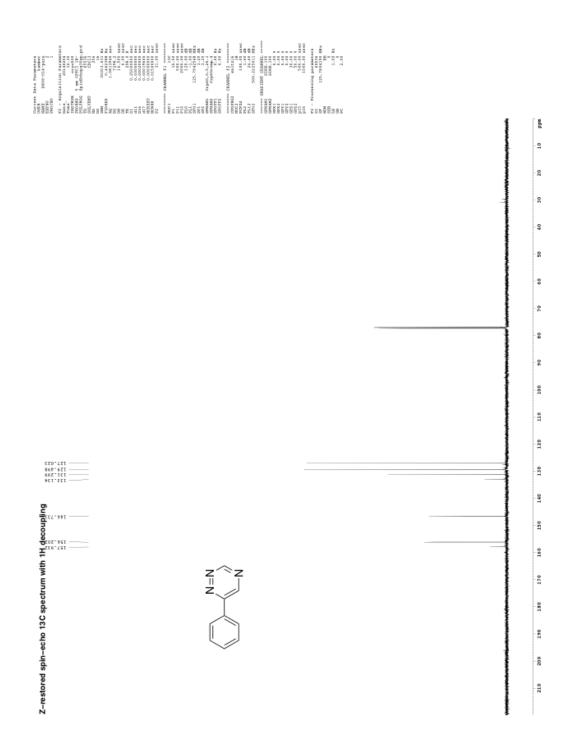


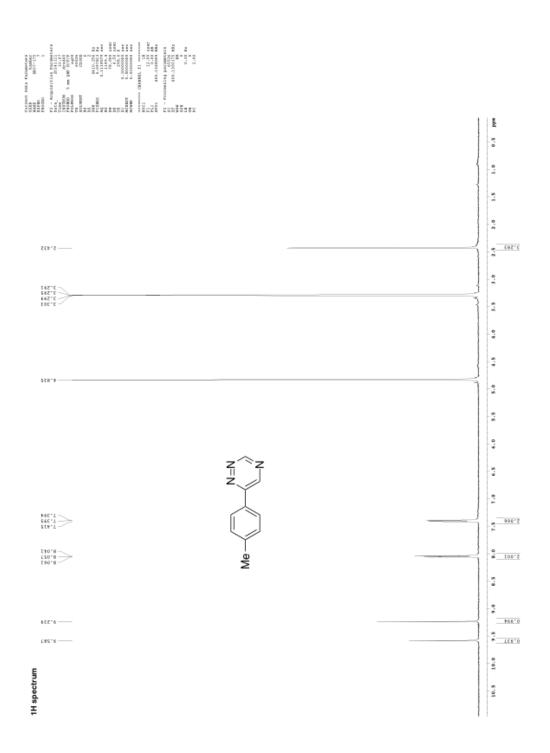


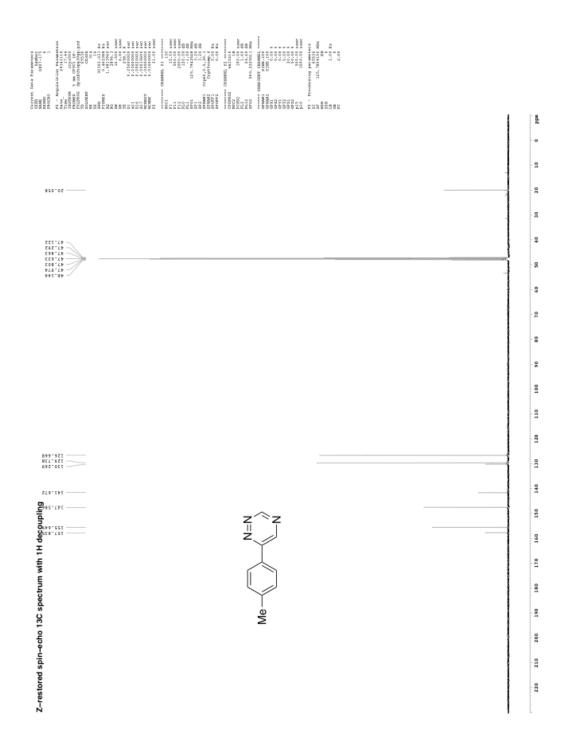


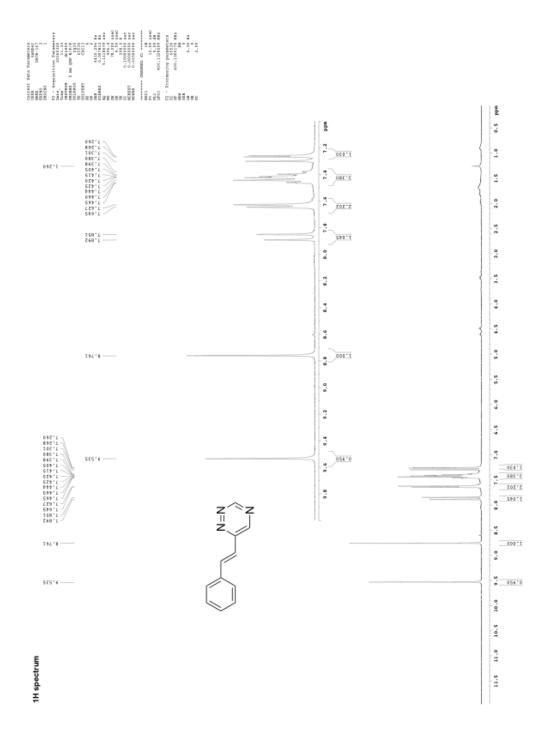


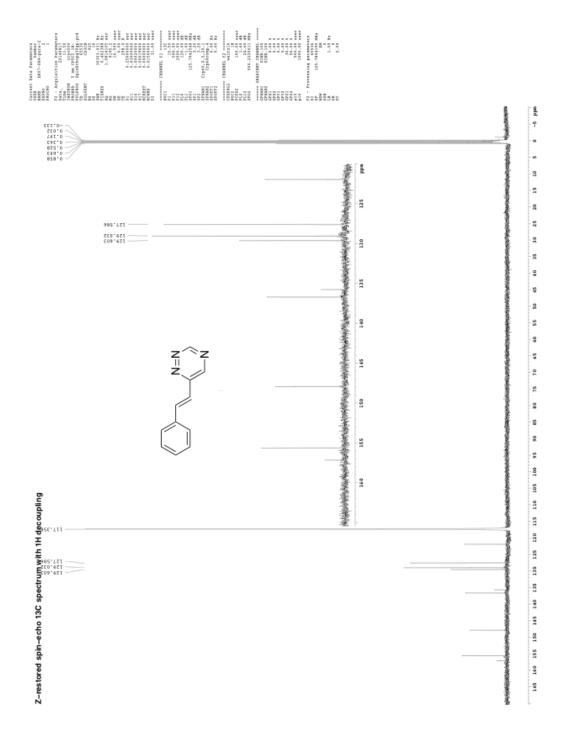


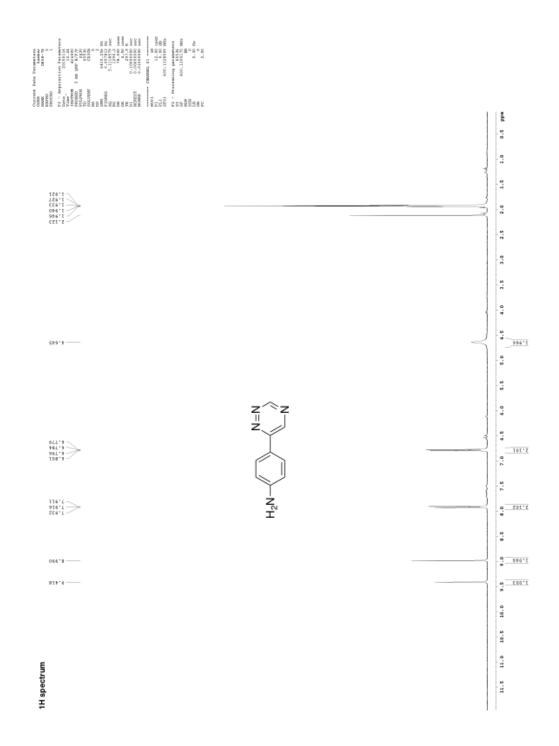


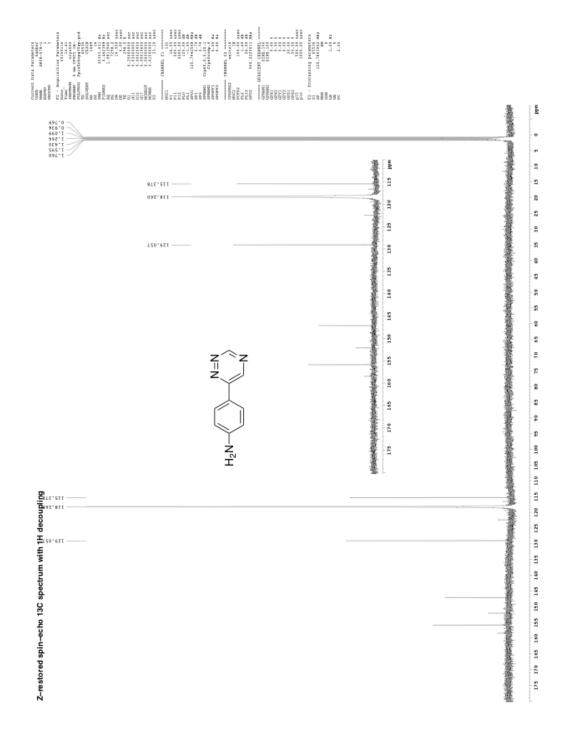


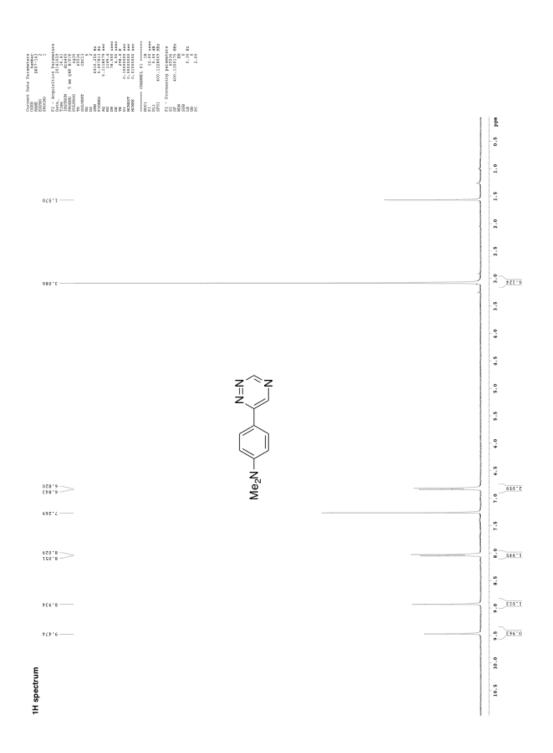


