

**RUTHENIUM(II)-CATALYZED** *ortho*  
**HYDROXYMETHYLATION OF 6-ARYLPURINES**  
**WITHPARAFORMALDEHYDE VIA PURINE-DIRECTED C-H**  
**ACTIVATION**

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## X-Ray structure of **3a**

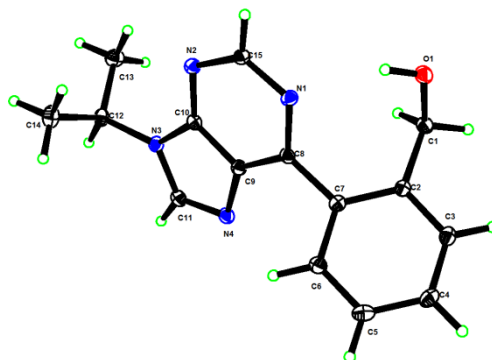
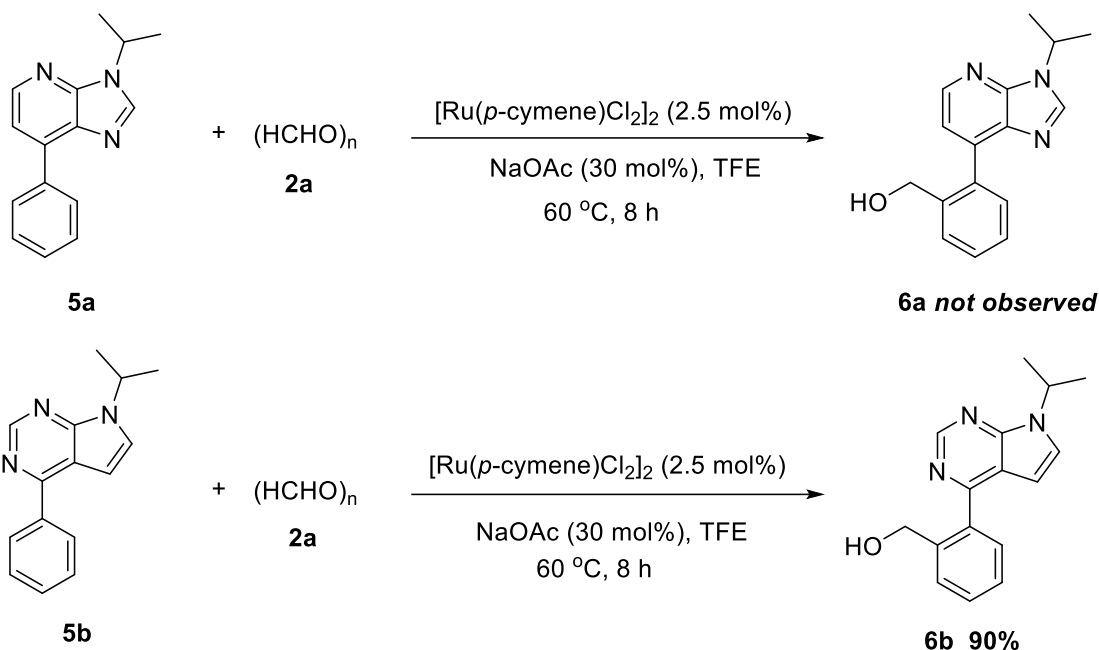


Figure S1. X-Ray structure of **3a**

A single crystal **3a** was obtained by slowly evaporating 99.5% MeOH under Air conditions and at room temperature. The crystal of compound **3a** (CCDC 1995350) belongs to monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$  (no. 14),  $a = 10.3596(5) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 11.0912(5) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 12.5143(6) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 112.911(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1324.46(11) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 150.0 \text{ K}$ ,  $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha) = 0.089 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.346 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , 13299 reflections measured ( $5.096^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 52.8^\circ$ ), 2691 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0837$ ,  $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0667$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0522 and  $wR_2$  was 0.1201.

