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**PYRIDINE-DIRECTED Rh-CATALYZED C6-SELECTIVE C–H
ACETOXYLATION OF 2-PYRIDONES**

Sunit Hazra, Koji Hirano,* and Masahiro Miura*

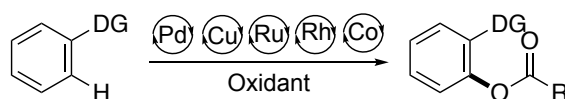
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Abstract – A Rh(III)-catalyzed C–H acetoxylation of 2-pyridones with phenyliodine(III) diacetate (PIDA) in a DCE/AcOH mixed solvent system has been developed using *N*-2-pyridyl function as directing group. The reaction occurs under mild conditions, typically in air at 40 °C, to selectively produce the corresponding C6-acetoxylation of 2-pyridones in moderate to good yields.

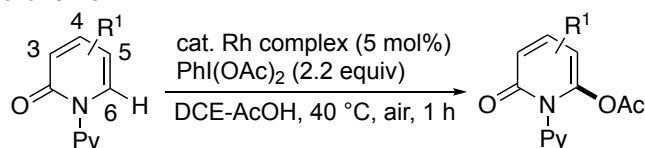
INTRODUCTION

Transition-metal-catalyzed direct C–O bond formation by means of C–H bond activation strategy¹ has emerged as a useful method to make oxygen-bearing compounds in organic synthesis over the past one and a half decade. In particular, the wide occurrence of acetoxy group² in natural products, pharmaceutical agents, and agrochemicals as well as its role as a useful synthetic handle has stimulated synthetic chemists to develop efficient protocols for the direct acetoxylation of C–H bonds. In 2004, Sanford reported the palladium-catalyzed selective acetoxylation of arene and benzylic C–H bonds.³ Subsequently, Sanford^{4a} and Yu^{4b} developed palladium-catalyzed acetoxylation methods for unactivated sp³ C–H bonds. After these reports, palladium⁵ and other transition metals such as copper,⁶ ruthenium,⁷ rhodium,⁸ and cobalt⁹ catalysts have been employed for the acetoxylation/acyloxylation of C–H bonds (Scheme 1a). The substantial importance of pyridone derivatives¹⁰ in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry and our ongoing research¹¹ on the site-selective functionalization of 2-pyridones prompted us to develop a suitable method for the regioselective acetoxylation of pyridone derivatives. In our blueprint, the pyridyl group in *N*-(2-pyridyl)-2-pyridones would direct a transition metal catalyst to activate the C–H bond at the C6 position, thereby facilitating the C6-selective acetoxylation of the pyridone substrates under appropriate reaction conditions. Herein, we report a pyridine-directed, Rh(III)-catalyzed C6-selective acetoxylation of 2-pyridones using phenyliodine(III) diacetate (PIDA) (Scheme 1b).

