Regioselective copper-catalyzed N(1)-(hetero)arylation of protected histidines

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Supporting Information

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General Considerations

Reagents were available from commercial suppliers and used without any additional purification unless otherwise noted. Histidine, aryl halides, base, solvent, copper catalyst and ligands were purchased from commercial sources such as Chem-Impex, Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa-aesar, Merck, and Avra chemicals. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (NMR) were recorded on a BrukerAvance-III 400 spectrometer as ¹H NMR (400 MHz), and ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz). Chemical shifts for ¹H NMR were reported as δ values and coupling constants were indicated in hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations were used for reported spin multiplicity: s = singlet, br.s. = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublets, m =

multiplet and q = quadruplet. When splitting patterns could not be interpreted easily, was reported as multiplet (m). If required mixture of two deuterated solvents was used while recording the spectra to enhance the solubility and prevent precipitation of N-arylated histidines. Thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck precoated silica gel plates (0.25 mm, 60 Å pore size) impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). Visualization on TLC was observed under UV light (254 nm) and staining with iodine vapours, or Dragendorf's solution. All the synthesized N-arylated compounds were isolated by automated flash chromatography on silica gel (200–400 mesh). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on Bruker Maxis and chiral HPLC experiments were performed on Shimadzu Prominence using an CHIRALPAK[®]-WH column (250mm L x 4.6mm i.d.) and the mobile phase used in this study was 0.50 mM copper(II) sulphate (Cu₂SO₄.5H₂O) in water and 2-propanol (95:5), gradient run for 70 min at flow rate of 1 mL/min at constant oven temperature of 50 °C.

1. General procedure for the N-(hetero)arylation of protected histidine

All the solid reagents were weighed in air, transferred to a 10 mL pre-dried MW vial with a septum and equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. In the MW vial, the solid materials such as Boc-His-OMe (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), copper iodide (10 mol%), and K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv.) was added and dried by applying vacuum and then back filling with argon or nitrogen. This procedure was repeated 3 times after which all the liquids reagents like aryl iodide (1.2 equiv., if it is liquid), ligand (20 mol%) and DMF (1 mL) were added under positive pressure of argon or nitrogen. After completion of this procedure, the MW vial was sealed and allowed to stir at constant temperature of 130 °C for 40 min. After the completion of reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and to crude mixture was added water (4 mL). The product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL) and the combined organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure. The reaction mixture was purified on a automated flash chromatography system (Biotage) to afford the N-arylated histidines using mobile combination of dichloromethane (97-90%) and methanol (3-10%).

2. Experimental section

Characterization data of synthesized compounds 2.1.

N-α-Boc-1-(phenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2a): Yield = 89% (2aa), 23% (2ab); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD3OD): δ 8.05 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 4.3, 4H), 7.42-7.37 (m, 2H), 4.50-4.46 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dd, J = 14.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C



NMR (100 MHz, CD3OD): 172.8, 156.4, 138.1, 137.0, 135.1, 129.6, 127.2, Boc M OMe 120.6, 116.0, 79.3, 53.7, 51.4, 29.8, 27.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m/z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 346.1767, found 346.1761.

 $N-\alpha$ -Boc-1-(4-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2b): Yield = 91% (2ba), 27% (2bb); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD3OD): δ 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.39-7.30 (m, 5H), 4.47 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.10 (dd, J = 14.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H);



C NMR (100 MHz, CD3OD): 172.7, 156.4, 137.9, 137.4, 135.0, 134.6, Boc H G MINIK (100 MIL2, 00000, 1000) Boc H G MIL2, 00000, 1000, 1000 MIL2, 00000, 100000, 10000, 10000, 10000, 100000, 100000, 100000, 100000, 1000000, 1000000, 100000, 10000000, 100000, 10000000, 10000000, 1000

N-α-Boc-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2c): Yield = 84%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 4.48-4.45 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.10 (dd, J = 14.7, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.5 Hz,



 BOC
 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR [100 MH_z, CD₃OD]: 172.8, 159.1, 156.4, 137.7,

 135.2, 130.2, 122.3, 116.5, 114.6, 79.3, 54.7, 53.8, 51.3, 29.7, 27.3; HRMS

 (ESI-TOF): *m*/*z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 376.1872, found 376.1866.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-ethylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2d): Yield = 85%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.24 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.37 (m, 5H), 4.49 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.15 (dd, J = 15.1, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J = 8.s7, 14.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H),1.27 (t,



