

Supporting Information

Elemental sulfur mediated synthesis of benzoxazoles, benzothiazoles and quinoxalines via decarboxylative coupling of 2-hydroxy/mercapto/amino-anilines with cinnamic acids

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1. General information

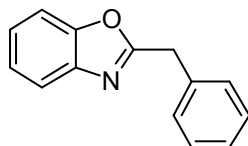
All the reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, and E. Merck, and were used as received. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using Merck Kieselgel 60 GF 254 plates (thickness 0.25 mm). Visualization of TLC was performed using UV light; products purification was done using Merck silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography. NMR spectra were recorded with a 300 or 500 MHz spectrometer for ^1H NMR, and 75 or 125 MHz for ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy using CDCl_3 solution. HRMS was recorded by using Q-TOF mass spectrometer. Chemical shifts are given in δ ppm and are measured relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard.

2. General procedure for the synthesis of benzoxazoles, benzothiazoles and quinoxalines

2-Hydroxy/mercapto/amino-aniline (1.0 mmol), cinnamic acid/phenylpropionic acid (1.0 mmol), elemental sulfur (3.0 mmol, 96 mg) and *N*-methylmorpholine (3.0 mmol) were placed in a vial (10 mL) containing a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was capped and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 15 h. After the reaction was completed (TLC), the mixture was cooled to room temperature. To it was added ethyl acetate followed by washing with NaHCO_3 aq. solution. The organic phase was dried over anhyd Na_2SO_4 , filtered, evaporated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography using n-hexane and ethyl acetate as eluent.

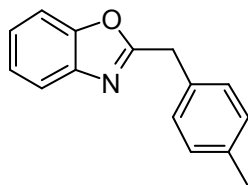
3. Characterization Data of the Products

2-Benzylbenzo[d]oxazole (4a)¹:



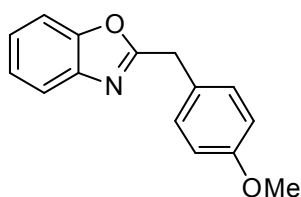
Light yellow solid (72%, 150 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.22 (m, 8H), 4.22 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.0, 150.9, 141.2, 134.6, 128.8, 128.6, 127.1, 124.5, 124.0, 119.6, 110.3, 35.1.

2-(4-Methylbenzyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4b)¹:



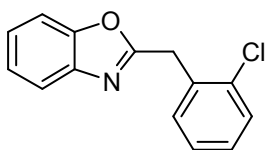
Yellow solid (70%, 156 mg); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.68 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.6, 151.2, 141.5, 137.1, 131.8, 129.6, 129.0, 124.7, 124.2, 119.9, 110.5, 35.0, 21.2

2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4c)¹:



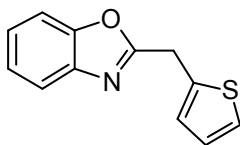
Yellow solid (68%, 166 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.68-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 4H), 6.88-6.85 (m, 2H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.7, 159.0, 151.1, 141.5, 130.2, 126.9, 124.7, 124.3, 119.9, 114.3, 110.5, 55.4, 34.5.

2-(2-Chlorobenzyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4d)¹:



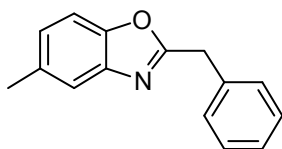
Light yellow solid (65%, 155 mg); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (t, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.21 (m, 7H), 4.40 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.1, 150.8, 141.2, 134.2, 132.7, 131.0, 129.7, 128.8, 127.1, 124.7, 124.1, 119.8, 110.4, 32.8.

2-(Thiophen-2-ylmethyl)benzo[d]oxazole (4e)²:



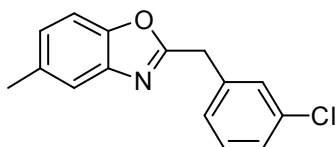
Brown solid (59%, 118 mg); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.62-7.60 (m, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.12 (m, 3H), 6.95-6.87 (m, 2H), 4.38 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.0, 151.0, 141.2, 135.9, 127.1, 126.8, 125.1, 124.8, 124.2, 119.9, 110.5, 32.8.

2-Benzyl-5-methylbenzo[d]oxazole (4f)¹:



Brown solid (75%, 166 mg); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.35-7.21 (m, 6H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.1, 1H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.1, 149.2, 141.4, 134.8, 133.8, 128.9, 128.7, 127.1, 125.6, 119.6, 109.7, 35.2, 21.3.

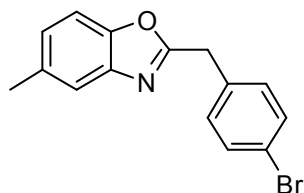
2-(3-Chlorobenzyl)-5-methylbenzo[d]oxazole (4g):



Yellow solid (73%, 162 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.4, 1H), 4.21 (s, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.4, 149.2, 141.4, 136.7, 134.5, 134.1, 130.0, 129.1, 127.6, 127.1, 125.9, 119.8, 109.8, 34.8, 21.4.

HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}$: 257.0607; Found: 257.0612.

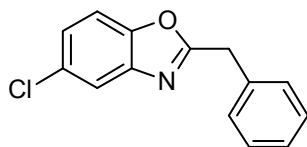
2-(4-Bromobenzyl)-5-methylbenzo[d]oxazole (4h):



Light yellow solid (72%, 216 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.42 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 3H), 7.30-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 4.14 (s, 2H), 2.40 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 164.3, 149.1, 141.3, 133.9, 133.6, 131.7, 130.5, 125.7, 121.1, 119.6, 109.6, 34.4, 21.1.

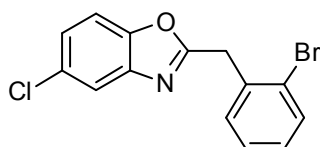
HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{BrNO}$: 302.0175; Found: 302.0176.

2-Benzyl-5-chlorobenzo[d]oxazole (4i)¹:



Light yellow solid (66%, 166 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.33 (bs, 7H), 4.23 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 166.6, 149.5, 142.4, 134.3, 129.6, 128.8, 127.4, 124.9, 124.1, 119.7, 111.1, 35.1.

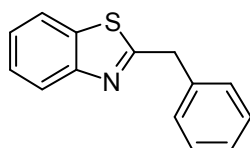
2-(2-Bromobenzyl)-5-chlorobenzo[d]oxazole (4j):



Light yellow solid (61%, 160 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.90-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.17 (m, 5H), 4.43 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 165.6, 149.5, 133.2, 133.1, 129.3, 129.1, 127.8, 125.1, 124.7, 124.2, 119.9, 111.2, 110.1, 35.5.

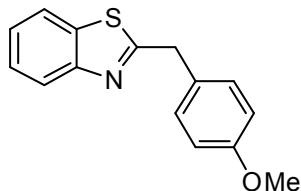
HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{BrClNO}$: 321.9629; Found: 321.9731.

2-Benzylbenzo[d]thiazole (5a)³:



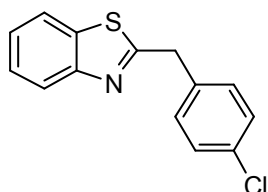
Yellow solid (71%, 159 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.00 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.79 (d, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.46-7.24 (m, 7H), 4.43 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 171.2, 153.2, 137.1, 135.6, 129.1, 128.8, 127.3, 125.9, 124.8, 122.6, 121.2, 40.6.

2-(4-Methoxybenzyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5b)³:



Light yellow solid (69%, 175mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.99 (d, $J = 8.1$, 1H), 7.77 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.89 (d, $J = 8.4$, 2H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 172.0, 158.8, 153.3, 135.6, 130.2, 129.2, 125.9, 124.7, 122.7, 121.5, 114.2, 55.2, 39.7.

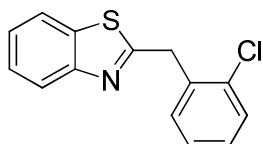
2-(4-Chlorobenzyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5c):



Yellow solid (70%, 181 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.00 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.48-7.25 (m, 6H), 4.40 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.3, 153.2, 146.2, 135.6, 133.3, 130.4, 129.0, 126.1, 125.0, 122.8, 121.5, 39.8.

HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNS}$: 260.0295; Found: 260.0289.

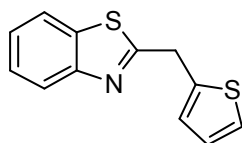
2-(2-Chlorobenzyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5d):



Yellow solid (66%, 170 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.00 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 7.5$, 1H), 7.43-7.20 (m, 6H), 4.54 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 169.4, 153.0, 135.4, 134.9, 134.1, 131.2, 129.7, 128.8, 127.1, 125.8, 124.7, 122.6, 121.3, 37.9.

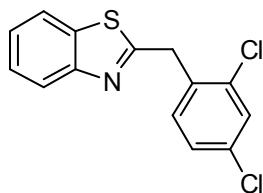
HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{11}\text{ClNS}$: 260.0295; Found: 260.0289.

2-(Thiophen-2-ylmethyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5e)⁴:



Yellow solid (51%, 110 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.94 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 7.8$, 1H), 7.50-7.17 (m, 4H), 6.97-6.91 (m, 1H), 4.57 (s, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 170.3, 153.2, 138.6, 127.2, 127.0, 126.8, 126.0, 125.3, 125.0, 122.9, 121.6, 34.6.

