

Supporting Information

Direct substitution of benzylic alcohols with electron-deficient benzenethiols via π -benzylpalladium(II) in water

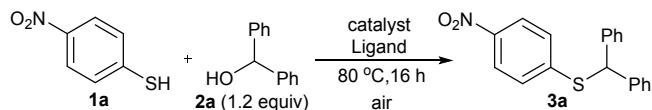
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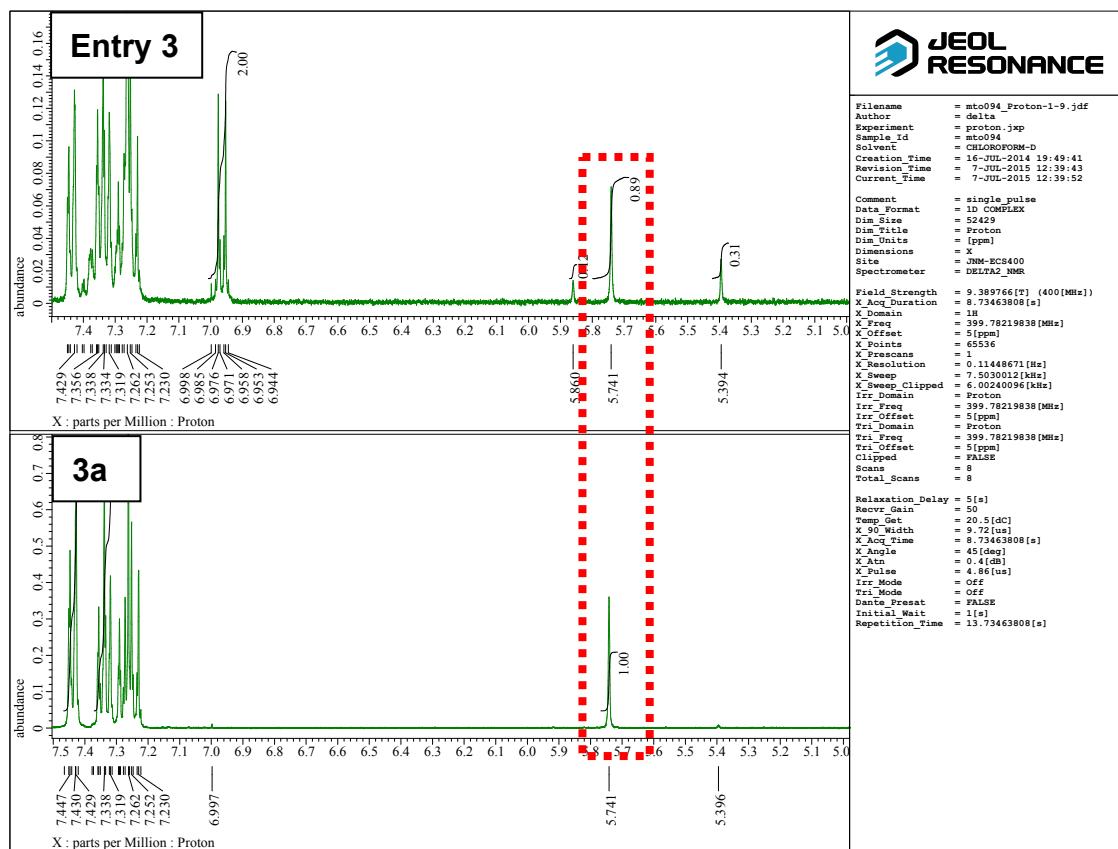
Table 1, Entry 9 (The yield was determined by ^1H NMR analysis of the crude product using *p*-nitroanisole as an internal standard.)