a. previous reports



b. this work



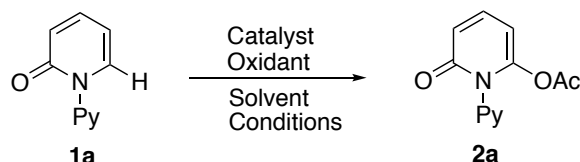
Scheme 1. Directing group-assisted transition-metal-catalyzed acyloxylation via C-H bond activation.
DG = directing group, Py = 2-pyridyl.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We initially attempted the direct acetoxylation of *N*-(2-pyridyl)-2-pyridone (**1a**) using [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (5 mol% Rh), PIDA (1.1 equiv), and DCE as catalyst, oxidant, and solvent, respectively at 80 °C for 16 h under air, but no acetoxylation product was obtained even with AgSbF₆ as additive (Table 1, Entry 1). On the other hand, the reaction proceeded selectively at the C6 position of **1a** in the presence of a cationic rhodium complex [Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂ in place of the neutral complex [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ to give the expected product **2a**, albeit in 8% isolated yield (Entry 2). We then varied the reaction conditions using the [Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂ catalyst. Screening of solvents revealed that DCE was the best among the examined solvents (Entries 2-5). Increasing the amount of PIDA to 2.2 equiv resulted in the full consumption of **1a** to give **2a** in 22% NMR yield (Entry 6). Lowering the reaction temperature to 40 °C as well as shortening the reaction time to 6 h increased the yield of **2a** further to 39% (Entry 7). It was conceived