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Supporting Information

# Iron-catalyzed tandem cyclization of olefinic dicarbonyl compounds

# with benzylic Csp<sup>3</sup>-H bonds for the synthesis of dihydrofurans

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#### **General Information**

All Reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen with the strict exclusion of air. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance III-400 in solvents as indicated. Chemical shift are reported in ppm from CDCl<sub>3</sub> using TMS as internal standard. IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer and only major peaks are reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS were obtained on a Q-TOF micro spectrometer.

#### **Starting Materials**

All of olefinic dicarbonyl compounds **2** were synthesized according to the literature, and the NMR spectroscopy were in full accordance with the data in the literature.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Characterization of New Starting Materials**



**2e**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.83$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.55 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.30-7.20(m, 4H), 5.33 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.31 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 195.4$ , 143.8, 142.0, 135.9, 134.5, 133.6, 129.8, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 126.7, 124.6, 116.6, 54.9, 34.9 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1698, 1595, 1447, 1268 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{24}H_{19}CINaO_2$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 397.0966, found 397.0951.



**2f**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.83$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.80-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 6H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 2H), 5.32 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 3.31 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 195.4$ , 143.8, 142.3, 135.9, 133.6, 130.9, 130.1, 129.7, 129.6, 128.8, 128.6, 125.1, 122.7, 116.7, 54.9, 35.0 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1698, 1595, 1448, 1268 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BrNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 441.0461, found 441.0452.

#### **Optimization of Reaction Conditions**

#### **General Procedure**

A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube was charged with catalyst (See Table S1). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv), toluene **2a** and oxidants (See Table S1) in 1 mL solvent were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 100 °C. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc, filtered through a pad of Celite, and the filtrate was then removed under vacuo. The residue was purified with chromatography column on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/25 to 1/10) to yield the product **3a** as a colorless oil.

Table S1 Optimization of	the reaction	conditions <sup>a</sup>
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	СН3	+ Ph Ph catalyst	, oxidant	O Ph Ph
	1a	2a	Ph	3a 0
Entry	Catalyst (mol%)	Oxidant (equiv.)	Solvent	Yield <sup>b</sup> (%)
1	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	n.r. <sup>c</sup>
2	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	EtOAc	6
3	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	DMF	n.r. <sup>c</sup>
4	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	DMSO	13
5	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	PhCl	16
6	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	dioxane	n.r. <sup>c</sup>
7 <sup>d</sup>	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	50
$8^d$	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	TBHP (2.0)	-	29
9 <sup>d</sup>	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	DTBP (2.0)	-	trace
$10^d$	Cu <sub>2</sub> O (10)	DCP (2.0)	-	trace
$11^{d}$	CuCl (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	66
$12^{d}$	CuBr (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	67
13 <sup>d</sup>	$Cu(OAc)_2(10)$	TBPB (2.0)	-	63
$14^d$	CuBr <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	55
15 <sup>d</sup>	CuO (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	63
16 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>3</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	67
17 <sup>d</sup>	Fe(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	51
18 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	<b>TBPB (2.0)</b>	-	74 (70) <sup>e</sup>
19 <sup>d</sup>	$FeCl_2(5)$	TBPB (2.0)	-	56
$20^d$	$FeCl_2(20)$	TBPB (2.0)	-	50
$21^d$	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	63 <sup>f</sup>
22 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	23 <sup>g</sup>
23 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (2.0)	-	66 <sup>h</sup>
24 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (1.0)	-	45
25 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)	TBPB (3.0)	-	55
26 <sup>d</sup>		TBPB (2.0)	-	49
27 <sup>d</sup>	FeCl <sub>2</sub> (10)			n.r. <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 10 mol% of catalyst, **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), oxidant (2.0 equiv.), toluene (**1a**, 1.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv.), solvent

(1.0 mL), 100 °C, 24 h, under N<sub>2</sub>. <sup>*b*</sup> Yield of isolated product. <sup>*c*</sup> n.r. = no reaction. <sup>*d*</sup> 1a (1 mL). <sup>*e*</sup> Yield on a 1 mmol scale is given in parentheses. <sup>*f*</sup> under air. <sup>*g*</sup> 80 °C. <sup>*h*</sup> 120 °C.

