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# **Supporting Information**

### **Carboxyl Radical-Assisted 1,5-Aryl Migration through Smiles Rearrangement**

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#### Preparation of 4-Fluoro-2-phenoxybenzoic acid, 10, Scheme 2.<sup>1</sup>

A mixture of 2-chloro-4-fluorobenzoic acid (873 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenol (940 mg, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.4 g, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), pyridine (0.4 mL, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cu powder (50 mg) and CuI (50 mg) in 5.0 mL H<sub>2</sub>O was taken in a 50 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was kept at reflux for 6 h. The mixture was then basified with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O once and the aqueous phase was acidified with HCl. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (697 mg, 60%), mp 102-104 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.93 (td, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 165 (d, *J* = 250.5 Hz), 157.5 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 157.0, 134.3 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 130.5, 124.0, 120.9 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 118.5, 111.4 (d, *J* = 22.5 Hz), 108.2 (d, *J* = 25.5 Hz).

### Preparation of 2-(*p*-Tolyloxy)-4-fluorobenzoic acid, 1p, Scheme 2.<sup>1</sup>

A mixture of 2-chloro-4-fluorobenzoic acid (873 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), *p*-cresol (1.0 mL, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (1.4 g, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), pyridine (0.4 mL, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cu powder (50 mg) and CuI (50 mg) in 5.0 mL H<sub>2</sub>O was taken in a 50 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was kept at reflux for 6 h. The mixture was then basified with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O once and the aqueous phase was acidified with HCl. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (690 mg, 56%), mp 108-110 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  12.93 (brs, 1H), 7.90 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (td, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.1, 164.9 (d, *J* = 250.5 Hz), 158.2 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 154.5, 134.2 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz), 133.4, 130.9, 120.5 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 118.9, 110.8 (d, *J* = 21.0 Hz), 107.3 (d, *J* = 24.0

Hz), 20.7; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1675, 1597, 1440, 1258, 851, 770 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{11}FO_3Na [M + Na]^+$ : 269.0590; found: 269.0585.

## Preparation of 4-Fluoro-2-(naphthalen-3-yloxy)benzoic acid, 1q, Scheme 2.<sup>1</sup>

A mixture of 2-chloro-4-fluorobenzoic acid (873 mg, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), naphthalen-2-ol (1.4 g, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.4 g, 10 mmol, 2.0 equiv), pyridine (0.4 mL, 5.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cu powder (50 mg) and CuI (50 mg) in 5.0 mL H<sub>2</sub>O was taken in a 50 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was kept at reflux for 6 h. The mixture was then basified with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O once and the aqueous phase was acidified with HCl. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$  and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (819 mg, 58%), mp 178-180 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.96-7.99 (m, 2H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.17 (td, J = 9.0 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, J = 10.2Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>);  $\delta$  165.9, 165.1 (d, J = 250.5 Hz), 157.3 (d, J =10.5 Hz), 155.2, 134.4 (d, J = 10.5 Hz), 134.3, 130.5, 130.2, 128.1, 127.5, 127.1, 125.3, 121.1 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 119.7, 113.1, 111.8 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 109.4 (d, J = 24.0 Hz); IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1681, 1603, 1429, 1293, 1232, 768, 609 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{11}FO_3Na [M + Na]^+$ : 305.0590; found: 305.0591.

#### Preparation of 2-(Naphthalen-1-yloxy)benzoic acid, 1j, Scheme 2.<sup>1</sup>

A mixture of 2-ethyliodobenzoate (2.76 g, 10 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 1-naphthol (1.73 g, 12 mmol, 1.2 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (1.8 g, 13 mmol, 1.3 equiv), Cu powder (0.32 g, 5.0 mmol, 0.5 equiv) and KI (830 mg, 5.0 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in 20 mL DMF was taken in a 100 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 24 h under nitrogen atmosphere. Then the reaction mixture was quenched through the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/ ethyl acetate = 9/1) to obtain the pure desired ethyl 2-(naphthalen-1-

yloxy)benzoate in 23% (672 mg) yield as a colorless oil. Then the pure ethyl 2-(naphthalen-1yloxy)benzoate (0.6 g, 2.05 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 0.75 g NaOH in 10 mL H<sub>2</sub>O and 10 mL MeOH and stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The reaction mixture was then acidified with 6N HCl. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (50 mL) and water (40 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel, hexane/ ethyl acetate = 7/3 as eluent to afford the desired white solid product 80% (435 mg) yield, mp 131-133 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (dd, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ 167.0, 155.7, 153.4, 134.9, 134.0, 131.9, 128.2, 127.2, 126.54, 126.46, 126.0, 124.5, 124.4, 123.3, 122.0, 120.7, 112.2.

