Supplementary Information

Transition Metal-Free *N***-Arylation of Secondary Amides through Iodonium** Salts as Aryne Precursors

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General Information.

Commercially available materials purchased from Alfa Aesar or Aldrich was used as received. Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker BBFO (400 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (ppm, δ) relative to tetramethylsilane (δ 0.00) or chloroform (δ = 7.26, singlet). ¹H NMR splitting patterns are designated as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), dd (doublet of doublets); m (multiplets), and etc. All first-order splitting patterns were assigned on the basis of the appearance of the multiplet. Splitting patterns that could not be easily interpreted are designated as multiplet (m) or broad (br). Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance (¹³C NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker BBFO (400 MHz) spectrometer. GC and GC/MS analysis was conducted with Agilent J&W GC column DB-5MS-UI. High resolution mass spectral analysis (HRMS) was performed on Finnigan MAT 95 XP mass spectrometer (Thermo Electron Corporation). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on Merck 60 F254 pre-coated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness).

Preparation of diaryliodonium salt substrates

The diaryliodonium salts (**2a-g**) were prepared and characterized adopting reported procedures¹⁻² or purchased from Alfa Aesar (diphenyliodonium hexafluorophosphate).

General Procedure for N-Arylation of Amides and Amines

To a suspension of *t*-BuOK (3.0 equiv, 672 mg, 0.6 mmol) (or 2.0 equiv) in THF (2.0 mL), was added secondary amides **1** (1.0 equiv, 0.2 mmol) at 0 °C (or RT; as specified in the manuscript). The resulting mixture was stirred at this temperature for 10 min. Diaryliodonium salt **2** (1.2 equiv, 0.24 mmol) was added in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred at RT until TLC analysis indicated complete consumption of the amide substrate (**1**). The reaction was then quenched with H_2O at 0 °C, the organic phase was separated and the water phase was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude materials were purified by SiO₂ flash chromatography to afford the product.



Diphenyliodonium triflate- d_{10} (2g) was prepared by adopting known procedures. ¹⁻² ¹³C NMR (100

MHz, DMSO) & 135.5, 135.2, 135.0, 132.0, 131.7, 131.5, 122.8, 119.6, 116.6.



N-Benzyl-N-phenylbenzamide (3a)³

White solid, 48.3 mg, 84% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38-7.04 (m, 13H), 6.95-6.82 (m, 2H), 5.13 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 143.6, 137.6, 136.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.4, 126.7, 53.9; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₈NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 288.1388, Found: 288.1383.



N-(4-Methylbenzyl)-N-phenylbenzamide (3b)

White solid, 48.8 mg, 81% yield; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.02 (m, 10H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 143.6, 137.0, 136.1, 134.6, 129.6, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 127.8, 127.7, 126.6, 53.6, 21.2; **HRMS** for C₂₁H₂₀NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 302.1545, Found: 302.1547.



N-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-N-phenylbenzamide (3c)⁴

White solid, 56.5 mg, 89% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.09 (m, 8H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 158.9, 143.5, 136.1, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 129.0, 128.8, 128.0, 127.7, 126.7, 113.8, 55.2, 53.3; **HRMS** for C₂₁H₂₀NO₂ [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 318.1494, Found: 318.1497.



N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-*N*-phenylbenzamide (3d)

White solid, 49.6 mg, 77% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.18-7.06 (m, 5H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 143.3, 136.0, 135.7, 133.2, 130.0, 129.8, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 127.8, 127.7, 126.8, 53.3; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₇ClNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 322.0999, Found: 322.1007.



N-(2-Chlorobenzyl)-*N*-phenylbenzamide (3e)⁵

Colorless oil, 47.6 mg, 74% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53-7.45 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.04 (m, 8H), 7.00-6.92 (m, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 143.4, 135.8, 134.9, 133.4, 129.8, 129.6, 129.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 127.4, 127.0, 126.8, 51.2; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₇ClNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 322.0999, Found: 322.1007.

N-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-N-phenylbenzamide (3f)

White solid, 50.1 mg, 82% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41-7.04 (m, 10H), 7.01-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.85 (m, 2H), 5.09 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 162.2 (*J* = 245.6 Hz), 143.3, 135.8, 133.3 (*J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.3 (*J* = 8.1 Hz), 129.7, 129.1, 128.8, 127.8, 127.7, 126.8, 115.3 (*J* = 21.4 Hz), 53.2; **HRMS** for C₂₀H₁₇FNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 306.1294, Found: 306.1293.



