

Supporting Information

Iodine-induced synthesis of sulfonate esters from sodium sulfinates and phenols under mild conditions

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1. General Information.

Unless otherwise noted, all of solvents and reagents were used as received. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400 spectrometer (^1H : 400 MHz, ^{13}C : 100 MHz). The chemical shifts were referenced to signals at 7.26 and 77.0 ppm, respectively. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet. Mass spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP5050A spectrometer at an ionization voltage of 70 eV equipped with a DB-WAX capillary column. GC-MS was obtained using electron ionization (EI). High-resolution mass spectra (ESI) were obtained with a LCMS-IT-TOF mass spectrometer.

2. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Sodium Sulfinates (2w-2y).¹

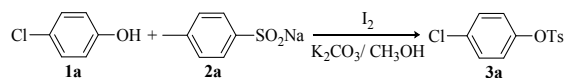
Sodium 4-ethylbenzenesulfinate (**2w**) was prepared by heating 2.04 g of 4-ethylbenzenesulphonyl chloride, 2.5 g of sodium sulfite and 1.68 g of sodium bicarbonate in 10 mL of water at 70-80°C for 4 h. After cooling to room temperature, water was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted by ethanol. The pure product (white solid) was obtained via recrystallization, and the yield was 71% (1.36 g). Similarly, sodium 4-methoxybenzenesulfinate (**2x**) and sodium phenylmethanesulfinate (**2y**) were prepared from the corresponding sulphonyl chlorides.

3. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Sulfonate Esters

4-Chlorophenol **1a** (0.5 mmol), sodium p-tolylsulfanolate **2a** (0.6 mmol), I_2 (0.5 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1 equiv) and CH_3OH (2 mL) were added to a 10 mL glass tube at room temperature under continuously stirring for 5 h and monitored periodically by TLC. The reaction mixture was decolorized by adding $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ aqueous solution and washed with water (20 mL). Then the aqueous solution was extracted with diethyl ether (3×5 mL) and dried by anhydrous MgSO_4 . The solvent was removed under reduced pressure by an aspirator, and the crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (20:1–8:1) as eluent to give the pure product **3a**.

4. Optimization of Reaction Conditions.

Table S1 Optimization of reaction conditions ^a



Entry	I ₂ (mmol)	K ₂ CO ₃ (mmol)	Time (h)	Yield ^b (%)
1	0.10	0.50	5	20
2	0.20	0.50	5	38
3	0.30	0.50	5	57
4	0.40	0.50	5	79
5	0.50	0.50	5	98
6	0.50	0.25	5	86
7	0.50	0.80	5	97
8	0.50	1.00	5	95

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.5 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), CH₃OH (2 mL) and room temperature. ^b GC yield

based on **1a**.

5. Analytical Data for All Products

4-Chlorophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3a).² White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.07, 145.65, 132.78, 132.07, 129.87, 129.72, 128.53, 123.78, 21.72.

Phenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3b).² White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40–7.17 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.69, 145.33, 132.48, 129.74, 129.60, 128.52, 127.07, 122.39, 21.70.

***p*-Tolyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3c).**³ White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.51, 145.26, 136.94, 132.52, 130.09, 129.72, 128.52, 122.05, 21.69, 20.86.

4-Bromophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3d).⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.63, 145.68, 132.73, 132.04, 129.89, 128.53, 124.17, 120.58,

21.74.

4-Iodophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3e). Yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.47, 145.73, 138.76, 132.01, 129.94, 128.51, 124.51, 91.80, 21.78. ESI-HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{INaO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 396.9366, found 396.9373.

4-Nitrophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3f).² White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.93, 146.26, 146.21, 131.75, 130.12, 128.48, 125.40, 123.22, 21.76.

4-Isopropylphenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3g). Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 2.86 (dt, J = 13.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.20 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.79, 147.59, 145.20, 132.70, 129.70, 128.49, 127.48, 122.06, 33.58, 23.91, 21.69. ESI-HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 313.0876, found 313.0869.

***o*-Tolyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3h).**⁴ Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (dd, J = 9.7, 4.5 Hz, 3H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.38, 145.35, 133.24, 131.59, 129.81, 128.39, 126.98, 126.91, 122.30, 21.70, 16.29.

2-Chlorophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3i).² White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.74, 145.63, 132.65, 130.76, 129.80, 128.63, 127.92, 127.82, 127.62, 124.22, 21.75.

