

Iron Catalyzed Transfer Hydrogenation of Imine Assisted by Iron-based Lewis Acid

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Supporting Information

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I. General information.

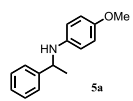
^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AFC 300 (300 MHz) or AMX500 (500 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm), and the residual solvent peak was used as an internal reference: ^1H (chloroform δ 7.26), ^{13}C (chloroform δ 77.00). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constants (Hz) and integration. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), Merck pre-coated TLC plates (Merck 60 F254) were used, and compounds were visualized with a UV light at 254nm.

II. General procedure for transfer hydrogenation of imine

In a nitrogen-filled glovebox, a 4 mL oven-dried sample vial was charged with imine (0.4 mmol), **2** (10.2 mg, 0.02 mmol), $\text{Fe}(\text{acac})_3$ (14.1 mg, 0.04 mmol), 1.0 mL of isopropanol, and then sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was taken outside the glovebox and heated to 110 °C for 48 h, after which the mixture was cooled to room temperature. All the volatiles were removed under vacuum. Purification by flash chromatography (Hexane : EA = 20 : 1) afforded the target products in pure form.

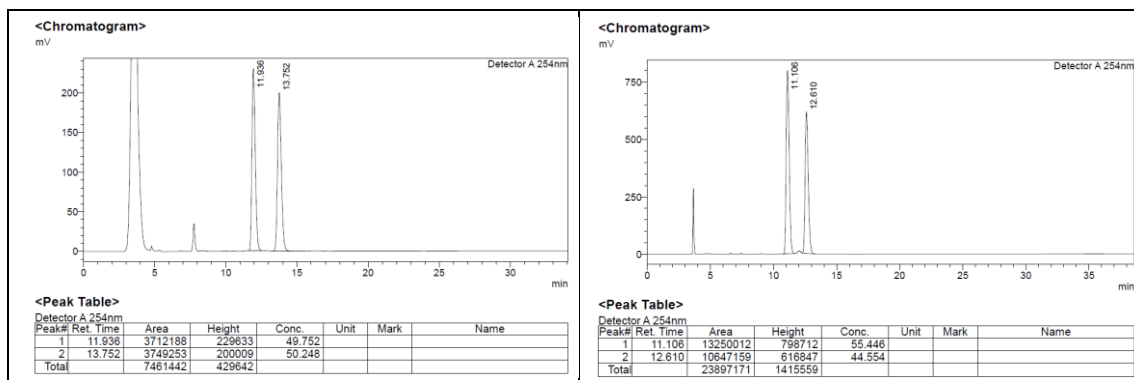
III. Characterization of compounds

4-Methoxy-*N*-(1-phenylethyl)aniline¹ Yellow oil, 88.1 mg, 97% yield. ¹H NMR

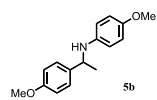


(500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.1, 54.5, 55.8, 114.8, 114.9, 126.0, 126.9, 128.7, 141.5, 145.5, 152.1.

HPLC spectra of 5a

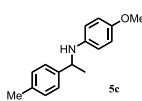


4-Methoxy-*N*-(1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)aniline¹ Yellow oil, 100.7 mg, 98% yield.



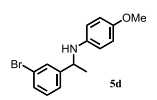
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.49 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.39 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.7, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.7, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.1, 53.8, 55.3, 55.8, 114.1, 114.8, 114.9, 127.1, 137.6, 141.6, 152.1, 158.6.

4-Methoxy-*N*-(1-*p*-tolylethyl)aniline¹ Yellow oil, 95.4 mg, 99% yield. ¹H NMR



(500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.53 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.2, 25.2, 54.1, 55.8, 114.7, 114.9, 125.9, 129.4, 136.4, 141.7, 142.5, 152.0.

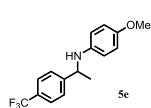
4-Methoxy-*N*-(1-*m*-bromophenylethyl)aniline¹ Yellow oil, 53.7 mg, 44% yield. ¹H



NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.49 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 4.37 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H). ¹³C

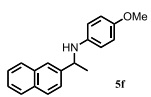
NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.0, 54.1, 55.7, 114.7, 114.8, 122.8, 124.6, 129.0, 130.0, 130.2, 140.9, 148.0, 152.2.