N-Ethyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide (3g)⁶

Colorless oil, 28.4 mg, 63% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.11 (m, 8H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 143.3, 136.4, 129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.0, 127.7, 126.6, 45.4, 13.0; HRMS for C₁₅H₁₆NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 226.1232, Found: 226.1234.

Ph ⁿBu[−]N −O Ph

N-Butyl-*N*-phenylbenzamide (3h)⁷

White solid, 32.9 mg, 65% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29-7.10 (m, 8H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.69-3.80 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.49 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.31 (m, 2H), 0.91 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.3, 143.6, 136.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 127.9, 127.7, 126.6, 50.3, 29.8, 20.2, 13.9; HRMS for C₁₇H₂₀NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 254.1545, Found: 254.1549.

N,*N*-Diphenylacetanilide (3i)³

White solid, 28.7 mg, 68% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48-7.09 (m, 10H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 23.9; HRMS for C₁₄H₁₄NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 212.1075, Found: 212.1083.

N-Benzyl-*N*-phenylacetamide (3j)⁸

Colorless oil, 27.0 mg, 60% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44-7.12 (m, 8H), 6.98 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (s, 2H), 1.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 142.9, 137.5, 129.5, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 127.9, 127.3, 52.8, 22.8; HRMS for C₁₅H₁₆NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 226.1232, Found: 226.1234.

N-Butyl-*N*-phenylacetamide (3k)⁹

Colorless oil, 26.0 mg, 68% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.46-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.13 (m, 2H), 3.79-3.62 (m, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 143.3, 129.6, 128.2, 127.8, 48.8, 29.9, 22.9, 20.1, 13.8; HRMS for C₁₂H₁₈NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 192.1388, Found: 192.1392.



N-benzyl-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)benzamide (31)

White solid, 48.8 mg, 81% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.14 (m, 10H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 143.5, 137.7, 136.5, 136.1, 129.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.5, 127.3, 124.9, 53.9, 21.0; HRMS for C₂₁H₂₀NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 302.1545, Found: 302.1549.



N-benzyl-*N*-(4-chlorophenyl)benzamide (3m)¹⁰

White solid, 55.3 mg, 86% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.24 (m, 10H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 142.1, 137.2, 135.7, 132.3, 129.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 127.9, 127.6, 53.8; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₇ClNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 322.0999, Found: 322.0995.

Βn

N-benzyl-*N*-(4-bromophenyl)benzamide (3n)

White solid, 52.7 mg, 72% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34-7.15 (m, 12H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.10 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 142.6, 137.2, 135.6, 132.2, 130.0, 129.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.6, 120.3, 53.7; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₇BrNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 366.0494, Found: 366.0494.

N-Benzyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)benzamide (30)

White solid; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37-7.13 (m, 10H), 6.89-6.76 (m, 4H), 5.09 (s, 2H); ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.6, 160.9 (*J* = 247.3 Hz), 139.4 (*J* = 3.3 Hz), 137.3, 135.8, 129.7, 129.5 (*J* = 8.5 Hz), 128.6(4), 128.5(7), 128.5, 127.9, 127.5, 115.9(*J* = 22.6 Hz), 53.9; **HRMS** for C₂₀H₁₇FNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 306.1294, Found: 306.1296.



N-Benzyl-N-(3-fluorophenyl)benzamide (40)

White solid; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39-7.16 (m, 10H), 7.13-7.03 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.77 (m, 1H), 6.71- 6.62 (m, 2H), 5.12 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 162.6 (*J* = 247.9 Hz), 145.1 (*J* = 9.6 Hz), 137.2, 135.6, 130.1, 130.0(0), 129.9(8), 128.6 (*J* = 8.1 Hz), 128.3, 127.9, 127.6, 123.6 (*J* = 3.1 Hz), 114.8 (*J* = 22.7 Hz), 113.7 (*J* = 21.1 Hz), 53.8; **HRMS** for C₂₀H₁₇FNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 306.1294, Found: 306.1292.



N-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (3p)¹¹

Colorless oil, 31.0 mg, 63% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54-7.03 (m, 9H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 23.8; HRMS for C₁₄H₁₃ClNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 246.0686, Found: 246.0679.



N-(4-bromophenyl)-*N*-phenylacetamide (3q)¹¹

Colorless oil, 37.7 mg, 65% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56-7.10 (m, 9H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 23.9; HRMS for C₁₄H₁₃BrNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 290.0181, Found: 290.0181.