# General Procedure for the Oxidative Cyclization of Olefinic Dicarbonyl Compounds with Benzylic Hydrocarbons



A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube was charged with  $FeCl_2$  (2.5 mg, 10 mol%), dicarbonyl compounds (**2**, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). TBPB (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in 1 mL of benzylic hydrocarbons were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 100 °C. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The solvent was then removed under vacuo. The residue was purified with chromatography column on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/25 to 1/10) to give the corresponding products **3** or **4** in yields listed in Table 2 and Table 3.

#### **Characterization of Products 3**



**3a:** A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.57$  (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.21 (m, 7H), 7.19-7.06 (m, 7H), 3.64 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (td, J = 12.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (td, J = 12.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (td, J = 12.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (td, J = 12.4, 4.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.4$ , 164.7, 144.8, 141.5, 139.0, 131.0, 130.1, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 127.3, 125.9, 124.7, 111.7, 90.5, 45.7, 44.5, 30.3 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1614, 1493, 1448, 1365, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>26</sub>KO<sub>2</sub> [M+K]<sup>+</sup> 469.1564, found 469.1564.



**3b**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.52$  (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 8H), 3.61 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (td, J = 13.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.57-2.36 (m, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.4$ , 164.8, 144.8, 139.0, 138.4, 135.3, 131.0, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 127.6, 127.3, 124.7, 111.7, 90.6, 45.7, 44.7, 29.9, 20.9 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1614, 1514, 1492, 1447, 1365, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 467.1981, found 467.1962.



3c: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 4H) 7.35 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.05 (m, 6H), 6.94 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d

1H), 2.59-2.33 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.4$ , 164.6, 161.3 (d, J = 242.1 Hz), 144.7, 139.0, 137.1 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 131.1, 130.1, 129.6 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 124.7, 115.1 (d, J = 21.1 Hz), 111.7, 90.4, 45.8, 44.6, 29.6 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1596, 1510, 1448, 1366, 1223 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 471.1731, found 471.1718.



**3d**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.45$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.53$  (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.32 (m, 6H), 7.28 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.04 (m, 6H), 3.60 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (td, J = 13.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.53-2.39 (m, 2H), 2.36 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.4$ , 164.6, 144.7, 140.0, 138.9, 131.6, 131.1, 130.1, 129.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 124.7, 111.7, 90.4, 45.8, 44.4, 29.8 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1595, 1492, 1448, 1366, 1250 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 487.1435, found 487.1417.



**3e**: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.53-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.32 (m, 5H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.13-7.01 (m, 6H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.55-2.42 (m, 2H), 2.38-2.31 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.4, 164.5, 144.6, 140.5, 139.0, 131.4, 131.1, 130.1, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 124.7, 119.6, 111.6, 90.4, 45.9, 44.3, 29.9 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1614, 1490, 1447, 1365, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 531.0930, found 531.0925.



**3f**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.57-7.55$  (m, 2H), 7.47-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.37-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 8H), 3.62 (s, 2H), 2.82 (td, J = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (td, J = 12.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.37-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.5$ , 164.7, 144.7, 139.7, 139.0, 135.8, 131.1, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 127.4, 126.1, 124.7, 111.8, 90.6, 45.7, 43.3, 27.7, 19.1 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1595, 1492, 1448, 1366, 1248 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 467.1982, found 467.1974.



**3g**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.54$  (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.40 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.05 (m, 7H), 3.61 (s, 2H), 2.98 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (td, J = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.5$ , 164.8, 144.6, 139.1, 139.0, 133.9, 131.1, 130.4, 130.2, 130.0, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.9, 124.7, 111.8, 90.5, 45.8, 42.4, 28.5 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1614, 1492, 1446, 1364, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 487.1435, found 487.1430.



**3h**: A colorless oil,  $R_f$  0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18-7.05 (m, 5H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 3H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (td, *J* = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.58-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.39 (td, *J* = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.4, 164.8, 144.9, 141.5, 139.0, 138.0, 131.1, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 129.1, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 127.3, 126.6, 125.3, 124.7, 111.7, 90.6, 45.7, 44.6, 30.3, 21.3 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1611, 1492, 1448, 1364, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 467.1982, found 467.1969.



**3i**: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  =7.54 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.46-7.40 (m, 4H) 7.36-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.83-6.79 (m, 3H), 3.63 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.80-2.71 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.35 (m, 3H), 2.28 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.4, 164.8, 144.9, 141.4, 139.1, 137.9, 131.1, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 127.3, 126.1, 124.7, 111.7, 90.6, 45.7, 44.6, 30.1, 21.2 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1722, 1608, 1492, 1448, 1365, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 481.2138, found 481.2114.



