Electronic Supplementary Information

DMSO/I₂ mediated C–C bond cleavage of α-ketoaldehydes followed by C–O bond formation: A metal-free approach for one-pot esterification

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1.0. Example for formation of carboxylic acid product : Figure showing ESI-MS and GC-MS mass peaks of intermediates and product



Fig. 1S [A] The ESI-MS analysis of reaction mixture for (1b), collected during progress of reaction at an interval of four hour showing the mass peaks of intermediates predicted as per plausible mechanism; [B] reaction mixture after 6 hr, shows completion of reaction; [C] GC-MS of crude sample of 1b, showing (MS peak 1A) for product 2b, and (MS peak 2A) for the fragment formed during the reaction. [D] and [E] The fragmentation pattern obtained for product and/or intermediate in GC-MS analysis

2.0. Analytical data:

Benzoic acid (2a)^{1a,b} : ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD): δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD): δ 170.1, 134.1, 131.8, 130.8, 129.50. (+) ESI-MS: 145.1 (M⁺ + Na).

2-Bromobenzoic acid (2b)^{1a}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.70-7.67 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.25 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 169.6, 135.3, 134.5, 133.6, 132.1, 128.4, 122.0. (-) ESI-MS: 199.2 (M⁺ -1).

4-Bromobenzoic acid (2c)^{1a,b,d}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 168.8, 132.8, 132.5, 131.1, 128.8; (-) ESI-MS: 199.2 (M⁺ -1).

3-Nitrobenzoic acid (2d)^{1a}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.65 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.36 – 8.31 (m, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 165.9, 148.2, 135.0, 132.4, 129.6, 126.8, 123.8. (-) ESI-MS: 166.1 (M⁺ -1).

3-bromo-4-fluorobenzoic acid (2e)^{1e} : ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.34 (m, 1H), 8.07 (m, 1H), 7.23 (m, 1H). ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -98.11 (td, *J* = 7.2, 5.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.2, 162.7 (d, *J* = 256.2 Hz), 136.1 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz), 131.5 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 126.7 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 116.7 (d, *J* = 23.1 Hz), 109.5 (d, *J* = 21.8 Hz); (-) ESI-MS: 216.8 (M⁺ -1).

2,4-dichlorobenzoic acid (2f)^{1b}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.2, 139.5, 136.0, 133.5, 131.4, 127.1. (-) ESI-MS: 189.2 (M⁺ -1).

4-Chlorobenzoic acid (2g)^{1b,d}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 168.7, 140.2, 132.3, 129.7. (-) ESI-MS: 155.2 (M⁺ -1)

3-Bromo-4-methoxybenzoic acid (2h)¹c**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.05 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD): δ 168.4, 161.0, 135.7, 132.0, 125.4, 112.5, 112.1, 57.0; (-) ESI-MS: 228.9 (M⁺ -1).

3,4-Dimethylbenzoic acid (2i)^{1d}: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.93 – 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.28 – 7.18 (m, 1H), 2.33 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 6H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.7, 143.3, 136.8, 131.2, 129.8, 127.8, 126.9, 20.1, 19.67; (-) ESI-MS: 148.8 (M⁺ -1).

4-Fluorobenzoic acid (2j)^{1d}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 – 8.13 (m, 2H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.7, 168.4, 165.9, 138.5, 133.4, 128.4, 116.5; (-) ESI-MS: 139.0 (M⁺ -1).

4-Nitirobenzoic acid (2k)^{1a,b} : ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 167.6, 151.9, 137.6, 131.9, 124.5. (-) ESI-MS: 166.2 (M⁺ -1).

4-Methylbenzoic acid (21)^{1a,b} : ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 170.0, 145.0, 130.8, 130.1, 129.1, 21.6; (+) ESI-MS: 137.4 (M⁺ + 1).

4-Phenylbenzoic acid (2m)^{1d} : ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.99 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.65 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.38–7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD) δ 169.7, 147.0, 141.2, 131.3, 130.6, 130.0, 129.2, 128.2, 128.0. (-) ESI-MS: 197.3 (M⁺ -1).

3,4,5-Trimethoxybenzoic acid (2n)^{1e}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.93 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.4, 152.9, 142.9, 124.1, 107.3, 60.9, 56.2. (-) ESI-MS: 211.2 (M⁺ -1).

4-methoxybenzoic acid (20)^{1a,b}**:** ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD): δ169.8, 165.0, 132.8, 124.0, 114.6, 55.9. (-) ESI-MS: 151.2(M⁺-1)

4-methoxy-2-methylbenzoic acid (2p)^{1c}**:** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 7.84 (d, *J*=8.3Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s,1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H).¹³CMR (126MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 168.0, 161.7, 142.1, 132.7, 122.0, 116.6, 111.1, 55.2, 21.8, (+) ESI-MS: 163.3 (M⁺+1).