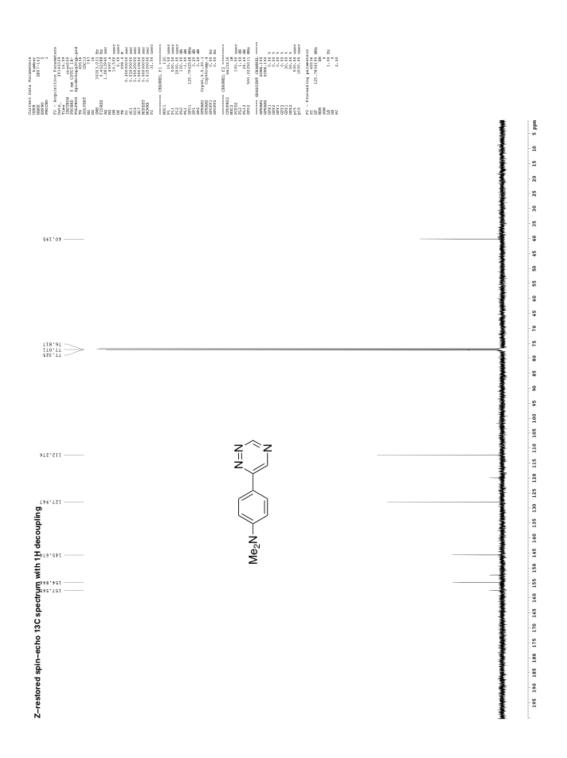


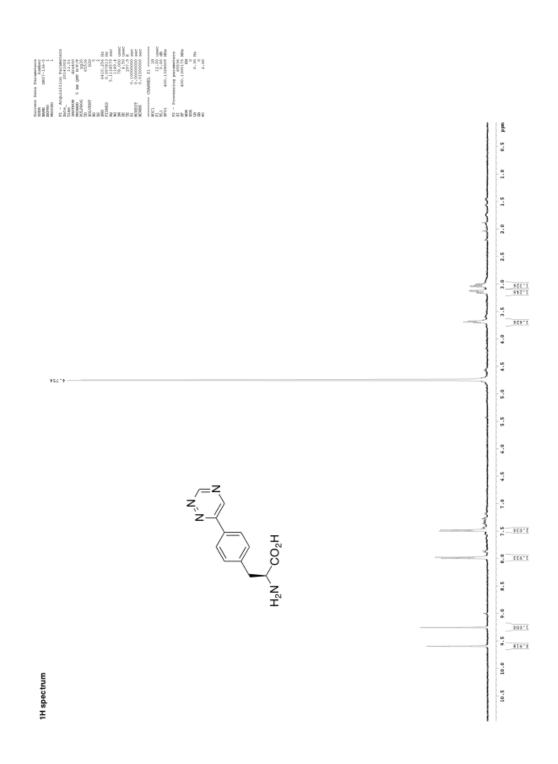


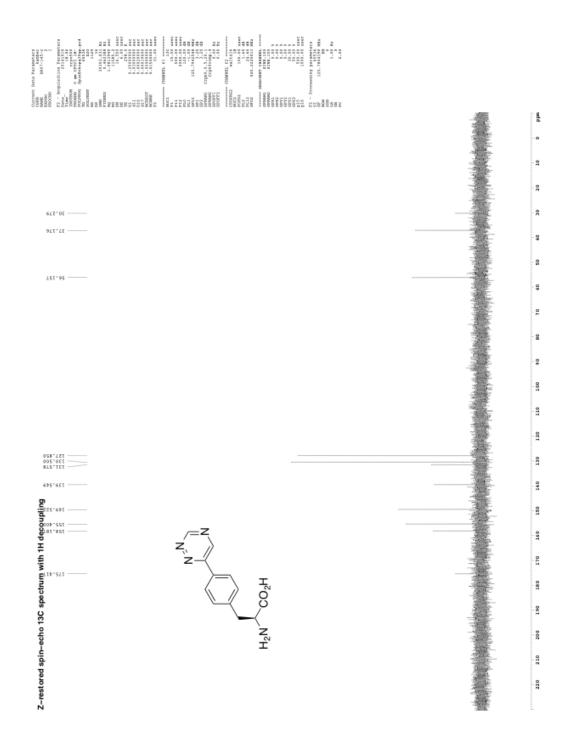


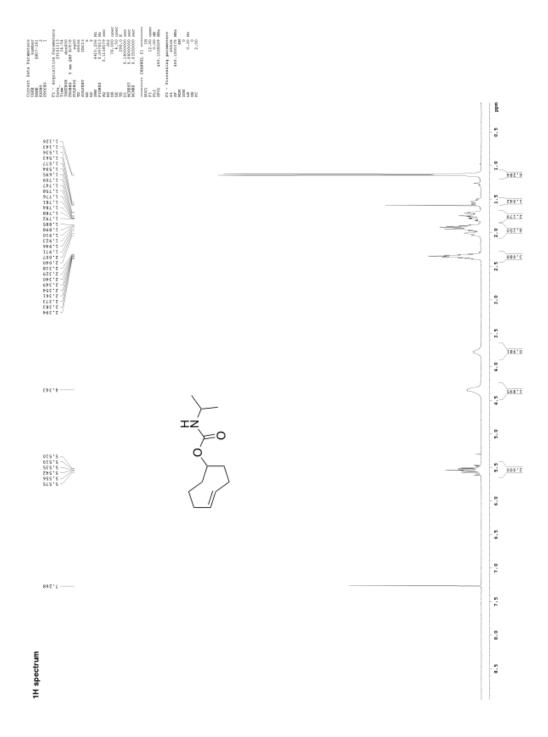


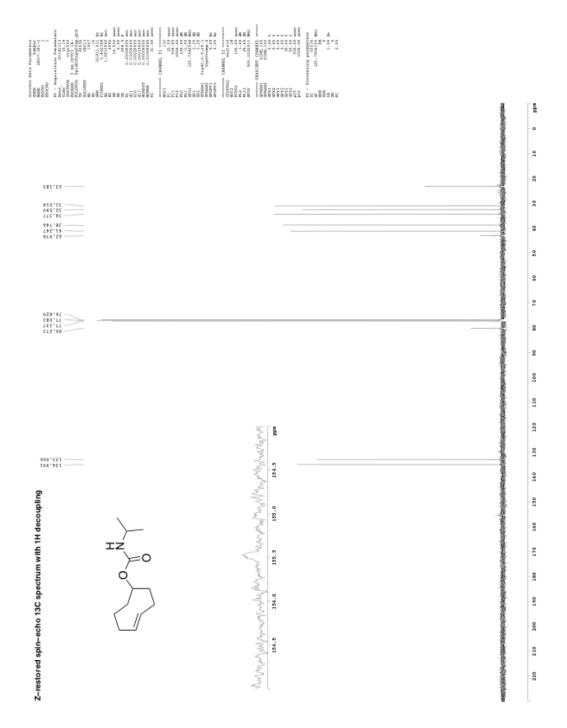


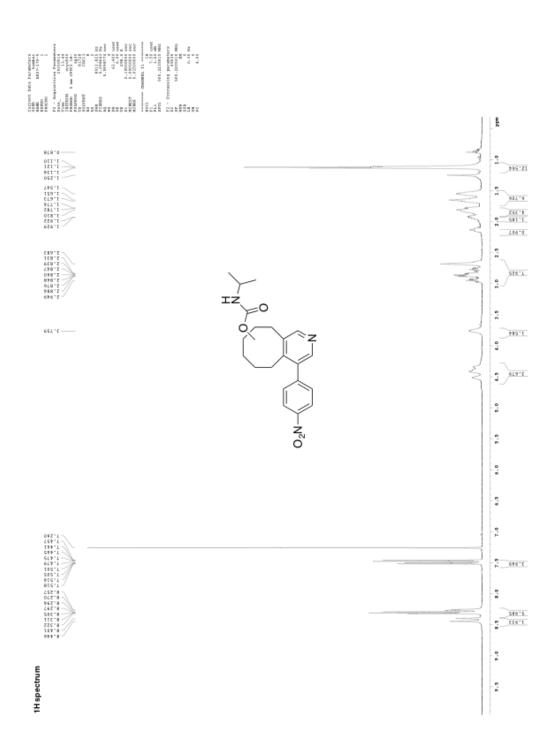


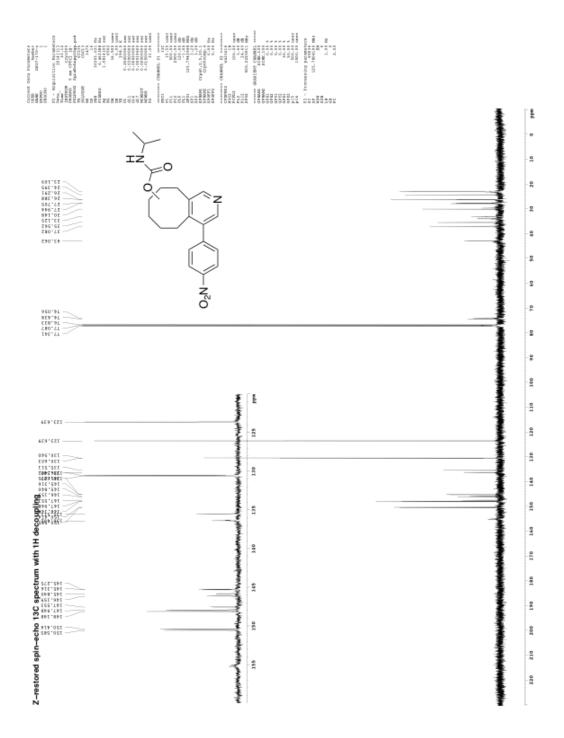


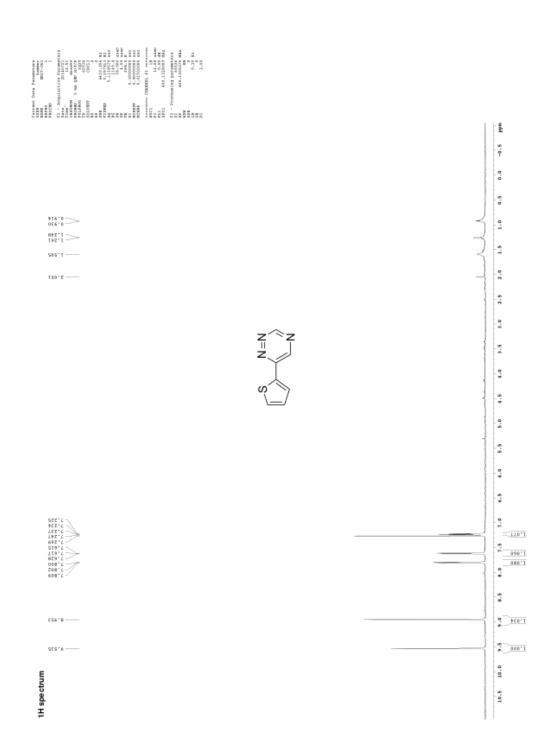