**3j**: A colorless oil,  $R_f$  0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.84 (dd, J = 9.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 8H), 7.30-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.07 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.30 (td, J = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (td, J = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.45 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.5, 164.6, 144.7, 139.0, 137.7, 133.9 131.6, 131.1, 130.2, 130.1, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.7, 127.6, 127.5, 126.8, 125.9, 125.8, 125.6, 125.5, 124.8, 123.5, 111.9, 90.8, 45.9, 43.8, 27.6 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1595, 1492, 1447, 1364, 1247 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>28</sub>KO<sub>2</sub> [M+K]<sup>+</sup> 519.1721, found 519.1721.



**3k**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.45 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.3-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.14-7.04 (m, 7H), 3.50 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (d, J = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79-2.77 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.48 (m, 2H), 1.32 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.3, 164.5, 147.8, 144.8, 139.1, 131.1, 130.1, 130.0, 129.4, 128.9,

128.4, 127.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.7, 125.9, 124.8, 111.5, 91.2, 50.5, 46.9, 36.3, 23.5 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1615, 1493, 1448, 1363, 1260 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{32}H_{28}NaO_2$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 467.1982, found 467.1977.

#### **Characterization of Products 4**



**4a**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.44-7.38$  (m, 4H), 7.32-7.19 (m, 8H) 7.17-7.04 (m, 7H), 3.61 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.51-2.34 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.5$ , 164.9, 141.8, 141.6, 139.1, 137.0, 131.0, 130.2, 130.0, 129.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 125.9, 124.7, 111.8, 90.7, 45.7, 44.5, 30.4, 21.1 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1596, 1493, 1449, 1366, 1248 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 467.1982, found 467.1961.



**4b**: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.52-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 2H) 7.29-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.05 (m, 11H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (td, *J* = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.61-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.36 (td, *J* = 13.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.4, 164.5, 162.0 (d, *J* = 244.6 Hz), 141.3, 140.6 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 138.9, 131.2, 130.1, 130.0, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 126.5 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 126.0, 115.4 (d, *J* = 21.3 Hz), 111.7, 90.2, 45.7, 44.5, 30.3 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1601, 1510, 1449, 1366, 1237 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>FNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 471.1731, found 471.1730.



**4c**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.45$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.47-7.44$  (m, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 4H) 7.29-7.07 (m, 13H), 3.59 (d, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.59-2.44 (m, 2H), 2.34 (td, J = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.4$ , 164.4, 143.4, 141.2, 138.8, 133.2, 131.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3,

127.7, 126.2, 126.0, 111.6, 90.1, 45.7, 44.4, 30.3; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1596, 1492, 1449, 1366, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{31}H_{25}CINaO_2$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 487.1435, found 487.1423.



**4d**: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.15 (m, 9H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 6H), 6.86 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3 H), 3.58 (s, 2H), 2.79 (td, *J* = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (td, *J* = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (td, *J* = 13.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (td, *J* = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.4, 164.7, 159.8, 146.6, 141.6, 139.0, 131.1, 130.2, 130.0, 129.7, 129.4, 128.9, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 125.9, 117.1, 112.2, 111.8, 111.1, 90.5, 55.3, 45.8, 44.5, 30.4; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1721, 1610, 1492, 1449, 1365, 1250 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 483.1931, found 483.1922.



4e: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.45 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.54 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.06 (m, 7H), 3.60 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (td, *J* = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (td, *J* = 12.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (td, *J* = 13.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, *J* = 12.8, 4.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.3, 164.3, 147.0, 141.2, 138.8, 134.6, 131.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.7, 127.6, 126.0, 125.1, 123.0, 111.6, 89.9, 45.7, 44.4, 30.3; IR (KBr): υ<sub>max</sub> 1595, 1573, 1493, 1448, 1365, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 487.1435, found 487.1425.



**4f**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.45$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.69$  (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.48-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19-7.05 (m, 7H), 3.60 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.55 (d, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (td, J = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (td, J = 12.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.48 (td, J = 13.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, J = 12.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.3$ , 164.3, 147.3, 141.2, 138.8, 131.2, 130.5, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 126.0, 123.4, 122.8, 111.6, 89.8, 45.7, 44.4, 30.3; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1615, 1493, 1448, 1364, 1249, 1140, 1073 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>25</sub>BrNaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 531.0930, found 531.0916.



