

Supporting Information

# Iron-catalyzed synthesis of arylsulfonates through radical coupling reaction

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## 1. General information

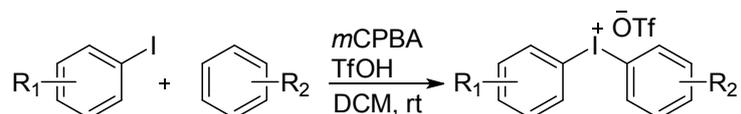
Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (200–300 mesh). Liquid chromatography area percentage yields of products in Table 1 and **2p** in Table 2 were relative to internal standard, 1-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine. The measurements were recorded on a SHIMADZU LC-15C high performance liquid chromatography instrument.

High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained with a Waters-Q-TOF-Premier (ESI).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz instrument. Spectra were reported relative to  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$  ( $\delta$  0.0 ppm),  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm), and  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  ( $\delta$  2.50 ppm).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR were reported relative to  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  77.0 ppm) and  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$  ( $\delta$  39.5 ppm). Splitting patterns are designated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet. Known products were characterized by comparison of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data with those available in the literature. Melting points were determined on a melting point apparatus and were uncorrected.

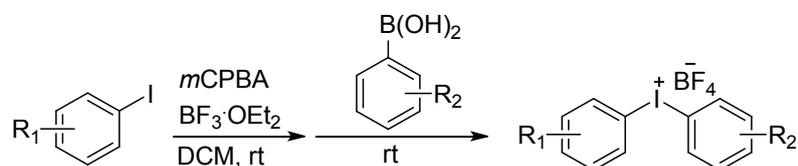
## 2. Synthesis of diaryliodonium salts

Diaryliodonium salts were synthesized according to the reported methods.

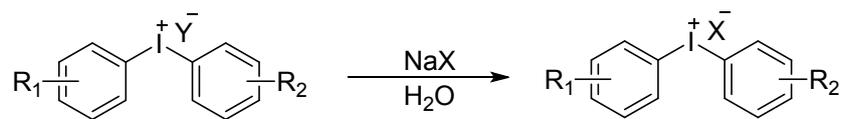
### Method A<sup>1</sup>



### Method B<sup>2</sup>



Method C<sup>3</sup>



Method D<sup>4</sup>

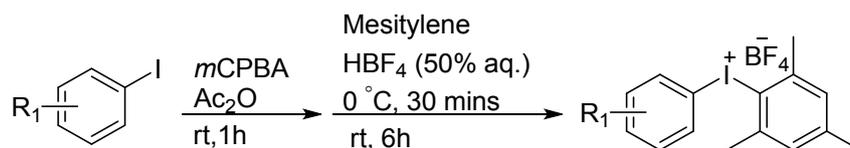
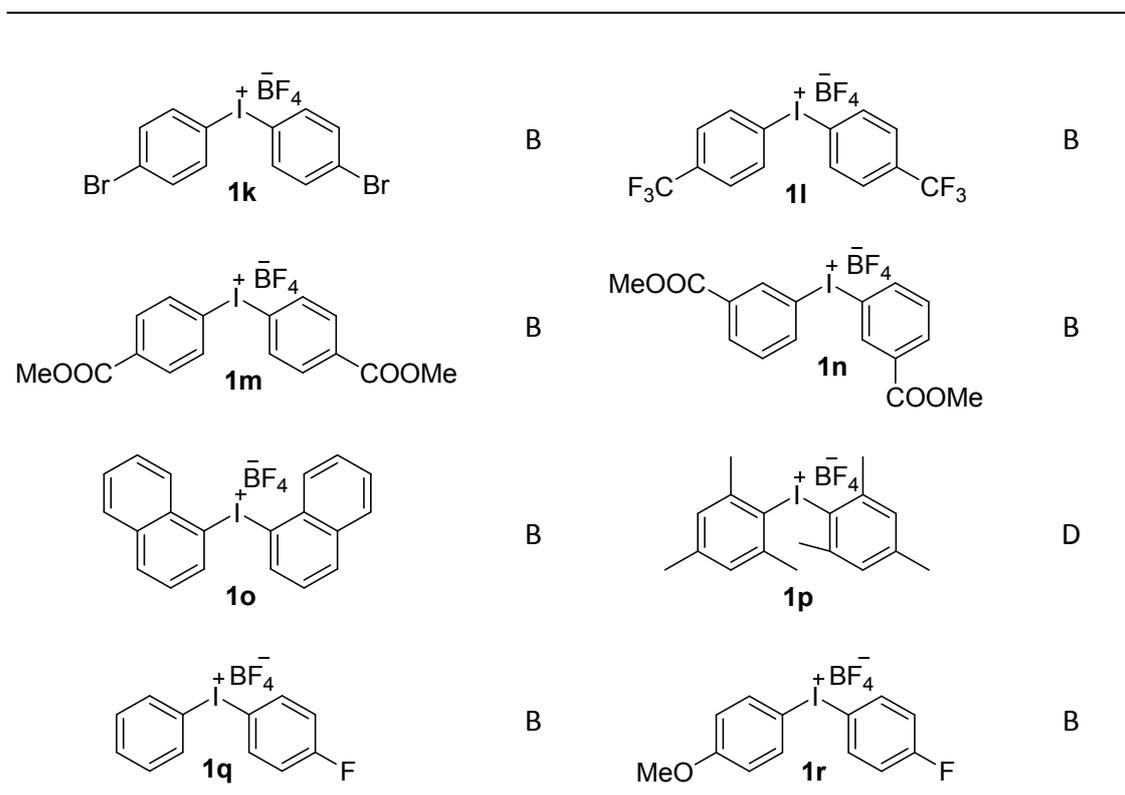
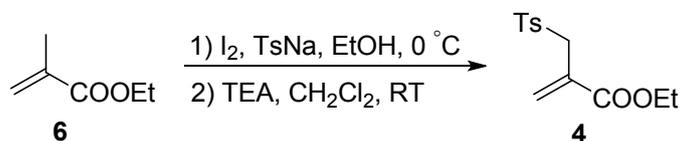


