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Supporting Information

Dioxygen-induced oxidative activation of P-H bond: radical

oxyphosphorylation of alkenes and alkynes toward β-oxy

phosphonates

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General information

All reactions were run under air atmosphere with a dry air balloon fitted on a Schlenk tube. All the solvents were purified according to the solvents handbook. Unless otherwise noted, materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) employed glass 0.25 mm silica gel plates. Flash chromatography columns were packed with 200-300 mesh silica gel. EPR spectra were recorded on a Bruker A-200 spectrometer. HPLC yields were recorded with a DIONEX P680 HPLC Pump. IR spectra were recorded on a Mettler Toledo React IR TM 15 spectrometer using a diamond comb. ESI-MS spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU LCMS-2020. All new compounds were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and HRMS. The known compounds were characterized by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR data were recorded with ADVANCE III 400 MHz with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured with a Waters Micromass GCT instrument. All chemical shifts (δ) were reported in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in Hz. All chemical shifts were reported relative to tetramethylsilane (0 ppm for ¹H), and CDCl₃ (77.16 ppm for ¹³C), respectively.

Experimental section

1) General procedure for preparation of phosphine oxides¹

$$R \stackrel{\text{I}}{=} \overset{\text{Br}}{\xrightarrow{}} \overset{\text{Mg}}{\text{THF, rt}} R \stackrel{\text{I}}{=} \overset{\text{MgBr}}{\xrightarrow{}} \overset{\text{O}}{\xrightarrow{}} \overset{\text{$$

Diethylphosphite (1.29 mL, 10.0 mmol) was added dropwise at 0 °C to a solution of phenylmagnesium bromide in tetrahydrofuran which was prepared from aryl bromides (32.6 mmol) and magnesium (0.95 g, 39.6 mmol). The mixture was aged for 15 minutes at 0 °C, then stirred at ambient temperature for two hours. After that it was cooled again to 0 °C, and 75 mL NH₄Cl aqueous was then added slowly. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether and the organic phase was washed with NaHCO₃ aqueous and brine, then it was dried over Na₂SO₄. After the solvent had been completely removed, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate = 1/1 as eluent to give the product.

2) Optimization of α -methylstyrene with diphenylphosphine oxide

Ph 1a	+ $\begin{array}{c} O \\ HPPh_2 \end{array}$ + $\begin{array}{c} O_2 \\ (air) \end{array}$	conditions	HO O Ph PPh ₂ 3aa
Entry	Temp.	Solvent	Yield ^[b]
1 ^[c]	45	THF	34
2	45	THF	87(94)
3	r.t.	THF	32
4	45	DMF	80
5	45	Toluene	44
6	45	CH₃CN	54
7	45	DMSO	87
8	45	DCE	43
9 ^[d]	45	THF	18
10 ^[e]	45	THF	0

Table S1. Optimization of α -methylstyrene with diphenylphosphine oxide^[a]

^[a] Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at 45 °C for 2 h under 1 atm of air (ballon). ^[b] Yield was determined by ¹H NMR analysis using CH₂Br₂ as internal standard, isolated yield in parentheses. ^[c] **2a** (0.4 mmol) was used. ^[d] Under O₂. ^[e] Under N₂.

3) Optimization of phenylacetylene with diphenylphosphine oxide

Ph 4a	$\begin{array}{ccc} & O \\ + & \overset{ }{HPPh_2} & + & O_2 \\ & & \text{(air)} \end{array}$	conditions	Ph 5aa
Entrya	Temp. / °C	Solvent	Yield ^[b]
1	45	THF	24
2	60	NMP	30
3 ^[c]	60	NMP	39
4 ^{[c][d]}	60	NMP	71(71)

Table S2. Optimization of phenylacetylene with diphenylphosphine oxide^[a]

^[a] Unless otherwise specified, all reactions were carried out using **4a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol) in solvent (2.0 mL) at for 2 h under air. ^[b] Yield was determined by HPLC analysis using naphthalene as internal standard, isolated yield in parentheses. ^[c] $O_2/N_2 = 1:1$ was used. ^[d] phenylboronic acid (0.2 mmol) was added.

4) Procedure and analytical data of compounds 3aa-5ae

OH O II PPh₂

(2-hydroxy-2-phenylpropyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3aa):² Typical procedure: To a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was added diphenylphosphine oxides 2a (121.3 mg, 0.6 mmol), and a

balloon filled with dry air was connected to the Schlenk tube through the side arm and purged one time. Then, α-methylstyrene **1a** (23.6 mg, 0.2 mmol), THF (2.0 mL) were injected in the reaction tube with magnetic stirring. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 45 °C for 2 h. Thereafter, the reaction organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was separated on a silica gel column with petroleum ether (60-90 °C), ethyl acetate (2:1) as eluent to afford the desired product. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.31 (m, 5H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 3H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 2.92 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 1.60 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 3H).¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.9 Hz), 134.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 98.8 Hz), 132.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 100.4 Hz), 132.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 1.3 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 1.8 Hz) 128.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.8 Hz), 128.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 127.9, 126.7, 124.9, 74.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.4 Hz), 42.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 69.2 Hz), 32.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 9.6 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.88.