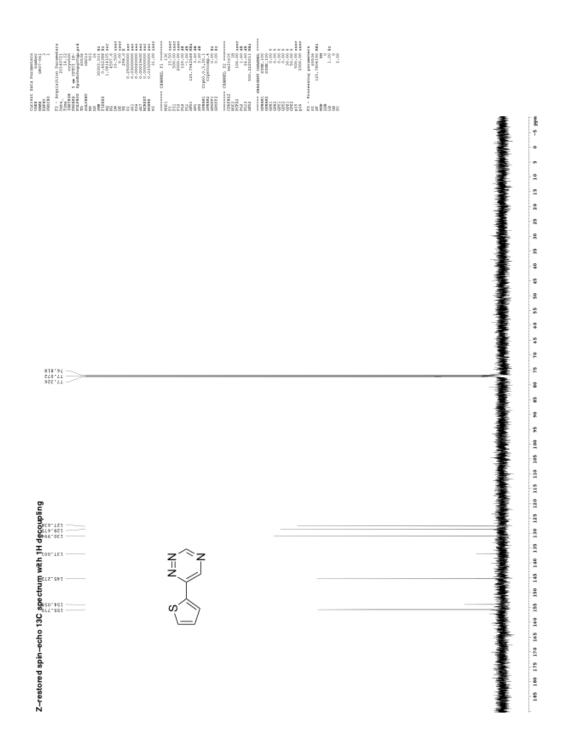


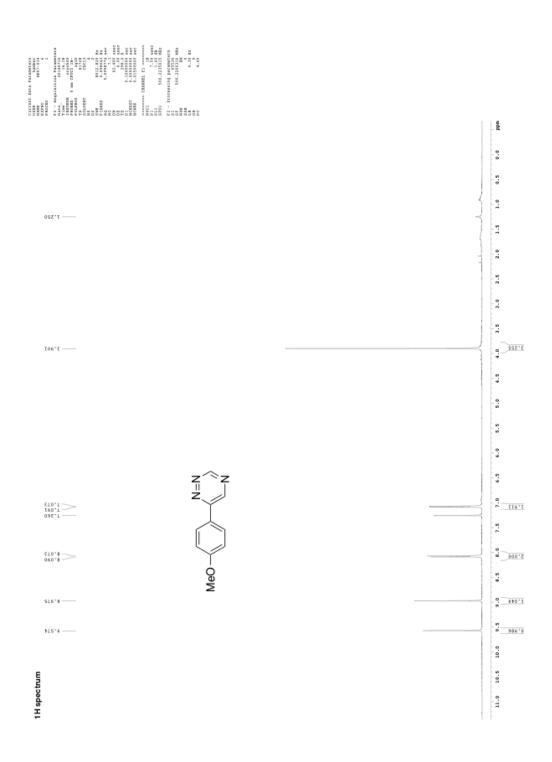


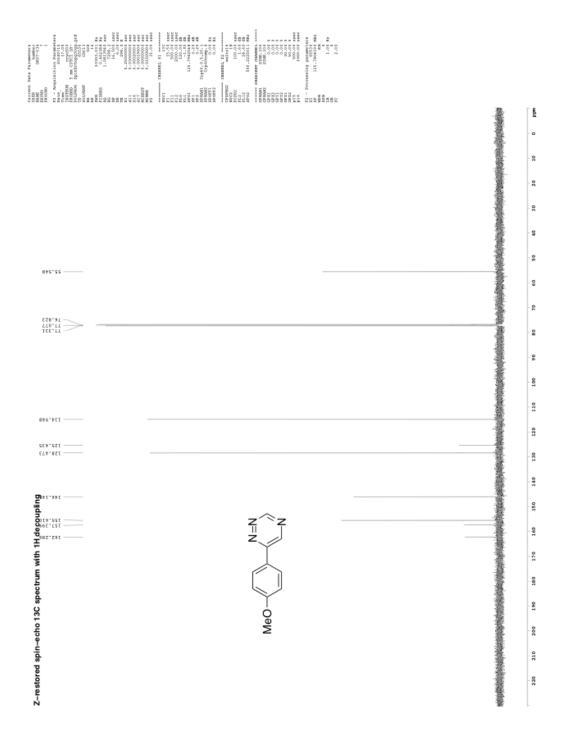


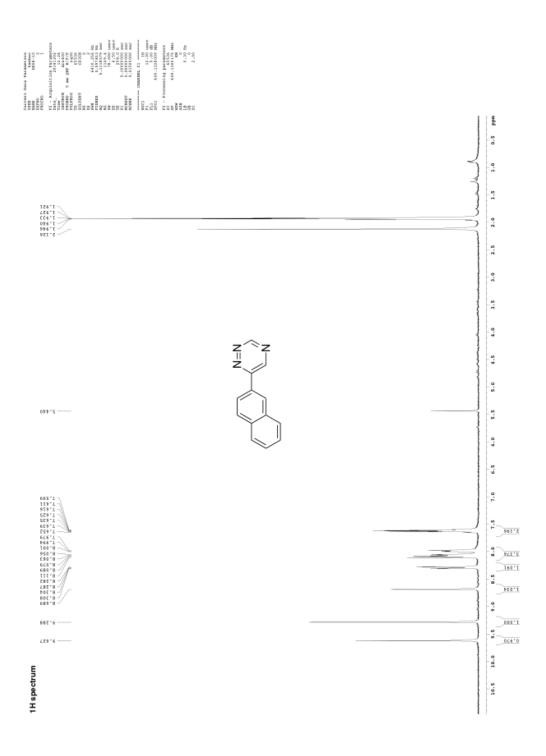


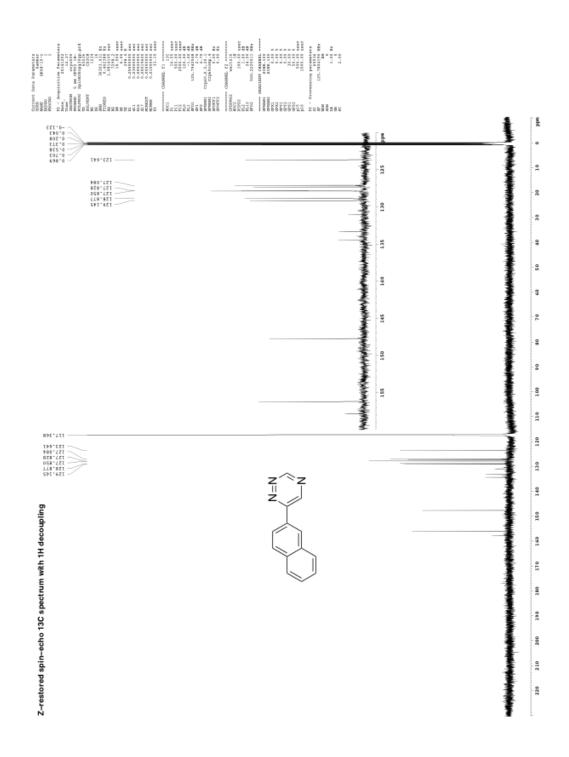


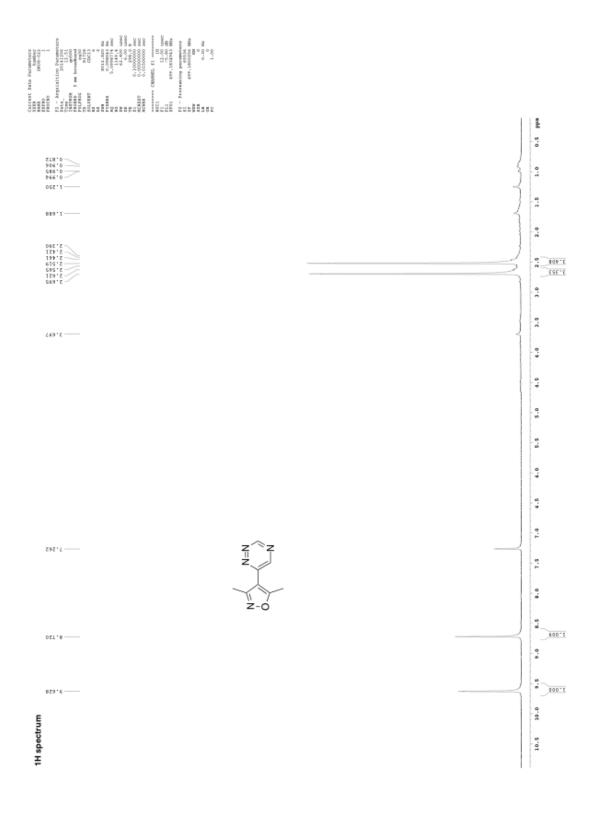


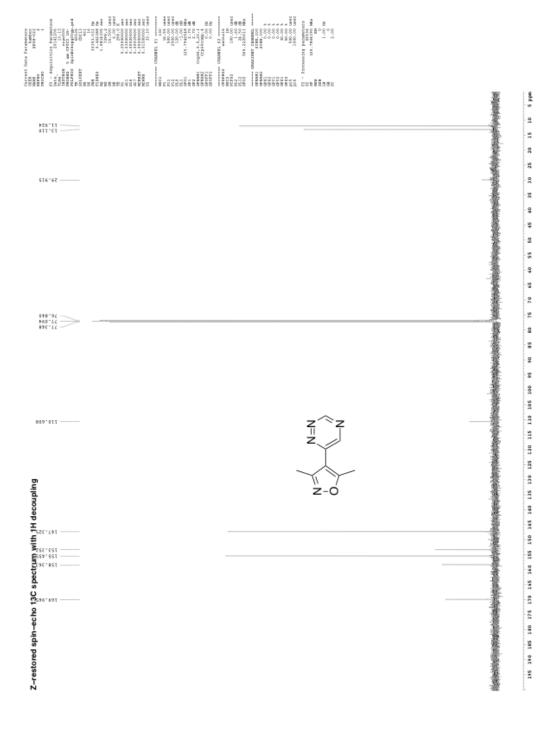


