Nickel-Catalyzed Carbonylation of Arylboronic acids with DMF as CO source

Yang Li, a,b Dong-Huai Tu, a Bo Wang, a Ju-You Lu, a Yao-Yu Wang, b Zhao-Tie Liu,* c
Zhong-Wen Liu, c Jian Lu, *a

a State Key Laboratory of Fluorine & Nitrogenous Chemicals
Xi’an Modern Chemistry Research Institute. Xi’an, 710065, China
phone: +86-29- 88291213; E-mail: lujian204@263.net

b Key Laboratory of Synthetic and Natural Functional Molecule Chemistry of the Ministry of Education College of Chemistry and Materials Science, Northwest University. Xi’an, 710069, China

c Key Laboratory of Applied Surface and Colloid Chemistry, Ministry of Education
School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shaanxi Normal University. Xi’an, 710119, China
Phone: +86-29- 81530803; E-mail: ztliu@snnu.edu.cn
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1. General information

Flash chromatography was performed with freshly distilled solvents. $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400 MHz) and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR (100MHz) spectra were recorded using CDCl$_3$ as solvent. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm, using TMS as an internal standard. Data are presented as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). Toluene was dried over sodium for 4 h, and distilled under N$_2$ atmosphere.

2. General procedure for carbonylation of benzophenone

The reaction was carried out in an autoclave containing a 10 mL Teflon reaction tube. NiBr$_2$.diglyme (0.05 mmol), IPr.HCl (0.1 mmol) and a magnetic stir bar were placed in the tube which was then capped with a stopper and flushed with argon. Then, aryl boronic acid (1 mmol), KHCO$_3$ (2 mmol), DMF (2 mL) were added to the tube. The tube was placed in the autoclave. Once sealed, the autoclave was purged several times with N$_2$, and heated in an oil bath at 100 °C for 14 h. After the reaction, the autoclave was then cooled to room temperature and opened carefully in a fume hood. Water (40 mL) was added, and the product was extracted with DCM (3*15 mL). The organic layers were washed with brine, dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$, and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using a mixture of ethyl acetate and petroleum ether as eluent to give the desired compounds.

3. Experimental data for products

Benzophenone (3a)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 92% yield (94 mg). $R_f=0.3$ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), yellow solid. m.p = 47-48 °C, $^1\text{H}$ NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ (ppm): 7.83 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 4H), 7.62 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H); $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ (ppm): 196.5, 137.6, 132.1, 130.1, 128.1; IR (KBr): 3040, 1658, 1603, 1321, 1274 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 205.0621; found 205.0624.

bis(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3b)
The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 83% yield (110 mg). 
\( R_f = 0.3 \) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 30:1), light yellow oil.

\[^1\text{H} \text{NMR}\ (400 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 7.80 (d, \( J = 8.8 \text{ Hz, 2H} \)), 6.97 (d, \( J = 8.8 \text{ Hz, 2H} \)), 3.89 (s, 6H); \[^{13}\text{C} \text{NMR}\ (100 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 194.4, 162.9, 132.2, 132.1, 113.4, 55.5; IR (KBr): 2957, 1671, 1593, 1260, 1093, 806 cm\(^{-1}\); HRMS(ESI) calc. for \((\text{M + Na}^+)\) 265.0844; found 265.0835.

**di-p-tolymethanone (3c)**

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 88% yield (102 mg).

\( R_f = 0.3 \) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 74-75 °C,\[^1\text{H} \text{NMR}\ (400 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 7.71 (d, \( J = 7.6 \text{ Hz, 4H} \)), 7.27 (d, \( J = 8.4 \text{ Hz, 4H} \)), 2.43 (s, 6H); \[^{13}\text{C} \text{NMR}(100 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 196.2, 142.9, 135.3, 130.2, 128.9, 21.6; IR (KBr): 2922, 1562, 1512, 1302, 1008, 803 cm\(^{-1}\); HRMS(ESI) calc. for \((\text{M + Na}^+)\) 233.0945; found 233.0937.

**bis(4-ethylphenyl)methanone (3d)**

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 83% yield (115 mg).

\( R_f = 0.3 \) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light red oil. \[^1\text{H} \text{NMR}\ (400 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 7.75 (d, \( J = 8.0 \text{ Hz, 4H} \)), 7.31 (d, \( J = 8.0 \text{ Hz, 4H} \)), 2.76-2.71 (m, 4H), 1.28 (t, \( J = 7.6 \text{ Hz, 6H} \)); \[^{13}\text{C} \text{NMR}\ (100 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 196.2, 149.1, 135.5, 130.3, 127.7, 29.0, 15.2; IR (KBr): 2965, 2930, 1655, 1605, 1279, 923 cm\(^{-1}\); HRMS(ESI) calc. for \((\text{M + Na}^+)\) 261.1251; found 261.1250.

**bis(4-propylphenyl)methanone (3e)**

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 81% yield (117mg).

