Supporting Information

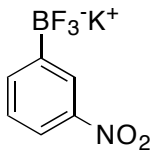
I. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

General. THF and ether were distilled from sodium metal/benzophenone ketyl under argon. CH_2Cl_2 was distilled from CaH_2 under argon. All other commercial reagents were used as received (Aldrich, Fischer Scientific Ltd. or BDH). All glassware were flame-dried and allowed to cool under a stream of dry nitrogen. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen. Melting points are uncorrected. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR were recorded at 400 or 300 MHz and 100 or 75 MHz respectively on a Varian Unity 400 or Gemini 300 spectrometer. Proton chemical shifts were internally referenced to the residual proton resonance in $CDCl_3$ (δ 7.26) or CD_3OD (δ 3.31). Carbon chemical shifts were internally referenced to the dueterated solvent signals in $CDCl_3$ (δ 77.00) or CD_3OD (δ 49.00). Low resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Bell and Howell 21-490 spectrometer, and high resolution spectra were recorded on an AEI MS3074 spectrometer. Flash column chromatography on silica gel (60 Å, 230-400 mesh, obtained from Whatman Company or Toronto Research Chemicals, Inc.) was performed with reagent grade hexanes and ethyl acetate. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated silica gel plates, (Alugram SIL G/UV_{254} purchased from Rose Scientific Limited), visualized with a UV_{254} lamp (Spectroline, Longlife Filter) and stained with 20% phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol. Solvent systems associated with R_f values and chromatography are reported as v/v ratios.

General Procedure for the Formation of the Potassium Trifluoroborate Salts

To a solution of the boronic acid (1 eq.) in a minimal amount of MeOH was added KHF_2 (4.5M in H_2O, 3.5 eq.). Almost instantaneously, a thick white ppt formed. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at rt. The white ppt. was filtered off and recrystalized from acetonitrile to afford a white, crystalline solid. In the ^{13}C-NMR spectrum, the signal of the carbon *ipso*-substituted by the tetracoordinate boron was generally not observed.

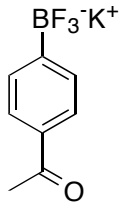
Potassium 3-Nitrophenyltrifluoroborate (1b)



1b

mp = 258-261 °C (acetonitrile); ^{1}H NMR (CD_3CN, 400 MHz) δ 8.25 (1H, s), 7.98 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz), 7.85 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.41 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3CN, 125 MHz, 70 °C) δ 139.31, 129.12, 126.84, 122.00 (one signals absent); ^{11}B NMR (CD_3CN, 160 MHz) δ -0.77 (d, *J* = 44 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (CD_3CN, 376 MHz) δ 8.71 (d, *J* = 53 Hz); MS (FAB) *m/z* 190 (100, M^+), 174 (20); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 190.0287, found 190.0284. Anal. Calcd. for $C_6H_4O_2BNF_3K$: C, 31.47; H, 1.76. Found: C, 31.53; H, 1.66.

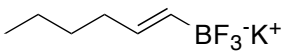
Potassium 4-Aceylphenyltrifluoroborate (1c)



1c

mp = >260 °C (acetonitrile); ^{1}H NMR (CD_3CN, 400 MHz) δ 7.77 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.55 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.52 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3CN, 125 MHz, 70 °C) δ 137.05, 133.34, 128.22, 27.43 (two signals absent); ^{11}B NMR (CD_3CN, 160 MHz) δ -0.63 (d, *J* = 44 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (CD_3CN, 376 MHz) δ 9.19 (d, *J* = 40 Hz); MS (FAB) *m/z* 187 (88, M^+), 183 (54), 91 (100), 59 (29); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 187.0542, found 187.0541. Anal. Calcd. for $C_8H_7OBF_3K$: C, 42.51; H, 3.12. Found: C, 42.71; H, 3.30.

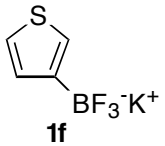
Potassium (*E*)-1-Hexenyltrifluoroborate (1d)



1d

mp = > 260 °C (acetonitrile); ^{1}H NMR (CD_3CN, 400 MHz) δ 5.74 - 5.64 (1H, m), 5.37 - 5.28 (1H, m), 2.03 - 1.94 (2H, m), 1.39 - 1.29 (4H, m), 0.90 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3CN, 125 MHz, 70 °C) δ 137.56, 36.92, 33.56, 23.89, 14.97 (one signal absent); ^{11}B NMR (CD_3CN, 160 MHz) δ -0.70 (d, *J* = 51 Hz); ^{19}F NMR (CD_3CN, 376 MHz) δ 11.32 (d, *J* = 63 Hz); MS (FAB) *m/z* 151 (100, M^+), 91 (23); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 151.0906, found 151.0908.