that the reason why the product yield was still low might be due to the decomposition of both the starting material and product in the presence of the relatively strong oxidant PIDA. However, screening of oxidants suggested that the use of PIDA was crucial for the reaction; other oxidants such as K₂S₂O₈/AcOH, Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O, AgOAc, and Mn(OAc)₃·2H₂O were unsuccessful (Entries 8-11). We then tried in situ generation of PIDA in the reaction system. The use of PhI¹² in the presence of *m*-CPBA to generate PIDA in the reaction medium and the subsequent attempt of acetoxylation remained unsuccessful (Entry 12). Use of PhIO¹³ for in situ generation of PIDA was also found to be inferior (Entry 13). Subsequently, we investigated other reaction parameters to improve the reaction efficiency. Increasing the concentration to 0.2 M slightly improved the product yield to 42% (entry 14). Further shortening the reaction time to 1 h decreased the yield to 22% (entry 15). To our delight, when we added 0.1 mL of AcOH as additive, the product **2a** was obtained in 87% yield within 1 h (Entry 16). When the same reaction was carried out under N₂, the yield was somewhat decreased (Entry 17). No acetoxylation reaction took place

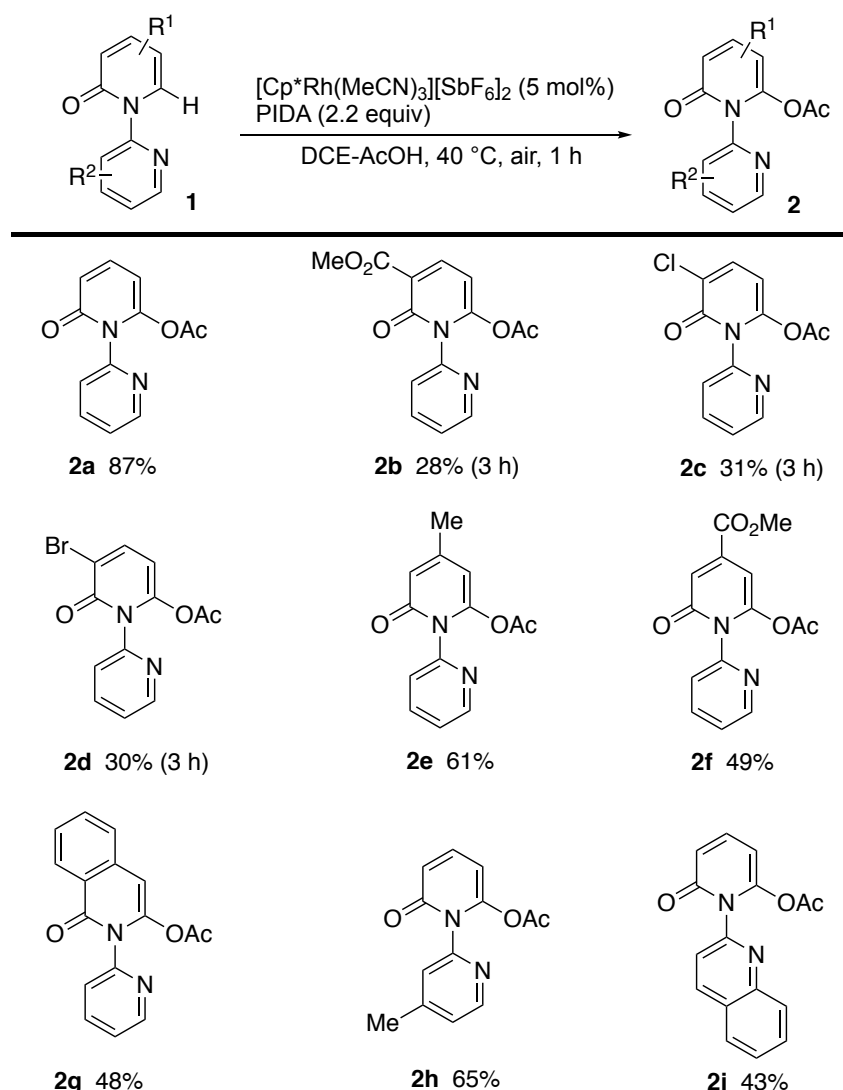
without the Rh catalyst (Entry 18) or PIDA (Entry 19). Based on these results, we chose the reaction conditions in Entry 16 of Table 1 for further experiments.