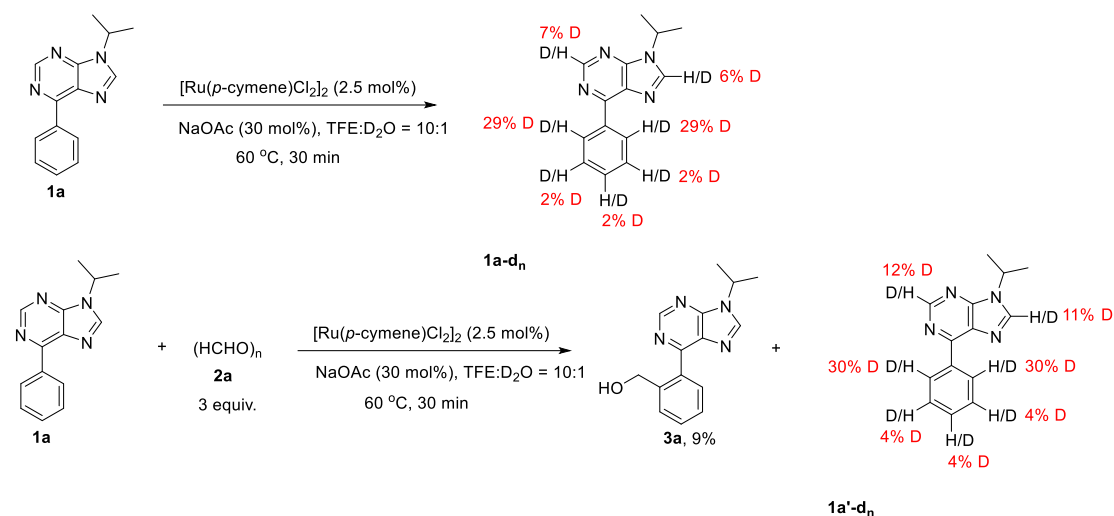
## Experimental Procedures of Mechanistic Studies

### 1) Verification of the directing group



A mixture of **5** (0.2 mmol, 47.4 mg, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.6 mmol, 18 mg, 3 equiv),  $[\text{RuCl}_2(p\text{-cymene})]_2$  (0.005 mmol, 3 mg, 2.5 mol%) and NaOAc (0.06 mmol, 8.2 mg, 30 mol%) were dissolved in TFE (2 mL) in a 10 mL round bottom flask and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 8 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatograph (PE/EA = 1/1) to afford product **6** (**6b**, Yield: 90%).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.88 (s, 1H), 7.82 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.51 (br, 1H), 5.21 (hept,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 1.56 (d,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  158.28, 150.81, 149.84, 141.13, 137.52, 131.50, 130.99, 130.17, 127.84, 125.92, 117.18, 100.74, 64.52, 46.26, 22.81; HRMS (ESI) Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_3\text{O}$   $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  268.1444, found 268.1443.

## 2) H/D Exchange Studies



To a 10 mL round bottom flask was added **1a** (0.2 mmol, 47.6 mg, 1 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.005 mmol, 3 mg, 2.5 mol%), NaOAc (0.06 mmol, 8.2 mg, 30 mol%) and TFE/D<sub>2</sub>O (10/1, 2.0 mL/0.2 mL). Meanwhile, to another 10 mL round bottom flask was added **1a** (0.2 mmol, 47.6 mg, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.6 mmol, 18 mg, 3 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (0.005 mmol, 3 mg, 2.5 mol%), NaOAc (0.06 mmol, 8.2 mg, 30 mol%) and TFE/D<sub>2</sub>O (10/1, 2.0 mL/0.2 mL). The two mixture were stirred at 60°C over 30 minutes. The two resulting solution were concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatograph on silica gel (Petroleum ether/Ethyl acetate) to afford product. The ratio of the hydrogen-deuterium exchange was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

