Supplementary Information

Activity of *N*,*N'*-dialkyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium salts as phase-transfer catalysts for the alkylation of active methylene compounds

Satoshi Mizuta,^a Kanami Kitamura,^a Kodai Nishi,^b Ryo Hashimoto,^c Toshiya Usui,^c and Kenya Chiba^c

^aGraduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki University, 1-14 Bunkyo-machi, Nagasaki, 852-8521, Japan

^bDepartment of Radioisotope Medicine, Atomic Bomb Disease institute, Nagasaki University, 1-12-4 Sakamoto, Nagasaki, 852-8523, Japan

°Nishiisahaya Hospital, 3015 Kaizu-machi, Isahaya, Nagasaki, 854-0063, Japan

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1. General Information

All NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 500PS spectrometers. ¹H ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra are reported as chemical shifts (δ) in parts per million (ppm) relative to the solvent peak using tetramethylsilane, and trichlorofluoromethane (¹⁹F) as an internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (*J*) are measured in hertz (Hz). The following abbreviations are used to describe multiplicities s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, q=quartet,

quint.=quintet, sext.=sextet, sept.=septet br=broad, m=multiplet. NMR spectra were processed in ACD/SpecManager. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS, m/z) were obtained on JEOL JMS-700N for FAB using m-nitrobenzylalcohol as a matrix or on JEOL JMS-T100TD for electrospray ionization (ESI+).

All reactions were performed in apparatuses with magnetic stirring under an inert atmosphere. Flash column chromatography was performed over Fuji Silysia Chemical Ltd. silica gel C60 (50-200 μ m) using an eluent system as described for each experiment. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using TLC Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ aluminum sheets (Merck) and silica gel F₂₅₄ glass plates (Merck).

Materials.

Imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones **3**, Methyl 1-indanone-2-carboxylate **5** and Methyl 1-methyl-2oxoindoline-3-carboxylate **6** were known compounds and were prepared according literature procedures.^[1-3] Unless noted otherwise, all starting materials and reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification. All chemicals were purchased from Aldrich, Nacalai tesque, Tokyo Chemical Industry and Wako Pure Chemical Industries and used as received. All solvents were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries.

2. Experimental Procedures and Characterization Data

2-1. General procedure for synthesis of *N*,*N'*-dialkyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium salts



A 30 mL test tube was charged with a solution of imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones **3** (1.0 mmol) and *S*-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts **1** (1.0 mmol) in MeCN (5.0 mL). After a cap is mounted, the mixture was heated to 80 °C and stirred for 16 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature followed by evaporation to remove the solvent. The residue was purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography to afford the corresponding *N*,*N*'-dialkyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium salts.

1,3,4,5-Tetramethyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (4a)

Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones 3a
Me Ne Me BF4
Me Me Me 4a
Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones 3a
(150 mg, 1.0 mmol), and S-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts 1a (340 mg, 1.0 mmol) in MeCN (5.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (DCM : MeOH=90 : 10) to give 200 mg (64% yield) of the title compounds as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ
2.39 (s, 6H), 3.91 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.43, 34.2, 126.7 (m), 126.9 (q, J =

2.59 (s, 611), 5.91 (s, 611), C HMR (125 MH2, CDCl₃) δ 9.45, 54.2, 126.7 (iii), 126.9 (q, 5 = 313Hz), 132.8; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -40.3(s, 3F, S-CF₃), -155.2 (s, ¹⁰BF₄), -155.2 (s, ¹¹BF₄); **HRMS** (FAB) *m/z* Calcd for C₈H₁₂F₃N₂S [M]⁺ 225.0668, found 225.0672.

1,3-Dibutyl-4,5-dimethyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (4b)



Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3H)thiones **3b** (381 mg, 1.5 mmol), and *S*-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts **1a** (510 mg, 1.5 mmol) in MeCN (8.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (DCM : MeOH=95 : 5) to give 257 mg (43%)

yield) of the title compounds as a brown oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.01 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 1.47 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.75–1.85 (m, 4H), 2.41 (s, 6H). 4.29 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.61, 13.3, 19.8, 31.0, 47.9, 124.8 (m), 126.5 (q, J = 313 Hz), 132.9; ¹⁹**F NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –39.4(s, 3F, S-CF₃), –154.6 (s, ¹⁰BF₄), –154.6 (s, ¹¹BF₄); **HRMS** (FAB) *m*/*z* Calcd for C₁₄H₂₄F₃N₂S [M]⁺ 309.1607, found 309.1612.

1,3-Diisopropyl-4,5-dimethyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (4c)

ray crystallography were grown from a mixture solution of MeOH/DCM.



Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones **3c** (1.0 g, 4.7 mmol), and *S*-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts **1a** (1.6 g, 1.5 mmol) in MeCN (25.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (DCM : MeOH=95 : 5) to give 796 mg (46 % yield) of the title compound as a white solid. Single crystals suitable for X-

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.63 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 6H), 1.75 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 6H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 5.37 (sept., 2H); ¹³**C** NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.7, 20.5, 20.7, 54.6, 126.6 (q, J = 313Hz), 133.0; ¹⁹**F** NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -40.6(s, 3F, S-CF₃), -153.6 (s, ¹⁰BF₄), -153.6 (s, ¹¹BF₄); **HRMS** (FAB) *m/z* Calcd for C₁₂H₂₀ F₃N₂S [M]⁺ 281.1294, found 281.1299.

1,3-Diisopropyl-4,5-dimethyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfonate



Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3*H*)-thiones **3c** (212 mg, 1.0 mmol), and *S*-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts **1b** (402 mg, 1.0 mmol) in MeCN (5.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (DCM : MeOH=95 : 5) to give 134 mg (31 % yield) of the title compound as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ

1.60–1.76 (m, 12H), 2.50 (s, 6H), 5.35 (sept., 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.8, 20.5, 20.9, 54.6, 126.6 (q, *J* =313Hz), 132.7; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –40.6(s, 3F, S-CF₃), –78.4 (s, OTf); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* Calcd for C₁₂H₂₀ F₃N₂S [M]⁺ 281.1294, found 281.1297.

1,3-Dicyclohexyl-4,5-dimethyl-2-trifluoromethylthioimidazolium tetrafluoroborate (4e)

Synthesized following procedure. A mixture of imidazole-2(3H)-thiones **3d** (439 mg, 1.5 mmol), and *S*-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzothiophenium salts **1a** (510 mg, 1.5 mmol) in MeCN (8.0 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (DCM : MeOH=95 : 5) to



give 302 mg (67% yield) of the title compounds as a brown oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.22–1.28 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.46 (m, 4H), 1.77–2.29 (m, 14H), 2.50 (s, 6H), 4.82–4.97 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.2, 24.3, 24.8, 25.4, 25.8, 25.9, 26.1, 30.1, 30.7, 32.6, 62.9, 126.5 (q, *J* = 313Hz), 133.1; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –41.0 (s, 3F,

S-CF₃), -153.6 (s, ${}^{10}BF_4$), -153.7 (s, ${}^{11}BF_4$); **HRMS** (FAB) *m/z* Calcd for C₁₈H₂₈F₃N₂S [M]⁺ 361.1920, found 361.1924.

2-2. Experiment of benzylation of 5 in the presence of 4c

To verify the catalytic activity of 4c, the benzylation of indanone carboxylate 5 with KOH as base in the presence of a catalytic amount of 4c was performed. The rate of reaction to convert 5 into benzylation product 6 was confirmed. The reaction was completed within 2 hrs. In contract, the reaction in the absence of catalyst afford the product 6 in 47% after 24 h duration. These results demonstrated the efficacy of 4c as phase- transfer catalyst.



Indanone **5** (47.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), benzylbromide (45 μ l, 0.38 mmol), **4c** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol), and KOH (42 mg, 0.75 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.2 mL) was stirred for 2hrs.

2-3. Experiment of benzylation of 7 and reaction of diethylmalonate and 1,4-dibromobutane without imidazolium salt catalyst 4c

These experiments that includes a comparison of reaction under conditions without catalyst 4c performed, and these results demonstrated the efficacy of 4c as phase- transfer catalyst in comparison with that showed in Table 1.



Indanone 7(41 mg, 0.20 mmol), benzylbromide (26 μ l, 0.22 mmol) and KOH (34 mg, 0.60 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.0 mL) was stirred for 24hrs. When the reaction was stirred for 1hr, the isolated yield was 12%. The duration 24 hrs gave the product in 58% yield.



A mixture of dimethylmalonate (39.0 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1,4-dibromobutane (39 μ l, 0.33 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (104 mg, 0.75 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) was stirred for 24 hrs. When the reaction was stirred for 8hr, the isolated yield was 30%. The duration 24 hrs gave the product in 74% yield. In contract, the reaction using catalyst **4c** stirring for 8 hour afford the product **10** in 83% duration (Table 1).

2-4. General procedure for the alkylation of α-keto esters

General procedure A: GP-A

To a stirred suspension of active methylene compounds, **4c** (10 mol%), and KOH (3.0 equiv) in CHCl₃ (0.2 M) was added alkyl halide (1.5 equiv) at room temperature. After the reaction completed, the mixture was diluted with sat. NH₄Cl solution and extracted EtOAc. The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ gel to afford the alkylation product.