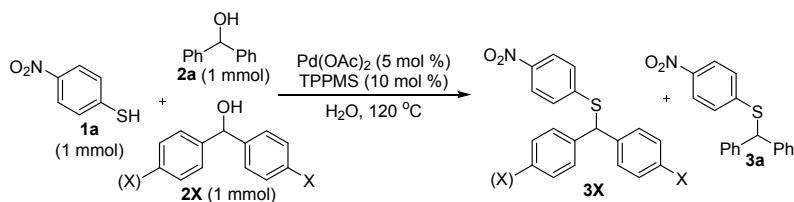
A mixture of 4-nitrobenzenethiol **1a** (155.4 mg, 1 mmol), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{MeCN})_2$ (13.0 mg, 0.05 mmol), TPPMS (36.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), and benzhydrol **2a** (221.6 mg, 1.2 mmol) in H_2O (4 mL) was heated at 80 °C in a sealed tube under air. After the reaction mixture was cooled, *p*-nitroanisole (153.3 mg, 1 mmol, internal standard) was added to the reaction mixture, which was extracted with CDCl_3 (8 mL), then the organic layer was analyzed by ^1H -NMR spectroscopy.

Conversion yield was calculated by integration.

	desired 3a	<i>p</i> -nitroanisole internal standard
Signal δ	5.74 (methine - <u>H</u>)	6.97 (Ar- <u>H</u>)
Integral value	0.89 (1H)	2.00 (2H)
Calculated ratio	89% from 1a	153 mg (1 mmol)

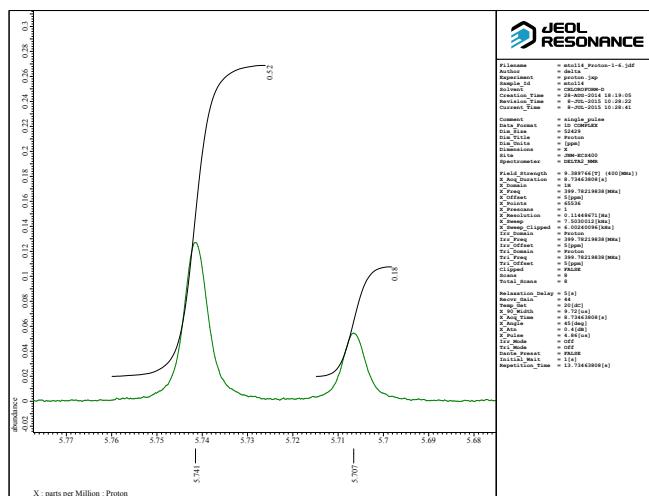
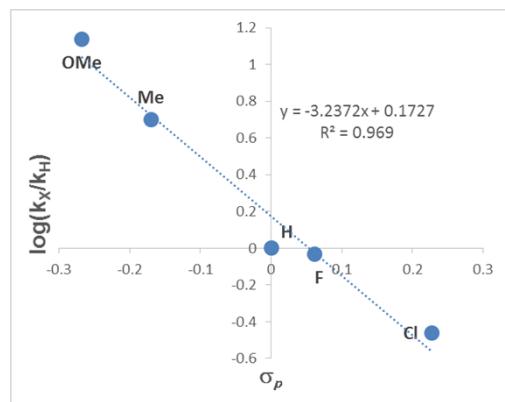


Hammett study

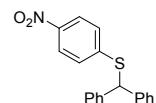


A mixture of 4-nitrobenzenethiol **1a** (155.4 mg, 1 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (11.7 mg, 0.05 mmol), TPPMS (36.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), benzhydryl alcohols **2X** (1 mmol), and benzhydrol **2a** (184.8 mg, 1 mmol) in H₂O (4 mL) was heated at 120 °C in a sealed tube under air. After the reaction mixture was cooled, *p*-nitroanisole (153 mg, 1 mmol, internal standard) was added to the reaction mixture, which was extracted with CDCl₃ (8 mL), then the organic layer was analyzed by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy.