(2-hydroxy-2-(p-tolyl)propyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ab): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 4H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.59 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.9 Hz), 136.1, 134.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 98.7 Hz), 132.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 100.4 Hz),132.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.7 Hz), 131.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 130.5 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 6.1 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.7 Hz), 128.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.7 Hz), 128.5, 128.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 124.8, 74.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.4 Hz), 42.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 69.3 Hz), 32.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 9.8 Hz), 20.9. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.86. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₂H₂₄O₂P (M+H): 351.1508; found: 351.1501.



(2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)propyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ac): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.77-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.39-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.00-6.97 (m, 1H), 6.90-6.87 (m, 2H), 6.56-6.54 (m, 1H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.90 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.3, 148.6 (d, *J* _{C-P} = 5.8 Hz), 134.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 98.7 Hz), 132.42 (d, *J* _{C-P} = 100.9 Hz), 132.1 (d, *J* _{C-P} = 2.6 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 130.4, 130.3, 129.0, 128.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.8), 128.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 117.4, 112.3,

110.7, 74.3 (d, $J_{C-P} = 5.4 \text{ Hz}$), 55.2, 42.3 (d, $J_{C-P} = 69.1 \text{ Hz}$), 32.9 (d, $J_{C-P} = 9.8 \text{ Hz}$). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.84. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₂H₂₄O₃P (M+H): 367.1458; found: 367.1458.

Br

(2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxypropyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ad): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.46 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.22 (m, 4H), 7.12 (q, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 2.89 (ddd, *J* = 22.5, 14.9, 9.4 Hz, 2H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.6 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 4.9 Hz), 133.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 99.3 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.5 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.6 Hz), 130.8, 130.4 (t, *J*_{C-P} = 9.5 Hz), 129.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.8 Hz), 128.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 127.0, 120.8, 74.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.5 Hz), 42.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 69.4 Hz), 33.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 10.7 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.81. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₁H₂₁BrO₂P (M+H): 415.0457; found: 415.0450.



(2-hydroxy-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ae): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.38 (m, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 2.94 (ddd, *J* = 22.1, 14.9, 9.4 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.1 Hz), 133.6 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 99.6 Hz), 132.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.7 Hz), 132.0, 131.52 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 131.49 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 99.9 Hz), 130.5, 130.4, 130.3, 129.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.8 Hz), 128.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 32.3 Hz), 128.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 125.6, 124.8 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 3.8 Hz), 124.2 (q, *J*_{C-F} = 272.8 Hz), 74.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.5 Hz), 42.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 69.5 Hz), 33.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.1 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.84. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₂H₂₁F₃O₂P (M+H): 405.1226; found: 405.1216.



(2-hydroxy-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)propyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3af): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (s, 1H), 7.77-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.66-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.55-7.38 (m, 6H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 3H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.94-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.25 (s, 1H), 3.05 -2.94 (m, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.9 (d, $J_{C-P} = 5.4$ Hz), 134.0 (d, $J_{C-P} = 98.2$ Hz), 133.0, 132.3, 132.1 (d, $J_{C-P} = 2.8$ Hz), 131.8 (d, $J_{C-P} = 100.8$ Hz), 130.9 (d, $J_{C-P} = 2.8$ Hz), 130.4 (d, $J_{C-P} = 9.7$ Hz), 130.3 (d, $J_{C-P} = 10.1$ Hz), 129.0 (d, $J_{C-P} = 11.8$ Hz), 128.4, 127.9 (d, $J_{C-P} = 12.1$ Hz), 127.6, 127.3, 125.9, 125.7, 123.9, 123.4, 74.5 (d, $J_{C-P} = 5.2$ Hz), 42.4 (d, $J_{C-P} = 69.4$ Hz), 32.9 (d, $J_{C-P} = 10.1$ Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.88. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₅H₂₄O₂P (M+H): 387.1508; found: 387.1500.



(2-hydroxy-2-(4-(p-tolylthio)phenyl)propyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ag): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.40-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.18 (m, 5H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 2.95-2.84 (m, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.5 Hz), 137.7, 135.0, 133.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 99.1 Hz), 132.2, 132.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 100.3 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.7 Hz), 131.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 131.3, 130.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 7.3 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 7.0 Hz), 130.1, 129.2, 128.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 10.1 Hz), 128.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.1 Hz), 125.8, 74.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.4 Hz), 42.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 69.3 Hz), 33.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 10.1 Hz), 21.3. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.88. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₈H₂₈O₂PS (M+H): 459.1542; found: 459.1531.