Table 1. Optimization studies for Rh-catalyzed C6-selective acetoxylation of *N*-pyridyl-2-pyridone (**1a**)



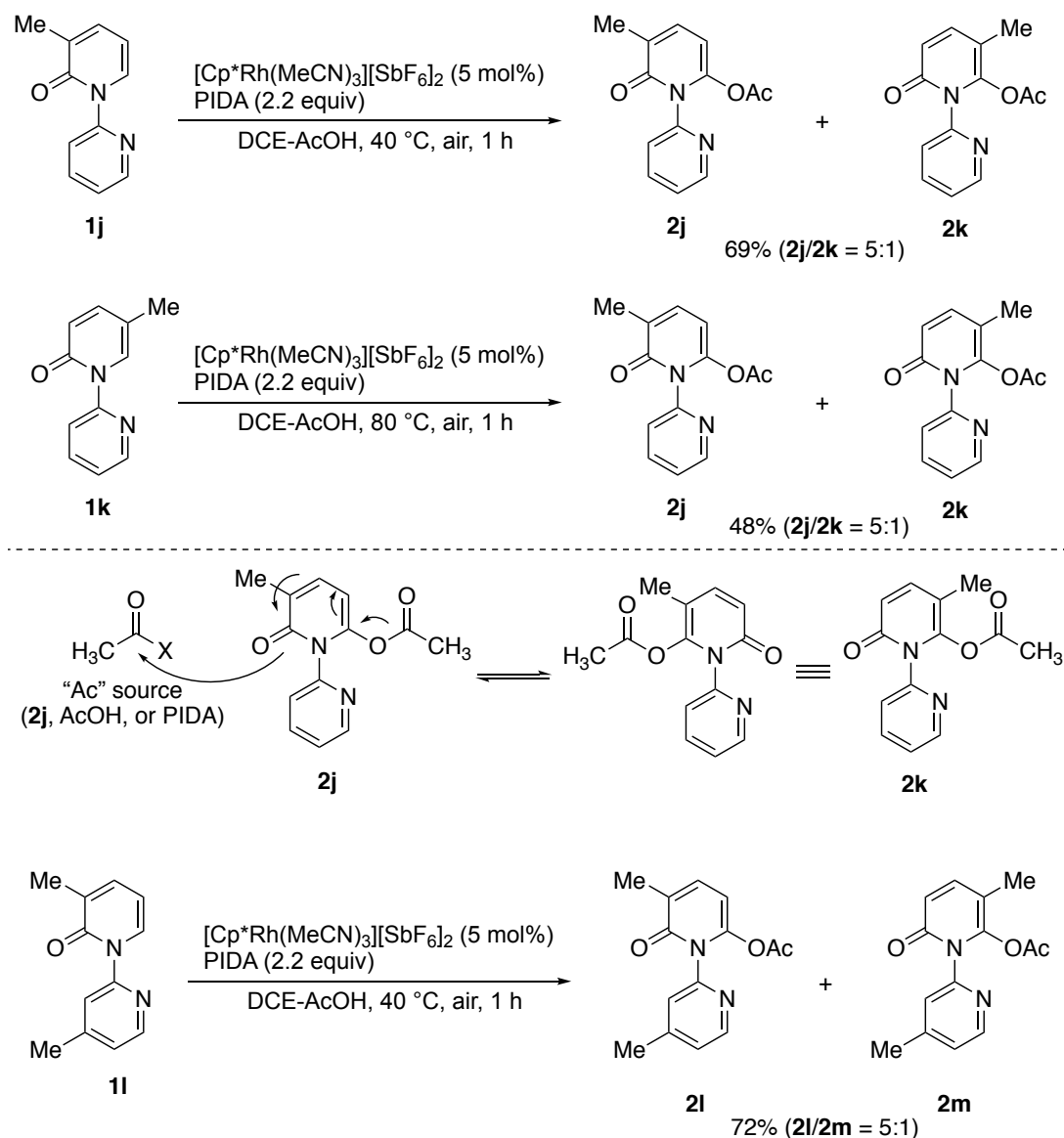
Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant (equiv)	Solvent (mL)	Yield ^j (%)
1 ^{a,b}	[Cp*RhCl ₂] ₂	PIDA (1.2)	DCE (1.0)	0
2 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (1.2)	DCE (1.0)	(8)
3 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (1.2)	CH ₃ CN (1.0)	0
4 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (1.2)	1,4-dioxane (1.0)	0
5 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (1.2)	Toluene (1.0)	0
6 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (1.0)	22
7 ^c	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (1.0)	39
8 ^{b, d}	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ (2.0)	DCE (1.0)	0
9 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	Cu(OAc) ₂ ·H ₂ O (2.0)	DCE (1.0)	0
10 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	AgOAc (2.0)	DCE (1.0)	0
11 ^b	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	Mn(OAc) ₃ ·2H ₂ O (2.0)	DCE (1.0)	0
12 ^c	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	<i>m</i> -CPBA (2.0)	AcOH (1.0)	0
13 ^f	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PhIO (2.0)	DCE (1.0)	16
14 ^c	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (0.5)	42
15 ^g	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (0.5)	22
16^h	[Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (0.5)	(87)
17 ^{h, i}	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (0.5)	80
18 ^g	-	PIDA (2.2)	DCE (0.5)	0
19 ^g	[Cp*Rh(MeCN) ₃][SbF ₆] ₂	-	DCE (0.5)	0