\( R_f = 0.3 \) (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light red oil. \[^1\text{H} \text{NMR}\ (400 \text{ MHz, CDCl}_3) \delta \ (\text{ppm})\]: 7.74 (d, \( J = 8.0 \text{ Hz, 4H} \)), 7.29 (d, \( J = 8.0 \text{ Hz, 806 cm}\(^{-1}\)); HRMS(ESI) calc. for \((\text{M + Na}^+)\) 261.1251; found 261.1250.
bis(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)methanone (3f)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 89% yield (141 mg).

\[ R_f = 0.3 \] (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 123-124°C, \(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 7.78 (d, \(J = 4\) Hz, 4H), 7.51 (d, \(J = 4\) Hz, 4H), 1.37 (s, 9H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 195.1, 154.9, 134.2, 129.0, 124.1, 34.1, 30.2; IR (KBr): 2961, 1643, 1283, 934, 764 cm\(^{-1}\); HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na\(^+\)) 317.1884; found 317.1876.

bis(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (3g)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 77% yield (93 mg).

\[ R_f = 0.3 \] (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 87-88°C, \(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 7.76 (d, \(J = 7.6\) Hz, 4H), 7.11 (d, \(J = 7.6\) Hz, 4H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 193.7, 165.4 (d, \(J = 252.9\) Hz), 133.7 (d, \(J = 3.0\) Hz), 132.4 (d, \(J = 9.2\) Hz), 115.5 (d, \(J = 21.8\) Hz); IR (KBr): 1647, 1496, 1295, 953, 760 cm\(^{-1}\); HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na\(^+\)) 241.0442; found 241.0435.

bis(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (3h)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 82% yield (111 mg).

\[ R_f = 0.3 \] (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 127-128°C, \(^1\)H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 7.73 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 4H), 7.48 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 4H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) (ppm): 193.1, 138.1, 134.5, 130.3, 127.8; IR
bis(4-chlorophenyl)methanone (3i)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 72% yield (121 mg).

R$_f$ = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), yellow solid. m.p = 167-168°C, $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 7.64 (s, 8H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 194.6, 138.0, 131.9, 131.5, 127.9; IR (KBr): 3640, 1641, 1585, 1288, 853, 759 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 272.9851; found 272.9844.

4,4′-carbonyldibenonitrile (3j)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 74% yield (94 mg).

R$_f$ = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 132-133°C, $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 7.80 (d, $J$ = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.76 (d, $J$ = 8.5 Hz, 4H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm):193.4, 139.7, 132.5, 130.3, 117.6, 110.6; IR (KBr): 3441, 1647, 1601, 1256, 1155 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 255.0524; found 255.0529.

bis(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone (3k)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 68% yield (116 mg).

R$_f$ = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 30:1), light yellow oil. $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 7.85 (d, $J$ = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.33 (d, $J$ = 8.8 Hz, 4H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 193.5, 152.3 (d, $J$ = 1.4 Hz), 135.4, 131.9, 120.4, 120.3 (q, $J$ = 257.2 Hz); IR (KBr): 3441, 2353, 1647, 1260, 1082, 799 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 341.0378; found 341.0372.

bis(3-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3l)
The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 91% yield (120 mg).

\[ R_f = 0.3 \text{ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 70-72^\circ C} \]

\[ \delta (ppm): 7.37 - 7.35 \text{ (m, 4 H), 7.14 - 7.11} \text{ (m, 4 H), 3.85} \text{ (s, 6 H); } \]

\[ ^{13}\text{C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{)} \delta (ppm): 196.2, 159.6, 139.0, 129.2, 122.8, 118.9, 114.4, 55.5; \]

\[ \text{IR (KBr): 1667, 1589, 1438, 1291, 1039 cm}^{-1}; \text{HRMS(ESI) calc. for (M + Na\textsuperscript{+})} \]

265.0830; found 265.0835.

**di-m-toylmethanone (3m)**

\[ \text{The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 83% yield (97 mg).} \]

\[ R_f = 0.3 \text{ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 30:1), yellow solid. m.p = 70-72^\circ C} \]

\[ \delta (ppm): 7.62 \text{ (s, 2H), 7.58} \text{ (d, } J = 8.4 \text{ Hz, 2H), 7.40 - 7.35} \text{ (m, 4 H), 2.42} \text{ (s, 6H); } \]

\[ ^{13}\text{C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{)} \delta (ppm): 197.2, 138.1, 137.9, 133.1, 130.4, 128.0, 127.4, 21.4; \text{IR (KBr): 3031, 2918, 1601, 1477, 775 cm}^{-1}; \text{HRMS(ESI) calc. for (M + Na\textsuperscript{+})} \]

233.0945; found 233.0937.