(2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-hydroxypropyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ah): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.78-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.60-7.43 (m, 11H), 7.38-7.30 (m, 6H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 3.18-3.02 (m, 2H), 1.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 147.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 6.2 Hz), 140.3, 138.2, 134.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 97.0 Hz), 134.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 98.3 Hz), 131.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.5 Hz), 130.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.2 Hz), 130.2, 130.1, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.4 Hz), 128.10 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.7 Hz), 127.2, 126.6, 125.9, 125.5, 73.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 4.8 Hz), 42.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 68.3 Hz), 31.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 6.7 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO) δ 29.45. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₇H₂₆O₂P (M+H): 413.1665; found: 413.1655.

Ph OH 0 PPh2

(2-hydroxy-2,2-diphenylethyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3ai):³ The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.30 (m, 8H), 7.10-7.02 (m, 6H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 3.39 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.1 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz), 133.0 (d, *J* = 100.3 Hz), 131.7 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz), 130.5 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 128.6 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz), 128.0, 127.0, 126.0, 77.8 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz), 40.9 (d, *J* = 69.5 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 32.30.



(2-cyclopropyl-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (3aj): ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84-7.79 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.41-7.33 (m, 5H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.12-7.04 (m, 3H), 5.83 (s, 1H), 3.05 – 2.93 (m, 2H), 1.14 (tt, *J* = 8.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 0.73 (td, *J* = 9.7, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 0.38 (td, *J* = 9.7, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 0.22 – 0.15 (m, 1H), 0.13 – 0.06 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 6.8 Hz), 133.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 98.9 Hz), 133.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 99.8 Hz), 132,0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 131.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 130.6 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 9.4 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 9.8 Hz), 128.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 11.8 Hz), 128.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.0 Hz), 127.8, 126.6, 125.2, 74.1 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.1 Hz), 41.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 68.4 Hz), 23.8 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 9.5 Hz), 3.2, 1.5. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 33.00. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₅H₂₄O₂P (M+H): 363.1508; found: 363.1502.



(2-hydroxy-2-phenylpropyl)di-p-tolylphosphine oxide (3ba): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.02 (m, 5H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 2.86 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.58 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 6.5 Hz), 142.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.9 Hz), 141.6 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.9 Hz), 130.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 101.2 Hz), 130.4 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.5 Hz), 130.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.9 Hz), 129.5(3) (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.2 Hz), 129.4(7) (d, *J*_{C-P} = 102.4 Hz), 129.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 12.5 Hz), 127.8, 126.4, 124.7,

74.2 (d, $J_{C-P} = 5.4 \text{ Hz}$), 42.3 (d, $J_{C-P} = 69.1 \text{ Hz}$), 32.6 (d, $J_{C-P} = 8.9 \text{ Hz}$), 21.6, 21.5. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 33.30. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₃H₂₆O₂P (M+H): 365.1665; found: 365.1660.



(2-hydroxy-2-phenylpropyl)di-m-tolylphosphine oxide (3ca): The synthesis procedure is the same as for 3aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.32 (m, 4H), 7.13-6.99 (m, 7H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 2.95-2.85 (m, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.8 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz), 138.8 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 138.0 (d, *J* = 11.9 Hz), 133.8 (d, *J* = 98.4 Hz), 132.8 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J* = 99.6 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 131.1 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 130.8 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 128.7 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 128.1 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz), 127.7, 127.3 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 127.1 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 126.5, 124.8, 74.2 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 42.3 (d, *J* = 68.9 Hz), 32.9 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 21.6, 21.5. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 33.15. HRMS (ESI+) calculated for C₂₃H₂₆O₂P (M+H): 365.1665; found: 365.1663.

2-(diphenylphosphoryl)-1-phenylethan-1-one (5aa):⁴ Typical procedure: To an Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar were added di(phenyl) phosphine oxides **2a** (121.3 mg, 0.6 mmol), and a balloon filled with air and nitrogen (1:1) was connected to the Schlenk tube through the side arm and purged one time. Then, phenylacetylene **4** (20.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), NMP (2.0 mL) was injected in the reaction tube with magnetic stirring. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 60 °C for 2 h. Thereafter, the reaction organic layers were concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was separated on a silica gel column with petroleum ether (60-90 °C), ethyl acetate (1:1) as eluent to afford the desired product. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.56-7.40 (m, 9H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.3 Hz), 137.7, 133.7, 132.3 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 103.1 Hz), 131.2 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 129.4, 128.7 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 128.6, 43.4 (d, *J* = 57.9 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.01.