#### Preparation of 4-Nitro-2-phenoxybenzoic acid, 1s, Scheme 2.

To a stirred solution of 2-chloro-4-nitrobenzoic acid (1.50 g, 7.45 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and phenol (1.5 g, 16 mmol, 2.1 equiv) in MeOH (10 mL) was added a solution of NaOMe in MeOH (25 wt%, 5.0 mL, 20 mmol) under nitrogen atmosphere. After 15 minutes the solution was concentrated to dryness and the residue was taken up in dimethylacetamide (30 mL). Copper powder (50 mg) was added and the mixture was heated at 180 °C for 1 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was cooled and acidified with 3N HCl until no more precipitate had formed. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and cold water (70 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (20 mL x 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 95:5 dichloromethane /methanol) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (1.35 g, 70%), mp 161-163 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.01-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.0, 156.2, 155.9, 150.2, 132.6, 130.8, 130.6, 124.9, 119.4, 118.5, 114.3; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1699, 1546, 1350, 1242, 800 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>0</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 282.0378; found: 282.0381.

### Preparation of 2-Phenoxypyridine-3-carboxylic acid, 1w, Scheme 2.<sup>2</sup>

Ethyl 2-chloropyridine-3-carboxylate (1.5 g, 8.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenol (1.5 g, 16 mmol, 2.0 equiv), anhydrous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.3 g, 24 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and solvent DMF (50 mL) were taken in a single necked round bottom flask fitted with a reflux condenser and heated to 100 °C for 10 h. The formation of ethyl 2-phenoxypyridine-3-carboxylate was monitored by TLC. After the completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. After that ice cold water was added to the reaction mixture and the product was extracted with ethyl acetate (20 x 2), the organic layer was washed with 10 % NaOH solution (10 mL), and washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 8:2 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product ethyl 2-phenoxypyridine-3-carboxylate as a yellowish oil, (1.3 g, 65%). After that the pure ethyl 2-phenoxypyridine-3-carboxylate (730 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was taken in a 100 mL single necked round bottom flask. LiOH (400 mg, 9.0 mmol, 3.0 equiv), THF (4.0 mL) and water (1.0 mL) were added under stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for overnight at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After the completion of the reaction the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was cooled to 5 °C by adding ice cold water and neutralised using concentrated HCl. The solid thus obtained was filtered, washed with cold water and dried under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired 2phenoxypyridine-3-carboxylic acid product as a white solid, (280 mg, 43%), mp 180-182 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.22-8.25 (m, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  165.9, 160.9, 153.9, 150.6, 141.6, 129.7, 124.6, 121.5, 119.0, 116.4; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1689, 1586, 1426, 1277, 1240, 751 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{12}H_9NO_3Na [M + Na]^+$ : 238.0480; found: 238.0478.

# General experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-(Phenylthio)benzoic acids, Scheme 3.<sup>3</sup>

To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, 2-iodo benzoic acid (744 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added in 20 mL of water, followed by thiophenols (3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium hydroxide (KOH) (841 mg, 15 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and copper(0) (19 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 110  $^{\circ}$ C for 12 h. Then the reaction mixture was

cooled and acidified with 3N HCl until no more precipitate was formed. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$  and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane as eluent to afford the desired white solid product.

**2-(Phenylthio)benzoic acid, 3a, Scheme 3.**<sup>3</sup> The same general procedure was followed by using 2-iodo benzoic acid (744 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and benzenethiol (0.31 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (636 mg, 92%), mp 166-168 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.92 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  167.8, 142.1, 135.5, 132.8, 132.6, 131.3, 130.5, 129.7, 128.1, 127.3, 125.1; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1676, 1465, 1409, 1254, 744, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SNa [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 253.0299; found: 253.0301.

**2-(4-Chlorophenylthio)benzoic acid, 3c, Scheme 3.** The same general procedure was followed by using 2-iodo benzoic acid (744 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-chlorobenzenethiol (433 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (715 mg, 90%), mp 240-242 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.92 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.38 (td, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  167.8, 141.3, 137.0, 134.6, 133.0, 131.9, 131.3, 130.5, 128.4, 127.6, 125.4; IR (neat):  $\nu_{max}$  1675, 1465, 1312, 1261, 814, 741 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>CIO<sub>2</sub>SNa [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 286.9909; found: 286.9910.

