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# Hetero-Type Benzannulation Leading to Substituted Benzothio-Phenes

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**Abstract:** $TiCl_4$ (or $SnCl_4$)-promoted hetero-type benzannulation reactions using various (2,2-dichlorocyclopropyl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanols proceeded smoothly to produce uniquely substituted 4-chlorobenzothiophenes (five examples). The present approach involves the first distinctive thiophene formation from thiophene cores, in contrast to traditional methods of thiophene formation from benzene cores. The stereocongested (less reactive) Cl position in the obtained 4-chlorobenzothiophenes functioned successfully as the partners of three cross-coupling reactions: (i) a Suzuki–Miyaura cross-couplings using $Pd(OAc)_2$/SPhos/$K_3PO_4$ catalysis (seven examples; 63–91%), (ii) a hydroxylation using KOH/$Pd(dba)_2$/tBu-XPhos catalysis (85%), and (iii) a borylation using a $B_2(pin)_2$/$Pd(dba)_2$/XPhos/NaOAc catalysis-provided 4-(pin)B-benzothiophene (58%).

**Keywords:** thiophene; benzothiophene; benzannulation; gem-dichlorocyclopropane; Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling; hydroxylation; borylation; titanium tetrachloride; tin tetrachloride



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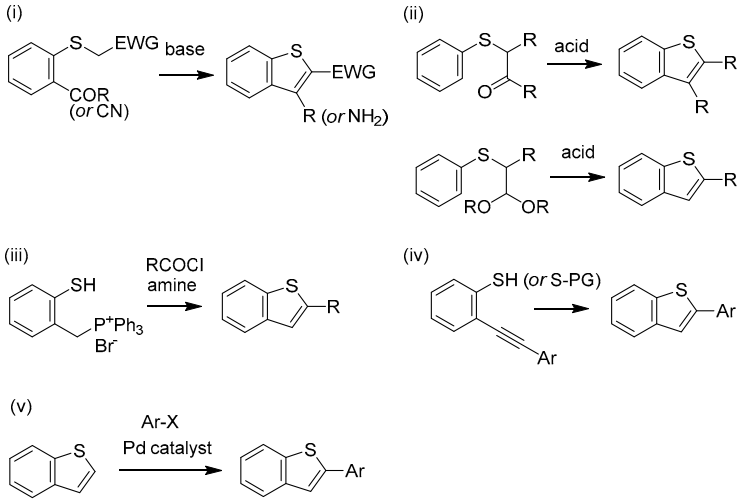
## 1. Introduction

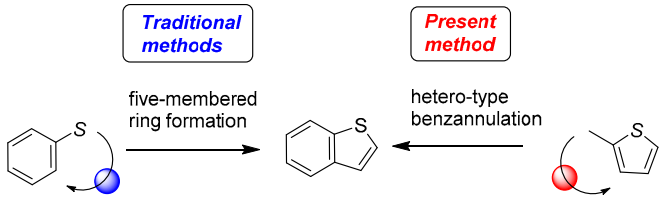
Benzothiophenes are well-recognized, basic sulfur-containing heterocycles as thiophene benzologues, and are utilized as key pharmacophores [1,2]. Raloxifene (an anti-cancer drug) [3], sertaconazole (an anti-fungal drug) [4], benocyclidine (a psychoactive recreational drug) [5], zileuton (a lipoxygenase inhibitor) [6], etc., are representative examples.

Therefore, a number of syntheses have been developed to date [1,2]. Representative methods for the construction of simple, unsubstituted benzothiophenes are categorized into several approaches (Scheme 1): (i) Hinsberg-type annulations [7–9], (ii) Friedel–Crafts type annulations [10–13], (iii) Wittig-type condensations of phosphonium salts [14,15], (iv) Metal-catalyzed thiolation annulations [16–18], (v) Pd-catalyzed C-H arylations [19], and others [20–24].

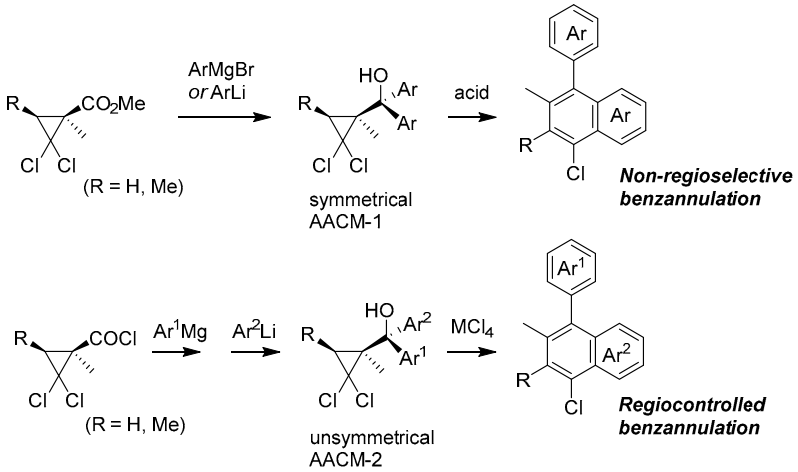
These traditional syntheses consistently utilize thiophene formations from the benzene cores. Taking this background into account, we envisaged a unique synthetic approach for the construction of benzothiophenes from counter thiophene cores, which is one type of benzannulation strategy (Scheme 2). Our group previously investigated primary non-regioselective [25] and secondary regiocontrolled [26,27] benzannulation methodologies; symmetrical (diaryl)(2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)methanols (AACM-1) and non-symmetrical and stereodefined (aryl-1)(aryl-2)(2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)methanols (AACM-2) underwent the reactions to produce distinct 1-aryl-4-chloronaphthalene families bearing various substituents (Scheme 3). An ipso-variant of the regiocontrolled benzannulation for synthesizing uniquely substituted α-arylnaphthalenes and its application to the total synthesis of chaihunaphthone was also disclosed [27]. Recently, Anilkumar and co-workers provided a comprehensive review of the synthetic application of 1,1-dihalocyclopropanes [28].




