

Supporting Information

Decarboxylative/Decarbonylative C3-acylation of indoles via photocatalysis: a simple and efficient route to 3-acylindoles

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1. Reaction mechanism study

1.1 Determination of singlet oxygen

In order to determine the active species of oxygen involved in the present reaction, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (TEMP) and 5,5-dimethyl-pyrroline-*N*-oxide (DMPO) were employed to capture $^1\text{O}_2$ and O^{2-} , respectively. Irradiation of the ethanol solution of TEMP and rose bengal (RB) in air by green LED resulted in the formation of a strong characteristic signal of $^1\text{O}_2$ adduct with TEMP (Figure S1b vs S1a), and this signal decreased obviously as addition of phenylglyoxylic acid (**2a**) into the solution (Figure S1c). It is indicated that **2a** reacted with $^1\text{O}_2$ efficiently to consume it rapidly. However, there is no signal of O^{2-} adduct with DMPO, excluding the formation of O^{2-} in the reaction system.

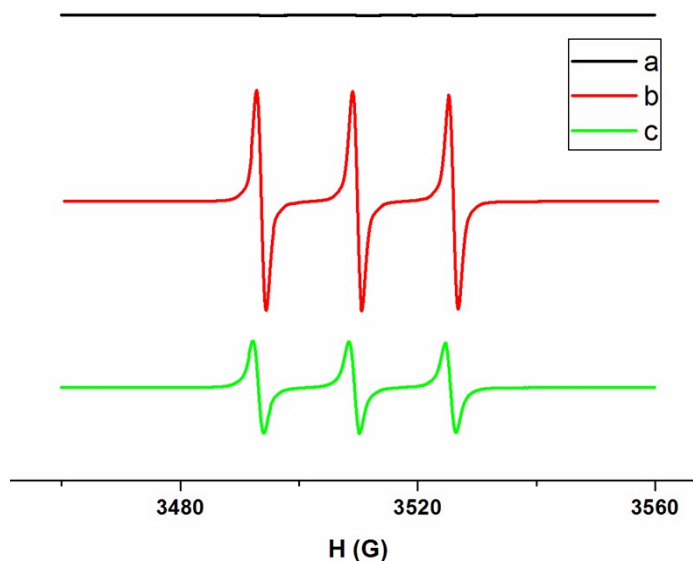
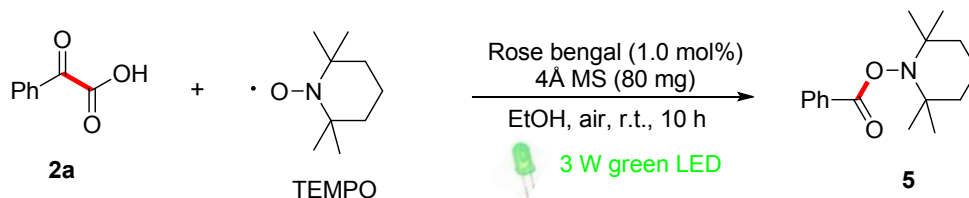


Figure S1. Electron spin resonance (ESR) spectra: (a) a solution of TEMP (0.12 mol/L), rose bengal (1.0 mol%) in air-saturated $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ without green LED irradiation; (b) a solution of TEMP (0.12 M), rose bengal (1.0 mol%) in air-saturated $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ with green LED irradiation for 30 s; (c) a solution of TEMP (0.12 mol/L), rose bengal (1.0 mol%) in air-saturated $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ with green LED irradiation for 30 s, then with addition of **2a** (1.5×10^{-2} mol/L).

1.2 Benzoyl radical-trapping experiment



Phenylglyoxylic acid (**2a**, 0.30 mmol), 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-oxy-piperidine (TEMPO, 1.0 mmol), rose bengal (RB, 0.003 mmol), 4Å molecular sieve (80 mg) were dissolved in ethanol (2.0 mL) in an oven-dried reaction vessel equipped with magnetic stirring bar, and the reaction vessel was irradiated using green LED at room temperature under air atmosphere for 10 h. After the reaction was carried out, concentrated under reduced pressure to yield the crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 20:1 to 10:1), affording the adduct **5** as a colorless solid in 52% yield. 2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (**5**) (See: H. Tan, H. Li, W. Ji, L. Wang, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2015, **54**, 8374): White solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 8.08 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.58–7.55 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.44 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.75 (m, 2H), 1.70–1.67 (m, 1H), 1.63–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.47–1.44 (m, 1H), 1.28 (s, 6H), 1.13 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 166.15, 132.64, 129.61, 129.36, 128.26, 60.21, 38.92, 31.80, 20.68, 16.84. HRMS (ESI) ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$) Calcd. For $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{24}\text{NO}_2$: 262.1802, Found: 262.1805. The following Figure S2 is the HRMS analysis of reaction mixture.