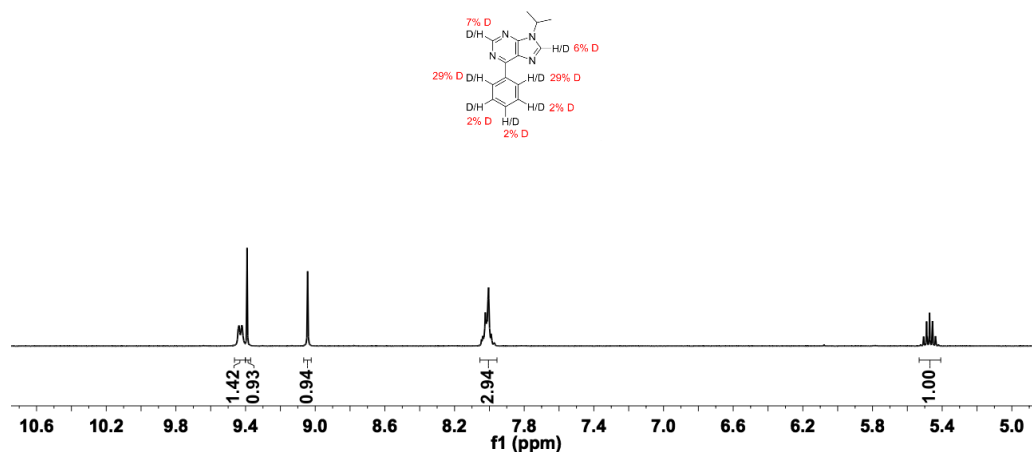


Figure S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of **1a-d<sub>n</sub>**

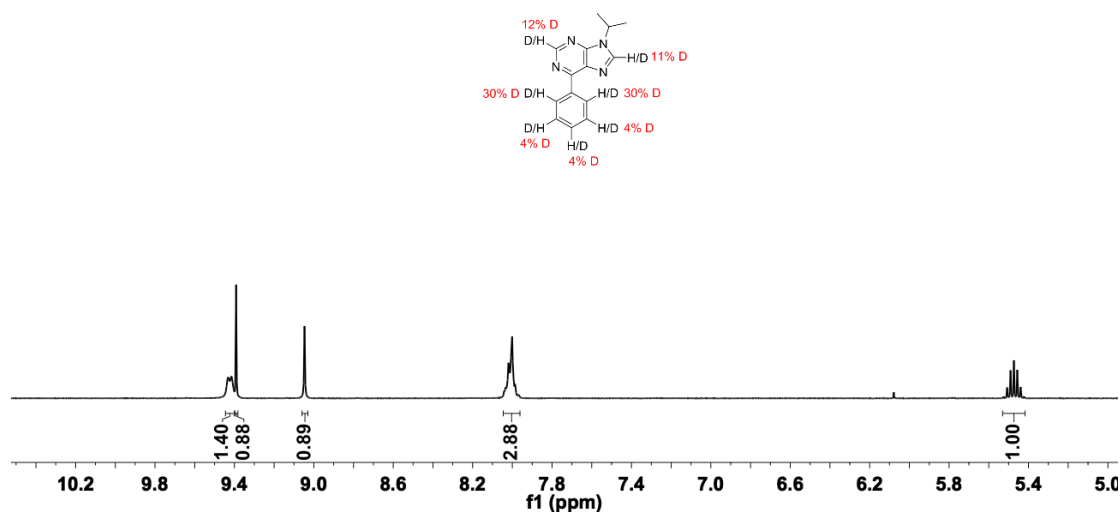
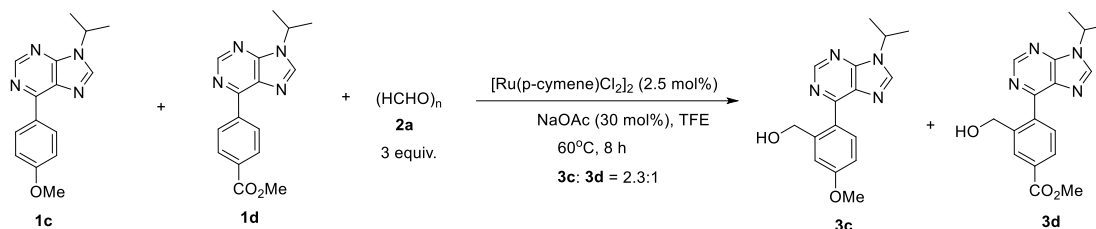