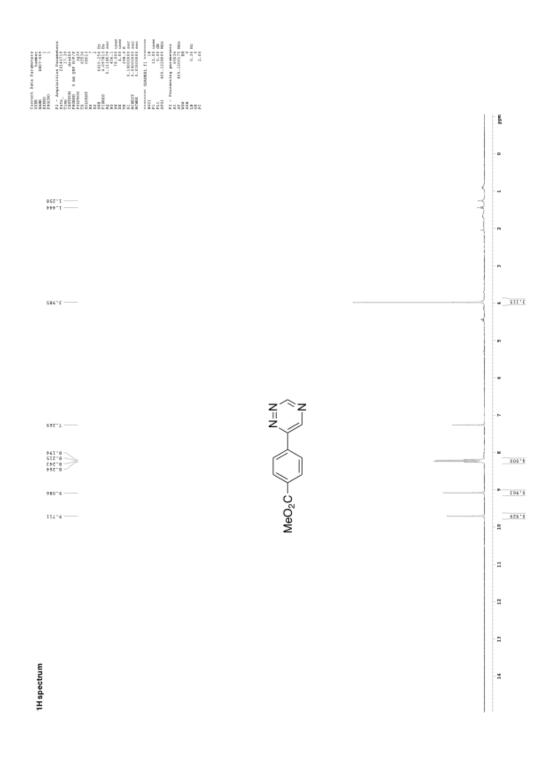


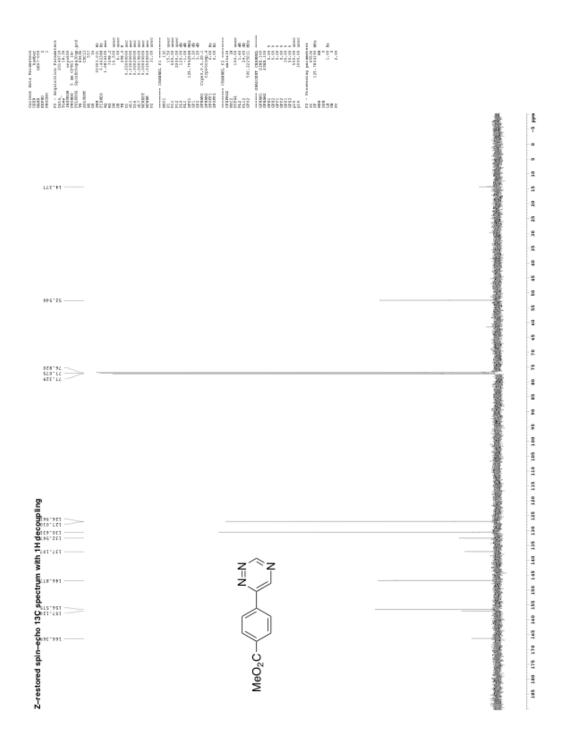


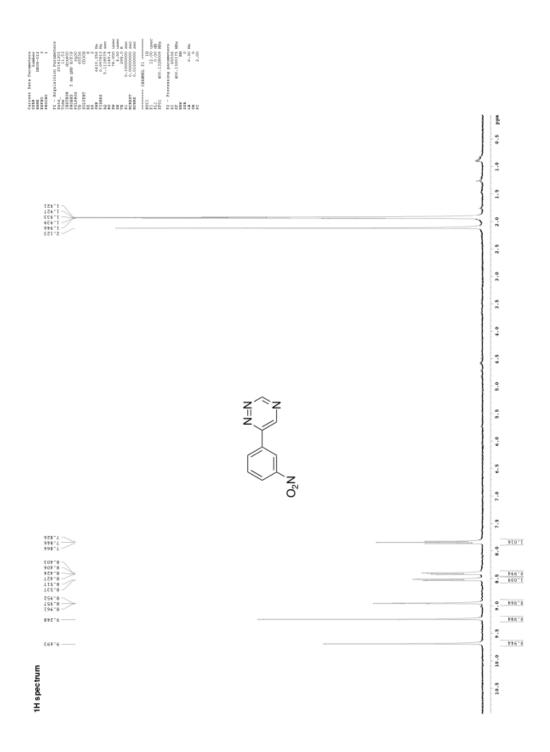


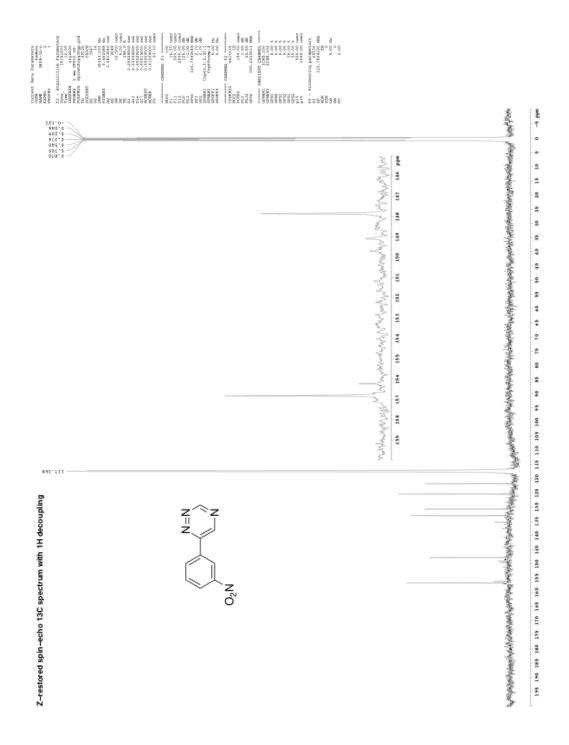


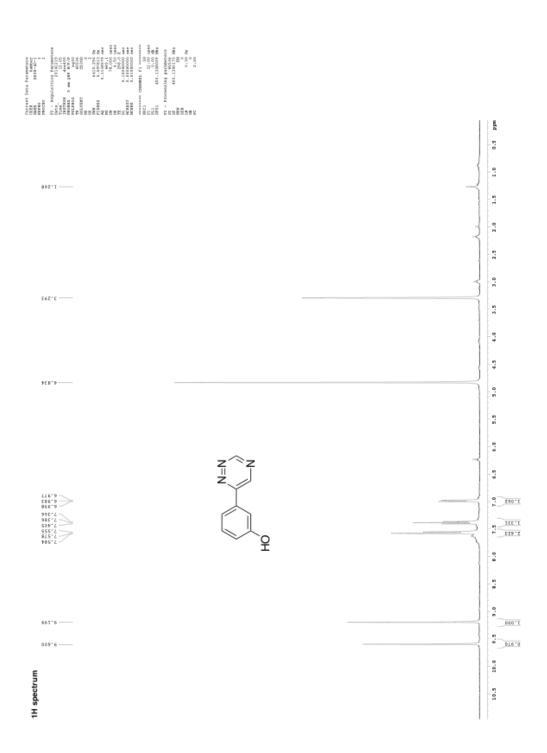


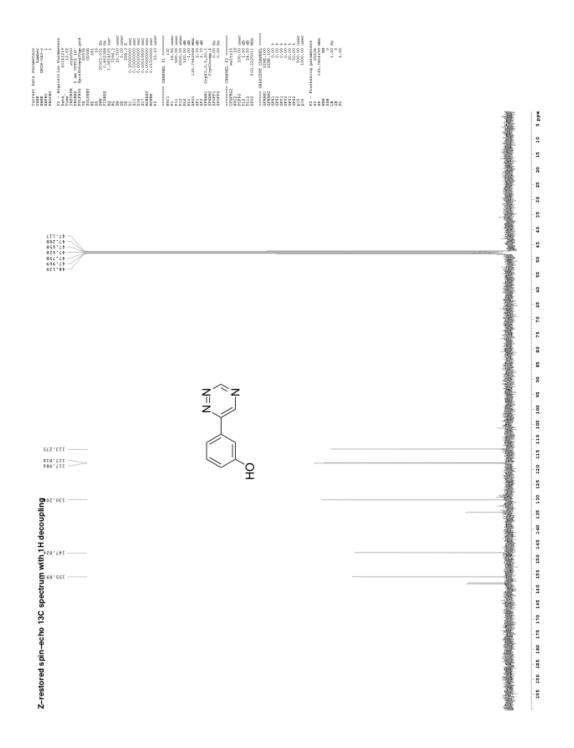












Appendix E: NMR spectra and additional data for Chapter 4

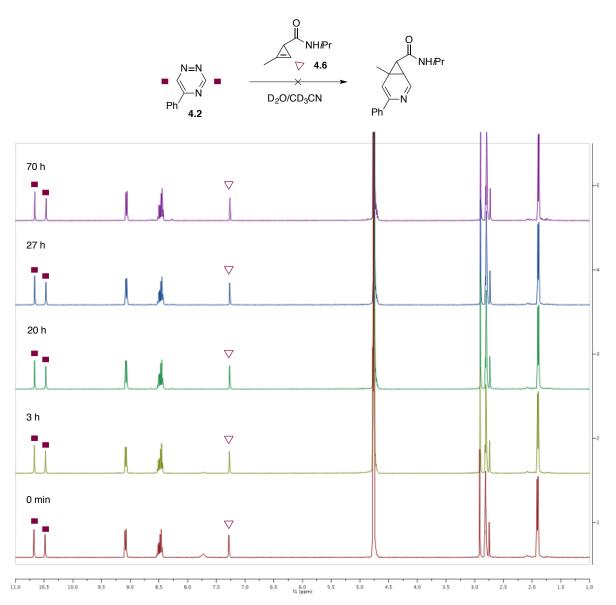


Figure S4.1. 5-Substituted triazine **4.2** is orthogonal to cyclopropene **4.6**. Triazine **4.2** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of cyclopropene **4.6** (0.17 mL of a 35 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.19 mL of D₂O. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