General procedure A: GP-B

To a stirred suspension of active methylene compounds, **4c** (10 mol%), and K_2CO_3 (3.0 equiv) in DMF (0.2 M) was added alkyl halide (1.5 equiv) at room temperature. After the reaction completed, the mixture was diluted with sat. NH₄Cl solution and extracted EtOAc. The organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ gel to afford the alkylation product.

Table 1. Alkylation of a variety of active methylene compounds using 4c as a catalyst



Methyl 2-benzyl-1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (6a)



Synthesized following GP-A (0.25 mmol scale). A mixture of indanone 5 (47.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), benzylbromide (45 μ l, 0.38 mmol), 4c (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and KOH (42 mg, 0.75 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.2 mL) was stirred for 1hr. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (acetone : n-hexane=1 : 9) to give 65.8 mg

(94 % yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.18 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, J = 14.1 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 7.13–7.20 (m, 5H), 7.34–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.54 (dt, J = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³**C** NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 35.4, 39.7, 52.9, 61.7, 124.7, 126.2, 126.8, 127.6, 128.3, 129.9, 135.3, 136.3, 153.1, 171.2, 202.1. NMR data were corresponded with those previously described.⁴

Methyl 1-oxo-2-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene-2-carboxylate (6b)



Synthesized following GP-A (0.25 mmol scale). A mixture of indanone **5** (47.5 mg, 0.25 mmol), propargyl bromide (28 μ l, 0.38 mmol), **4c** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and KOH (42 mg, 0.75 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.2 mL) was stirred for 6hrs. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 4) to give 54.0 mg (95

% yield) of the title compound as a yellow oil.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.82 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (dd, J = 2.7, 16.9 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J = 2.7, 16.9 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.70 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.42 (m, 1H), 7.52 (dt, J = 1.0, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (dt, J = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.78–7.79 (m, 1H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.9, 36.6, 52.9, 58.9, 70.5, 79.2, 124.8, 126.3, 127.8, 135.6, 153.3, 170.4, 200.8.

Methyl 3-benzyl-1-methyl-2-oxoindoline-3-carboxylate (8a)



Synthesized following GP-A (0.20 mmol scale). A mixture of 7 (41.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), benzyl bromide (36 μ l, 0.30 mmol), **4c** (7.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KOH (34 mg, 0.60 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.0 mL) was stirred for 30 min. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 2) to give 56.0 mg (95 % yield) of

the title compound as a white solid.

¹**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.95 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 2H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 6.58 (d, *J* =7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.84 –6.89 (m, 2H), 6.99–7.05 (m, 3H), 7.08 (dt, *J* = 1.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dt, *J* = 1.2, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.35 (m, 1H); ¹³**C** NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 26.1, 40.0, 53.2, 60.7, 108.1, 122.5, 123.9, 126.7, 127.2, 127.5, 129.0, 129.9, 134.2, 143.9, 169.7, 173.3. NMR data were corresponded with those previously described.⁵

Methyl 1-methyl-2-oxo-3-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)indoline-3-carboxylate (8b)



Synthesized following GP-A (0.20 mmol scale). A mixture of 7 (41.0 mg, 0.20 mmol), propargyl bromide (23 μ l, 0.30 mmol), 4c (7.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) and KOH (34 mg, 0.60 mmol) in CHCl₃ (1.0 mL) was stirred for 30 min. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 4) to give 46.6 mg (96 % yield) of the title compound as a yellow solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.78 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 2.7, 16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, J = 2.7, 16.6 Hz. 1H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 6.90 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), s7.11 (dt, J = 0.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dt, J = 1.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.2, 26.5, 53.2, 57.8, 70.6, 77.9, 108.4, 123.0, 123.5, 127.0, 129.5, 168.6, 172.8.

Dmethyl 2,2-dibenzylmalonate (9)

Synthesized following GP-B (0.25 mmol scale). A mixture of dimethylmalonate (33.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), benzyl bromide (89 μ l, 0.75 mmol), **4c** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (104 mg, 0.75



mmol) in DMF (1.2 mL) was stirred for 10 hrs. Purified by SiO_2 gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 4) to give 77.3 mg (99 % yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.23 (s, 4H), 3.64 (s, 6H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.1Hz, 4H), 7.24–7.29 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 39.2, 52.2, 60.4, 127.0, 128.2, 130.0, 136.1, 171.2. NMR data were corresponded with those previously described.⁶

Dimethyl cyclopentane-1,1-dicarboxylate (10)



Synthesized following GP-B (0.20 mmol scale). A mixture of dimethylmalonate (39.0 mg, 0.30 mmol), 1,4-dibromobutane (39 μ l, 0.33 mmol), 4c (11.0 mg, 0.03 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (104 mg, 0.75 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) was stirred for 8 hrs. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 4) to give

46.3 mg (83 % yield) of the title compound as a colorless oil.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.67–1.70, 2.18–2.20, 3.72 (s, 6H). NMR data were corresponded with those previously described.⁷