**Scheme 1.** Representative synthetic methods for benzothiophenes.



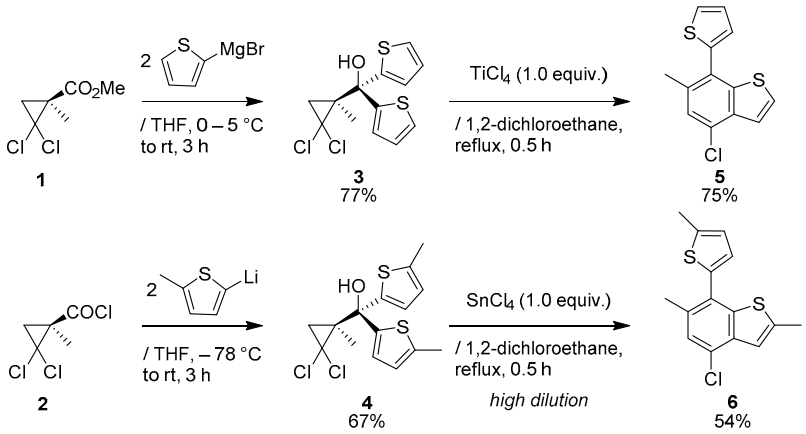

**Scheme 2.** Annulation synthetic methods for benzothiophenes.




**Scheme 3.** Two types of benzannulation for naphthalene formation.

## 2. Results and Discussion

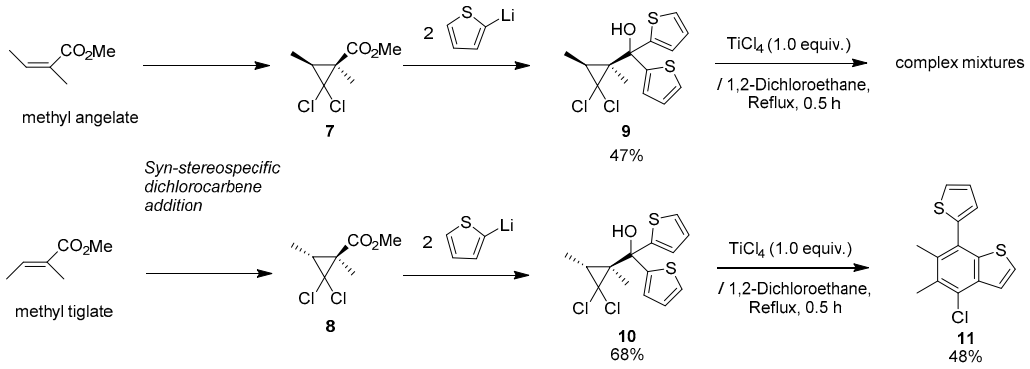
Our initial attempts were guided by the reaction using (2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl) di(thiophen-2-yl)methanols **3** and **4** (Scheme 4). Alcohol **3** was prepared from commercially and/or readily available methyl 2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropanecarboxylate (**1**) with 2-thienylmagnesium bromide, whereas the reaction between the lithium salt of 2-methylthiophene and acid chloride **2** was applied for the preparation of **3** due to the less reactivity of the lithium salt of 2-methylthiophene.