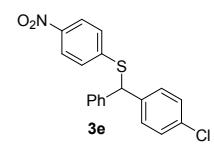
	σ	$\log(k_X/k_H)$
3b (diOMe)	-0.268	1.14
3d (Me)	-0.17	0.70
3c (diF)	0.062	-0.034
3a (H)	0	0
3e (Cl)	0.227	-0.46



X=H, 3a
[methine-H (1H)]
 δ : 5.74 ppm
Integrate: 0.52



X=Cl, 3e
[methine-H (1H)]
 δ : 5.71 ppm
Integrate: 0.18



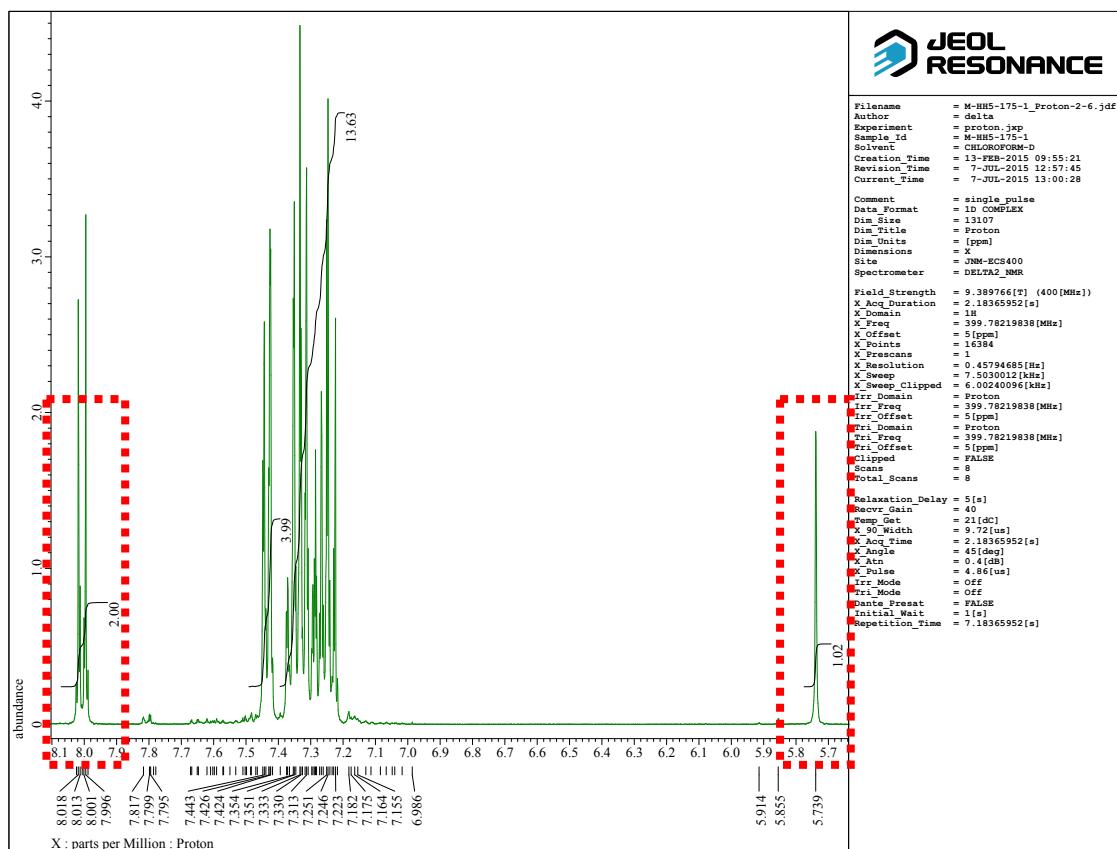
$$\log(k_X/k_H) = \log(0.18/0.52) = -0.46$$

Control experiment (Scheme 6A)

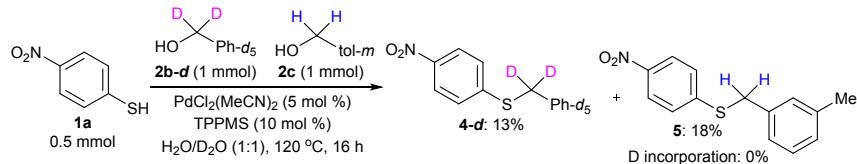


A mixture of 4-nitrobenzenethiol **1a** (77 mg, 0.5 mmol), $\text{PdCl}_2(\text{MeCN})_2$ (6.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), sodium diphenylphosphinobenzene-3-sulfonate (TPPMS, 18 mg, 0.05 mmol), and benzhydrol **2a** (110 mg, 0.6 mmol), in D_2O (1.5 mL) was heated at 80 °C for 16 h in a sealed tube under air. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc) to give desired product **3a** (112 mg, 0.35 mmol, 70%).