5,5-Dibenzyl-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane-4,6-dione (11)



Synthesized following GP-B (0.25 mmol scale). A mixture of Merdrum's acid (36.0 mg, 0.25 mmol), benzyl bromide (89 μ l, 0.75 mmol), **4c** (9.2 mg, 0.025 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (104 mg, 0.75 mmol) in DMF (1.2 mL) was stirred for 8 hrs. Purified by SiO₂ gel column chromatography (EtOAc : n-hexane=1 : 2) to give 74.3 mg (92 % yield) of the title compound as a yellow solid.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.63 (s, 6H), 3.46 (s, 4H), 7.20–7.28 (m, 10H); ¹³**C NMR** (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 28.5, 44.9, 60.0, 105.8, 127.7, 128.8, 130.1, 134.8, 168.1. NMR data were corresponded with those previously described.⁸

2-5. Experiment of equilibrium between 4c with KOH

Imidazolium salt **4c** (11.0 mg, 0.03 mmol), KOH (16.8 mg 0.30 mmol) and CHCl₃ (1.0 mL) were placed in a vial which was equipped with a magnetic stir bar. The mixture was stirred for 1 and 10 hrs. The reaction mixture was quenched with 1M HCl aq., and the aqueous phase was extracted with AcOEt. The combined organic phases were washed with water and brine, then dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The relative intensity of peaks was determined by ¹⁹F NMR analysis of the crude mixture. The result indicated that most of **4c** remained and ca.10% of 4c converted into likely ion exchange compound when stirring for 1hour. Besides, trace amount of thiourea ([M+1]⁺ = 213) and unidentified products (243, 393) were detectable by Mass spectrometry, but not urea derivative. When stirring for stirring 10 hours, the reaction resulted in the

decomposition to give multi-compounds. In addition, the characterization of **4c** for sufficient alkaline stability was not ascertained.



(top) ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of **4c**. (middle) ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of crude mixture for while stirring for 1h. (bottom) ¹⁹F NMR spectrum of crude mixture for while stirring for 10 hrs.

3. Crystal data for 4c



Figure1. ORTEP drawing of the X-ray structure of **4c**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity and ellipsoids displayed at 50% probability. Selected bond distances (Å), angles [deg] and torsional Angles[deg] in **4c**, C1–S1, 1.732 (2); S1–C12, 1.808 (3); F1–C12, 1.323(3); F2–C12, 1.342(3); F3–C12, 1.333(3); C1–S1–C12, 97.48 (11); C12–S1–C1-N1, –93.99 (19); C12–S1–C1-N2, 89.66 (19)

A. Crystal Data

Empirical Formula	$\mathrm{C_{12}H_{20}BF_7N_2S}$
Formula Weight	368.16
Crystal Color, Habit	colorless, block
Crystal Dimensions	0.150 X 0.070 X 0.040 mm
Crystal System	monoclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 7.926(2) Å
	b = 15.738(5) Å
	c = 13.422(4) Å
	$\beta = 100.404(3)^{0}$
	$V = 1646.7(8) \text{ Å}^3$
Space Group	P2 ₁ /n (#14)
Z value	4
D _{calc}	1.485 g/cm ³
F000	760.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	2.643 cm ⁻¹

B. Intensity Measurements

Diffractometer	Saturn724
Radiation	MoK α (λ = 0.71075 Å)
	multi-layer mirror monochromated
Voltage, Current	50kV, 24mA
Temperature	-180.0 ^o C
Detector Aperture	72.8 x 72.8 mm
Data Images	720 exposures
$ω$ oscillation Range (χ =45.0, ϕ =0.0)	-110.0 - 70.0 ⁰
Exposure Rate	16.0 sec./0

Detector Swing Angle
$ω$ oscillation Range (χ =45.0, ϕ =90.0)
Exposure Rate
Detector Swing Angle
Detector Position
Pixel Size
20 _{max}
No. of Reflections Measured

Corrections

-20.09° -110.0 - 70.0° 16.0 sec./° -20.09° 44.99 mm 0.141 mm 54.9° Total: 13471 Unique: 3722 (R_{int} = 0.0402) Lorentz-polarization Absorption (trans. factors: 0.873 - 0.989)

C. Structure Solution and Refinement

Direct Methods (SHELXS2013)
Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
$\Sigma \le (Fo^2 - Fc^2)^2$
w = 1/ [$\sigma^2(Fo^2) + (0.0576 \cdot P)^2$
+ 1.0654 · P]
where $P = (Max(Fo^2, 0) + 2Fc^2)/3$
54.9 ⁰
All non-hydrogen atoms
3722
214
17.39
0.0516
0.0685
0.1267
1.074
0.001
0.60 e ⁻ /Å ³
-0.34 e ⁻ /Å ³

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5. NMR spectra





