Table 1. Methods for the synthesis of diaryliodonium salts **1**

Diaryliodonium salts	Method	Diaryliodonium salts	Method
 <b>1a-1</b>	A	 <b>1a-2</b>	B
 <b>1a-3</b>	C	 <b>1b</b>	B
 <b>1c</b>	B	 <b>1d</b>	B
 <b>1e</b>	B	 <b>1f</b>	B
 <b>1g</b>	B	 <b>1h</b>	B
 <b>1i</b>	B	 <b>1j</b>	B



### 3. Synthesis of allylsulfone **4**.<sup>5</sup>



Iodine (7 mmol) and sodium benzenesulfinate (12 mmol) were added into ethanol containing ethyl methacrylate (8 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 h, then allowed to warm to room temperature. Dichloromethane (20 mL) was added and the dark brown reaction mixture was washed with water (2 × 20 mL), and the water solution was back-extracted with dichloromethane (2 × 10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (30 mL) and sodium dithionite (5% solution, 2 × 30 mL). The resulting yellow solution was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield crude adduct as a dark oil.

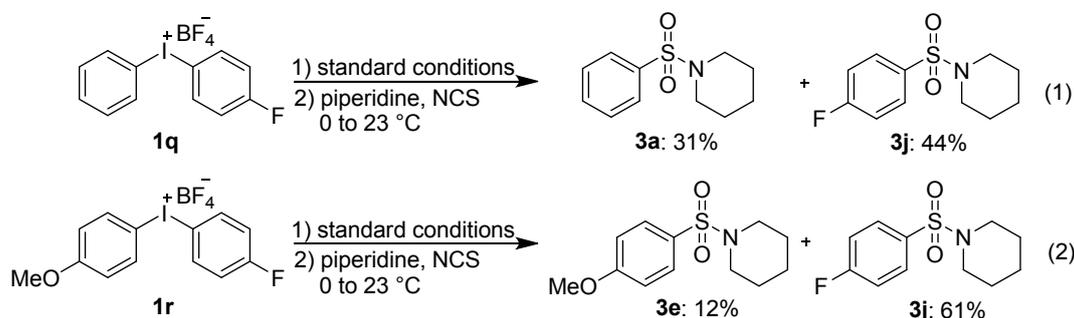
The crude adduct was diluted with dichloromethane (35 mL). Triethylamine (17

mmol) was added dropwise by a syringe over 10 min. The resulting mixture was stirred for 9 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated by rotary evaporation. The crude product was separated by column chromatography on silica gel to afford pure allylsulfone **4** in 80% yield.