Signal δ	8.01 (Ar-H)	5.74 (methin-H)
Integral value	2.0 (2H)	1.0 (1H)

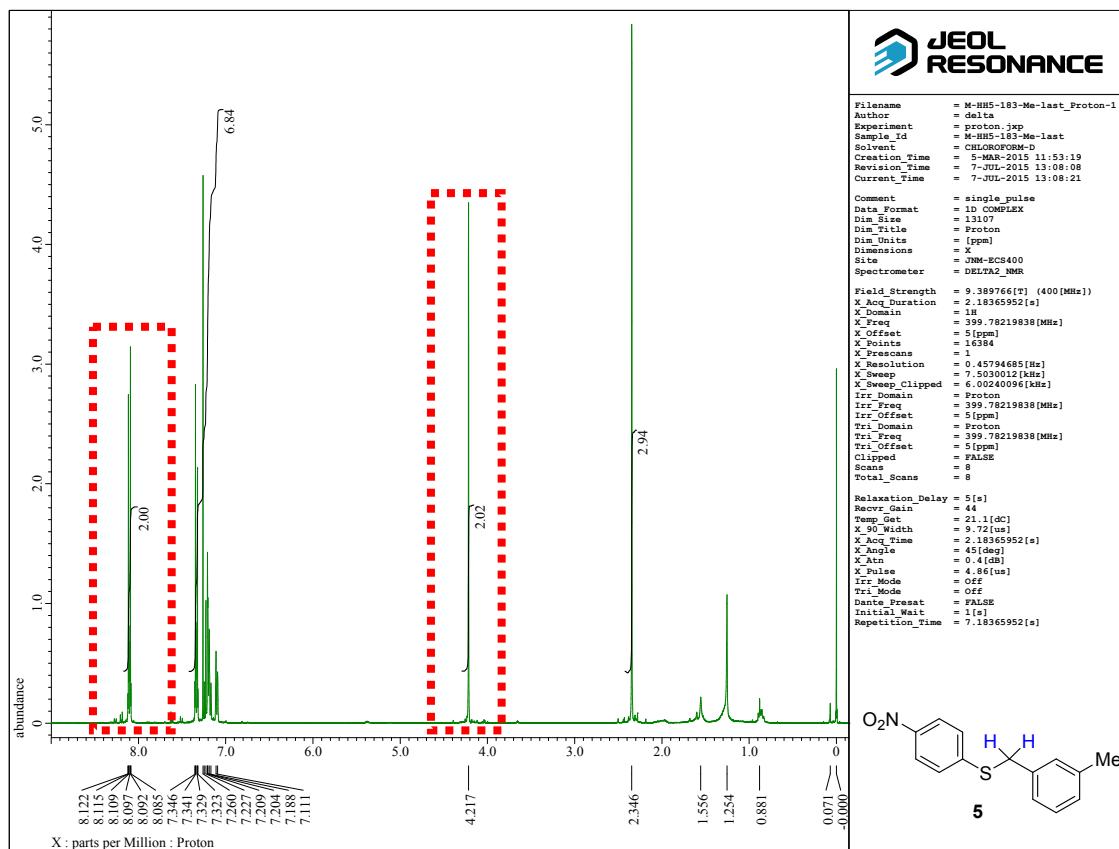


Control experiment (Scheme 6B)