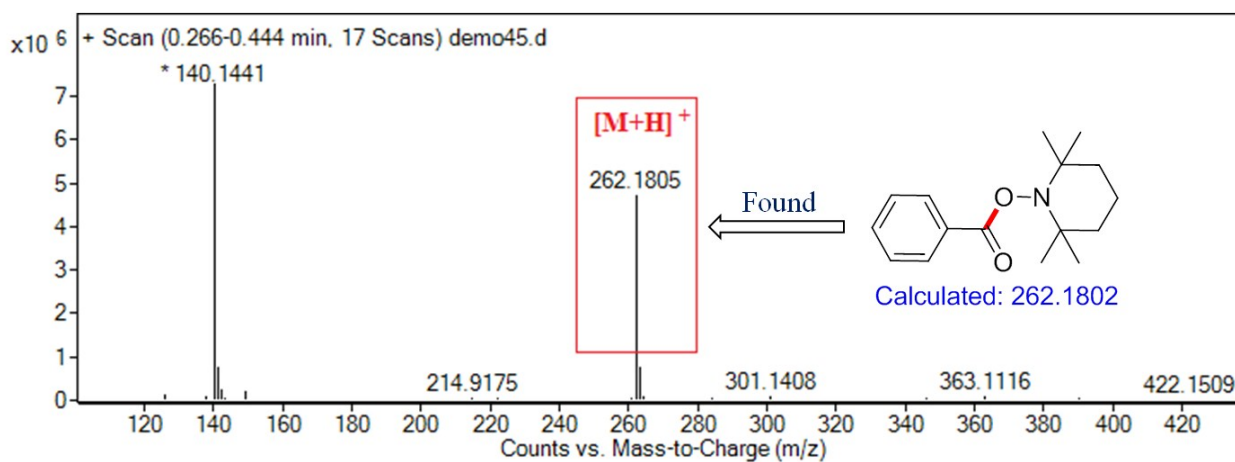
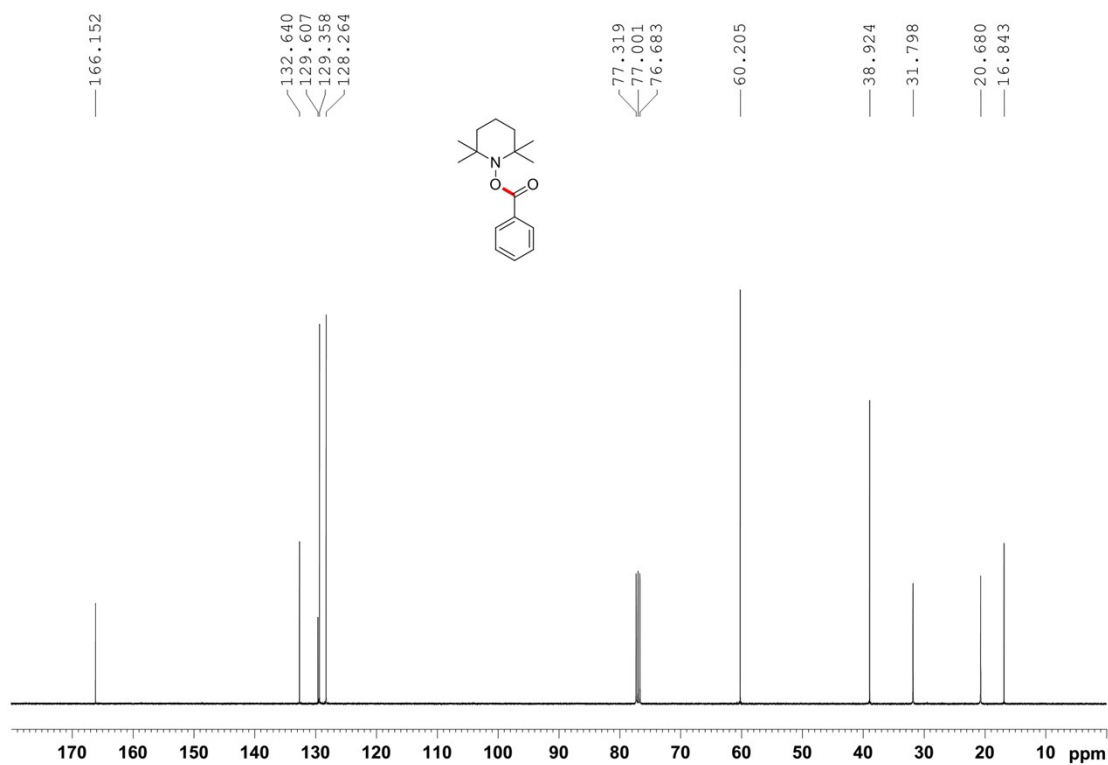