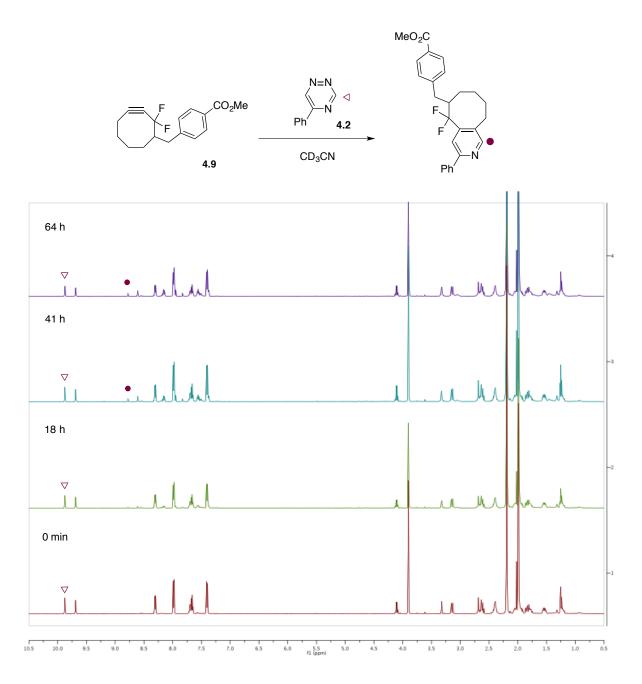


Figure S4.2. Minimum reactivity is observed between triazine **4.2** and DIFO **4.9**. Triazine **4.2** (0.20 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of DIFO **4.3** (0.20 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.15 mL CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

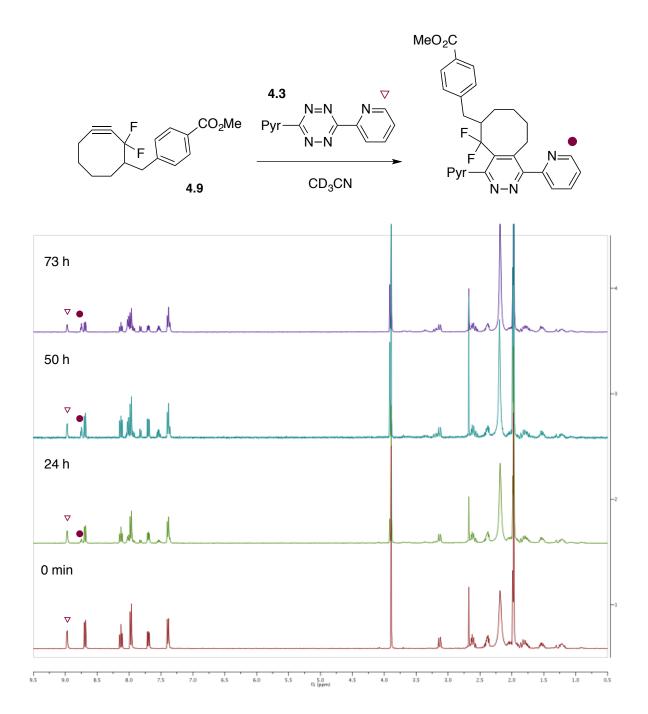


Figure S4.3. Minimum reactivity is observed between tetrazine **4.3** and DIFO **4.9**. Tetrazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added a solution of DIFO **4.3** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD_3OD). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

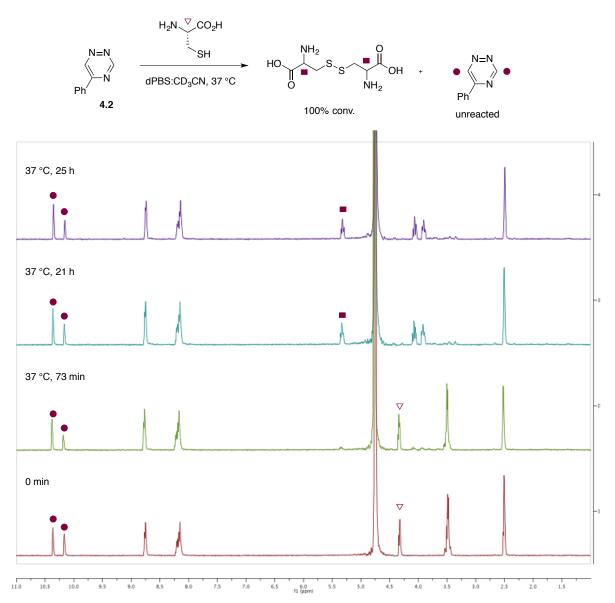


Figure S4.4. Tetrazine **4.2** is stable to L-cys. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of L-cys (0.24 mL of a 50 mM solution in dPBS) and diluted with 60 μ L dPBS. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR at 37 °C.

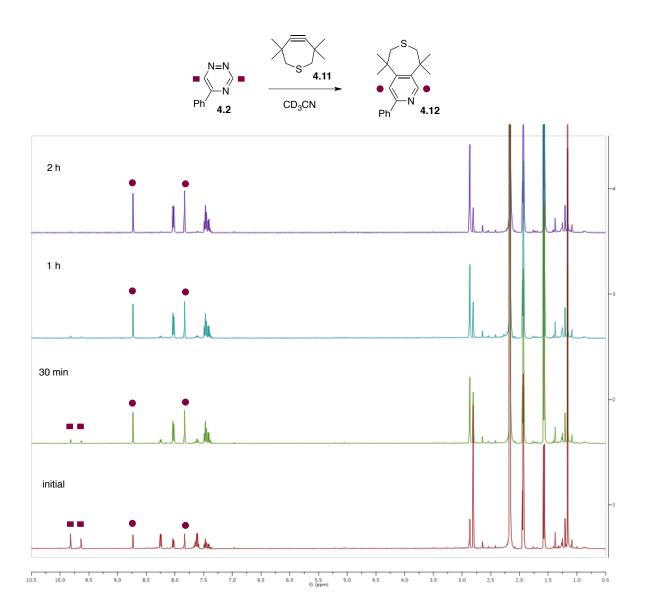


Figure S4.5. Reaction between triazine **4.2** and TMTH **4.11**. Triazine **4.2** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added a solution of TMTH **4.11** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD_3CN) and diluted with 0.36 mL of CD_3CN . The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

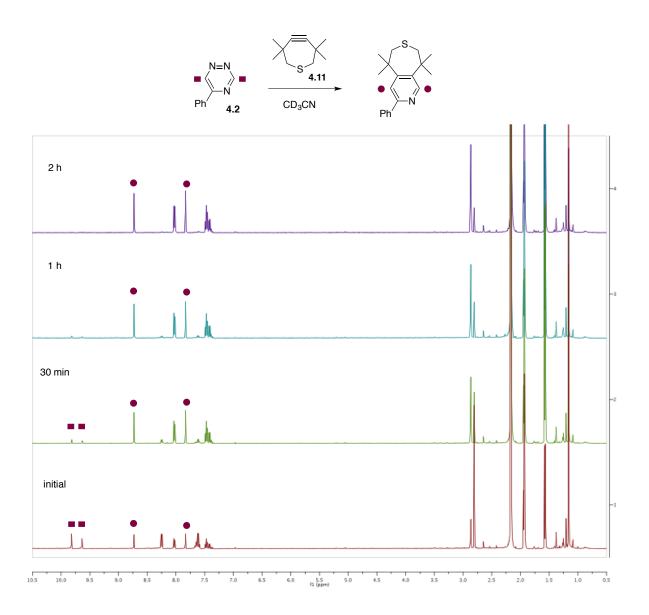


Figure 84-6. Tetrazine **4.2** is orthogonal to TMTH **4.11**. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃OD) was added a solution of TMTH **4.11** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.18 mL CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