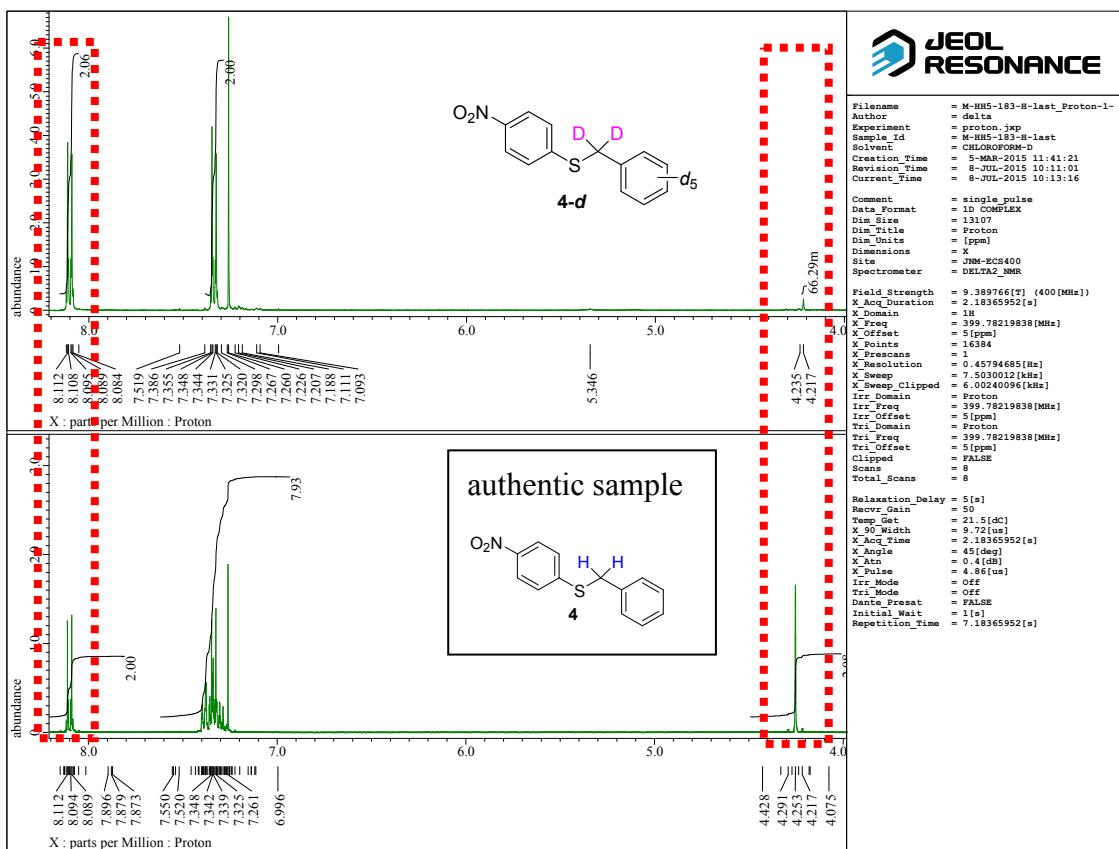


A mixture of 4-nitrobenzenethiol **1a** (77 mg, 0.5 mmol), PdCl₂(MeCN)₂ (6.5 mg, 0.025 mmol), sodium diphenylphosphinobenzene-3-sulfonate (TPPMS, 18 mg, 0.05 mmol), and benzyl alcohol-*d*₇ **2b-d** (114 mg, 1 mmol), and 3-methylbenzyl alcohol **2c** (122 mg, 1 mmol), in H₂O (2 mL) was heated at 120 °C for 16 h in a sealed tube under air. After cooling, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography and PTLC (silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc) to give desired product **4-d** (16 mg, 0.063 mmol, 13%) and **5** (23 mg, 0.09 mmol, 18%), respectively.

Signal δ	8.01 (Ar-H)	4.22 (methylene -H)
Integral value	2.0 (2H)	2.0 (2H)



Signal δ	8.01 (Ar-H)	4.2 (methylene-H)
Integral value	2.0 (2H)	Not detected (2H)



MS (EI): m/z (%) 252 (M^+ , 14.0), 98 (100).