Potassium 3-Thiophenetrifluoroborate (1f)



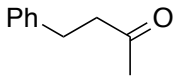
1f

mp = 250-256 °C (acetonitrile); ^{1}H NMR (CD_3CN, 400 MHz) δ 7.23 - 7.18 (2H, m), 7.15 - 7.11 (1H, m); ^{13}C NMR (CD_3CN, 125 MHz, 70 °C) δ 152 - 149 (br), 133.30, 127.52, 125.06; ^{11}B NMR (CD_3CN, 160 MHz) δ -0.90 (br s); ^{19}F NMR (CD_3CN, 376 MHz) δ 13.35 (br s); MS (FAB) *m/z* 151 (100, M^+); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 151.0018, found 151.0014.

General Procedure for the Rhodium-Catalyzed Addition of Potassium Aryl- and Alkenyltrifluoroborates to Enones

A suspension of the potassium trifluoroborate (2 mmol), $Rh(acac)(CO)_2$ (8 mg, 0.03 mmol) and dppf (17 mg, 0.03 mmol) in MeOH (6 mL) was stirred for 15 min at rt. Methyl vinyl ketone (84 μL, 1.00 mmol) and water (1 mL) were then added and the reaction mixture stirred at 50 °C for 16h. After cooling to rt, the reaction mixture was diluted with water (5 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL). The layers were separated and the aq. layer extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 x 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a clear, yellow oil. Silica gel chromatography (EtOAc/Hexanes) then afforded the desired product.

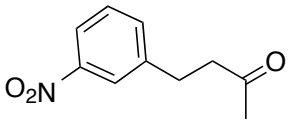
4-Phenylbutan-2-one (2a)



2a

2a isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.43 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.32 - 7.26 (2H, m), 7.23 - 7.17 (3H, m), 2.90 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.76 (2H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.14 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 207.71, 140.86, 128.35, 128.15, 125.96, 44.97, 29.88, 29.58.

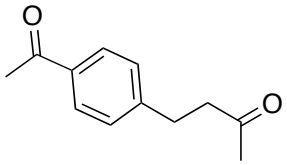
4-(3-Nitrophenyl)butan-2-one (2b)



2b

2b isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.35 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3110, 2978, 1720, 735, 701, 688; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 8.08 - 8.03 (2H, m), 7.56 - 7.40 (2H, m), 3.00 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.83 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.17 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 206.71, 143.05, 134.84, 129.34, 123.13, 121.34, 44.29, 30.04, 29.06; MS (EI) *m/z* 193 (1, M^+), 176 (11), 150 (17), 134 (36), 133 (100), 104 (28), 103 (48); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 193.1739, found 193.0734.

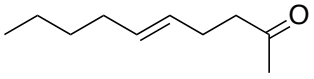
4--(4-Acetylphenyl)butan-2-one (2c)



2c

2c isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.50 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3115, 2986, 1715, 1695, 740, 720; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.83 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.23 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 2.90 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.75 (2H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.52 (3H, s), 2.10 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 207.05, 197.55, 146.67, 135.11, 128.46, 128.40, 44.27, 29.39, 26.37; MS (EI) *m/z* 190 (1, M^+), 175 (100), 147 (26), 105 (29), 77 (17); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 190.0994, found 190.0991. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{12}H_{14}O_2$: C, 75.77; H, 7.42. Found: C, 76.08; H, 6.95.

(*E*)-Dec-5-en-2-one (2d)

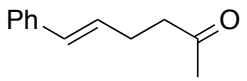


2d

2d isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.19 (5% EtOAc/95% Hexanes); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 5.42 - 5.27 (2H, m), 2.42 (2H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.19 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.07 (3H, s),1.94 -

1.87 (2H, m), 1.30 - 1.18 (4H, m), 0.82 (3H, t, J = 7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 208.23, 131.40, 128.04, 43.43, 32.02, 31.49, 29.73, 26.72, 22.00, 13.75.