**4g**:Two diastereomers isolated as unseparable mixture (ratio 1:1). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.52-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.13-7.06 (m, 4H), 3.82-3.67 (m, 2H), 3.64-3.52 (m, 5H), 3.49-3.31 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.15 (m, 0.5H), 2.02-1.97 (m, 0.5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.3, 164.3, 164.0, 145.5, 143.8, 138.9, 131.2, 130.1, 130.0, 129.4, 129.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 127.8, 127.6, 127.5, 124.8, 124.5, 124.3, 112.0, 111.7, 89.4, 88.9, 72.4, 72.2, 71.4, 71.3, 66.7, 66.6, 66.3, 66.2, 46.5, 45.5, 44.4 ppm; IR (KBr): ν<sub>max</sub> 1723, 1614, 1493, 1447, 1363, 1249, 1120 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 449.1723, found 449.1715.



**4h**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.15$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.42$  (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.19 (m, 9H) 7.11-7.05 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.56 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (td, J = 13.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (td, J = 13.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (td, J = 13.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, J = 13.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 193.1, 172.7, 165.0, 140.6, 138.5, 131.4, 130.2, 129.5, 128.9, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 126.2, 111.1, 88.2, 52.8, 42.5, 39.3, 30.2 ppm; IR (KBr): <math>v_{max}$  1744, 1596, 1617, 1447, 1365, 1246 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{27}H_{24}NaO_4$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 435.1567, found 435.1559.

# General Procedure for the Oxidative Cyclization of 2a with Alkanes and Cyclohexene



A 10 mL oven-dried Schlenk-tube was charged with  $CuBr_2$  (4.4 mg, 10 mol%), **2a** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The tube was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen (three times). DTBP (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in 1 mL of alkanes or cyclohexene were added by syringe. The tube was then sealed and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 130 °C. Upon completion of the reaction, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The solvent was then removed under vacuo. The residue was purified with chromatography column on silica gel (gradient eluent of EtOAc/petroleum ether: 1/25 to 1/10) to give the corresponding products **6** in yields listed in Table 4.

#### **Characterization of Products 6**



**6a**: A colorless oil,  $R_f 0.5$  (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.50-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 4H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 2.11 (dd, J = 14.8, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, J = 14.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.84-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.57-1.34 (m, 4H), 1.17-0.87 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.5, 164.8, 145.4, 139.1, 131.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.4, 127.6, 127.1, 124.7, 111.7, 91.5, 50.0, 46.9, 34.5, 34.4, 33.9, 26.2 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1615, 1492, 1447, 1363, 1246, 1146 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{30}H_{30}NaO_2$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 445.2138, found 445.2134.



**6b**: A colorless oil 1, R<sub>f</sub> 0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.50-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.03 (m, 4H), 3.57 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.53(d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.24 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.87-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.38 (m, 5H), 1.20-1.15 (m, 1H), 1.06-0.98 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.5, 164.8, 145.6, 139.2, 131.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.4, 127.6, 127.1, 124.7, 111.7, 91.4, 48.7, 46.5, 36.3, 34.1, 33.8, 25.0, 24.8 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1614, 1574, 1492, 1447, 1363, 1246 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 431.1982, found 431.1980.



**6c**: A colorless oil, R<sub>f</sub> 0.5 (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.11-7.03 (m, 4H), 3.53 (s, 2H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.71-1.26 (m, 15H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 193.5, 164.8, 145.4, 139.2, 131.0, 130.3, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 128.3, 127.6, 127.1, 124.8, 111.7,

91.6, 50.1, 46.7, 33.4, 33.1, 32.9, 27.3, 26.2, 25.0 ppm; IR (KBr):  $v_{max}$  1617, 1492, 1446, 1362, 1246, 1149 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{32}H_{34}NaO_2$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 473.2451, found 473.2432.

#### **Investigation of the Reaction Mechanism**



When the TEMPO was added to the reaction of **1a** with **2a** under the standard conditions, only trace amount of the desired product **3a** was detected. The result indicates that the radical intermediate should be involved in the catalytic cycle of the reaction.



When the BHT was added to the reaction of **1a** with **2a** under the standard conditions, only trace amount of the desired product **3a** was detected. The result indicates that the radical intermediate should be involved in the catalytic cycle of the reaction.

## References

1 Y. Zhao, X. Jiang and Y.-Y. Yeung. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2013, **52**, 8597.

## <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of the Products 3

























































S33













### <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra of the Products 6

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)