Synthesis of Phenanthridine Derivatives via Oxidative Cyclization

**Significance:** A straightforward synthesis of a broad range of phenanthridine derivatives via a manganese-mediated annulation of 2-isocyanobiphenyls with organoboronic acids has been disclosed. This rapid and divergent reaction furnishes the corresponding phenanthridine derivatives in good yield.

**Comment:** The reported reaction shows a simple pathway for the synthesis of phenanthridine frameworks out of readily accessible starting materials. Furthermore, mechanistic studies indicate that the reaction proceeds by the intramolecular homolytic aromatic substitution of an imidoyl radical intermediate.

**Selected examples:**

- 84% yield
- 63% yield
- 76% yield
- 68% yield
- 76% yield
- 76% yield
- 65% yield
- 51% yield
- 68% yield