**2-**(*p***-Tolylthio**)**benzoic acid, 3d, Scheme 3.** The same general procedure was followed by using 2-iodo benzoic acid (744 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and 4-methylbenzenethiol (373 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (667 mg, 91%), mp 206-208 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.91 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  167.8, 142.9, 139.7, 135.8, 132.8, 131.3, 131.2, 128.8, 127.6, 126.8, 124.8, 21.2;

IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1674, 1461, 1412, 1252, 806, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{14}H_{12}O_2SNa [M + Na]^+$ : 267.0456; found: 267.0453.

#### Preparation of 4-Fluoro-2-(phenylthio)benzoic acid, 3b, Scheme 3.

To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, 2-chloro-4-fluorobenzoic acid (524 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added in 20 mL of dimethylformamide (DMF), followed by benzenethiol (0.31 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium hydroxide (KOH) (337 mg, 6.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and copper(0) (95 mg, 1.5 mmol, 0.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated to 130 °C for 12 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled and acidified with 3N HCl until no more precipitate had formed. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and cold water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with cold water (10 mL x 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography ( $SiO_2$ , eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (521 mg, 70%), mp 195-197 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.02 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 5H), 7.04 (td, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (dd, J = 10.8 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.9, 164.6 (d, J = 250.5 Hz), 146.8 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 136.1, 134.4 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 131.4, 130.8, 130.5, 123.7 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 113.0 (d, J = 25.5 Hz), 112.1 (d, J = 21.0 Hz); IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1675, 1568, 1415, 1258, 909, 690 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{13}H_9FO_2SNa [M + Na]^+$ : 271.0205; found: 271.0189.

#### Preparation of 5-Bromo-2-(phenylthio)benzoic acid, 3e, Scheme 3.

To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, 2,5-dibromobenzoic acid (840 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added in 20 mL of dimethylformamide (DMF), followed by benzenethiol (0.31 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium carbonate ( $K_2CO_3$ ) (830 mg, 6.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and copper(0) (50 mg, 0.75 mmol, 0.25 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated to 150 °C for 12 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled and acidified with 3N HCl until no more precipitate had formed. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and cold water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with cold water (10 mL x 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl

acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (556 mg, 60%), mp 168-170 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  8.00 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.57 (m, 6H), 6.64 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.5, 141.9, 135.6, 135.4, 133.4, 131.9, 130.6, 130.1, 129.7, 129.2, 117.6; IR (neat):  $v_{max}$  1692, 1457, 1414, 1306, 1248 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>SNa [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>: 330.9404; found: 330.9411.

#### Preparation of 5-Fluoro-2-(phenylthio)benzoic acid, 3f, Scheme 3.

To a 100 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, 2-bromo-5-fluorobenzoic acid (657 mg, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added in 20 mL of dimethylformamide (DMF), followed by benzenethiol (0.31 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv), potassium carbonate (K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) (830 mg, 6.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and copper(0) (50 mg, 0.75 mmol, 0.25 equiv). The reaction mixture was heated to 150 °C for 12 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled and acidified with 3N HCl until no more precipitate had formed. The resulting precipitates were extracted with dichloromethane (60 mL) and cold water (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with cold water (10 mL x 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography ( $SiO_2$ , eluting with 6:4 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (462 mg, 62%), mp 160-162 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.66 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.51 (m, 5H), 7.28 (td, J = 8.4Hz, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, J = 9.0 Hz, 5.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 159.8 (d, J = 243.0 Hz), 136.9 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 135.0, 132.9, 130.5, 130.4 (d, J = 7.5Hz), 130.1 (d, J = 7.5 Hz), 129.6, 120.1 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 117.5 (d, J = 22.5 Hz); IR (neat):  $v_{max}$ 1687, 1465, 1424, 1250, 755 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{13}H_9FO_2SNa [M + Na]^+$ : 271.0205; found: 271.0210.