**bis(3-flourophenyl)methanone (3n)**

\[ \text{The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 66% yield (80 mg).} \]

\[ R_f = 0.3 \text{ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1), yellow solid. m.p = 70-80^\circ C} \]

\[ \delta (ppm): 7.50 \text{ (d, } J = 7.5 \text{ Hz, 2H), 7.44 - 7.39} \text{ (m, 4H), 7.25} \text{ (t, } J = 8.0 \text{ Hz, 2H)); } \]

\[ ^{13}\text{C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl}_3\text{)} \delta (ppm): 193.8, 163.4, 161.5, 139.1\text{(d, } J = 6.3 \text{ Hz), 130.1(d, } J = 7.8 \text{ Hz), 125.8} \text{ (d, } J = 3.0 \text{ Hz), 119.8} \text{ (d, } J = 21.3 \text{ Hz), 116.7} (d, J = 22.4 \text{ Hz); IR (KBr): 3069, 1655, 1582, 1295, 896, 787 cm}^{-1}; \text{HRMS(ESI) calc. for (M + Na\textsuperscript{+})} \]

241.0442; found 241.0444.

**bis(3-chlorophenyl)methanone (3o)**

\[ \text{The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 65% yield (88 mg).} \]
R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 113-114°C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); ^13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 192.7, 137.6, 133.8, 131.7, 128.8, 128.8, 127.0; IR (KBr): 2356, 1651, 1632, 1415, 1279, 795 cm^{-1}; HRMS(ESI) calc. for (M + Na^+) 272.9851; found 272.9844.

bis(2-methoxyphenyl)methanone (3p)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 62% yield (82 mg).

R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 10:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 88-90°C, ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H); ^13C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 195.3, 158.3, 132.5, 130.4, 128.6, 120.4, 111.5, 55.7; IR (KBr): 3433, 1651, 1599, 1260, 1154 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na^+) 265.0841; found 265.0835.

di-o-tolymethanone (3q)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 69% yield (81 mg).

R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 100:1), yellow solid. m.p = 78-80°C, ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.42 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.24 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 6H); ^13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 200.5, 139.0, 138.2, 131.4, 131.1, 130.3, 125.4, 20.4; IR (KBr): 2969, 1667, 1302, 1256, 927, 733 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na^+) 233.0946; found 233.0937.

bis(2-fluorophenyl)methanone (3r)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 60% yield (72 mg).

R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), yellow solid. m.p = 46-47°C, ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 7.44 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 38.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); ^13C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ (ppm): 189.7, 162.1, 160.1, 134.2 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 130.9, 127.6 (d, J = 12.3 Hz), 124.6, 116.3 (d, J =
21.4 Hz); IR (KBr): 1651, 1597, 1264, 1154 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na⁺) 241.0435; found 241.0444.

bis(2-chlorophenyl)methanone (3s)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 58% yield (79 mg). R_f = 0.4 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 46-47°C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.51 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 194.2, 138.0, 132.7, 132.4, 130.9, 130.7, 126.8; IR (KBr): 1671, 1581, 1438, 1295, 1043, 737 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na⁺) 272.9851; found 272.9844.

bis(3,5-dimethylphenyl)methanone (3t)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 65% yield (84 mg). R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 102-103 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.38 (s, 4H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 2.37 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 197.6, 138.1, 137.8, 133.9, 127.7, 21.2; IR (KBr): 2841, 1647, 1597, 1322, 1186 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na⁺) 261.1264; found 261.1250.

bis(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (3u)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 63% yield (105 mg). R_f = 0.3 (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 5:1), light yellow solid. m.p = 78-80 °C, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.07-7.04 (m, 6H), 3.87 (s, 6H), 3.64 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 196.0, 152.9, 147.9, 135.5, 123.5, 121.2, 115.3, 61.3, 56.1; IR (KBr): 2942, 1659, 1473, 1310, 996, 760 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na⁺) 325.1051; found 325.1046.

bis(3,5-difluorophenyl)methanone (3v)
The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 55% yield (74 mg). 

\[ \text{R}_f = 0.3 \text{ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), red oil. } \]

$^1$H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 7.23 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.01 (m, 2H); $^{13}$C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 191.3, 163.8 (d, $J = 11.6$ Hz), 161.8 (d, $J = 11.8$ Hz), 139.2, 112.9 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 112.8 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 108.5 (d, $J = 25.1$ Hz); IR (KBr): 2961, 1667, 1593, 1264, 1027, 806 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 277.0241; found 277.0247.

di(naphthalene)methanone (3w)

The title product was purified by column chromatography and was obtained in 52% yield (79 mg).

\[ \text{R}_f = 0.3 \text{ (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate 50:1), light yellow solid. } \]

m.p = 218-220 °C, $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 8.61 (s, 2H), 8.04 (d, $J = 8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.96 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.63-7.58 (m, 6H), 7.45 (q, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H); $^{13}$C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl$_3$) $\delta$ (ppm): 198.7, 136.1, 132.8, 131.4, 130.2, 129.4, 127.4, 126.8, 125.5, 124.9, 123.3; IR (KBr): 2965, 2930, 1655, 1605, 1279, 923 cm$^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI) calc. for (M + Na$^+$) 305.0941; found 305.0937.

4. Copies of the $^1$H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR spectra of products