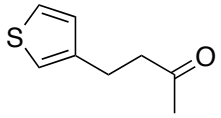
(*E*)-6-Phenylhex-5-en-2-one (2e)



2e

2e isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.44 (20% EtOAc/80% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3120, 2998, 1720, 1662, 745, 703, 674; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 - 7.26 (4H, m), 7.20 (1H, tt, J = 7.0, 1.5 Hz), 6.40 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz), 6.19 (1H, dt, J = 16.0, 7.0 Hz), 2.57 (2H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.46 (2H, q, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.13 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 207.61, 137.16, 130.44, 128.60, 128.25, 126.82, 125.75, 42.78, 29.67, 26.82; MS (EI) *m/z* 174 (90, M^+), 131 (55), 117 (67), 115 (63), 104 (31), 91 (100); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 174.1045, found 174.1040.

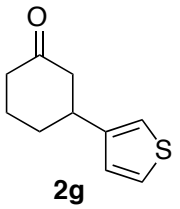
4-Thiophen-3-ylbutan-2-one (2f)



2f

2f isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.22 (10% EtOAc/90% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3102, 2923, 1717, 1361, 1162, 775 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 7.22 (1H, dd, J = 3.0 Hz), 6.94 - 6.89 (2H, m), 2.89 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.73 (2H, t, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.12 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 207.53, 140.99, 127.84, 125.35, 120.21, 44.00, 29.75, 23.96; MS (EI) *m/z* 154 (37, M^+), 111 (100), 97 (38); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 154.0452, found 154.0449.

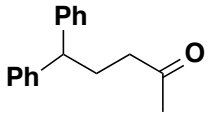
3-Thiophen-3-ylcyclohexanone (2g)



2g

2g isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.19 (20% EtOAc/80% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3402, 2938, 1711, 1223, 779 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 7.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 6.99 (2H, d, *J* = 4.5 Hz), 3.22 - 3.10 (1H, m), 2.74 - 2.64 (1H, m), 2.56 - 2.30 (3H, m), 2.22 - 2.05 (2H, m), 1.90 - 1.72 (2H, m); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 210.76, 145.33, 126.38, 125.88, 119.44, 48.44, 41.19, 39.77, 32.32, 24.97; MS (EI) *m/z* 180 (100, M^+), 137 (41), 124 (30), 123 (91), 110 (74); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 180.0609, found 180.0605.

4,4-Diphenylbutan-2-one (2h)



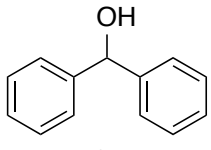
2h

2h isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.29 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 7.38 - 7.20 (10H, m), 4.65 (1H, t, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 3.22 (2H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.11 (3H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 206.67, 143.77, 128.48, 127.60, 127.57, 127.54, 126.34, 49.55, 45.95, 30.50.

General Procedure for the Rhodium-Catalyzed Addition of Potassium Aryl- and Alkenyltrifluoroborates to Aldehydes

A suspension of the aldehyde (1 mmol), the potassium trifluoroborate (2 mmol), $Rh(acac)(CO)_2$ (0.03 mmol) and dppf (0.03 mmol) in a 1:1 mixture of DME/H_2O (6 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to rt and diluted with benzene (20 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with benzene (3 X 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a clear, brown oil. Silica gel chromatography then afforded the desired product.

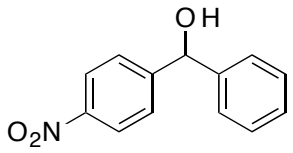
Diphenylmethanol (Benzhydrol) (3a)



3a

3a isolated as a clear, colourless, crystalline solid: mp = 65 - 66 °C (EtOAc/hexanes); R_f = 0.50 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.42 - 7.24 (10H, m), 5.85 (1H, s), 2.22 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 143.78, 128.49, 127.57, 126.53, 76.26.

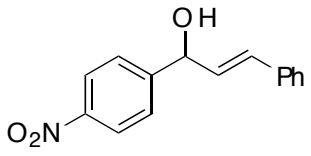
(4-Nitrophenyl)phenylmethanol (3b)



3b

3b isolated as a pale, yellow solid: mp = 78 °C (EtOAc/hexanes); R_f = 0.40 (20% EtOAc/80% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3400, 2998, 1518, 1345 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 8.11 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.35 - 7.25 (5H, m), 5.82 (1H, s), 2.98 (1H, s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 150.77, 146.93, 142.55, 128.77, 128.20, 126.94, 126.57, 123.50. 75.30; MS (EI) *m/z* 229 (13, M^+), 228 (51), 212 (11), 182 (15), 165 (25, 151 (26), 150 (38), 107 (52), 105 (100); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 229.0739, found 229.0743. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{13}H_{11}O_3N$: C, 68.12; H, 4.84; N, 6.11. Found: C, 67.92; H, 4.60; N, 6.09.

