Leveraging Strain-Release in Dearomative Photocycloadditions of Bicyclic Aza-Arenes

**Significance:** Dearomatization of (hetero)arene molecules is an ongoing goal in medicinal chemistry, as the increased three-dimensionality of the resulting molecules may have improved drug-like qualities. Glorius, Houk and co-workers report highly ortho-selective photocycloadditions of bicyclic heteroarennes, leveraging the strained bicyclo[1.1.0]butanes as reactive partners to generate highly functionalized, medicinally-relevant molecular scaffolds.

**Comment:** The authors ruled out thermal background reactivity by performing the reaction in MeCN at 100 °C. DFT studies are in support of an EnT mechanism; however, additional studies are underway to elucidate other productive pathways which may be operative.