N-butyl-*N*-(*p*-tolyl)acetamide (3r)¹²

Colorless oil, 29.6 mg, 72% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.70-3.63 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.53-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.22 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 140.6, 137.7, 130.2, 127.9, 48.8, 29.9, 22.8, 21.1, 20.1, 13.8; HRMS for C₁₃H₂₀NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 206.1545, Found: 206.1550.



N-Butyl-N-(4-chlorophenyl)acetamide (3s)

Colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.69-3.64 (m, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.46 (dt, J = 15.3, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (dq, J = 14.5, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.9, 141.8, 133.6, 129.9, 129.5, 48.8, 29.8, 22.8, 20.0, 13.8; HRMS for C₁₂H₁₇CINO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 226.0999, Found: 226.0999.



N-Butyl-*N*-(3-chlorophenyl)acetamide (4s)¹²

Colorless oil; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.40-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.18 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.54-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.21 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 144.5, 135.1, 130.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.6, 48.9, 29.9, 22.9, 20.0, 13.8; **HRMS** for C₁₂H₁₇ClNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 226.0999, Found: 226.1005.



N-(4-bromophenyl)-*N*-butylacetamide (3t)

Colorless oil, 35.1 mg, 65% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.74-3.59 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.59-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 142.3, 132.9, 129.9, 127.0, 48.8, 29.9, 22.8, 20.0, 13.8; HRMS for C₁₂H₁₇BrNO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 270.0494, Found: 270.0492.



N-butyl-*N*-phenyl-*d*₄ acetamide (3u)

Colorless oil, 25.0 mg, 64% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.69 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.48 (dt, *J* = 15.3, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (dq, *J* = 14.8, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.2, 143.2, 128.1, 48.8, 29.9, 22.9, 20.1, 13.8; HRMS for C₁₂H₁₃D₄NO [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 196.1639, Found: 196.1643.

General Procedure for Chemoselective N-Arylation of Amide and Amine

To a suspension of *t*-BuOK (5.0 equiv, 112.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) in THF (4.0 mL), was added **11** (1.0 equiv, 45.3 mg, 0.2 mmol) at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at this temperature for 10 min. Diphenyliodonium salt **2a** (1.2 equiv, 103.2 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C until TLC analysis indicated complete consumption of the amide substrate (**11**). The reaction was then quenched with H₂O at 0 °C, the organic phase was separated and the water phase was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude materials were purified by SiO₂ flash chromatography to afford the product **5a**.



4-amino-N-benzyl-N-phenylbenzamide (5a)¹³

Colorless oil, 27.2 mg, 45% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.35-7.07 (m, 10H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.40 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.11 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 148.0, 144.5, 138.0, 131.2, 129.0, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.2, 126.2, 125.3, 113.6, 54.1; HRMS for C₂₀H₁₉N₂O [M+1]⁺Calculated: 303.1497, Found: 303.1496.

To a stirred solution of **11** (1.0 equiv, 45.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv, 42.4 mg, 0.4 mmol) and CuBr (2.9 mg, 10 mol %) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) at room temperature was added diphenyliodonium salt **2a** (1.2 equiv, 103.2 mg, 0.24 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. The mixture was filtered and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude materials was purified by SiO₂ flash chromatography to afford the product **5b**.



N-benzyl-4-(phenylamino)benzamide (5b) Colorless oil, 43.5 mg, 72% yield; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.38-

7.27 (m, 7H), 7.14 (d, J = 8.5, 2H), 7.06-6.98 (m, 3H), 6.32 (brs, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.9, 146.8, 141.3, 138.5, 129.5, 128.8, 128.7, 127.9, 127.5, 125.4, 122.7, 119.8, 115.3, 44.1; **HRMS** for C₂₀H₁₉N₂O [M+1]⁺ Calculated: 303.1497, Found: 303.1494.

General Procedure for Cycloaddition Reaction of Diaryliodinium Salt with Furan

Under a N₂ atmosphere, diaryliodonium salt **2b** (97.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), furan (68.1 mg, 1.0 mmol) and toluene (2 mL) were added to a flame-dried Schlenk tube, and *t*-BuOK (44.9 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added sequentially. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, and quenched with H₂O at 0 °C. The organic phase was separated and the water phase was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude materials were purified by flash chromatography to afford the product **6** (17.7 mg) in 56% yield as a yellow oil.

Spectral data is consistent with the literature.¹⁴



6-methyl-1,4-dihydro-1,4-epoxynaphthalene (6)

¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.04-6.97 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.4, 146.0, 143.2, 142.7, 134.7, 125.0, 121.6, 119.9, 82.3, 82.2, 21.3.

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