Reactions were carried out using 0.1 mmol of **1a**, Rh-catalyst (5 mol%), oxidant, and solvent, under air (unless otherwise noted) at specified temperature and time. ^a 10 mol% of AgSbF₆ was added as additive. ^b Reaction at 80 °C for 16 h. ^c Reaction at 40 °C for 6 h. ^d Reaction in the presence of 0.5 mL of AcOH. ^e Reaction in the presence of 2.0 equiv PhI at 60 °C for 24 h. ^f Reaction in the presence of 20 equiv of Ac₂O at 40 °C for 6 h. ^g Reaction at 40 °C for 1 h. ^h Reaction at 40 °C for 1 h in the presence of 0.1 mL of AcOH. ⁱ Reaction under N₂. ^j Yield was determined by ¹H NMR of each crude reaction mixture using CH₂Br₂ as internal standard. Isolated yields are given in parentheses.



Scheme 2. Rh-catalyzed C6-selective acetoxylation of *N*-(2-pyridyl)-2-pyridones **1**. Isolated yields are given.

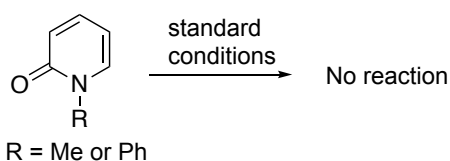
Having the optimized reaction conditions, we then examined the generality and limitations of the present acetoxylation of 2-pyridones **1** (Scheme 2). Substrates containing an electron-withdrawing group such as ester (CO₂Me) and halogen (Cl, Br) at the C3 position were found to be less reactive; the reactions of these substrates were carried out for a longer time of 3 h, and the corresponding C6-acetoxylation products **2b–2d** were obtained selectively albeit with lower yields. The reaction protocol was also applicable to substrates containing an electron-donating (Me) or electron-withdrawing (CO₂Me) substituent at the C4 position (**2e**, **2f**). Additionally, an isoquinolone substrate underwent the acetoxylation under the standard conditions to give the corresponding product **2g** in a moderate yield. The substituent effect on the pyridyl directing group was also tested: the 4-methylpyridyl group also directed the C6-selective acetoxylation reaction, giving the products **2h** in 65% isolated yield. The 2-quinolinyl directing group also worked, and thus, the acetoxylation product **2i** was obtained in 43% yield.



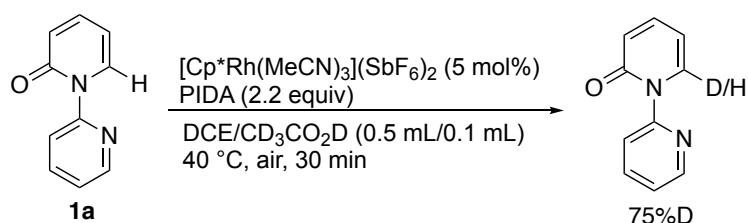
Scheme 3. Reactions of C3- or C5-methylated substrates.

Somewhat unique phenomena were observed in the reactions of C3- or C5-methylated substrates (Scheme 3). Under identical conditions, the C3-methylated **1j** was converted to a 5:1 mixture of the expected product **2j** and unexpected C5-methylated C6-acetoxy product **2k** in 69% total yield. Similarly, the reaction of C5-methylated **1k** gave **2j** as well as **2k** in the same 5:1 ratio of **2j** and **2k**. The outcomes suggest the equilibrium between **2j** and **2k** via an Ac transfer under the standard reaction conditions. The same result was also obtained from the C3-methylated **1l** that bears the 4-methylpyridyl directing group. Thus, the Ac transfer process is general for the C3- and C5-methylated pyridones and regardless of the nature of directing group.