#### 4. General procedure for the one-pot synthesis of sulfonamides.

A mixture of diaryliodonium tetrafluoroborate (0.3 mmol), rongalite (0.45 mmol), FeCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mol%) in DMF/MeCN (0.5 mL /0.5 mL) were stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes in a tube under air atmosphere. Then the suspension was dissolved in DMF (10 mL). Piperidine (0.6 mmol) and triethylamine (0.1 mmol) were then added, followed by dropwise addition of *N*-chlorosuccinimide (0.6 mmol) at 0 °C in 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hours before water (8 mL) was added. The aqueous solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL), and the combined extracts were dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent, the crude product was separated by column chromatography on silica gel to afford the pure sulfonamide product.

#### 5. Investigation on the chemoselectivity of the reaction



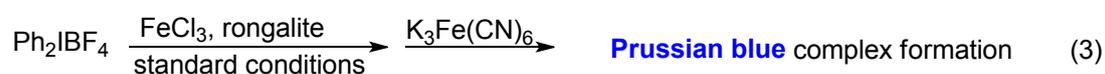
The reaction of diaryliodonium salts **1q** and **1r** with rongalite were conducted under standard conditions. The products were separated following the general procedure. **3a** and **3j** were obtained in 31% (21 mg) and 44% yields (32 mg), respectively (equation

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1). **3e** and **3j** were obtained in 12% (9 mg) and 61% yields (44 mg), respectively (equation 2).

## 6. Controlled experiments for mechanism investigation.

(1) Determination of Fe<sup>2+</sup> in the reaction system.<sup>6</sup>

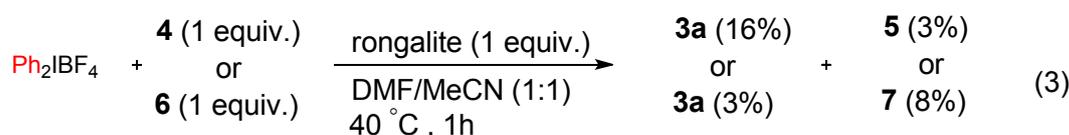
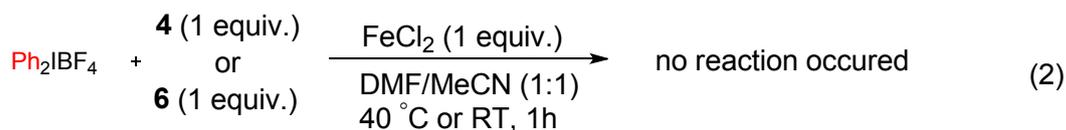
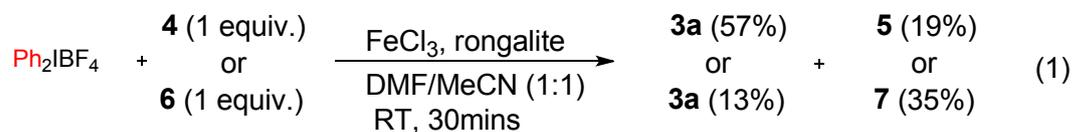


The mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol) and FeCl<sub>3</sub> (15 mg, 0.09 mmol) was dissolved in DMF/MeCN (0.5ml/0.5ml) and stirred for 20 minutes. Potassium thiocyanate (aq., 2 mL, 1 mmol/mL) was then added, and “blood-red” complex was formed immediately which indicated the existence of Fe<sup>3+</sup> cation and that Fe<sup>3+</sup> cation could not be reduced without rongalite (equation 1).

Following the general procedure, the mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol), rongalite (0.45 mmol) and FeCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mol%) was dissolved in DMF/MeCN (0.5ml/0.5ml) and stirred for 20 minutes. Potassium thiocyanate (aq., 2 mL, 1 mmol/mL) was added, and the reaction mixture remained colourless. No “blood-red” complex formation indicated the absence of Fe<sup>3+</sup> cation in the system after the reaction was complete (equation 2).