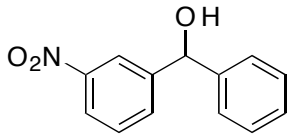
(*E*)-1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-ol (3c)



3c

3c isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.30 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3423, 2996, 1518, 1346 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 8.21 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.60 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.40 - 7.25 (5H, m), 6.72 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.0, 7.0 Hz), 5.48 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.42 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 149.77, 147.30, 135.80, 132.20, 130.04, 128.66, 128.29, 126.93, 126.65, 123.74, 74.34; MS (CI) *m/z* 256 (27, MH^-), 255 (100, M^-), 253 (44); HRMS (CI) *m/z* calcd. (M^-) 255.0895, found 255.0883.

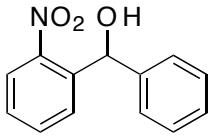
(3-Nitrophenyl)phenylmethanol (3d)



3d

3d isolated as a pale, yellow oil: R_f = 0.60 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3406, 1528, 1351, 736, 703 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 8.28 (1H, m), 8.12 - 8.08 (1H, m), 7.70 (1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.48 (1H, t, *J* - 8.0 Hz), 7.37 - 7.28 (5H, m), 5.91 (1H, s), 2.52 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 145.74, 142.71, 132.42, 129.31, 128.89, 128.31, 126.59, 122.36, 121.25, 75.31; MS (CI) *m/z* 230 (24, MH^-), 229 (100, M^-); HRMS (CI) *m/z* calcd. (M^-) 229.0739, found 229.0734.

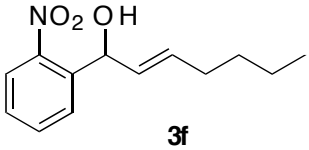
(2-Nitrophenyl)phenylmethanol (3e)



3e

3e isolated as a pale, yellow oil: R_f = 0.60 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3396, 3032, 1526, 1302, 1179, 1019, 701 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.83 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.68 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.54 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.36 (1H, t, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 - 7.18 (5H, m), 6.32 (1H, s), 3.16 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 141.44, 138.36, 133.31, 129.19, 128.43, 128.33, 127.88, 126.84, 124.54, 71.25. MS (CI) *m/z* 230 (100, MH^-), 229 (M^-), 181 (11), 153 (7); HRMS (CI) *m/z* calcd. (M^-) 229.0739, found 229.0749.

(*E*)-1-(2-Nitrophenyl)hept-2-en-1-ol (3f)

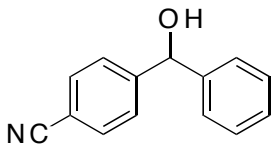


3f

3f isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.70 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3406, 2929, 1708, 1605, 1522, 1347, 1198, 971, 855, 700 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 8.15 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 5.84 - 5.75 (1H, m), 5.56 (1H, ddt, *J* = 15.0, 7.5, 1.5 Hz), 5.24

(1H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.45 (1H, br s), 2.04 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.38 - 1.23 (4H, m), 0.86 (3H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 150.56, 134.49, 131.14, 130.41, 126.73, 124.19, 123.49, 74.33, 31.72, 30.95, 22.10, 13.76; MS (CI) *m/z* 236 (15, MH^-), 235 (100, M^-), 151 (28); HRMS (CI) *m/z* calcd. (M^-) 235.1208, found 235.1199.

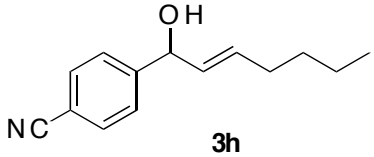
4-(Hydroxyphenylmethyl)benonitrile (3g)



3g

3g isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.30 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.56 (2H, dt, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz), 7.48 (2H, dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.0 Hz), 7.37 - 7.27 (5H, m), 5.80 (1H, d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 2.97 (1H, d, *J* = 3.5 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 148.92, 142.71, 132.10, 128.69, 128.07, 126.91, 126.56, 118.72, 110.78, 75.37.