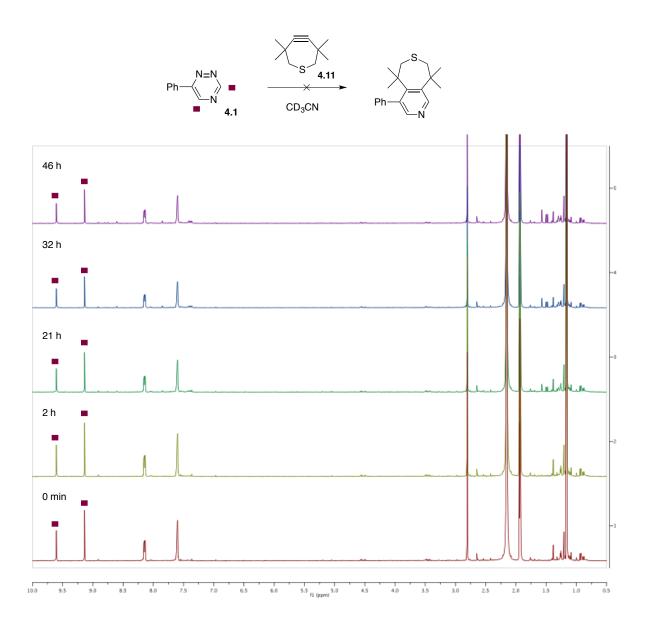


Figure S4.7. Triazine **4.1** is orthogonal to TMTH **4.11**. Triazine **4.1** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of TMTH **4.11** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.24 mL CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

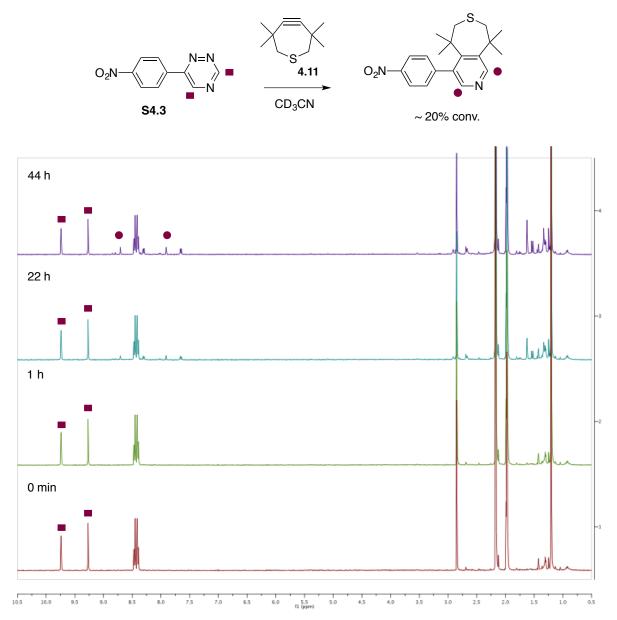


Figure S4.8. Minimum reactivity is observed between triazine **S4.3** and TMTH **4.11**. Triazine **S4.3** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of TMTH **4.11** (0.12 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted with 0.18 mL CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

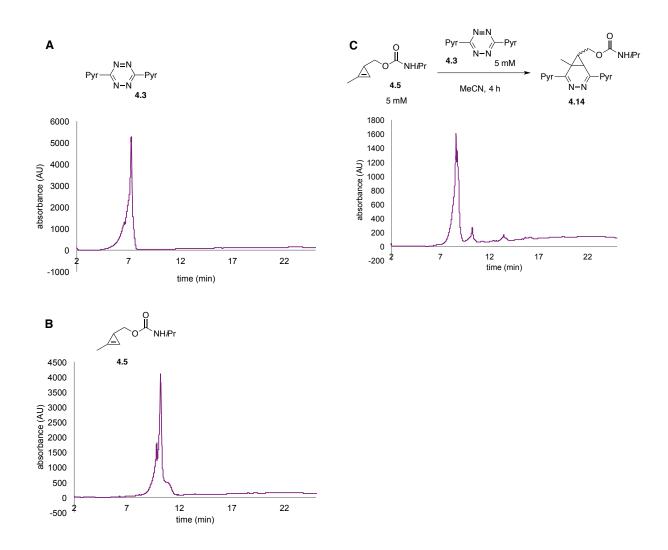


Figure S4.9. Tetrazine **4.3** reacts quantitatively with cyclopropene **4.5**. (A) HPLC trace of starting tetrazine **4.3** reagent. (B) HPLC trace of starting cyclopropene **4.5** trace. (C) Tetrazine **4.3** (5mM in MeCN) was reacted with 1,3-disubstituted cyclopropene **4.5** (5 mM in MeCN) for 4 h, and monitored by HPLC. The initial cycloadduct formed between **4.3** and **4.5** can undergo further rearrangement [4]. HPLC traces are monitored at 210 nm wavelength.

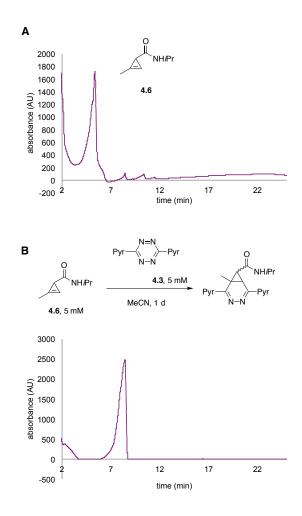


Figure S4.10. Tetrazine **4.3** reacts quantitatively with cyclopropenen **4.6**. (A) HPLC trace of starting cyclopropene **xx** trace. (B) Tetrazine **4.3** (5mM in MeCN) was reacted with cyclopropene **4.6** (5 mM in MeCN) for 4 h, and monitored by HPLC. The initial cycloadduct formed between **4.3** and **4.6** can undergo further rearrangement [4]. HPLC traces are monitored at 210 nm wavelength.

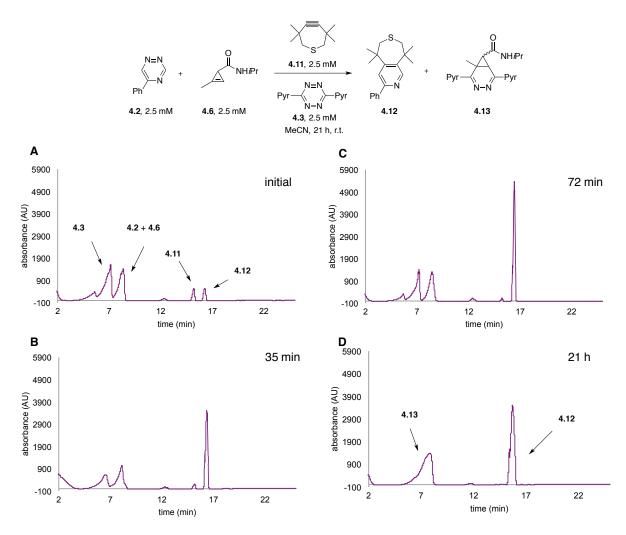


Figure S4.11. Compatible cycloadditions between triazine **4.2**, cyclopropene **4.6**, **4.11**, and **4.3**. All four reagents were combined (2.5 mM), and the reaction monitored by HPLC (210 nm) for 1 d.