Following the general procedure, the mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol), rongalite (0.45 mmol) and FeCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mol%) was dissolved in DMF/MeCN (0.5ml/0.5ml) and stirred for 20 minutes. K<sub>3</sub>FeCN<sub>6</sub> (aq., 2 mL, 1 mmol/mL) was added and Prussian blue was noticed which indicated that Fe<sup>3+</sup> cation was reduced to Fe<sup>2+</sup> cation by rongalite (equation 3).

(2) Phenyl radical trapping reaction.



Allylsulfone **4** (0.3 mmol) was added to the mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol), rongalite (0.45 mmol) and FeCl<sub>3</sub> (30 mol%) in DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 ml/0.5 ml) (equation 1).

The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes in a tube under air atmosphere. After evaporation of the solvents, dichloromethane (20 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously, filtered and washed with dichloromethane twice (2 × 20 mL). The filtered residue was collected. The combined organic solution was dried and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product was separated by flash chromatography on a silica gel column to afford pure **5** in 19% yield (11 mg).

The collected filtered residue was dissolved in DMF (10 mL). Piperidine (0.6 mmol) and triethylamine (0.1 mmol) were then added. *N*-Chlorosuccinimide (0.6 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C in 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hours. Then water (8 mL) was added. The aqueous solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL), and the combined extract

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was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed and the crude product was separated by column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3a** in 57% yield (38 mg).

The reaction of diphenyliodonium salt with **6** was similarly performed to afford **7** in 35% yield (27 mg) and **3a** in 13% (9 mg) (equation 1).

Allylsulfone **4** (0.3 mmol) was added to the mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol), FeCl<sub>2</sub> (0.3mmol) in DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 ml/0.5 ml) (equation 2). The mixture was stirred at room temperature or 40 °C for 1 hour. No **5** was detected.

The reaction of diphenyliodonium salt with **6** was similarly performed. No **7** was detected (equation 2).

Allylsulfone **4** (0.3 mmol) was added to the mixture of diphenyliodonium salt (0.3 mmol), rongalite (0.45 mmol) in DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.5 ml/0.5 ml) (equation 3).

The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 minutes in a tube under air atmosphere. After evaporation of the solvents, dichloromethane (20 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred vigorously, filtered and washed with dichloromethane twice (2 × 20 mL). The filtered residue was collected. The combined organic solution was dried and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product was separated by flash chromatography on a silica gel column to afford pure **5** in 3% yield (2 mg).

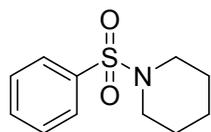
The collected filtered residue was dissolved in DMF (10 mL). Piperidine (0.6 mmol) and triethylamine (0.1 mmol) were then added. *N*-Chlorosuccinimide (0.6 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C in 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 2 hours. Then water (8 mL) was added. The aqueous solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 10 mL), and the combined extract was dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed and the crude product was separated by column chromatography on silica gel to afford **3a** in 16% yield (11 mg).

The reaction of diphenyliodonium salt with **6** was similarly performed to afford **7** in 8% yield (6 mg) and **3a** in 3% yield (2 mg) (equation 3).



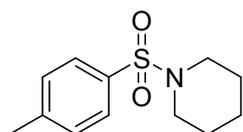
## 8. The spectra data of products

### (1) 1-(Phenylsulfonyl)piperidine **3a**<sup>7</sup>



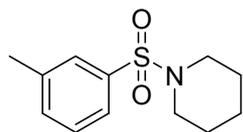
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1, v/v) afforded **3a** as a white solid (89% yield); m.p. = 91–93 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.77–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.61–7.51 (m, 3H), 2.99 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.67–1.61 (m, 4H), 1.43–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 136.4, 132.5, 128.9, 127.7, 46.9, 25.2, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 226.0902, found: 226.0895.

### (2) 1-Tosylpiperidine **3b**<sup>7</sup>



Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1, v/v) afforded **3b** as a white solid (87% yield); m.p. = 99–100 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.65–1.59 (m, 4H), 1.44–1.38 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 143.3, 133.3, 129.5, 127.7, 46.9, 25.2, 23.5, 21.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 240.1058, found: 240.1066.