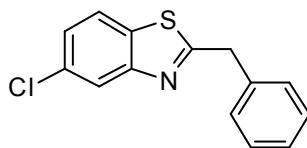
2-(2,4-Dichlorobenzyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5f):



Yellow solid (55%, 160 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.00 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.1, 1H), 7.47-7.21 (m, 5H), 4.52 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 168.7, 153.1, 135.4, 134.9, 134.0, 133.6, 132.0, 129.5, 127.5, 126.0, 125.0, 122.8, 121.5, 37.4.

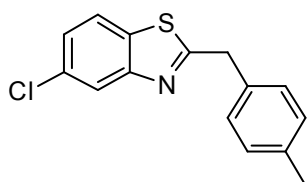
HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{Cl}_2\text{NS}$: 293.9906; Found: 293.9898.

2-Benzyl-5-chlorobenzo[d]thiazole (5g)⁴:



Yellow solid (67%, 173 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 6H), 4.39 (s, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 173.2, 154.1, 136.7, 133.8, 131.9, 129.1, 128.8, 127.4, 125.2, 122.6, 122.1, 40.6.

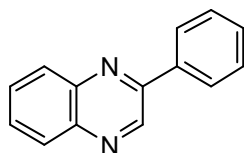
5-Chloro-2-(4-methylbenzyl)benzo[d]thiazole (5h):



Yellow solid (64%, 174 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.10 (m, 5H), 4.33 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 173.5, 154.0, 137.0, 133.8, 133.7, 131.7, 129.4, 128.9, 125.0, 122.5, 122.0, 40.1, 21.0.

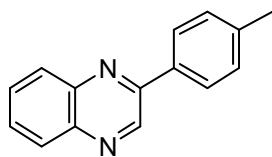
HRMS (ESI +): $(\text{M}+\text{H})^+$ calcd. For $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNS}$: 274.0452; Found: 274.0463.

2-Phenylquinoxaline (7a)⁵:



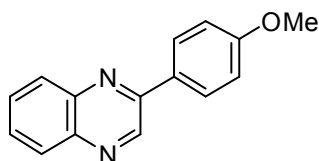
Light yellow solid (67%, 138 mg); ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.31 (s, 1H), 8.19-8.09 (m, 4H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.50 (m, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 151.8, 143.3, 143.2, 142.2, 141.5, 136.7, 130.2, 130.1, 129.6, 129.5, 129.1, 127.5.

2-(p-Tolyl)quinoxaline (7b)⁵:



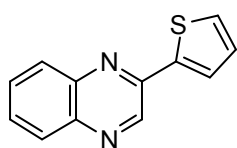
Yellow solid (65%, 143 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.31 (s, 1H), 8.15-8.09 (m, 3H), 7.92-7.90 (m, 1H), 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.37-7.36 (m, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.9, 143.4, 142.4, 141.5, 140.6, 134.1, 130.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 127.5, 21.5.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)quinoxaline (7c)⁵:



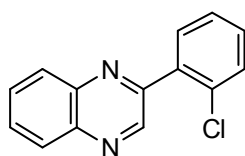
Yellow solid (61%, 144 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.18-8.16 (m, 2H), 8.12-8.08 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.6, 151.5, 143.2, 142.2, 141.3, 130.3, 129.5, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 129.1, 114.7, 55.5.

2-(Thiophen-2-yl)quinoxaline (7d)⁵:



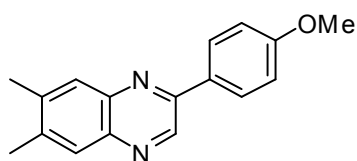
Light yellow solid (55%, 116 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.24 (s, 1H), 8.08-8.07 (m, 2H), 7.87-7.86 (m, 1H), 7.75-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 147.5, 142.5, 142.2, 142.2, 141.4, 130.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 127.1.

2-(2-Chlorophenyl)quinoxaline (7e)⁵:



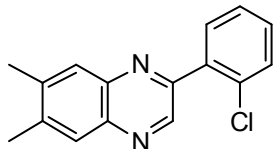
Light yellow solid (58%, 139 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.15 (s, 1H), 8.12-8.10 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.5, 146.3, 142.4, 141.5, 136.6, 132.7, 132.1, 131.5, 130.9, 130.4, 130.3, 129.7, 129.3, 127.6.

2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-6,7-dimethylquinoxaline (7f)⁶:



Yellow solid (56%, 147 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.09 (s, 1H), 8.07-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.78-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 161.2, 150.6, 142.1, 141.2, 140.6, 142.2, 139.5, 129.7, 128.7, 128.5, 128.1, 114.5, 55.4, 20.3.

2-(2-Chlorophenyl)-6,7-dimethylquinoxaline (7g)⁷:



Light yellow solid (54%, 144 mg); $^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 7.84-7.83 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 3H), 2.46 (s, 6H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 162.2, 151.4, 141.2, 140.8, 140.8, 136.9, 131.9, 130.5, 130.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 20.4.

4. References:

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5. COPIES OF ^1H - & ^{13}C -NMR SPECTRA OF THE PRODUCTS:

