# Reactions catalyzed by a binuclear copper complex: selective oxidation of alkenes to carbonyls with O<sub>2</sub>

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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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**Warning:** all the oxidation reactions described here should be carried out with caution due to its potential fire and explosion hazards.

### **1.** General information

Experiments involving air or moisture sensitive reagents were performed under an atmosphere of purified N<sub>2</sub> using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents used in these experiments were reagent grade or better. MeCN, DCM were refluxed over CaH<sub>2</sub> and toluene, THF and Et<sub>2</sub>O were refluxed over Na/benzophenone and distilled under purified N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Solvents (ethyl acetate, petroleum ether) used for column chromatography were of technical grade and used after distillation. Chemicals employed in the synthesis of ligands and substrates were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Copper salts were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with TLC Silica gel 60 F254 (Qingdao Haiyang) and plates were revealed under UV irradiation, iodine, potassium permanganate or ninhydrin. Flash column chromatography was performed using Qingdao Haiyang Silica Gel 60. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400 (400 MHz) NMR spectrometer and reported in units of parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethyl silane ( $\delta$  0 ppm) or CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm). Multiplicities are given as: brs (broad singlet), s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), dd (doublets of doublet), dt (doublets of triplet), td (triplets of doublet) or m (multiplet). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance 400 (100 MHz) NMR spectrometer and reported in ppm relative to  $CDCl_3$  ( $\delta$  77.0 ppm). Coupling constants were reported as a J value in Hz. HRMS data were recorded on Bruker Apex IV FTMS (ESI). IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer. Alkene substrates were synthesized according to literature.<sup>1-3</sup> The binuclear metal complex **1** was synthesized according to our previous method.<sup>4-5</sup>

### 2. Optimization of reaction conditions for aerobic cleavage of alkenes

**General procedure:** In a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, **2a** (0.5 mmol, 90 mg), **1** (0.0025 mmol, 3 mg), TBAC (0.005 mmol, 2.8 mg, if added), and additive were added. Solvent (0.5 mL) was introduced by a syringe, and the reaction tube was degassed and charged with oxygen gas (3 times), and kept under an oxygen

atmosphere by using an oxygen balloon. The tube was gradually heated to 60 °C and allowed to react for 12 h. After stirring at 60 °C for 12 h, the solvent was removed via rotary evaporation at ambient temperature. The resulting mixture was diluted with water and extracted with DCM (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was then removed via rotary evaporation and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether (vol/vol: 1:50) to afford compound **3a**.

		↓	Catalyst, a O <sub>2</sub> (balloor	additives n), 60 <sup>o</sup> C	→ → 3a	
Entry	Catalyst	Catalyst	TBAC	NaBF <sub>4</sub>	Solvent	Yield
		loading (mol%)	(mol%)	(mol%)		$(\%)^b$
1	-	0	0	0	THF (fresh) <sup>c</sup>	0
2	1	0.5	0	0	THF (fresh)	45
3	1	0.5	1	0	THF (fresh)	70
4	1	0.5	1	10	THF (fresh)	75
5	1	0.5	1	30	THF (fresh)	90
6	1	0.5	1	50	THF (fresh)	90
7	1	0.5	1	30	THF (not distilled)	67
8	1	0.5	1	30	Toluene	trace
9	1	0.5	1	30	DMF	trace
10	1	0.5	1	30	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	trace
11	1	0.5	1	30	DCM	trace
12	1	0.5	1	30	Dioxane	17
13	1	0.5	1	30	Glycol	28
					dimethylether	
14	1	0.5	1	30	Diglyme	67
15	1	0.5	1	30	MeCN	trace
16	CuCl	0.5	0	0	THF (fresh)	0
17	CuCl	0.5	0	0	THF+H <sub>2</sub> O (1:1)	0
18	CuCl	0.5	1	30	THF (fresh)	0
19	CuCl	0.5	1	30	THF+ $H_2O(1:1)$	0
20	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	0.5	0	0	THF (fresh)	0
21	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	0.5	0	0	THF+H <sub>2</sub> O (1:1)	0
22	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	0.5	1	30	THF (fresh)	0
23	CuCl <sub>2</sub>	0.5	1	30	THF+ $H_2O(1:1)$	0
$24^d$	1	0.5	1	30	THF (fresh)	36
$25^e$	1	0.5	1	30	THF (fresh)	0

Table S1 Optimization of reaction conditions for aerobic cleavage of  $2a^a$ 

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.5 mmol), additives, solvent (0.5 mL), O<sub>2</sub> balloon, 60 °C, 12 h. <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>*c*</sup> "Fresh" means that THF was distilled over sodium under Ar. <sup>*d*</sup> The reaction was carried out under air. <sup>*e*</sup> The reaction was carried out under argon.