2-(diphenylphosphoryl)-1-(p-tolyl)ethan-1-one (5ab):⁴ The synthesis procedure is the same as for **5aa**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.83 – 7.78 (m, 4H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.35 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 144.6, 134.5, 132.2 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J* = 103.3 Hz), 131.1 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 129.4, 129.3, 128.6 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 43.23 (d, *J* = 58.2 Hz), 21.73. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.04.



2-(diphenylphosphoryl)-1-(m-tolyl)ethan-1-one (5ac):⁴ The synthesis procedure is the same as for **5aa**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83-7.78 (m, 5H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.52-7.44 (m, 7H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 2H), 4.14 (d, *J* = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 2.35 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 138.4, 137.0, 134.5, 132.2 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 103.4 Hz), 131.2 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 129.6, 128.7 (d, *J* = 12.3 Hz), 128.5, 126.7, 43.3 (d, *J* = 58.5 Hz), 21.4. ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 27.24.



2-(diphenylphosphoryl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethan-1-one (5ad):⁴ The synthesis procedure is the same as for **5aa**. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.54-7.46 (m, 6H), 7.07 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.2 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.6 Hz), 166.1 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 256.0 Hz), 133.4 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 2.8 Hz) 132.3 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 2.8 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 9.6 Hz), 131.7 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 103.5 Hz), 131.1 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 9.8 Hz), 128.7 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 12.4 Hz), 115.7 (d, *J*_{C-F} = 22.0 Hz), 43.5 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 57.1 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.88.

1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(diphenylphosphoryl)ethan-1-one (5ae):⁴ The synthesis procedure is the same as for 5aa. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.49-7.45 (m, 4H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.9 (d, *J*_{C-P} = 5.6 Hz), 135.7, 132.4 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 132.2, 131.9, 131.1 (d, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 130.9, 129.2, 128.8 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz), 43.6 (d, *J* = 56.7 Hz). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.82.

5) General procedure for the electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) experiment

Typical procedure: To an Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was added diphenylphosphine oxides **2a** (0.6 mmol), and a balloon filled with dry air was connected to the Schlenk tube through the side arm and purged one time. Then, THF (2.0 mL) was injected in the reaction tube with magnetic stirring. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at 45 °C for 10 min, followed by the addition of 10 ul DMPO and stir at room temperature for 5 min. Then, this reaction was taken out by capillary and was analyzed by EPR at room temperature. This result was shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. The electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra (X band, 9.4 GHz, room temperature)

6) Labeling experiments



Typical procedure for ¹⁸**O**₂ **labeling experiments:** To an Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar were added diphenylphosphine oxides **2a** (0.6 mmol), and dry THF (2.0 ml) was quickly added under N₂. The reaction mixture was degassed the air by the method of freeze-pump-thaw cycle for 4 times. Then ¹⁸O₂/N₂ (1:4) was purged one time, α -methylstyrene **1a** (0.2 mmol) was further injected into the reaction tube with magnetic stirring. The reaction mixture was vigorous stirred at 45 °C for 2 h. Thereafter, the reaction mixture was analyzed by LC-MS and the yield was isolated. The ESI-MS spectral of the reaction



7) In-situ NMR spectra



Figure 2. Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL) at 45 °C for different time under air.

8) General procedure for the reaction of 1a with 2a detected by oprendo IR

Typical procedure: a three-necked reaction vessel was equipped with a stir bar, the operando IR probe was inserted through an adapter into the middle neck, other two necks were capped by septa for injections and a dry air balloon. Then diphenylphosphine oxides **2a** (242.6 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added. After evacuation under vacuum and flushing with air through the dry air balloon for three times, THF (4.0 mL) was added to the vessel via a springe and the reaction was monitored by operando IR at 45 °C. Afterwards, **1a** (47.2 mg, 0.4 mmol) was added under air and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir vigorously at 45 °C for 2 h.





Figure 3. The Characteristic IR band of the different species (in THF).



Figure 4. The kinetic profile of the reaction of **1a** (0.4 mmol), **2a** (1.2 mmol) in THF (4.0 mL) at 45 °C under air.

9) General procedure for the reaction of 1a with 2a detected by LC-MS

A mixture of α -methylstyrene **1a** (0.2 mmol) with diphenylphosphine oxide **2a** (0.6 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was stirred under air at 45 °C for 1 h. After completion of the reaction, a sample of this mixture was analyzed by LC-MS directly. The intermediate **IV** and HOP(O)Ph₂ were detected ([M+H]⁺ = 353.30 and [M+H]⁺ = 219.25).





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NMR spectra of products

3aa











- 32.839





110 90 f1 (ppm)



- 32.841











-32.880



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-33.304







- 27.005