**Scheme 4.** Benzothiophene formations by a hetero-type benzannulation strategy.

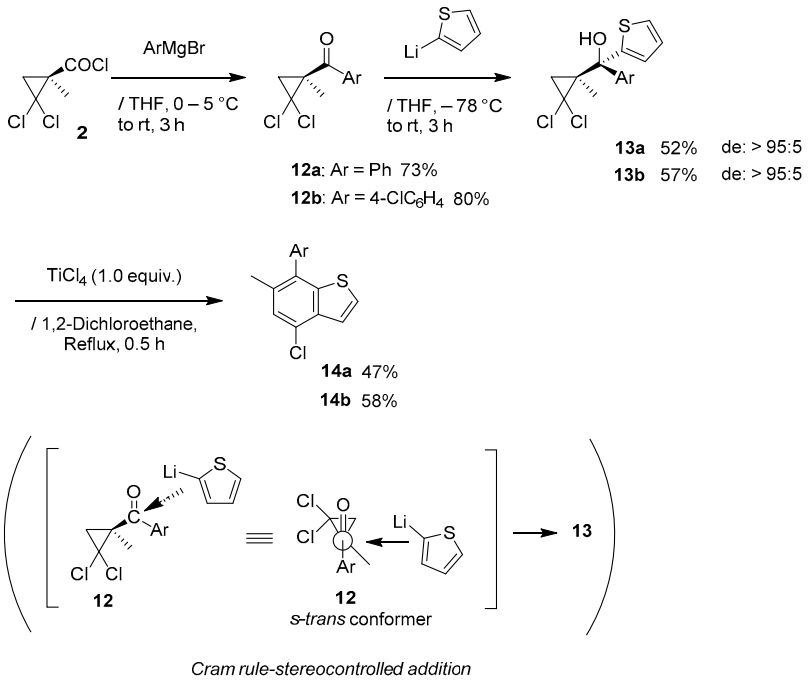
The $TiCl_4$-promoted hetero-type benzannulation using alcohol **3** proceeded successfully, affording the desired 4-chloro-6-methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzothiophene (**5**) in 75% yield. Although the reaction of alcohol **4** using $TiCl_4$ unfortunately resulted in complex mixtures, a substitution with $SnCl_4$ successfully afforded the corresponding benzothiophene **6** in 54% yield.

Hetero-type benzannulation using diastereoisomeric (2,2-dichloro-1,3-dimethylcyclopropyl) di(thiophen-2-yl)methanols **9** and **10** afforded intriguing results (Scheme 5). Alcohol **9** was prepared from methyl angelate by the addition of stereospecific *syn*-dichlorocarbene and the subsequent addition of the two molar 1-lithiated thiophene through methyl ester **7**. In a similar procedure, isomeric methyl tiglate was converted to alcohol **10** through methyl ester **8**. The identical $TiCl_4$-mediated and $SnCl_4$-mediated reactions using **9**, however, yielded only complex mixtures. To our delight, **10** successfully underwent hetero-benzannulation to afford **11** in 48% yield. This outcome is in clear contrast to the benzannulations for naphthalene formation, wherein methyl angelate was employed as a starting compound [9,10]. The reason for the contrast switching results using diastereomeric substrates is not clear at present.




**Scheme 5.** Stereochemical features of the hetero-type benzannulation.

Next, the regiocontrol aspect of the present hetero-benzannulation is discussed (Scheme 6). Following the reported procedure for the preparation of AACM-2 (Scheme 3) [10], the sequential introduction of Ar groups and a 1-thienyl group to acid chloride **2** provided stereodefined alcohols **13a** and **13b** in good yield with excellent stereoselectivity through ketones **12a** [26] and **12b**, respectively. The stereochemical course of the diastereoselective addition accounts for the reported mechanistic speculation based on the Cram rule [25–27]; the thienyl anion attacks the less hindered side of the more stable s-trans conformer of ketones **12** to afford stereodefined alcohols **13** with >95:5 de.




**Scheme 6.** Regiocontrolled hetero-type benzannulation.

The distinctive hetero-type benzannulation procedure using **13a** and **13b** successfully produced 6-arylbenzothiophenes **14a** and **14b** in 47% and 58% yields, respectively, with high regiocontrol (Electronic Supporting Information of Free Energy Calculations: see SI).

With these successful results in hand, we investigated the functionalization of the obtained benzothiophenes **5**, **11**, and **14a** to demonstrate the utility for synthesizing seven 4-aryl-substituted benzothiophene derivatives **15**–**21**. As depicted in Figure 1, the Suzuki–Miyaura cross-couplings proceeded smoothly at the congested (less reactive) 4-Cl-position using $Pd(OAc)_2$/SPhos/$K_3PO_4$ catalysis to produce a variety of uniquely substituted benzothiophenes **15**–**21** in good to excellent yield. The use of $K_3PO_4$ was superior to that of $K_2CO_3$ (70%) and *i*-$Pr_2NEt$ (65%).

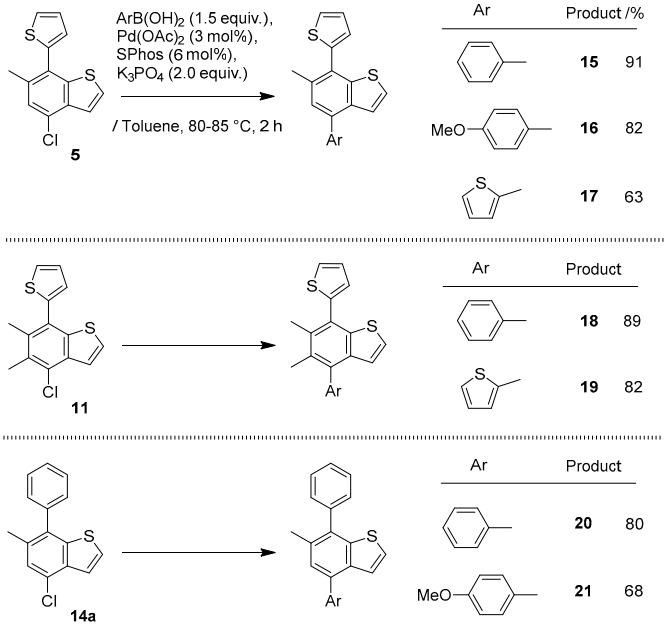
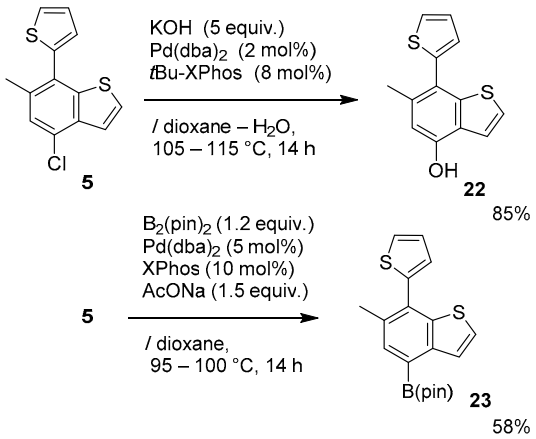