## **Optimization Details:**



entry	catalyst	oxidant	base	time	temp.	yield
1	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 10 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 3.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	25%
2	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 20 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 3.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	23%
3	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 3.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	30%
4 <sup>a</sup>	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	[PhCO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> 1.25 equiv	-	24 h	75° C	18%
5	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	aq. TBHP 3.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	0%
6	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 2.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	34%
7	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	40%
8	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.0 equiv	-	24 h	120° C	35%
9	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	44%
10	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	TBHP in decene 3.0 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	0%
11 <sup>b</sup>	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	0%
12 <sup>c</sup>	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	0%
13 <sup>d</sup>	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	20%
14	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$(NH_4)_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	27%
15	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	PhI(OAc) <sub>2</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	0%
16	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	[PhCO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	trace
17	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 10 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	35%
18	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 2.5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	32%

19	AgOAc 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	34%
20	Ag <sub>2</sub> O 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	33%
21	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	36%
22	Ag <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> 5 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	35%
23	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	120° C	25%
24	Pd(TFA) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	trace
25	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	36%
26	Fe(acac) <sub>3</sub> 20 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	37%
27	Ni(OTF) <sub>2</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	35%
28	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	40%
29	TBAI 5 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	30%
30	I <sub>2</sub> 10 mol%	TBHP in decene 3.0 equiv	-	36 h	130° C	0%
31	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	Selectflour 1.5 equiv	-	36 h	120° C	trace
32 <sup>e</sup>	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv.	-	36 h	130° C	0%
33	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	NaHCO <sub>3</sub> 1.5 equiv.	36 h	130° C	35%
34	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	$K_2CO_3$ 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	10%
35	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	18%
36	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> 2 equiv	36 h	130° C	trace
37	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	<sup>t</sup> BuOK 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	0%
38	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	34%
39	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	$CF_3COONa$ 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	50%
40	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CH <sub>3</sub> COONa 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	30%
41	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COONa 3.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	48%
42	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	64%
43	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK 1.5 equiv	36 h	130° C	57%

44	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$Na_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	130° C	53%
			2.0 equiv			
45	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv.	CH <sub>3</sub> COOCs	36 h	130° C	18%
			2.0 equiv			
46	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	DBU 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	0%
47	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	KHCO <sub>3</sub> 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	20%
48	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	$Li_2CO_3$ 2.0 equiv	36 h	130° C	32%
49	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 10 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	130° C	52%
			2.0 equiv			
50	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 2.0 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	130° C	50%
			2.0 equiv			
51 <sup>f</sup>	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	130° C	60%
			2.0 equiv			
52	-	$K_2S_2O_8$ 1.5 equiv	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	130° C	37%
			2.0 equiv			
53	AgNO <sub>3</sub> 5 mol%	-	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	$130^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$	0%
			2.0 equiv			
54	-	-	CF <sub>3</sub> COOK	36 h	$130^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$	0%
			2.0 equiv			

<sup>a</sup>HIFP solvent was used. <sup>b</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN:H<sub>2</sub>O, 1:1) solvent was used. <sup>c</sup>DMF, DMSO, THF, DCE, 1,4dioxane, Ph-CF<sub>3</sub>, Toluene and CF<sub>3</sub>COOH solvent was used. <sup>d</sup>PhCN solvent was used. <sup>e</sup>1,10-Phenanthroline ligand was used. <sup>f</sup>O<sub>2</sub> was used.

#### Migratory reaction of 1a at 0.5 mmol scale, Scheme 2.

To an oven-dried 100 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenoxybenzoic acid (107 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silver nitrate (4.3 mg, 0.025 mmol), potassium persulfate (203 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and potassium trifluoroacetate (152 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was taken and dry MeCN (10 mL) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at 130 °C. After completion (as indicated by TLC), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water (50 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL x 3) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellow oil, (53.5 mg, 50%).

The electrospray ionization (ESI) mass data of the crude standard reaction mixture



#### **Control experiments, Scheme 4.**

# The standard reaction with radical scavenger (2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO), Scheme 4a.

To an oven-dried 15 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenoxybenzoic acid (21.5 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silver nitrate (0.9 mg, 0.005 mmol), potassium persulfate (40.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), potassium trifluoroacetate (30.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and (2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) (31 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was taken and dry MeCN (2.0 mL) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. A very trace amount (>5%) product was formed as indicated by TLC.

# The standard reaction with radical scavenger (Butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), Scheme 4a.

To an oven-dried 15 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenoxybenzoic acid (21.5 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silver nitrate (0.9 mg, 0.005 mmol), potassium persulfate (40.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv), potassium trifluoroacetate (30.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) (88 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was taken and dry MeCN (2.0 mL) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at 130  $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. A very trace amount (>5%) product was formed as indicated by TLC.