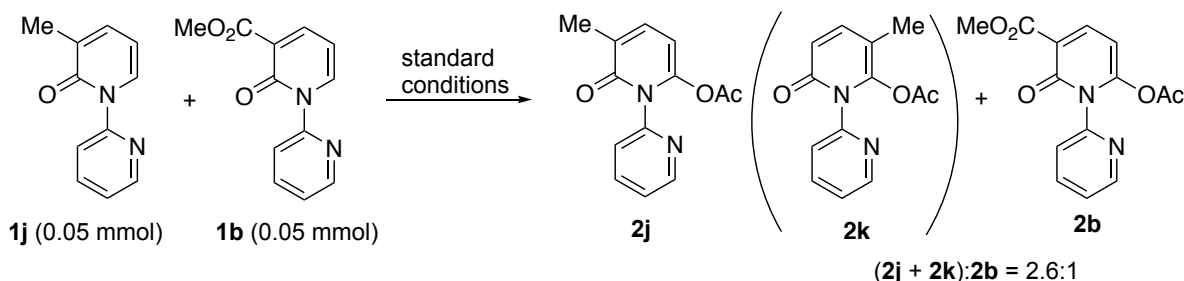
a. experiments to check role of DG



b. H/D exchange experiment



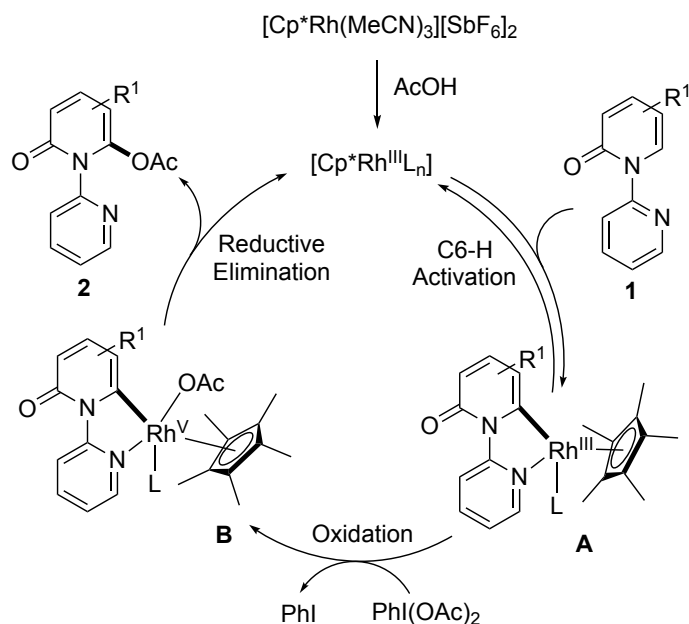
c. intermolecular competition



Scheme 4. Control experiments.

We then performed a series of control experiments to gain some insight into the reaction mechanism (Scheme 4). When the reaction was carried out with *N*-methyl-2-pyridone or *N*-phenyl-2-pyridone, no acetoxylation occurred, which confirmed that the presence of pyridyl directing group is essential for the acetoxylation reaction (Scheme 4a). The hydrogen-deuterium (H/D) scrambling experiment (Scheme 4b) with **1a** in the presence of CD₃CO₂D resulted in H/D exchange at the C6 position of recovered substrate (75% D), which implies that the C–H activation step is facile and reversible. The electronic preference in the substrate was next examined through an intermolecular competition experiment using an equimolar mixture of **1j** and **1b**. The result suggested that the electron-rich substrate **1j** reacted at a higher rate (Scheme 4c).

Based on the control experiments performed and previous literature reports,^{8b, 8c} a plausible mechanism for the present reaction is illustrated in Scheme 5. First, the [Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂ precatalyst is converted with AcOH to the active [Cp*RhL_n], where one of L_n is OAc. The pyridone substrate **1** then undergoes the reversible C6–H bond cleavage with the cationic [Cp*RhL_n] species to produce a rhodacycle intermediate **A**.¹⁴ Subsequent oxidation of **A** with PIDA generates a rhodium(V) intermediate **B** and final reductive elimination in **B** leads to the product **2** and regenerates the starting Rh(III) catalytic species.



Scheme 5. Plausible mechanism of acetoxylation of **1**. L = SbF₆ or OAc

CONCLUSION

In summary, we have demonstrated a catalytic method for the C6-selective acetoxylation through pyridine-directed C-H bond cleavage of 2-pyridones under rhodium catalysis using PIDA as oxidizing agent. The method is operationally simple, performed under air, and allows the synthesis of various C6-acetoxylation 2-pyridones in moderate to good yields under mild reaction conditions. Thus, the present method appears to be useful for synthesizing the oxygenated pyridones, which are of interest in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry.¹⁵ Further development of related direct C-O bond formation reactions is currently underway in our group.

EXPERIMENTAL

General. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were measured at 400 MHz (¹H NMR) and at 100 MHz (¹³C NMR). All ¹H NMR chemical shifts were reported in ppm relative to the resonance in TMS at δ 0.00. All ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were reported in ppm relative to carbon resonance in chloroform-d₁ at δ 77.16. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured by APCI-TOF. Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) was performed by LC-20AR (pump, SHIMADZU, 7.5 mL/min) and SPD-20A (UV detector, SHIMADZU, 254 nm) with two in-line YMC-GPC T2000 (20 x 600 mm, particle size: 10 μm) (preparative columns, YMC, CHCl₃ eluent). All starting materials were prepared according to the previous literature report.^{11c} [Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂ was prepared according to the literature procedure.¹⁶ All other reagents were purchased from commercial resources.