2-Iodophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3j). Yellow solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 4H), 7.05 – 6.87 (m, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.01, 145.84, 140.11, 132.79, 129.87, 129.57, 128.85, 128.44, 122.98, 90.31, 21.81. ESI-HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{11}\text{INaO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 396.9364, found 396.9366.

2-Cyanophenyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3k). Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H),

7.37 (dd, $J = 12.7, 7.8$ Hz, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.24, 146.46, 134.38, 133.79, 131.50, 130.13, 128.78, 127.50, 123.71, 114.50, 107.77, 21.79.

***m*-Tolyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3l).** Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.71 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.13 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.61, 145.24, 139.97, 132.62, 129.69, 129.20, 128.51, 127.84, 123.00, 119.13, 21.70, 21.23. ESI-HRMS calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{NaO}_3\text{S}$ $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ 282.0559, found 282.0556.

Naphthalen-1-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3m).² White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.90 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 3H), 7.71 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.82, 145.45, 134.75, 132.83, 129.81, 128.49, 127.71, 127.33, 127.10, 126.73, 126.71, 125.13, 121.81, 118.40, 21.67.

Naphthalen-2-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3n).⁷ White needles; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.81 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.73 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 3H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.22, 145.40, 133.46, 132.47, 131.90, 129.80, 129.76, 128.58, 127.89, 127.77, 126.86, 126.39, 121.19, 119.97, 21.73.

Quinolin-8-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3o).² White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.78 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.08 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (dd, $J = 7.4, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.77, 145.51, 145.12, 141.52, 135.76, 133.12, 129.62, 129.45, 128.71, 127.06, 125.95, 122.35, 121.88, 21.61.

4-Chlorophenyl benzenesulfonate (3p).⁶ White solid; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.99, 135.08, 134.44, 132.89, 129.76, 129.26, 128.50, 123.74.

phenethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3q).⁸ Colorless oil ; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.68 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 4.21 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.95 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.66, 136.24, 133.04, 129.80, 128.91, 128.60, 127.83, 126.88, 70.61, 35.37, 21.62.

propyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3r).⁸ Yellow liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.70 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.64, 133.27, 129.81, 127.88, 72.15, 22.32, 21.63, 9.97.

hexyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (3s).⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.65 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.26 (dt, *J* = 24.8, 9.1 Hz, 6H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.62, 133.28, 129.80, 127.90, 70.71, 31.09, 28.78, 25.00, 22.41, 21.63, 13.91.

4-Chlorophenyl 4-fluorobenzenesulfonate (3t). White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.91 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.42, 164.86, 147.86, 133.07, 131.47, 131.38, 131.02, 129.87, 123.70, 116.82, 116.60. ESI-HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₈ClFNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 308.9764, found 308.9759.

4-Chlorophenyl 4-chlorobenzenesulfonate (3u).⁶ White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.82, 141.30, 133.52, 133.14, 130.28, 129.91, 129.65, 123.66.

4-Chlorophenyl 4-bromobenzenesulfonate (3v). White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (s, 4H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.81, 134.05, 133.12, 132.66, 129.93, 129.92, 129.89, 123.67. ESI-HRMS calcd for C₁₂H₈BrClNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 368.8958, found 368.8957.

4-Chlorophenyl 4-ethylbenzenesulfonate (3w). White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 151.74, 148.06, 132.82, 132.76, 132.20, 129.72, 128.73, 128.63, 123.80, 28.92, 14.94. ESI-HRMS calcd for C₁₄H₁₃ClNaO₃S [M+Na]⁺ 319.0172, found 319.0166.

4-Chlorophenyl 4-methoxybenzenesulfonate (3x). White solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dd, *J* = 19.5, 8.8 Hz, 4H), 3.89 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.26, 148.10, 132.74, 130.80, 129.70, 126.30, 123.85, 114.42, 55.75.

ESI-HRMS calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}ClNaO_4S$ $[M+Na]^+$ 320.9960, found 320.9959.

4-Chlorophenylphenylmethanesulfonate (3y). White solid; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.41 (s, 5H), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.50 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 147.57, 132.79, 130.90, 129.95, 129.44, 129.09, 127.06, 123.43, 56.97. ESI-HRMS calcd for $C_{13}H_{11}ClNaO_3S$ $[M+Na]^+$ 305.0005, found 305.0010.

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6. NMR Spectra

