

## Supporting information

# NHPI and Ferric Nitrate: A Mild and Selective System for Aerobic Oxidation of Benzylic Methylenes

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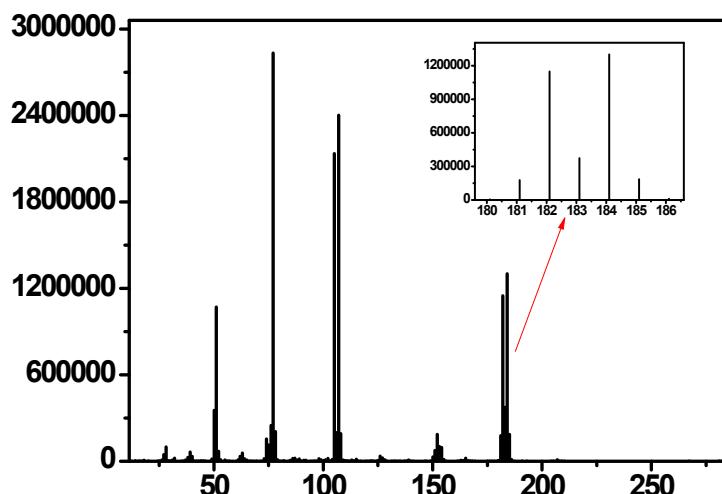
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1. Experiment of  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic labeling with  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  for the oxidation of diphenylmethane

Experiment of  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic labeling with  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  for the oxidation of diphenylmethane:

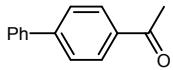
After a 15 mL test tube containing diphenylmethane (1 mmol),  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (8 mol%) and NHPI (10 mol%) was evacuated several times,  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  was added by syringe. Then 1.5 mL of degassed acetonitrile was added to the above mixture and the solution was stirred for 40 h at 25 °C.

After the reaction was quenched by  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution, the product was analyzed by GC-MS.

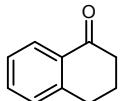


**Figure S1.** MS of  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotopic labeling with  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  for the oxidation of diphenylmethane.

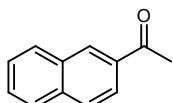
## 2. Characterization of the products



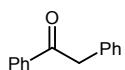
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.00-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.8, 145.8, 134.0, 135.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.3, 127.3, 127.2, 26.7. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 196.1.



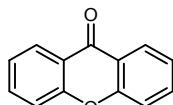
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.96 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.13 (m, 2H), 2.90 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.64-2.51 (m, 2H), 2.14-2.01 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.4, 143.5, 132.4, 131.6, 127.8, 126.1, 125.6, 38.2, 28.7, 22.3. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 146.1.



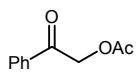
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.48 (s, 1H), 8.04 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.94-7.86 (m, 2H), 7.59 (dtd, *J* = 14.8, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 198.1, 135.6, 134.5, 132.5, 130.2, 129.6, 128.5, 128.4, 127.8, 126.8, 123.9, 26.7. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 170.1.



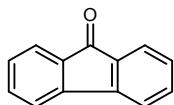
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.02-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.33-7.10 (m, 5H), 4.21 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.6, 136.6, 134.6, 133.2, 129.5, 128.7, 128.67, 128.64, 127.0, 45.5. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 196.1.



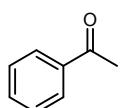
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.25 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (ddd, *J* = 8.7, 7.1, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (ddd, *J* = 8.1, 7.2, 1.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 176.2, 155.1, 133.8, 125.7, 122.9, 120.8, 116.9. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 196.1.



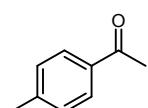
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.1, 169.4, 133.2, 132.9, 127.9, 126.7, 65.0, 19.6. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 178.1.



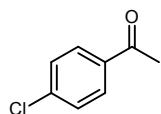
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.63 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.41 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.23 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 193.9, 144.4, 134.7, 134.1, 129.1, 124.3, 120.3. GC-MS (EI) m/z: 180.1.



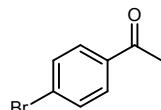
GC-MS (EI) m/z: 120.1.



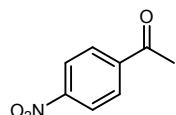
GC-MS (EI) m/z: 134.1.



GC-MS (EI) m/z: 154.0.



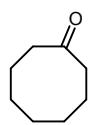
GC-MS (EI) m/z: 198.0.



GC-MS (EI) m/z: 165.0.



GC-MS (EI) m/z: 182.1.



GC-MS (EI) m/z: 126.1.

### 3. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of the products