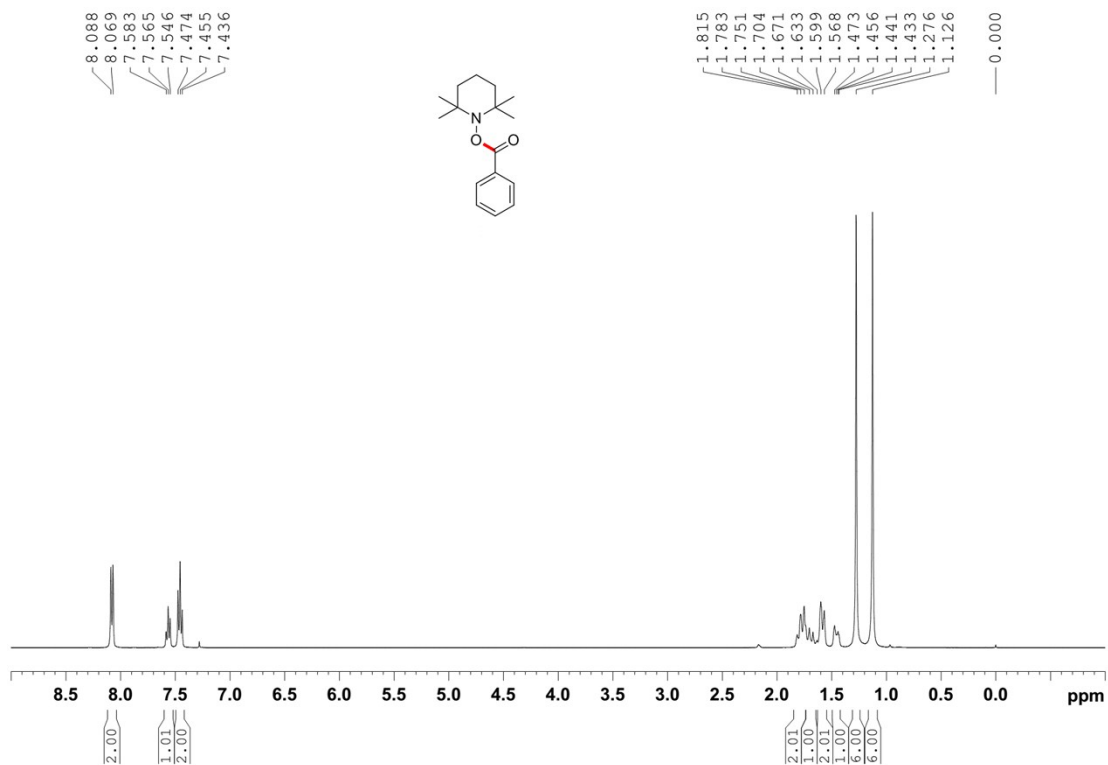
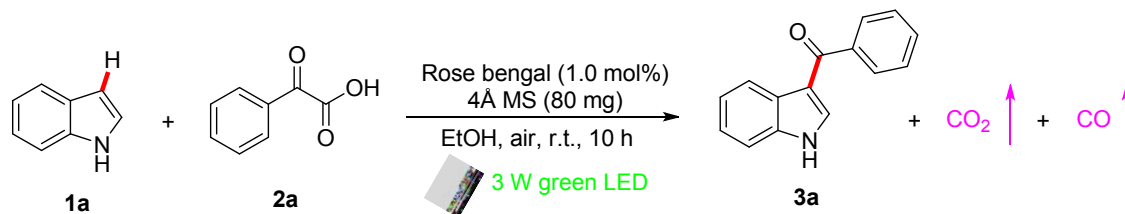