**Figure 1.** Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling of 4-chlorobenzothiophenes.

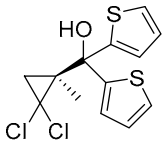
As a further distinctive extension, a couple of heteroatom groups [OH- and (pin)B-] were successfully introduced into benzothiophene **5** using recently developed cross-coupling methods; KOH/$Pd(dba)_2$/tBu-XPhos catalysis [29] provided 4-hydroxybenzo thiophene **22**, whereas $B_2(pin)_2$/$Pd(dba)_2$/XPhos/NaOAc catalysis [30] provided 4-(pin)B-benzothiophene **23** (Scheme 7).




**Scheme 7.** Two types of cross-couplings leading to 4-heteroatom-substituted benzothiophenes.

## 3. Materials and Methods

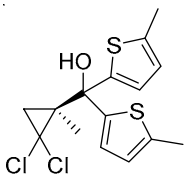
(*S**)-(2,2-Dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)di(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (**3**)




2-Bromothiophene (2.45 g, 15.0 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of Mg (365 mg, 15.0 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at 20–25 °C under an Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. Methyl (1*S**)-2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropane carboxylate (commercially available or prepared by the reported method [9]) (**1**; 549 mg, 3.0 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL) was added to the mixture at 0–5 °C, and was stirred at 20–25 °C for 3 h. Sat. $NH_4Cl$ aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 50:1) to give the desired product **3** (739 mg, 77%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.49 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.35 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.36 (s, 3H), 2.48 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 3.24 (s, 1H), 6.72–6.74 (m, 1H), 6.88–6.91 (m, 1H), 7.06–7.09 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.35 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.42 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 22.3, 28.7, 39.1, 67.4, 77.2, 125.6, 125.9, 126.2, 126.6, 126.9, 127.3, 146.7, 149.8; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3545, 3103, 3000, 1663, 1319, 1020, 667 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{13}H_{12}Cl_2OS_2$ [*M* − OH]$^+$ 300.9679; found: 300.9674.

(*S**)-(2,2-Dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)bis(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)methanol (**4**)

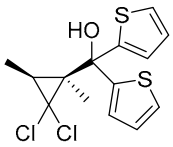



*n*BuLi (1.57 M in hexane, 5.73 mL, 9.0 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of 2-methylthiophene (883 mg, 9.0 mmol) in THF (6.75 mL) at −78 °C under an Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. 2,2-Dichloro-1-methylcyclopropanecarbonyl chloride [9] (**2**; 562 mg, 3.0 mmol) in THF (2.25 mL) was added to the mixture at the same temperature, and gradually warmed up to 20–25 °C for

3 h. Sat. $NH_4Cl$ aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) to give the desired product **4** (571 mg, 67%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.65 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.36 (s, 3H), 2.43 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 3.10 (s, 1H), 6.52–6.56 (m, 2H), 6.68–6.71 (m, 1H), 7.08–7.09 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 15.3, 15.4, 22.6, 28.7, 38.8, 67.4, 77.2, 123.7, 124.3, 126.7, 127.2, 140.4, 141.1, 143.9, 147.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3555, 2920, 1449, 1231, 1018, 907 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{16}Cl_2OS_2$ [*M* − OH]$^+$ 328.9992; found: 328.9965.

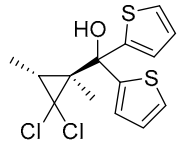
((1*S**,3*S**)-2,2-Dichloro-1, 3-dimethylcyclopropyl)di(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (**9**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **4**, the reaction using methyl (1*S**,3*S**)-2,2-dichloro-1,3-dimethylcyclopropane-1-carboxylate [9] **7** (591 mg, 3.0 mmol) derived from methyl angelate, *n*BuLi (1.55 M in hexane, 9.68 mL, 15.0 mmol), and thiophene (1.26 g, 15.0 mmol) in THF (18 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) to give the desired product **9** (468 mg, 47%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.35 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.59 (q, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 1.73 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 3.22 (s, 1H), 6.75–6.77 (m, 1H), 6.89–6.91 (m, 1H), 7.04–7.07 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.40 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 10.7, 26.3, 37.1, 39.5, 73.0, 80.0, 125.6, 126.0, 126.2, 126.4, 127.0, 127.4, 148.5, 150.0; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3557, 3107, 2932, 2361, 1450, 1026, 700 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}C_{l2}OS_2$ [*M* − OH]$^+$ 314.9836; found: 314.9814.