### 3. General procedure for aerobic cleavage of 2

In a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, **2** (0.5 mmol), catalyst **1** (0.0025 mmol, 3.0 mg), TBAC (0.005 mmol, 2.8 mg), and NaBF<sub>4</sub> (0.15 mmol, 16.2 mg), was injected freshly distilled THF (0.5 mL) by syringe. The reaction tube was then degassed with oxygen gas (3 times) and kept under oxygen atmosphere by using an oxygen balloon. The tube was gradually heated to 60 °C and allowed to react for 12 hours. After stirring at 60 °C for 12 h, the solvent was removed via rotary evaporation at ambient temperature. The resulting mixture was diluted with water and extracted with DCM (3 x 15 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration, the solvent was then removed via rotary evaporation and the crude product purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/petroleum ether to afford the carbonyl product.

### 4. Mechanistic investigations

### **4.1 Radical trapping experiments**

Table S2. Effect of the radical scavengers in 1 catalyzed aerobic cleavage of 2a

	<b>1</b> (0.5 mol%), TBA	<b>1</b> (0.5 mol%), TBAC (1 mol%)		
2a	NaBF <sub>4</sub> (30 mol O <sub>2</sub> (balloon), 60 radical scav	NaBF <sub>4</sub> (30 mol%), THF, O <sub>2</sub> (balloon), 60 °C, 12 h radical scavenger		
Radical scavenger	n (radical scavenger/1)	Yield of 3a (%)	Recovered 2a (%)	
OH	1	N.R. <sup>a</sup>	-	
	5	N.R.	>90	
	10	N.R.	-	
TEMPO	5	N.R.	>90	
	10	N.R.	-	
0	5	N.R.	>90	
	10	N.R.	-	
H K K	5	N.R.	>90	
	10	N.R.	-	
<sup><i>a</i></sup> N.R. = No reaction	n			

General procedure for Table S2: In a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, 2a (0.5 mmol, 90 mg), 1 (0.0025 mmol, 3.0 mg), TBAC (0.005 mmol, 2.8 mg), and NaBF<sub>4</sub> (0.15 mmol, 16.2 mg) were added. The tube was sealed, degassed with Ar (3 times) and left under inert atmosphere. Freshly distilled THF (1.0 mL) was added by syringe and the reaction mixture was stirred under Ar atmosphere for 30 min at 25 °C. Next, the corresponding amount of radical scavenger was added and the tube was degassed with oxygen and kept under oxygen atmosphere by using an oxygen balloon. The reaction mixture was then heated up to 60 °C and allowed to react overnight. No 3a was formed as indicated by TLC. 2a was recovered by column chromatography on silica gel.

### 4.2 Evidence for the formation of formaldehyde



In a Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar, catalyst 1 (0.0025 mmol, 3.0 mg), TBAC (0.005 mmol, 2.8 mg), and NaBF<sub>4</sub> (0.15 mmol, 16.2 mg) were added. The tube was sealed, degassed (3 times) and left under inert atmosphere. Freshly distilled THF (1.0 mL) was added by syringe and the reaction mixture was stirred under Ar atmosphere for 30 min at 25 °C. Next, 2a (0.5 mmol, 90 mg) was added by syringe and the tube was degassed and charged with oxygen gas and kept under oxygen atmosphere by using an oxygen balloon. The tube was gradually heated to 60 °C and allowed to react for overnight. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was degassed to remove oxygen gas by the freeze-pump-thaw procedure with Ar. 1,3-Cyclohexanedione (1 mmol, 112 mg) was then added to the reaction tube, and the mixture was stirred under an air atmosphere for 12 h at 40 °C. After the reaction, saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (1 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated in vacuo. Purification via flash column chromatography (petroleum ether/acetone, 4:1) yielded 59 mg of 6 (50% yield) as a white solid and 81 mg of 3a (89% yield). The formation of 6 from 1,3-cyclohexanedione and formaldehyde has been reported previously.<sup>6-7</sup>

### **2,2'-methylenebis(3-hydroxycyclohex-2-enone)** (6)<sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 12.96 (brs, 2 H), 3.14 (s, 2 H), 2.51-2.46 (m, 4 H), 2.38-2.30 (m, 4 H), 1.97-1.86 (m, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm):



# <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 6:



### 5. Analytic data of products

Benzophenone (3a)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **3a** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 49-50 °C. Yield: **90%** (81 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.81 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 4H), 7.59 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.7, 137.5, 132.3, 130.0, 128.2. IR (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1651, 1594, 1572, 1448, 1318, 1277, 1073, 997, 939, 916, 814, 763, 703, 635, 436. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 205.0623; found 205.0613.