4-(tert-butyl)benzoic acid^{1a} **(2q):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.4, 150.2, 130.1, 129.1, 125.6, 40.6, 31.3. (-) ESI-MS: 177.2 (M⁺ -1).

4-bromo-3-chlorobenzoic acid¹¹ **(2r):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99-7.96 (t, 1H), 7.65-7.62 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.41 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.4, 136.5, 134.9, 134.0, 133.7, 133.5, 121.1. (-) ESI-MS: 232.9 (M⁺ -1).

3-chlorobenzoicacid^{1b} (**2s**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.09 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD): δ 168.4, 135.5, 133.9, 131.2, 130.5, 129.0.

Nicotinic acid ^{1g} (3a) : ¹H NMR (400 MHz, MeOD) δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 8.64 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (dt, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 7.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, MeOD) δ 167.7, 153.6, 151.2, 139.3, 128.7, 125.3. (+) ESI-MS: 124.2 (M⁺+1).

5-methylthiophene-2-carboxylic acid ^{1h} **(3b):** ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 147.7, 133.4, 128.0, 124.6, 13.7. (+) ESI-MS: 143.1 (M⁺ +1).

4-Phenoxybenzoic acid^{1c} (3c): 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 41 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD): δ 169.3, 163.4, 157.09, 133.0, 131.2, 126.1, 125.7, 121.2, 118.2.

Benzofuran-2carboxylic acid^{1c} (**3d**): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, MeOD): δ 7.72 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, MeOD): δ 161.0, 155.7, 146.0, 127.3, 127.1, 123.5, 122.6, 113.4, 111.5. ESI-MS: 163.2 (M⁺+H).

2-Furaic acid^{1j} (3e): ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.92 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 21.1 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, J = 22.5, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.59 – 6.54 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8, 147.5, 143.8, 120.2, 112.3. (+) ESI-MS: 113.2 (M⁺ +1).

Methyl benzoate^{2a} **(4a):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.09 – 7.99 (m, 2H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H); GC-MS:136.1 (M⁺).

Methyl 4-methoxybenzoate^{2a} **(4b):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃ + CD₃OD) δ 8.00 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

Methyl 2-fluorobenzoate^{2b} (**4c**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.24 – 7.07 (m, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H); GC-MS:154.0 (M⁺).

Methyl 4-aminobenzoate^{2a} **(4d):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); GC-MS:151.1 (M⁺).¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 167.28, 151.02, 131.61, 119.52, 113.79, 51.64.

Methyl 5-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate^{2c} (4e): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd, J = 3.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H).

Ethyl benzofuran-2-carboxylate^{2d} **(4f):** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 1H), 7.29 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). **Dihydro β-Ionic Acid** ^{2e} (**5a**): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.43 – 2.39 (m, 2H), 2.37 – 2.34 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.89 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.61 – 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.44 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.00 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 180.3, 135.4, 128.5, 39.7, 34.9, 34.7, 32.7, 28.3, 23.5, 19.65, 19.4. HRMS (+ESI, m/z) calc for C₁₂H₂₀O₂ (M⁺) 196.1458, found (M+H⁺) 197.1530

2.0. Scanned Spectra

Benzoic Acid (2a):



2-Bromobenzoic acid (2b): ¹H NMR



170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 f1 (ppm)

4-Bromobenzoic acid (2c): ¹H NMR



3-Nitrobenzoic acid (2d): ¹H NMR



90 80 f1 (ppm) **3-bromo,4-Fluorobenzoic acid (2e)**: ¹H NMR



50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -120 -140 -160 -180 -200 -220 -240



2,4-dichloro benzoic acid (2f): ¹H NMR







3-Bromo,4-methoxy benzoic acid (2h): ¹H NMR



15

3,4-Dimethylbenzoic acid (2i): ¹H NMR









170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 f1 (ppm)





3,4,5 Trimethoxybenzoic acid (2n): ¹H NMR





175 170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 ft (ppm)



4-methoxy-2-methylbenzoic acid (2p): ¹H NMR

4-(tert-butyl)benzoic acid (2q): ¹H NMR



4-bromo-3-chlorobenzoic acid (2r): ¹HNMR:



¹³C NMR:



3-Chlorobenzoic acid (2s): ¹H NMR













Nicotinic acid (3a):

¹H NMR

9.02 9.02 9.02 9.02 8.8.3 8.8.3 8.8.3 7.45 7.45 7.45 7.45





5-methylthiophene-2-carboxylic acid (3b): ¹H NMR











Benzofuran-2-carboxylic acid (3d): ¹H NMR





Methyl benzoate (4a):



Methyl 4-methoxybenzoate (4b):



Methyl 2-fluorobenzoate (4c):



Methyl 4-aminobenzoate (4d): ¹H NMR



Methyl 5-methylthiophene-2-carboxylate (4e):



Ethyl benzofuran-2-carboxylate (4f): ¹H NMR



Dihydro β -Ionic Acid (5a):



HRMS

Qualitative Compound Report



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