((1*S**,3*R**)-2,2-Dichloro-1, 3-dimethylcyclopropyl)di(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (**10**)

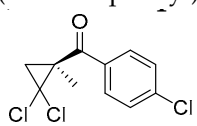



Following the procedure for the preparation of **4**, the reaction using methyl (1*S**,3*R**)-2,2-dichloro-1,3-dimethylcyclopropane-1-carboxylate [9] **8** (985 mg, 5.0 mmol) derived from methyl tiglate, *n*BuLi (1.57 M in hexane, 15.9 mL, 25.0 mmol), and thiophene (2.10 g, 25.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) to give the desired product **10** (1.13 g, 68%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.47 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.18 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 2.61 (q, 1H, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 3.25 (s, 1H), 6.70–6.72 (m, 1H), 6.85–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.05–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.39–7.42 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 9.0, 16.5, 27.4, 40.1, 71.7, 77.7, 125.5, 126.0, 126.2, 126.5, 126.8, 127.3, 146.8, 149.9; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3547, 3105, 2934, 2361, 1236, 835, 700 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{14}H_{14}Cl_2OS_2$ [*M* − OH]$^+$ 314.9836; found: 314.9833.

(*S**)-[(*S**)-2,2-Dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl(phenyl)]methanone [9] (**12a**)

(*S**)-(4-Chlorophenyl)(2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)methanone (**12b)**

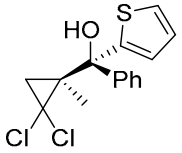



1-Bromo-4-chlorobenzene (1.15 g, 6.0 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension of Mg (146 mg, 6.0 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 20–25 °C under Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. Acid chloride **2** (937 mg, 5.0 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL) was added to the mixture at 0–5 °C, which was stirred at 20–25 °C for 3 h. Sat.$NH_4Cl$ aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice

with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) to give the desired product **12b** (1.06 g, 80%).

Colorless oil; Rf = 0.63 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.50 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 1.63 (s, 3H), 2.29 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.49–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.87–7.92 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.6, 30.0, 39.6, 62.2, 129.1 (2C), 131.0 (2C), 132.8, 139.9, 194.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3090, 2936, 1684, 1587, 1091, 986, 773 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{11}H_9Cl_3O$ $[M + H]^+$ 262.9797; found: 262.9790.

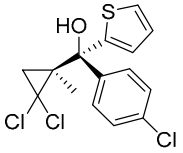
(*S**)-[(*S**)-2,2-Dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)(phenyl)(thiophen-2-yl)]methanol (**13a**)




*n*BuLi (1.55 M in hexane, 6.45 mL, 10.0 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of thiophen (841 mg, 10.0 mmol) in THF (7.5 mL) at −78 °C under an Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. Ketone **12a** (1.15 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (2.5 mL) was added to the mixture at the same temperature, and gradually warmed up to 20–25 °C for 3 h. Sat. $NH_4Cl$ aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 50:1) to give the desired product **13a** (813 mg, 52%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.40 (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.32 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.48 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.96 (s, 1H), 6.44–6.46 (m, 1H), 6.85–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.62–7.66 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 23.0, 28.0, 37.3, 68.0, 79.7, 125.5, 125.6, 126.7, 128.2 (2C), 128.5, 128.9 (2C), 142.0, 150.9; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3563, 3296, 3088, 2941, 1022, 762, 700 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{14}Cl_2OS$ $[M - OH]^+$ 295.0115; found: 295.0109.

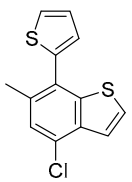
(*S**)-(4-Chlorophenyl)((*S**)-2,2-dichloro-1-methylcyclopropyl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanol (**13b**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **2a**, the reaction using ketone **12b** (1.05 g, 4.0 mmol), *n*BuLi (1.55 M in hexane, 5.16 mL, 8.0 mmol), and thiophene (676 mg, 8.0 mmol) in the THF (8.0 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 50:1) to give the desired product **13b** (766 mg, 57%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.53 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.33 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.64 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.97 (s, 1H), 6.43–6.45 (m, 1H), 6.86–6.88 (m, 1H), 7.30–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.40–7.44 (m, 2H), 7.55–7.59 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 23.0, 28.0, 37.6, 67.7, 79.3, 125.6, 125.7, 126.7, 128.4 (2C), 130.4 (2C), 134.4, 140.6, 150.4; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3555, 3075, 3001, 1491, 1094, 1024, 704 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}Cl_3OS$ $[M - OH]^+$ 328.9725; found: s328.9733.

4-Chloro-6-methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophene (**5**)

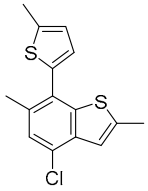



$TiCl_4$ (1.0 M in 1,2-dichloroethane, 4.1 mL, 4.1 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **3** (1.32 g, 4.1 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (83 mL) at 80 °C under an Ar atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 0.5 h. After cooling down to room temperature, sat. $NaHCO_3$ aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was

extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **5** (822 mg, 75%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.34(hexane); mp 67–68 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.35 (s, 3H), 7.00–7.02 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.18 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.41 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.46 (m,1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.1, 124.7, 126.0, 126.1, 127.1, 127.3, 127.4, 127.7, 127.8, 135.3, 136.4, 139.3, 142.0; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3105, 2920, 1450, 1231, 826, 696 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for C13H9ClS2 [M + H]+ 264.9912; found: 264.9909.