### Phenyl (p-tolyl)methanone (3b)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **3b** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **85%** (83 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.4, 143.2, 137.9, 134.9, 132.1, 130.3, 129.9, 128.9, 128.2, 21.6. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1657, 1604, 1449, 1407, 1313, 1277, 1178, 1148, 1071, 1024, 922, 837, 787, 731, 699, 601, 472. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 219.0780; found 219.0771.

### (4-Ethylphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3c)<sup>9</sup>



Compound **3c** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **70%** (74 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.80 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (q, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.5, 149.4, 138.0, 135.1, 132.1, 130.4, 129.9, 128.2, 127.8, 28.9, 15.2. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1657, 1604, 1449, 1414, 1312, 1278, 1179, 1071, 922, 848, 701, 602. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>233.0948; found 233.0947.

### (4-Methoxyphenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3d)<sup>10</sup>



Compound **3d** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. White solid. Yield: **71%** (75 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.6, 163.3, 138.3, 132.6, 131.9, 130.2, 129.7, 128.2, 113.6, 55.5. IR (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1644, 1599, 1505, 1449, 1414, 1309, 1285, 1252, 1174, 1148, 1112, 1028, 923, 845, 795, 740, 699, 608. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 235.0735; found 235.0741.

### (4-Fluorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3e)<sup>10</sup>



Compound **3e** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **88%** (88 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.86-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 7.6

Hz, 2H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.2, 165.3 (d, J = 252.7 Hz), 137.5, 133.8 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 132.6 (d, J = 9.1 Hz), 132.4, 129.8, 115.4 (d, J = 21.6 Hz). **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1645, 1596, 1502, 1445, 1407, 1302, 1282, 1262, 1227, 1151, 1096, 1020, 962, 939, 922, 850, 795, 735, 696, 597, 500. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>FNaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 223.0529; found 223.0520.

### (4-Chlorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3f)<sup>10</sup>



Compound **3f** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 70-71 °C. Yield: **77%** (83 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.78-7.75 (m, 4H), 7.62-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.5, 138.9, 137.3, 135.9, 132.6, 131.5, 129.9, 128.6, 128.4. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1650, 1581, 1482, 1441, 1397, 1281, 1147, 1086, 921, 842, 788, 728, 695, 663, 503, 475. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClNaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 239.0234; found 239.0220.

### (4-Bromophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3g)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **3g** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 76-77 °C. Yield: **78%** (101 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.78 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69-7.59 (m, 5H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.6, 137.2, 136.3, 132.7, 131.6, 129.9, 128.4, 127.5. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1648, 1580, 1393, 1282, 1066, 1008, 941, 919, 842, 788, 725, 695, 655, 468. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrNaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 282.9728; found 282.9715.

### (4- Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3h)<sup>10</sup>



Compound **3h** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 109-110 °C. Yield: **82%** (103 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.5, 140.8, 136.8, 133.6 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 133.1, 130.15, 130.11, 128.5, 125.4 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 126.4 (q, *J* = 270.9 Hz). **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1651, 1596, 1573, 1408, 1330, 1281, 1171, 1113, 1065, 1016, 940, 921, 857, 797, 750, 696, 653, 598, 466. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 211.0188; found 211.0181.

### (3,4-Difluorophenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3i)<sup>11</sup>



Compound **3i** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **78%** (85 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.63-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 194.0, 153.2 (dd, *J* = 254.7, 12.7 Hz), 150.1 (dd, *J* = 249.4, 12.9 Hz), 136.9, 134.5 (t, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 132.8, 129.8, 128.5, 127.1 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 3.5 Hz), 119.3 (dd, *J* = 18.2, 1.2 Hz), 117.3 (d, *J* = 17.7 Hz). **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1651, 1607, 1513, 1424, 1320, 1288, 1202, 1105, 898, 858, 836, 795, 769, 726, 698, 595, 453. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 241.0435; found 241.0421.