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of **1a'-d<sub>n</sub>**

### 3) Competitive Experiment



To a 10 mL round bottom flask was added **1c** (0.2 mmol, 53.6 mg, 1 equiv), **1d** (0.2 mmol, 59.2 mg, 1 equiv), **2a** (0.6 mmol, 18 mg, 3 equiv),  $[\text{Ru}(p\text{-cymene})\text{Cl}_2]_2$  (0.005 mmol, 3 mg, 2.5 mol%), NaOAc (0.06 mmol, 8.2 mg, 30 mol%) and TFE (2 mL, 0.1

M). After stirring for 8 hours at 60°C, the reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness.

The crude product was purified by column chromatograph on silica gel (Petroleum ether/Ethyl acetate) to give a mixture of **3c** and **3d** (2.3:1) by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

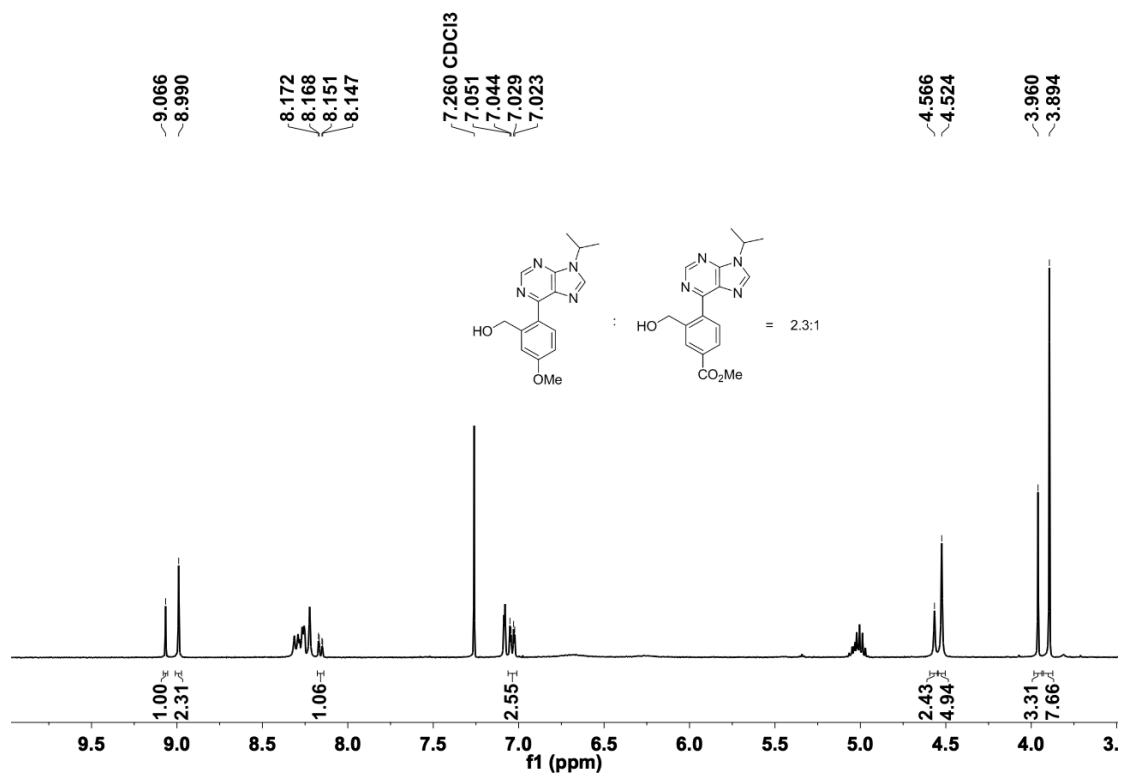


Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of **3c** and **3d**

# <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of Compounds