J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD3OD): 174.0, 157.8, 145.8, 138.1, Boc M (100 ML) 0100 (100 ML) 020002), 17 Ho; 12 Ho; 1000) 1000; 136.2, 135.8, 130.4, 122.2, 118.1, 80.8, 54.9, 52.8, 30.7, 29.3, 28.6,16.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m*/*z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 374.2080, found 374.2067.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-butylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2e): Yield = 81%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 3H), 4.37-4.34 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.99 (dd, J = 15.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 14.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.55-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.21 (m, 11H), 0.84 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR [100 MH_z, CD₃OD]:



174.3, 157.8, 143.8,139.3, 136.5, 136.2, 130.9, 122.0, 117.5, 80.8, 55.2, 52.8, 36.0, 34.7, 31.2, 28.7, 23.2, 14.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 402.2393, found 402.2383.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2f): Yield = 82%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (s, 1H), 4.49-4.46 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, J = 14.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 14.9, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.36 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD3OD): 172.8, 156.4, 150.6, 137.9, 135.0,



134.5, 126.5, 120.2, 116.1, 79.3, 53.8, 51.3, 34.0, 30.3, 29.8, 27.2; HRMS(ESI-TOF): m/z [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 402.2393, found 402.2385.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-biphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2g): Yield = 83% (2ga), 25% (2gb); ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 2H), 4.51-4.48 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.12 $(dd, J = 14.5, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z, 100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); {}^{13}C NMR [100 MH_z] (dd, J = 14.9, 8.9 Hz) (dd$ CD₃OD]: 172.9, 156.4, 140.3, 139.5, 138.2, 136.0, 135.1, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 126.5, 120.8,

115.9, 79.4, 53.8, 51.4, 29.8, 27.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m/z* [(M+H)⁺] Booc H Come 115.9, 79.4, 53.8, 51.4, 29.8, 27.3; H calculated for 422.2080, found 422.2771.

N-α-Boc-1-(1-napthyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2h): Yield = 83%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.01 (t, J = 8.5 ssHz, 2H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.61-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 4.54 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.19 (dd, J = 14.6, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR [100 MHz , CD₃OD]: 172.8, 156.4, 138.0, 134.3, 133.5, 129.3, 129.2, 128.1, 127.4,



N-α-Boc-1-(6-methoxy-1-napthyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2i): Yield = 79%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.13 (s, 1H), 7.93-7.83 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.52-4.49 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 3H) 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.14 (dd, J = 14.6 Hz,



5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J = 14.5, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, $\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & &$ DF): *m*/*z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 426.2029, found 426.2018.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2j): Yield = 92%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.37 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 4.54 (br.s., 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.17-2.98 (m, 2H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 172.7,



156.1, 146.2, 141.8, 135.6, 134.7, 125.6, 120.7, 116.5, 79.9, 53.3, 52.1, BOC^N COME 30.3, 27.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m/z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 391.1617, found 391.1611.

N-α-Boc-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2k): Yield = 88%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.55-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 4.47 (br.s., 1H), 3.13-3.08 (m, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 13.7, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 172.7, 156.4,



138.4, 135.7, 133.2, 132.2, 13 138.4, 135.7, 135.2, 132.6, 129.6, 122.0, 115.9, 79.3, 53.7, 51.3, 29.8,

N-α-Boc-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (21): Yield = 83%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.25 (m, 2H), 4.49-4.45 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, J = 14.7, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C



NMR [100 MH_z, CD₃OD]: 172.8, 161.7 (d, J = 244 Hz), 156.4, 138.1, 135.3, 133.4, 122.8, 116.4, 116.2, 79.4, 53.7, 51.4, 29.7, 27.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m*/*z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 364.1672, found 364.1666.

N-α-Boc-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2m): Yield = 88%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.57-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.41-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 1H), 4.50-4.46 (m, J = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9H); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1Hz, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 110 Hz, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 110 Hz, 1.40 (s, 9Hz); I = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 110 (s, 91H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, J = 14.9, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); 131.3, 116.1, 113.9, 113.6, 107.7, 79.4, 53.7, 51.4, 29.7, 27.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 364.1672, found 364.1668.

N-α-Boc-1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2n): Yield = 83%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, J = 12.0 Hz , 2H), 7.76-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 4.51-4.48 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, J = 14.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (S, 9H); ¹³C NMR [100 MH_z, CD₃OD] δ 172.9, 156.5, 138.1, 137.5, 135.4, 131.9 (q, J = 33



Hz), 130.8, 124.2, 123.7, 123.6 (q, J = 271 Hz), 117.2, 115.9, 79.5, 53.6, 51.5, 29.8, 27.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 414.1640, found 414.1634.