4-Methoxy-N-{1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl}aniline¹ Yellow oil, 64.9 mg, 44%



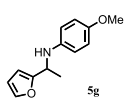
yield. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.51 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.46 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, J = 8.9, 2H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.9, 2H), 7.49 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.1, 54.4, 55.8, 114.9, 115.0, 124.4 (q, J_{CF} = 270.2 Hz), 125.8 (q, J_{CF} = 3.7 Hz), 126.4, 129.3 (q, J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 140.9, 149.7, 152.5. **¹⁹F NMR** (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.29 (3F).

4-Methoxy-N-(1-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethyl)aniline¹ Yellow oil, 109.7 mg, 99% yield.



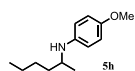
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.60 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.60 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.9, 2H), 6.70 (d, J = 8.9, 2H), 7.44-7.54 (m, 3H), 7.81-7.85 (m, 4H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 25.1, 54.8, 55.8, 114.9, 115.0, 124.5, 124.6, 125.6, 126.1, 127.8, 128.0, 128.6, 132.9, 133.7, 141.4, 143.0, 152.2.

N-[1-(furan-2-yl)ethyl]-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)amine² Yellow oil, 81.6 mg, 94%



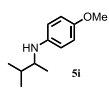
yield. **¹H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.54 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 4.56 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.28-6.29 (m, 1H), 6.61 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.34 (m, 1H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.0, 48.6, 55.8, 105.2, 110.2, 114.9, 115.4, 141.2, 141.5, 152.6, 157.6.

4-Methoxy-N-(hexan-2-yl)aniline¹ Colorless oil, 76.2 mg, 92% yield. **¹H NMR** (500



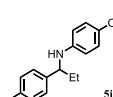
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.91 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.16 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.31-1.43 (m, 5H), 1.55-1.59 (m, 1H), 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.9, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.9, 2H). **¹³C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.2, 20.9, 22.9, 28.5, 37.0, 49.5, 55.8, 114.7, 115.0, 142.0, 151.8.

4-Methoxy-N-(3-methylbutan-2-yl)aniline³ Colorless oil, 74.9 mg, 97% yield. ¹H



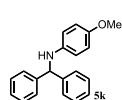
NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.91 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 3.26 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.6, 17.4, 19.4, 32.2, 54.6, 55.9, 114.7, 115.0, 142.2, 151.8.

4-Methoxy-N-(1-*p*-tolylpropyl)aniline⁴ Yellow oil, 101.0 mg, 99% yield. ¹H NMR



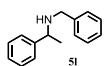
(500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 1.75-1.89 (m, 2H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 4.14 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.9, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.7, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.6, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.9, 31.8, 55.3, 55.8, 60.0, 113.9, 114.6, 114.8, 127.6, 136.2, 142.0, 151.9, 158.5.

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1, 1-diphenylmethanamine¹⁰ Yellow oil, 43.7 mg, 38% yield.



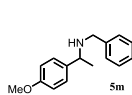
¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.79 (s, 3H), 5.54 (s, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.8, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.8, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.3, 2H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.9, 4H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 7.3, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 55.6, 63.8, 114.6, 114.7, 127.2, 127.4, 128.6, 141.6, 143.2, 152.1.

N-benzyl- α -methylbenzylamine⁵ Colorless oil, 81.9 mg, 97% yield. ¹H NMR (500



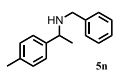
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.44 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (br, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.44 (m, 10H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 51.7, 57.6, 126.8, 126.9, 127.0, 128.2, 128.4, 128.6, 140.7, 145.6.

N-benzyl-N-(α -methyl-*p*-methoxybenzyl)amine⁶ Colorless oil, 92.5 mg, 96% yield.

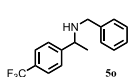


¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (br, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.23-7.34 (m, 7H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 51.7, 55.4, 56.9, 114.0, 127.0, 127.9, 128.3, 128.5, 137.7, 140.7, 158.7.

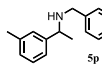
***N*-benzyl-1-(*p*-tolyl)ethanamine**⁶ Colorless oil, 84.6 mg, 94% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.40 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.70 (br, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.37 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.2, 24.6, 51.7, 57.3, 126.7, 126.9, 128.3, 128.5, 129.3, 136.6, 140.8, 142.6.



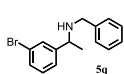
***N*-benzyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethanamine**⁶ Colorless oil, 79.6 mg, 67% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.37 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.70 (br, 1H), 3.59 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.7, 51.8, 57.4, 124.4 (q, *J* = 270.3 Hz), 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 127.1, 127.2, 128.2, 128.6, 129.4 (q, *J* = 32.1 Hz), 140.3, 149.9. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.25 (3F).