#### Crossover experiment, Scheme 4b.

To an oven-dried 15 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)benzoic acid (12.5 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), 5-nitro-2-phenoxybenzoic acid (13 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1.0 equiv), silver nitrate (0.9 mg, 0.005 mmol), potassium persulfate (40.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and potassium trifluoroacetate (30.5 mg, 0.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was taken then dry MeCN (2.0 mL) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at 130  $^{\circ}$ C. After completion (as detected by TLC), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was poured into

water (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous  $Na_2SO_4$  and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane (9/1) as eluent to afford the desired product **2e** in 55% yield (~ 6.5 mg) and **2s** in 40% yield (5.0 mg).

**Cross-over Experiments** 





Experimental procedure for the selective reduction of disulfide bond.<sup>4</sup>

To an oven-dried 10 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, a mixture of diphenyl 2,2'-disulfanediyldibenzoate (**4a**) (59.5 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and triphenylphosphine (34 mg, 0.13 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was taken in a mixed solvent 1,4-dioxane (1.0 mL) and water (0.2 mL). To this reaction mixture one drop of HCl was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 2.0 h under nitrogen atmosphre. After completion (as detected by TLC), the reaction mixture was poured into water (20 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, eluting with 9:1 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired monomer product as a white solid phenyl 2-mercaptobenzoate (**5a**)<sup>27</sup>, (45.5 mg, 76%), mp 79-81 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.29 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.28 (m, 3H), 4.78 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.3, 150.6, 139.5, 133.1, 132.2, 131.1, 129.5, 126.0, 125.0, 124.8, 121.8; IR

(neat):  $v_{max}$  1715, 1590, 1483, 1251, 1193, 1043, 744 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for  $C_{13}H_{10}O_2SNa [M + Na]^+$ : 253.0299; found: 253.0284.

# Experimental procedure for the hydrolysis of Phenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate ester (2a) to the corresponding Salicylic acid (6a) and Phenol.

To a 10 mL round bottom flask equipped with magnetic stir bar, the phenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate ester (**2a**) (43 mg, 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of NaOH (80 mg, 10 equiv) in 1.0 mL H<sub>2</sub>O and 1.0 mL MeOH and stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was then acidified with 6N HCl. The resulting mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and water (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel, hexane/ ethyl acetate = 7/3 as eluent to afford the desired white solid salicylic acid (**6a**) in 92% (25.5 mg) yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.79 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.4, 161.6, 136.1, 130.7, 119.6, 117.5, 113.3.

#### **Crystal Structure:**

The crystal was grown in chloroform solvent. The pure compound was dissolved in dry chloroform and slow evaporation led to the crystal **2t**. The crystal data was collected in X-ray spectroscopy (Bruker Kappa Apex-2, CCD Area Detector), and the data was analyzed using olex2 software. The structures are given below. The corresponding .cif file has been uploaded separately as supporting information.

#### Crystal data and structure refinement for the compound (2t) rj\_ah421\_0m.

Identification code	rj_ah421_0m
Empirical formula	$C_{13}H_9NO_5$
Formula weight	259.21
Temperature/K	293.15
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$
a/Å	10.7430(9)
b/Å	16.6008(14)
c/Å	6.9203(7)

α/°	90
β/°	100.069(5)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1215.17(19)
Z	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.417
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.111
F(000)	536.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.2  imes 0.1  imes 0.1
Radiation	MoKa ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
$2\Theta$ range for data collection/°	3.85 to 55.052
Index ranges	$-13 \le h \le 13, -21 \le k \le 16, -8 \le l \le 9$
Reflections collected	11534
Independent reflections	2674 [ $R_{int} = 0.0374$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0344$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	2674/0/174
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.052
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0468, wR_2 = 0.1185$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0772, wR_2 = 0.1364$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.18/-0.15



Figure 1. Crystal structure of 2t (30% ellipsoid contour probability).

## **References:**

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f1 (ppm) S33 





AH-396-1H/1



-3.398

-2.503










-2,498

-3.409



































## Response (1970) <pResponse (1970)</p> <pResponse (1970)</p>

























OH 2h, Scheme 2















## 













<sup>100</sup> f1 (ppm) S61








































































## 





f1 (ppm) S74 