N-α-Boc-1-(3-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (20): Yield = 84%; ¹H NMR [400 MHz, CD₃OD] δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.39-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.48 (br.s., 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.11 (d, J = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01-2.95 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR [100 MHz, CD₃OD]: 172.9, 156.4,



40.1, 137.9, 136.9, 135.0, 129.5, 127.9, 121.0, 117.6, 116.0, 79.4, 53.7, Boc $H \downarrow Come$ 51.5, 29.8, 27.3, 20.0; HRMS (ESI-TOF): m/z [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 360.1923, found 360.1916.

N-α-Boc-1-(2-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2p): Yield = 77%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD3OD): δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.29 (m, 4H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 4.49 (br.s., 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.17 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 14.3, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz,



CD₃OD): 172.6, 156.4, 136.9, 135.9, 133.6, 131.1, 129.2, 126.8, 126.0,

N-α-Boc-1-(3-pyridyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2q): Yield = 85%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 8.72 (s, 1H), 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 1H), 7.37 (s, 1H), 4.37 (br.s., 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.01 (dd, J = 15.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (dd, J = 14.6, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.29 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 174.0, 157.8, 149.1, 142.9, 140.0, 136.9,



,, 142.9, 140.0, 136.9, 135.3, 130.4, 126.1, 117.2, 80.6, 54.8, 52.7, 31.2, 28.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m/z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 347.1719, found 347.1714.

N-α-Boc-1-(3-quinolinyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2r): Yield = 83%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 9.06 (s, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.76 (m, 1H), 7.67 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 4.53 (br.s., 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.16 (dd, J = 15.3, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, J = 15.7, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100



MHz, CD₃OD): δ 172.7, 156.4, 146.2, 143.6, 138.9, 135.7, 130.6, 129.9, Boc N Mill, CC 300, C 1. 2. , 127.9, 127.8, 126.5, 116.1, 79.3, 53.7, 51.4, 29.8, 27.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m*/*z* [(M+H)⁺] calculated for 397.1876, found 397.1867.

N-α-Boc-1-(6-nitro-3-quinolinyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2s): Yield = 86%; ¹H NMR (400



 $MHz, CD_{3}OD): \delta 9.33 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.72 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 1H), 8.39 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.51-8.48 (m, 2H), 8$ 7.66 (s, 1H), 4.53 (br.s., 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.17 (dd, J = 13.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H),

3.04 (dd, J = 15.3, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 172.6, 156.4, 148.0, 147.1, 146.5, 131.9, 130.3, 127.4, 127.0, 124.4, 122.8, 115.8, 79.3, 53.6, 51.4, 29.8, 27.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF): *m*/*z* [(M+Na)⁺] calculated for 464.1546, found 464.1540.

N-α-Boc-1-(2-thiophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2t): Yield = 75%; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.18-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 4.48-4.44 (m, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.12-3.07 (m, 1H), 2.98-2.92 (m, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR



(100 MHz, CD3OD): δ 172.6, 156.4, 138.8, 136.8, 126.1, 121.1, 118.7, $\begin{array}{c} & & \\$

2.2. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data

N-α-Boc-1-(phenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2a)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2b)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2c)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-ethylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2d)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-butylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2e)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2f)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-biphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2g)





N-α-Boc-1-(1-napthyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2h)





 $N-\alpha$ -Boc-1-(6-methoxy-1-napthyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2i)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2j)





N-α-Boc-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2k)





200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm

N-α-Boc-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2l)





N-α-Boc-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2m)





N-α-Boc-1-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2n)





N-α-Boc-1-(3-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (20)





N-α-Boc-1-(2-methylphenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2p)





N-α-Boc-1-(3-pyridyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2q)





N-α-Boc-1-(3-quinolinyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2r)





200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 ppm

N-α-Boc-1-(6-nitro-3-quinolinyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2s)





N-α-Boc-1-(2-thiophenyl)-L-histidine methyl ester (2t)





3. Chiral HPLC study

Compound **2a**, Boc-D-His(1-phenyl)-OMe and Boc-DL-His(1-phenyl)-OMe were synthesized under optimized reaction conditions, and subjected to full deprotection under 7N HCl at 100 °C for 12 h. The compounds L-His(1-phenyl)·2HCl, D-His(1-phenyl)·2HCl and DL-His(1-phenyl)·2HCl were analyzed by chiral HPLC.







Figure 2. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of D-His-(1-phenyl)·2HCl



Figure 3. Chiral HPLC chromatogram of DL-His(1-phenyl)·2HCl