1-(3-methylphenyl)-*N*-(phenylmethyl)ethanamine Colorless oil, 69.3 mg, 77% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.39 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.70 (br, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.37 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.6, 24.6, 51.8, 57.6, 123.9, 126.9, 127.5, 127.8, 128.2, 128.5, 138.1, 140.8, 145.7. **HRMS**: calcd. for (M+H)⁺ *m/z* 226.1596, found (M+H)⁺ *m/z* 226.1591.



1-(3-bromophenyl)-*N*-(phenylmethyl)ethanamine Colorless oil, 61.3 mg, 53% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.38 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.62 (br, 1H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.57 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 51.8, 57.2, 122.8, 125.5, 127.1, 128.2, 128.5, 129.9, 130.1, 130.2, 140.5, 148.3. **HRMS**: calcd. for (M+H)⁺ *m/z* 290.0544, found (M+H)⁺ *m/z* 290.0545.

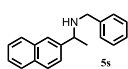


***N*-benzyl-1-(2-Methoxyphenyl)ethanamine**⁷ Colorless oil, 80.0 mg, 83% yield. ¹H



NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.99 (br, 1H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 1H), 4.25 (q, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.94-7.47 (m, 9H). ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.2, 51.6, 52.3, 55.1, 110.4, 120.6, 126.6, 127.1, 127.5, 128.1, 128.2, 133.1, 140.8, 157.1.

***N*-benzyl-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)ethanamine**⁵ Colorless oil, 101.3 mg, 97% yield. ¹H



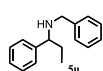
NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.51 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.81 (br, 1H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.91 (m, 12H). ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 51.8, 57.7, 125.0, 125.5, 125.6, 126.1, 127.0, 127.8, 127.9, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 133.0, 133.6, 140.7, 143.1.

1-(furan-2-yl)-*N*-(phenylmethyl)ethanamine⁵ Colorless oil, 75.6 mg, 94% yield. ¹H



NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.45 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (br, 1H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.34-6.35 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.39 (m, 6H). ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.5, 50.6, 51.2, 105.5, 110.0, 127.0, 128.3, 128.5, 140.4, 141.5, 157.9.

***N*-benzyl- α -ethylbenzylamine**⁸ Colorless oil, 88.2 mg, 98% yield. ¹H **NMR** (500



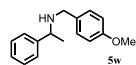
MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.75-1.90 (m, 3H), 3.65 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, 13.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.47 (m, 10H). ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.7, 31.0, 51.5, 64.1, 126.7, 126.8, 127.3, 128.0, 128.2, 140.7, 144.0.

***N*-benzyl-3-methylbutan-2-amine**⁵ Colorless oil, 59.5 mg, 84% yield. ¹H **NMR** (500



MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.02 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 1.41 (br, 1H), 1.71-1.78 (m, 1H), 2.51-2.56 (m, 1H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.35 (m, 4H). ¹³C **NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 16.1, 17.4, 19.4, 32.3, 51.7, 57.7, 126.9, 128.2, 128.4, 141.2.

(p-methoxybenzyl)(1-phenylethyl)amine⁹ Colorless oil, 95.4 mg, 99% yield. ¹H



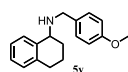
NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.38 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.76 (br, H), 3.55 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.82 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.6, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.5, 2H), 7.27-7.29 (m, 1H), 7.35-7.37 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.6, 51.1, 55.4, 57.5, 113.9, 126.8, 127.0, 128.6, 129.4, 132.9, 145.7, 158.7.

(Isobutyl)(1-phenylethyl)amine⁷ Yellow oil, 53.1 mg, 75% yield. ¹H NMR (500



MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.36 (d, *J* = 6.6, 3H), 1.45 (br, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 2.23 (dd, *J* = 11.4 Hz, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, *J* = 11.4 Hz, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.30-7.34 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.6, 20.8, 24.5, 28.5, 55.8, 58.3, 126.5, 126.7, 128.3, 146.0.

N-[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-amine Yellow oil,



99.3 mg, 93% yield. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.57 (br, 1H), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.95 (m, 2H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.77 (m, 1H), 2.88 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.94 (m, 6H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.40 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.0, 28.1, 29.3, 50.5, 54.5, 55.2, 113.7, 125.6, 126.5, 128.7, 128.9, 129.2, 133.0, 137.4, 139.3, 158.5.

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V. NMR Spectra