Rh-catalyzed C6-selective acetoxylation of *N*-(2-pyridyl)-2-pyridones 1. The reaction of **1a** is representative (Table 1, entry 16): *N*-(2-pyridyl)-2-pyridone (**1a**, 17.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), [Cp*Rh(MeCN)₃][SbF₆]₂ (4.1 mg, 0.005 mmol), and PIDA (71.0 mg, 0.22 mmol) were placed in a 20 mL screw vial. DCE (0.5 mL) and AcOH (0.1 mL) were added via syringe. The vial was closed under air, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated at room temperature, and the residue was diluted with EtOAc (10 mL) and filtered through a short silica gel column neutralized with 5% Et₃N in EtOAc, using EtOAc/CHCl₃/Et₃N eluent (1/1/0.05, v/v/v, 3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were evaporated, and the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using EtOAc/Hexane = 1/5 to EtOAc/CHCl₃/Et₃N = 1/1/0.05 (v/v/v) followed by GPC (CHCl₃) purification to afford **2a** (20 mg, 87% yield) as a light green liquid. Note: Yields varied if the reaction mixture was not purified within 30 min after quenching the reaction, but the isolated product was stable.

Characterization Data for Products

2-Oxo-2*H*-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2a): Light green liquid, 20 mg (87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87 (s, 3H), 6.05 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.89 (td, *J* = 1.9, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.64-8.66 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 97.5, 118.8, 124.0, 124.3, 138.6, 140.3, 147.4, 149.2, 149.8, 162.8, 166.8. HRMS (APCI) *m/z* ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₂H₁₁N₂O₃: 231.0764, found: 231.0753.

Methyl 6-acetoxy-2-oxo-2*H*-[1,2'-bipyridine]-3-carboxylate (2b): Reaction carried out for 3 h. Colorless liquid, 8.1 mg (28%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.01 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 9.8, 1H), 7.31-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.91 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 4.84 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 8.66-8.68 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.3, 52.3, 100.8, 118.0, 123.5, 124.8, 138.9, 140.5, 148.6, 150.2, 152.0, 162.4, 163.1, one carbon peak overlapped with another. HRMS (APCI) *m/z* ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N₂O₅: 289.0819, found: 289.0835.

3-Chloro-2-oxo-2*H*-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2c): Reaction carried out for 3 h. Colorless liquid, 8.3 mg (31%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.88 (s, 3H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 1.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.63-8.65 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 97.2, 123.9, 124.1, 124.7, 137.9, 138.7, 146.1, 149.0, 149.9, 158.7, 166.6. HRMS (APCI) *m/z* ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₂H₁₀ClN₂O₃: 265.0374, found: 265.0353.

3-Bromo-2-oxo-2*H*-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2d): Reaction carried out for 3 h. Colorless liquid, 9.3 mg (30%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.88 (s, 3H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (td, *J* = 1.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.63-8.65 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 97.9, 113.6, 123.9, 124.6, 138.7, 141.8, 147.0, 149.1, 149.8, 158.8, 166.5. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₂H₁₀BrN₂O₃: 308.9869, found: 308.9856.

4-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2e): Colorless liquid, 15 mg (61%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.86 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 5.90 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.36-6.37 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.87 (td, J = 1.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.62-8.64 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 22.0, 100.1, 117.1, 124.17, 124.18, 138.5, 146.4, 149.3, 149.7, 152.3, 162.6, 166.9. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₂O₃: 245.0921, found: 245.0902.