### (3) 1-(*m*-Tolylsulfonyl)piperidine **3c**

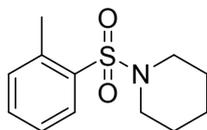


Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1, v/v) afforded **3c** as a white solid (86% yield); m.p. = 62–64 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.55 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.43–7.39 (m, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.67–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.45–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

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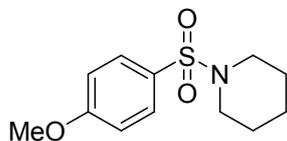
CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 139.1, 136.2, 133.4, 128.8, 128.0, 124.8, 47.0, 25.2, 23.5, 21.4. HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 240.1058, found: 240.1061.

(4) 1-(*o*-Tolylsulfonyl)piperidine **3d**



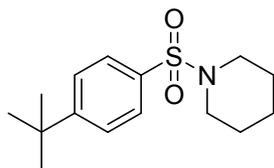
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1, v/v) afforded **3d** as colorless oil (71% yield); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.91–7.89 (m, 1H), 7.47–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 2H), 3.15 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 2.64 (s, 3H), 1.64–1.59 (m, 4H), 1.54–1.48 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 138.0, 136.3, 132.7, 132.6, 130.2, 125.9, 46.0, 25.4, 23.8, 20.7. HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 240.1058, found: 240.1053.

(5) 1-((4-Methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3e**



Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3e** as a white solid (86% yield); m.p. = 66–68 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.69 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.96 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.67–1.61 (m, 4H), 1.43–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 162.8, 129.8, 128.0, 114.1, 55.6, 46.9, 25.2, 23.5. HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 256.1007, found: 240.1016.

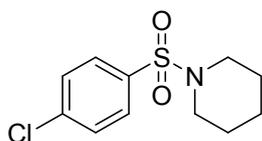
(6) 1-((4-(*tert*-Butyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3f**



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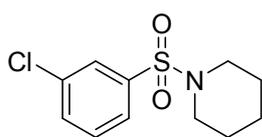
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 15/1, v/v) afforded **3f** as a white solid (87% yield); m.p. = 114–115 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.66–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.44–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 156.2, 133.3, 127.6, 125.9, 46.9, 35.1, 31.1, 25.2, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 282.1528, found: 282.1521.

(7) 1-((4-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3g**



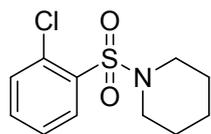
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3g** as a white solid (84% yield); m.p. = 92–93 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.68–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 139.1, 135.0, 129.3, 129.1, 46.9, 25.1, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 260.0512, found: 260.0511.

(8) 1-((3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3h**



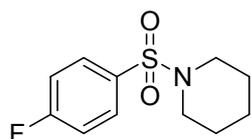
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3h** as a white solid (76% yield); m.p. = 74–75 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.75 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (dt, *J* = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dq, *J* = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.69–1.63 (m, 4H), 1.47–1.43 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 138.3, 135.3, 132.7, 130.3, 127.6, 125.7, 46.9, 25.2, 23.4. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 260.0512, found: 260.0518.

(9) 1-((2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3i**



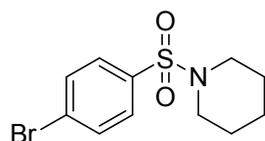
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3i** as colourless oil (61% yield);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 8.05 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (td,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (td,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (t,  $J$  = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.65–1.60 (m, 4H), 1.56–1.52 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 136.7, 133.4, 132.3, 132.1, 132.1, 126.8, 46.5, 25.6, 23.8. HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClNO}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 260.0512, found: 260.0505.

(10) 1-((4-Fluorophenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3j**



Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3j** as a white solid (79% yield); m.p. = 76–77 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.80–7.75 (m, 2H), 7.23–7.19 (m, 2H), 2.99 (t,  $J$  = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.68–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 165.1 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 260 Hz), 132.5 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 3.3 Hz), 130.3 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 9.1 Hz), 116.2 (d,  $J_{\text{C-F}}$  = 22.3 Hz), 46.9, 25.1, 23.5. HRMS (ESI):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{FNO}_2\text{S}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}$ ] $^+$ : 244.0808, found: 244.0803.