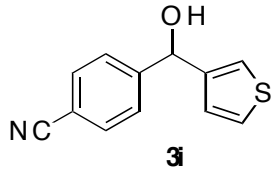
(*E*)-4-(1-Hydroxyhept-2-enyl)benzonitrile (3h)



3h

3h isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.40 (20% EtOAc/80% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3425, 2928, 2229, 1608, 1406, 970, 831 cm^{-1}; ^{1}H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.58 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.45 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 5.79 - 5.72 (1H, m), 5.54 (1H, dd, 16.0, 7.0 Hz), 5.17 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.31 (1H, br s), 2.02 (2H, q, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 1.37 - 1.23 (4H, m), 0.85 (3H, t *J* = 7.0 Hz); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 148.61, 142.22, 134.28, 132.82, 132.12, 131.29. 126.69, 110.88; MS (EI) *m/z* 215 (8, M^+), 214 (17), 158 (100), 145 (59), 130 (47); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 215.1310, found 215.1311.

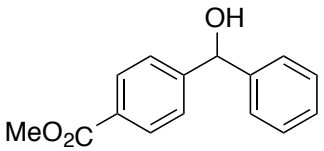
(4-Hydroxythiophen-3-ylmethyl)benzonitrile (3i)



3i

3i isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.27 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3418, 2229, 1608, 1412, 1149, 1037, 790, 750, 549 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.61 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.29 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.0, 3.0 Hz), 7.18 (1H, d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 6.95 (1H, dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.0 Hz). 5.91 (1H, s), 2.81 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 148.42, 144.02, 132.21, 126.92, 126.82, 125.93, 122.30, 118.70, 111.12, 71.67; MS (EI) *m/z* 215 (42, M^+), 182 (16), 131 (18), 130 (42), 113 (24), 111(49), 104 (36), 91 (61), 85 (100); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 215.0405, found 215.0404.

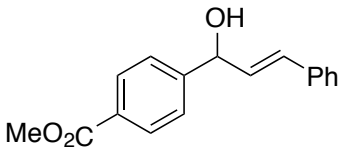
Methyl-4-(Hydroxyphenylmethyl)benzoate (3j)



3j

3j isolated as a clear, colourless crystalline solid: mp = 68 °C (EtOAc/hexanes); R_f = 0.40 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 1720, 1436, 1283, 1114, 1017, 709 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 7.97 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.44 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.36 - 7.24 (5H, m), 5.84 (1H, s), 3.88 (3H, s), 2.74 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 166.92, 148.73, 143.23, 129.72, 129.11, 128.62, 127.86, 126.60, 126.28, 75.81, 52.05; MS (EI) *m/z* 242 (20, M^+), 137 (60), 105 (64), 86 (67), 84 (100); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 242.0943, found 242.0935.

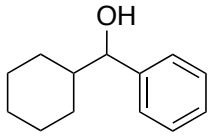
(*E*)-Methyl-4-(1-hydroxy-3-phenylallyl)benzoate (3k)



3k

3k isolated as a clear, colourless oil: R_f = 0.33 (30% EtOAc/70% Hexanes); IR (film) υ 3480, 1714, 1295, 1104 cm^{-1}; ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 8.03 (2H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 7.37 (2H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.31 (2H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.24 - 7.22 (1H, m), 6.68 (1H, d, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.33 (1H, dd, *J* = 16.0, 7.0 Hz), 5.43 (1H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.91 (3H, s), 2.40 (1H, br s); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz)) δ 166.91, 147.71, 136.19, 131.35, 130.78, 129.88, 129.40, 128.59, 127.99, 126.62, 126.16, 74.73, 52.08; MS (EI) *m/z* 268 (57, M^+), 253 (25), 209 (46), 193 (22), 164 (23), 163 (100), 131 (26), 105 (55); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd. (M^+) 268.1099, found 268.1112.

Cyclohexylphenylmethanol (3l)



3l

3l isolated as a clear, colourless oil: $R_f = 0.45$ (20% EtOAc/80% Hexanes); ^1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 7.38 - 7.24 (5H, m), 4.38 (1H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.02 - 1.92 (1H, m), 1.85 - 1.72 (2H, m), 1.71 - 1.56 (3H, m), 1.43 - 1.34 (1H, m), 1.31 - 0.67 (5H, m); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz) δ 142.24, 128.17, 127.40, 126.62, 79.39, 44.95, 29.30, 28.81, 26.41, 26.08, 26.00.