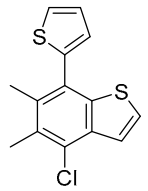
4-Chloro-2,6-dimethyl-7-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophene (**6**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **5**, the reaction using alcohol **4** (65 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (20 mL) with $SnCl_4$ (1.0 M in dichloromethane, 0.18 mL, 0.18 mmol) in the place of $TiCl_4$, gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **6** (28 mg, 53%).

Colorless oil; Rf = 0.77(hexane); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 6.74–6.76 (m, 1H), 6.77–6.80 (m, 1H), 6.83–6.85 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.18 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 15.3, 16.2, 20.2, 122.5, 125.1, 1225.2, 126.5, 127.2, 127.4, 135.1, 135.9, 137.2, 140.3, 142.0, 142.7; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3063, 2918, 2857, 1574, 1219, 1001, 802 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{13}ClS_2$ [*M* + H]$^+$ 293.0225; found: 293.0223.

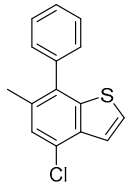
4-Chloro-5,6-dimethyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**11**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **5**, the reaction using alcohol **10** (666 mg, 2.0 mmol) and $TiCl_4$ (1.0 M in 1,2-dichloroethane, 2.0 mL, 2.0 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **11** (266 mg, 48%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.66 (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1); mp 81–82 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 6.97–6.99 (m, 1H), 7.01–7.04 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.29–7.32 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.45 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 17.1, 18.4, 124.8, 125.9, 126.0, 127.0, 127.5, 127.6, 127.7, 131.1, 134.8, 137.0, 139.5, 140.4; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3017, 2920, 1449, 1323, 1229, 771 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{14}H_{11}ClS_2$ [*M* + H]$^+$ 279.0069; found: 279.0054.

4-Chloro-6-methyl-7-phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (**14a**)

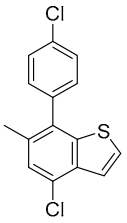



Following the procedure for the preparation of **5**, the reaction using alcohol **13a** (157 mg, 0.5 mmol) and $TiCl_4$ (1.0 M in 1,2-dichloroethane, 0.5 mL, 0.5 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (5.0 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **14a** (61 mg, 47%).

Pale yellow oil; Rf = 0.55(hexane); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.25 (s, 3H), 6.93–6.96 (m, 1H), 7.27–7.32 (m, 3H), 7.34–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.52 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125

MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 19.9, 124.6, 126.2, 126.3, 126.9, 127.3, 128.4 (2C), 129.6 (2C), 133.2, 135.5, 136.4, 139.1, 140.9; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3057, 2920, 1601, 1442, 1364, 907, 700 $cm^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{11}ClS$ $[M + H]^+$ 259.0348; found: 259.0361.

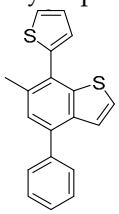
4-Chloro-7-(4-chlorophenyl)-6-methylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (**14b**)



Following the procedure for the preparation of **5**, the reaction using alcohol **13b** (174 mg, 0.5 mmol) and $TiCl_4$ (1.0 M in 1,2-dichloroethane, 0.5 mL, 0.5 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (5.0 mL) gave the crude oil, which was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **14b** (83 mg, 57%).

Colorless oil; Rf = 0.50 (hexane); $^1H$ NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.24 (s, 3H), 6.91–6.93 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.31 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 2H); $^{13}C$ NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 19.8, 124.2, 126.2, 127.3, 128.7 (2C), 129.1, 130.6, 131.0 (2C), 133.2, 133.4, 134.1, 137.5, 140.8; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3103, 2922, 2361, 1558, 1491, 1015, 826 $cm^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{15}H_{10}Cl_2OS$ $[M + H]^+$ 292.9959; found: 292.9937.

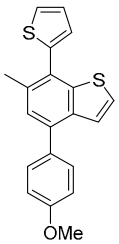
6-Methyl-4-phenyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**15**)



A mixture of **5** (132 mg, 0.50 mmol), $PhB(OH)_2$ (91 mg, 0.75 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (212 mg, 1.00 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (3.4 mg, 0.015 mmol), and SPhos (12 mg, 0.030 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) was stirred at 80–85 °C for 2 h. After cooling down, water was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) to give the desired product **15** (139 mg, 91%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.17 (hexane); mp 136–137 °C; $^1H$ NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.42 (s, 3H), 7.06–7.08 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.33 (m, 1H), 7.37–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.41–7.47 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.74–7.78 (m, 2H); $^{13}C$ NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.2, 124.3, 125.8, 126.7, 126.9, 127.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 134.3, 136.3, 136.4, 140.2, 140.4, 141.5; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3028, 2922, 2359, 1576, 1443, 1360, 906 $cm^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{19}H_{14}S_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 307.0615; found: 307.0600.