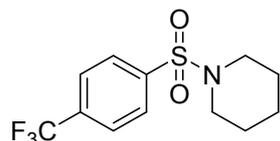
(11) 1-((4-Bromophenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3k**<sup>7</sup>



Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 10/1, v/v) afforded **3k** as a white solid (62% yield); m.p. = 88–89 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.67 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t,  $J$  = 5.2

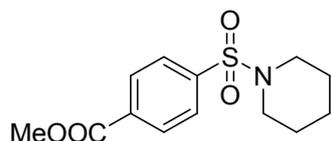
Hz, 4H), 1.67–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 135.5, 132.3, 129.2, 127.6, 46.9, 25.1, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 304.0007, found: 304.0000.

(12) 1-((4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)piperidine **3l**



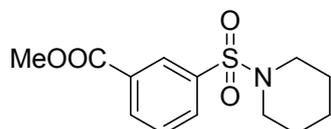
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, v/v) afforded **3l** as a white solid (85% yield); m.p. = 95–96 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.03 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.69–1.63 (m, 4H), 1.48–1.44(m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 140.2, 134.3 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.8 Hz), 128.1, 126.1 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.7 Hz), 123.3 (q, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271 Hz), 46.9, 25.2, 23.4. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 294.0776, found: 294.0766.

(13) Methyl 4-(piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl)benzoate **3m**



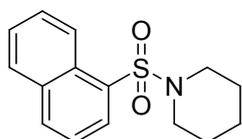
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, v/v) afforded **3m** as a white solid (81% yield); m.p. = 107–109 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H), 3.01 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.67–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.44–1.41 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 165.7, 140.5, 133.8, 130.2, 127.6, 52.7, 46.9, 25.1, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 284.0957, found: 284.0950.

(14) Methyl 3-(piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl)benzoate **3n**



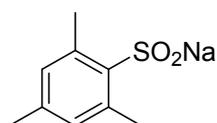
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 5/1, v/v) afforded **3n** as a white solid (84% yield); m.p. = 69–71 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.40 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.67–1.63 (m, 4H), 1.44–1.43 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 165.6, 137.2, 133.5, 131.7, 131.3, 129.2, 128.6, 52.6, 47.0, 25.1, 23.5. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 284.0957, found: 284.0964.

(15) 1-(Naphthalen-1-ylsulfonyl)piperidine **3o**



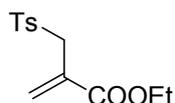
Purification by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 7/1, v/v) afforded **3o** as a white solid (82% yield); m.p. = 67–68 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 8.77 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65–7.52 (m, 3H), 3.17 (s, 4H), 1.61–1.55 (m, 4H), 1.46–1.40 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 134.4, 134.2, 133.3, 130.4, 129.0, 128.8, 127.9, 126.8, 125.4, 124.1, 46.4, 25.4, 23.7. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 276.1058, found: 276.1049.

(16) Sodium 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfinate **2p**



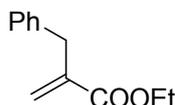
Liquid chromatography area percentage yield of **2p** was relative to internal standard. The characterization of products was performed on UPLC/Q-TOF-MS, (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M-Na]<sup>-</sup>: 183.0480, found: 183.0485. **2p** was further identified by comparing its HPLC performance with that of an authentic sample prepared following literature.<sup>8</sup>

(17) Ethyl 2-(tosylmethyl)acrylate **4**<sup>9</sup>



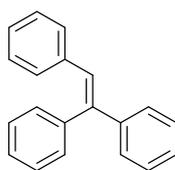
Colourless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 2H), 4.03 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 164.8, 144.9, 135.5, 133.2, 129.7, 129.3, 128.8, 61.5, 57.6, 21.6, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 269.0848, found: 269.0841.

(18) Ethyl 2-benzylacrylate **5**<sup>9</sup>



Colourless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.24–7.12 (m, 5H), 6.16 (s, 1H), 5.37 (s, 1H), 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 165.9, 139.4, 137.8, 128.0, 127.4, 125.3, 124.9, 59.7, 37.1, 13.1. HRMS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 191.1072, found: 191.1077.

(19) Triphenylethylene **7**<sup>10</sup>



Colourless oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.33–7.27 (m, 8H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.08 (m, 3H), 7.04–7.02 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 143.5, 142.6, 140.4, 137.4, 130.4, 129.6, 128.7, 128.2, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8. MS (EI) *m/z* (%) 256 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100).

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## 9. References

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# $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