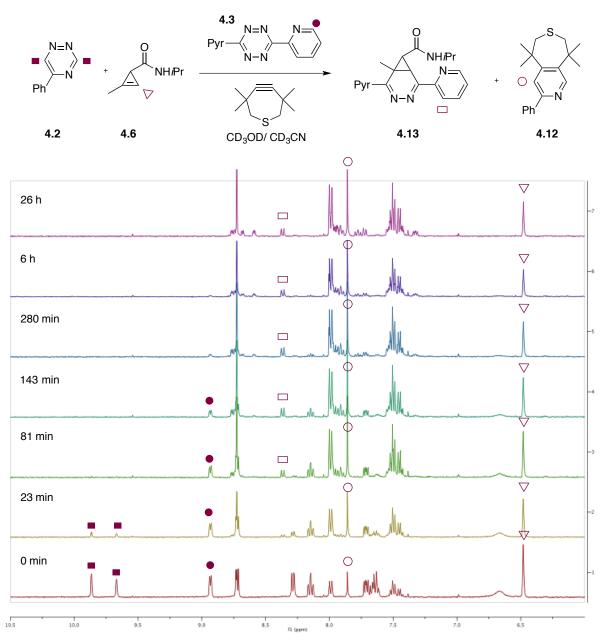


Figure S4.12. One-pot reaction. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN), cyclopropene **4.6** (0.30 mL of a 35 mM solution in CD₃CN), tetrazine **4.3** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃OD), and TMTH **4.11** (0.30 mL of a 50 mM solution in CD₃CN) were mixed together. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

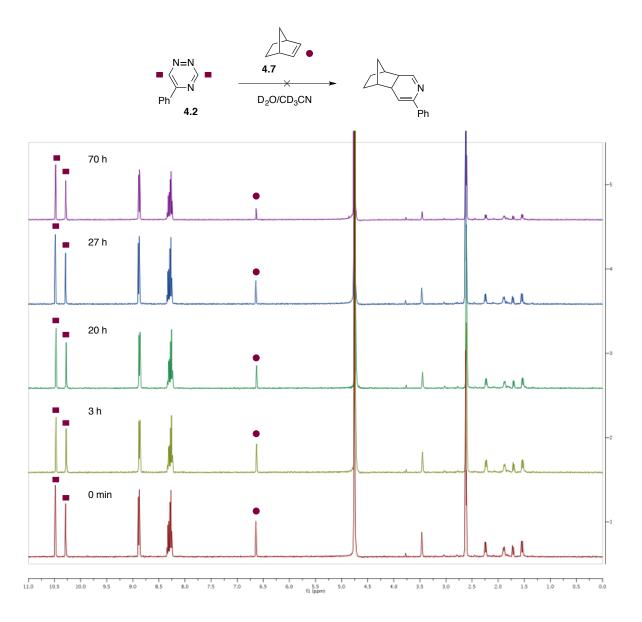


Figure S4.13. 5-Substituted triazine **4.2** is orthogonal to norbornene **4.7**. Triazine **4.2** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD_3CN) was added a solution of **4.7** (0.24 mL of a 9.4 mM solution in $D_2O:CD_3CN$) and diluted with 0.12 mL of D_2O . The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

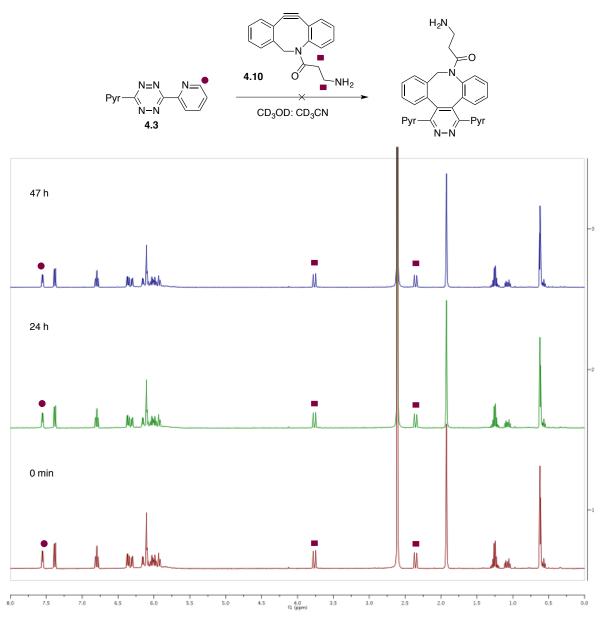


Figure S4-14. Tetrazine **4.3** is orthogonal to DIBAC **4.10**. tetrazine **4.3** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of **4.10** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃OD). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

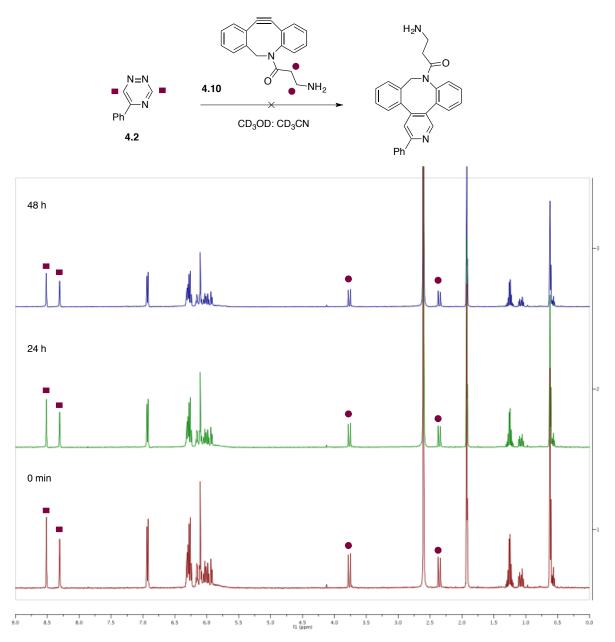


Figure S4-15. Tetrazine **4.2** is orthogonal to **DIBAC**. Triazine **4.2** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of **DIBAC** (0.30 mL of a 20 mM solution in CD₃OD). The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

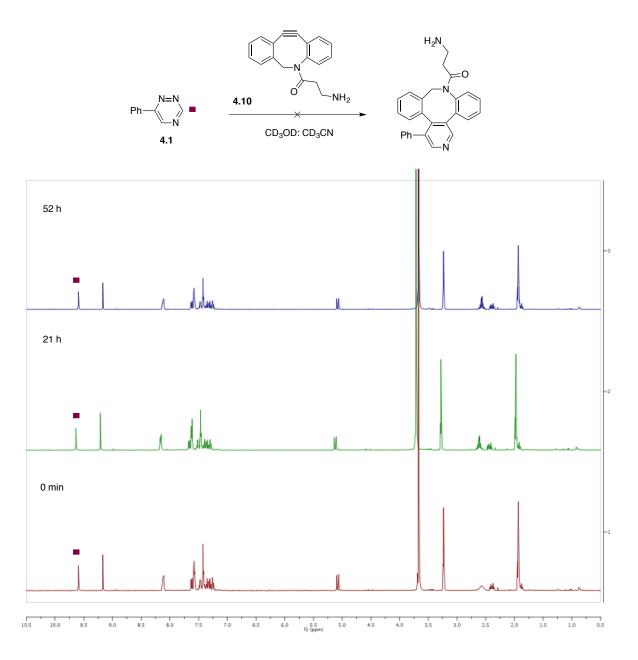


Figure S4-16. Tetrazine **4.1** is orthogonal to DIBAC **4.10**. Triazine **4.1** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of DIBAC **4.10** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃OD), and diluted to 0.6 mL with CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

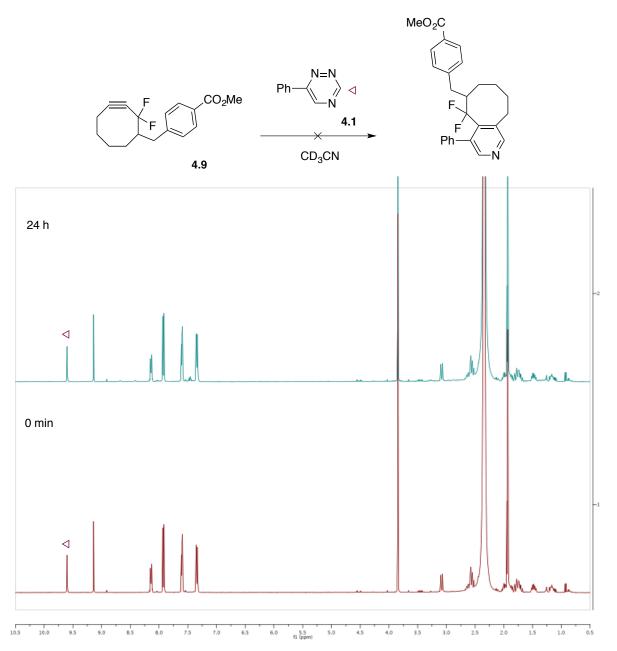


Figure S4-17. Tetrazine **4.1** is orthogonal to DIFO **4.9**. Triazine **4.2** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) was added a solution of DIFO **4.9** (0.24 mL of a 25 mM solution in CD₃CN) and diluted to 0.6 mL with CD₃CN. The reaction was monitored over time by ¹H-NMR.