4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**16**)

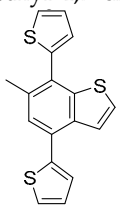


Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **5** (79 mg, 0.30 mmol) with 4-$MeOC_6H_4B(OH)_2$ (68 mg, 0.45 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (127 mg, 0.60 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), SPhos (8.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) and the successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) gave the desired product **16** (85 mg, 82%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.44 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); mp 105–106 °C; $^1H$ NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.41 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.03–7.08 (m, 3H), 7.16–7.22 (m, 2H),

7.27–7.30 (m, 1H), 7.36–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.68–7.71 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.2, 55.3, 114.2 (2C), 124.3, 125.7, 126.6, 126.7, 127.0, 127.5, 127.7, 129.3 (2C), 132.9, 134.3, 136.1, 136.3, 140.3, 141.4, 159.4; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 2955, 2359, 1611, 1514, 1246, 1179, 906 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{20}H_{16}O_1S_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 337.0721; found: 337.0706.

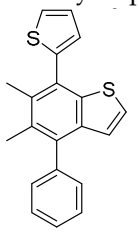
6-Methyl-4,7-di(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophene (**17**)



Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **14a** (79 mg, 0.30 mmol) with 2-thienylboronic acid (58 mg, 0.45 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (127 mg, 0.60 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), SPhos (8.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) and the successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) gave the desired product **17** (62 mg, 63%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.28(hexane); mp 123–124 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.40 (s, 3H), 7.04–7.06 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.21 (m, 3H), 7.39–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.43–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.49–7.51 (m, 1H), 7.62–7.64 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.2, 124.4, 125.4, 125.5, 125.8, 126.4, 126.7, 127.0, 127.6, 127.8, 128.5, 129.1, 134.2, 135.1, 140.0, 141.8, 142.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3103, 2922, 2359, 2245, 1576, 1456, 906 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{17}H_{12}S_3$ $[M + H]^+$ 312.0101; found: 312.0091.

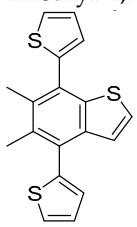
5,6-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophene (**18**)



Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **11** (84 mg, 0.30 mmol) with $PhB(OH)_2$ (55 mg, 0.45 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (127 mg, 0.60 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), SPhos (8.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) and successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) gave the desired product **18** (85 mg, 89%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.29 (hexane); mp 143–144 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.22 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 7.03–7.08 (m, 2H), 7.15–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.20–7.24 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.46 (m, 4H), 7.48–7.54 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 17.8, 17.9, 124.2, 125.6, 125.8, 126.9, 127.4, 127.7, 128.1, 128.7 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 131.1, 133.8, 136.0, 138.4, 138.8, 140.6, 141.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3069, 2922, 1601, 1441, 1211, 986, 907 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{20}H_{16}S_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 321.0772; found: 321.0778.

5,6-Dimethyl-4,7-di(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophene (**19**)

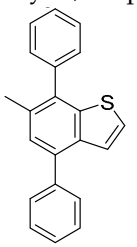


Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **11** (84 mg, 0.30 mmol) with 2-thienylboronic acid (58 mg, 0.45 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (127 mg, 0.60 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.2 mg, 0.010 mmol), SPhos (8.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) in toluene (1 mL) and successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) gave the desired product **19** (81 mg, 82%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.29 (hexane); mp 207–208 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 7.02–7.05 (m, 2H), 7.13–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.16–7.21 (m, 2H),

7.24–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.44–7.46 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.49 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 17.9, 18.0, 124.2, 125.7, 126.0, 126.1, 127.0, 127.2, 127.4, 127.5, 128.5, 129.1, 133.3, 133.8, 138.4, 140.4, 140.8, 141.0; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3103, 2924, 1798, 1 734, 1433, 1366, 1240, 1207 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{18}H_{14}S_3$ [*M* + H]$^+$ 327.0336; found: 327.0337.

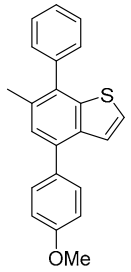
6-Methyl-4,7-diphenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (**20**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **14a** (104 mg, 0.40 mmol) with $PhB(OH)_2$ (73 mg, 0.60 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (170 mg, 0.80 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.7 mg, 0.012 mmol) and SPhos (9.9 mg, 0.024 mmol) in toluene (1 mL), and the successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane) gave the desired product **20** (81 mg, 68%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.36 (hexane); mp 171–172 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.32 (s, 3H), 6.99–7.02 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.39 (m, 2H), 7.40–7.45 (m, 2H), 7.47–7.54 (m, 4H), 7.76–7.79 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 19.9, 124.2, 126.2, 127.0, 127.1, 127.8, 128.2 (2C), 128.3 (2C), 128. 7 (2C), 129.7 (2C), 132.1, 135.4, 135.9, 136.3, 139.9, 140.3, 140.7; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3053, 2924, 2357, 1599, 1443, 1358, 1213, 1016 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{21}H_{16}S$ [*M* + H]$^+$ 301.1051; found: 301.1053.