Methyl 6-acetoxy-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridine]-4-carboxylate (2f): Colorless liquid, 14.1 mg (49%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.90 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 6.54 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.90 (dd, J = 1.9, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.65-8.67 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 53.2, 96.5, 121.0, 123.9, 124.6, 138.7, 141.4, 147.7, 148.8, 150.0, 162.5, 164.6, 166.6. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₄H₁₃N₂O₅: 289.0819, found: 289.0806.

1-Oxo-2-(pyridin-2-yl)-1,2-dihydroisoquinolin-3-yl acetate (2g): Colorless liquid, 13.5 mg (48%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (s, 3H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.90 (td, J = 2.0, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 8.38-8.40 (m, 1H), 8.66-8.68 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.2, 97.3, 124.1, 124.5, 124.8, 126.4, 126.8, 128.5, 133.4, 136.4, 138.5, 142.4, 149.7, 149.8, 162.8, 167.5. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂O₃: 281.0921, found: 281.0940.

4'-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2h): Light yellow liquid, 16 mg (65%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.89 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 6.05 (dd, J = 1.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, J = 1.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 1H), 8.49 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.3, 21.2, 97.6, 118.7, 124.5, 125.4, 140.2, 147.4, 149.2, 149.4, 150.3, 162.9, 166.8. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₃H₁₃N₂O₃: 245.0921, found: 245.0906.

6-Oxo-1-(quinolin-2-yl)-1,6-dihydropyridin-2-yl acetate (2i): Colorless liquid, 12 mg (43%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.78 (s, 3H), 6.11 (dd, J = 1.0, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, J = 1.1, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.63-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.80 (m, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 1.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.3, 97.9, 118.9, 121.2, 127.8, 127.9, 129.4, 130.4, 138.8, 140.4, 147.3, 147.5, 148.6, 163.1, 166.9, one carbon peak overlapped with another. HRMS (APCI) m/z ([M+H]⁺) calcd for C₁₆H₁₃N₂O₃: 281.0921, found: 281.0933.

A 5:1 mixture of 3-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2j) and 5-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2k): Light red liquid, 16.9 mg (69%) from **1j** or 11.8 mg (48%) from **1k**. Obtained as (5:1) mixture of two isomers. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.87 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.96 (s, 0.5H), 2.15 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 2.5H), 5.98 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 0.83H), 6.56 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 0.17H), 7.29-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.86-7.90 (m, 1H), 8.64-8.65 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.9, 16.9, 19.8, 20.2, 97.0, 105.4, 119.1, 124.0, 124.17, 124.23, 127.9, 137.0, 138.5, 138.6, 143.8, 145.0, 149.65, 149.76, 149.83, 162.3, 163.0, 166.4,

167.2, three carbon peaks were overlapped with other peaks. HRMS (APCI) m/z ($[M+H]^+$) calcd for $C_{13}H_{13}N_2O_3$: 245.0921, found: 245.0911.

A 5:1 mixture of 3,4'-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2l) and 4',5-Dimethyl-2-oxo-2H-[1,2'-bipyridin]-6-yl acetate (2m): Light yellow liquid, 18.6 mg (72%). Obtained as a (5:1) mixture of two isomers. 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 0.5H), 2.13 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 2.5H), 2.41 (s, 3 H), 5.96 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 0.83H), 6.53 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 0.17H), 7.14-7.16 (m, 1.2H), 7.18-7.20 (m, 1.2H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 1.2H), 8.46-8.48 (m, 1.2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 13.9, 16.8, 19.8, 20.2, 21.06, 21.11, 97.0, 105.3, 119.0, 124.48, 124.52, 125.2, 125.3, 127.7, 136.9, 143.7, 143.9, 145.1, 149.3, 149.4, 149.6, 150.1, 150.3, 162.3, 163.0, 166.4, 167.2, one carbon peak overlapped with another. HRMS (APCI) m/z ($[M+H]^+$) calcd for $C_{14}H_{15}N_2O_3$: 259.1077, found: 259.1068.

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