Figure S2. Analysis of reaction mixture by HRMS



1.3 Determination of CO₂ and CO during the reaction by FT-IR



An Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirrer bar was charged with indole (**1a**, 0.30 mmol), phenylglyoxylic acid (**2a**, 0.6 mmol), rose bengal (1.0 mol%), 4Å molecular sieve (80 mg) and ethanol (2.0 mL). The reaction vessel was exposed to green LED at room temperature for 10 h. After completion of the reaction, the resulting gas from the reaction system was directly determined by a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR, and the concentration of CO₂ and CO was found to be 2839.70, and 94.27 ppm (Figure S3 and Figure S4), respectively.

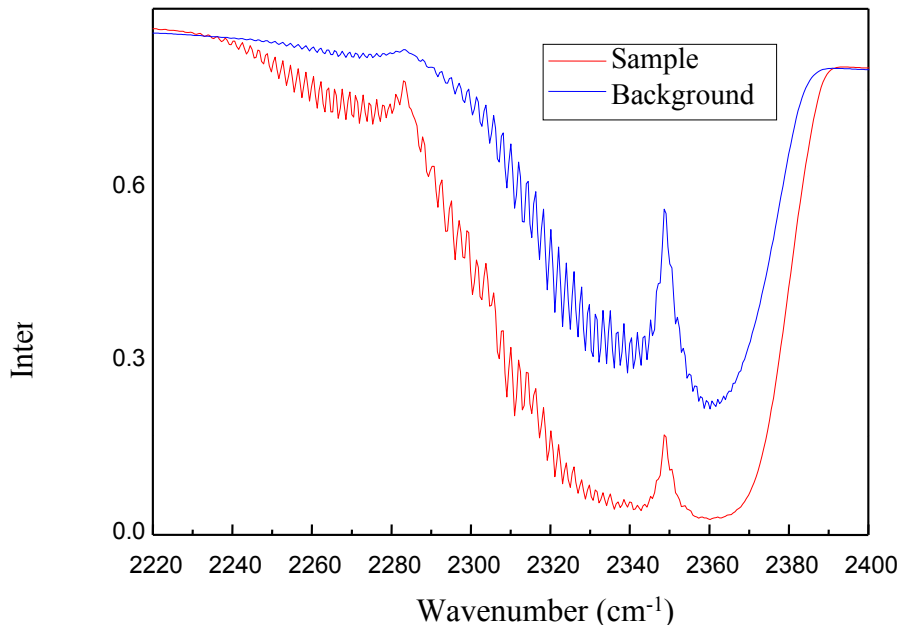


Figure S3. FT-IR analysis of the formation of CO₂ in the reaction

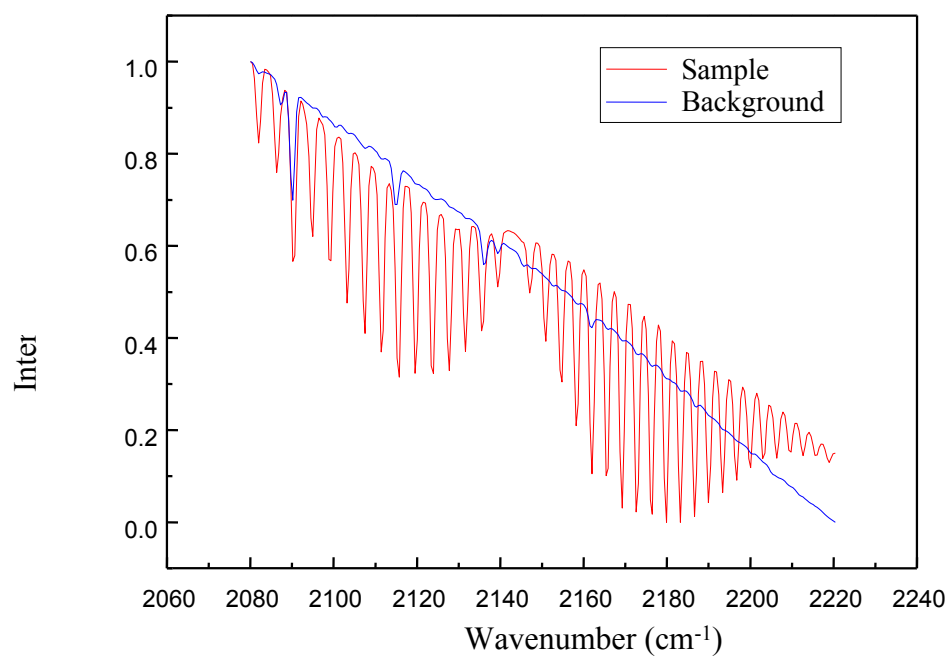


Figure S4. FT-IR analysis of the formation of CO in the reaction

2. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the products