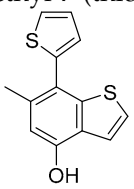
4-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-7-phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophene (**21**)




Following the procedure for the preparation of **15**, the reaction of **14a** (78 mg, 0.30 mmol) with 4-$MeOC_6H_4B(OH)_2$ (68 mg, 0.45 mmol), $K_3PO_4$ (127 mg, 0.60 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (2.2 mg, 0.010 mmol) and SPhos (8.2 mg, 0.020 mmol) in toluene (1 mL), and the successive purification by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) gave the desired product **21** (79 mg, 80%).

Colorless crystals; Rf = 0.56 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); mp 155–156 °C; $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.31 (s, 3H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 6.99–7.01 (m, 1H), 7.04–7.07 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.52 (m, 7H), 7.70–7.73 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 19.9, 55.3, 114.1 (2C), 124.2, 126.2, 126.8, 127.1, 128.3 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 129.8 (2C), 132.1, 133.1, 135.1, 135.5, 136.3, 140.0, 140.2, 159.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3034, 2930, 2835, 1609, 1502, 1244, 1034 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{22}H_{18}OS$ [*M* + H]$^+$ 331.1157; found: 331.1158.

6-Methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophen-4-ol (**22**)

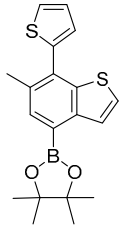



A mixture of **5** (140 mg, 0.53 mmol), $Pd(dba)_2$ (5.8 mg, 0.01 mmol), *t*Bu-XPhos (17 mg, 0.04 mmol) and KOH (140 mg, 2.50 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (0.50 mL) and $H_2O$ (0.50 mL) was stirred at 100–105 °C for 14 h. After cooling down, 1M HCl aqueous solution was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The organic phase was washed with

water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$), and concentrated. The obtained crude product was purified by $SiO_2$ column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 5:1) to give the desired product **22** (105 mg, 80%).

Colorless crystals; mp 114–115 °C; Rf = 0.34 (hexane/AcOEt = 5:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 2.31 (s, 3H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.97–6.99 (m, 1H), 7.10–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.13–7.15 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.36 (m, 1H), 7.39–7.42 (m, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 20.2, 111.4, 121.8, 124.4, 124.7, 125.5, 126.5, 126.9, 127.5, 135.4, 140.4, 143.0, 149.9; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3491, 3103, 2959, 2338, 1574, 1352, 1242, 1072 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{13}H_{10}OS_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 247.0251; found: 247.0261.

4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-2-(6-methyl-7-(thiophen-2-yl)benzo[b]thiophen-4-yl)-1,3,2-dioxaboro lane (**23**)




A mixture of **5** (66 mg, 0.25 mmol), bis(pinacolato)diborane (76 mg, 0.30 mmol), NaOAc (31 mg, 0.38 mmol), $Pd(dba)_2$ (6.9 mg, 0.012 mmol), and XPhos (11.9 mg, 0.025 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (0.50 mL) was heated at 95–100 °C for 14 h. After cooling down, water was added to the mixture, which was extracted twice with AcOEt. The combined organic phase was washed with water, brine, dried ($Na_2SO_4$) and concentrated. The obtained crude oil was purified by $SiO_2$ (neutral, Kanto Chemical, 60N) column chromatography (hexane/AcOEt = 30:1) to give the desired product **22** (52 mg, 58%).

Pale yellow crystals; mp 93–94 °C; 0.59 (hexane/AcOEt = 10:1); $^1$H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 1.42 (s, 12H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 7.02–7.03 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.14 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.17 (m, 1H), 7.38–7.40 (m, 1H), 7.43–7.45 (m, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ = 19.9, 24.9 (4C), 84.3 (2C), 123.2, 125.7, 126.5, 126.9, 127.4 (2C), 132.0, 132.7, 134.3, 140.2, 140.4, 143.3; IR (neat): $\nu_{max}$ = 3103, 2976, 2926, 1738, 1580, 1371, 1142 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (DART): *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}BO_2S_2$ $[M + H]^+$ 357.1158; found: 357.1155.

## 4. Conclusions

We achieved regiocontrolled hetero-type benzannulations of various (2,2-dichlorocyc lopropyl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanols to produce uniquely substituted benzothiophenes. The present method involves the distinctive thiophene formation from benzene cores, which is in clear contrast to the traditionally reported methods.

Furthermore, three types of cross-coupling derivatizations of the obtained stereo-congested (less reactive) 4-chlorobenzothiophenes were performed: (i) Suzuki–Miyaura cross-couplings affording various 4-arylbenzothiophenes, (ii) hydroxylation leading to a 4-hydroxybenzothiophene, and (iii) borylation leading to a 4-(pin)B-benzothiophene. This wide variety of hetero-type benzannulations and functionalizations will contribute to synthetic studies, especially for medicinal and material chemistries.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online, $^1$H NMR, $^{13}$C NMR spectra for compounds **3**–**23** (Figure S1–S44), Electronic Supporting Information (S24).

**Author Contributions:** T.K., R.S., H.G. and M.K. contributed to the majority of the experiments. Y.T. conceived and designed the project and prepared the whole manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Informed Consent Statement:** Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

**Data Availability Statement:** Available.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Sample Availability:** Samples of all the compounds **1**–**23** are available from the authors.

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