### (3,5-Dimethylphenyl) (phenyl) methanone (3j)<sup>12</sup>



Compound **3j** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **78%** (82 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.79 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (s, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 197.1, 137.89, 137.87, 134.0, 132.2, 130.0, 128.2, 127.8, 21.2. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1658, 1598, 1450, 1320, 1231, 866, 812, 725, 697, 663. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 233.0938; found 233.0925.

### (3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone (3k)<sup>13</sup>



Compound **3k** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **80%** (127 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.24 (s, 2H), 8.10 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 193.6, 139.4, 135.9, 133.6, 132.1 (q, *J* = 33.7 Hz), 130.0, 129.8 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 128.9, 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 123.1 (q, *J* = 271.3 Hz). **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1674, 1618, 1599, 1451, 1380, 1283, 1137, 910, 848, 797, 722, 685, 660, 624. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>6</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 341.0371; found 341.0354.

### (4-Chlorophenyl)(p-tolyl)methanone (3l)<sup>14</sup>



Compound **31** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 118-120 °C. Yield: **87%** (100 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 195.2, 143.5, 138.6, 136.3, 134.6, 131.3, 130.2, 129.1, 128.6, 21.7. IR (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1644, 1604, 1583, 1479, 1398, 1373, 1285, 1182, 1144, 1086, 1013, 964, 927, 853, 820, 799, 747, 675, 557, 503, 457. HRMS (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>ClO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 231.0571; found 231.0556.

### (4-Fluorophenyl)(p-tolyl)methanone (3m)<sup>15</sup>



Compound **3m** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 89-90 °C. Yield: **89%** (95 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.84-7.81 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 195.0, 165.2 (d, *J* = 252.3 Hz), 143.3, 134.8, 134.1 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 132.4 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz), 130.1, 129.0, 115.3 (d, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 21.6. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1649, 1601, 1501, 1406, 1285, 1221, 1152, 1098, 967, 929, 851, 825, 814, 753, 677, 579, 493, 471. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FO [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 215.0866; found 215.0856.

### Bis(4-fluorophenyl)methanone (3n)<sup>15</sup>



Compound **3n** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid, m. p. 97-100 °C. Yield: **85%** (93 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.83-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 193.8, 165.4 (d, J = 252.7 Hz), 133.7 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 132.5 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 115.5 (d, J = 21.9 Hz). **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1649, 1598, 1504, 1408, 1300, 1261, 1229, 1150, 1099, 1020, 929, 854, 812, 764, 674, 577, 495. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 241.0441; found 241.0448.

Phenyl(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (30)<sup>14</sup>



Compound **30** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **95%** (89 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.93 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 190.0, 141.3, 138.6, 133.9, 129.4, 128.6, 128.4, 126.2. IR (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1650, 1598, 1511, 1446, 1409, 1262, 1022, 858, 801, 716, 701, 671. HRMS (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NaOS [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 211.0188; found 211.0181.

### Acetophenone (4a)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **4a** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **90%** (54 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.96 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 198.1, 137.2, 133.1, 128.6, 128.3, 26.6.

1-p-Tolylethanone (4b)<sup>16</sup>



Compound **4b** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **78%** (53 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 197.7, 143.7, 134.6, 129.1, 128.3, 26.4, 21.5.

### 1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethanone (4c)<sup>16</sup>



Compound **4c** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **69%** (52 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.52 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 196.7, 163.4, 130.5, 113.6, 55.3, 26.2.

### 1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethanone (4d)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **4d** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **87%** (60 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.96 (q, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.4, 165.7 (d, *J* = 253.4 Hz), 133.5 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 130.9 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.7 Hz), 26.4.

### 1-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethanone (4e)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **4e** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid. Yield: **86%** (66 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.7, 139.5, 135.4, 129.6, 128.8, 26.5.

### 1-(4-Bromophenyl)ethanone (4f)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **4f** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. White solid. Yield: **78%** (78 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 197.0, 135.8, 131.9, 129.8, 128.3, 26.5.

1-(4-Iodophenyl)ethenone (4g)<sup>17</sup>



Compound **4g** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **85%** (96 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 197.3, 137.9, 136.3, 129.7, 101.1, 26.4.

### 1-(4-(Trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethenone (4h)<sup>18</sup>



Compound **4h** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **89%** (71 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 196.9, 139.7, 134.3 (q, *J* = 32.5 Hz), 128.6, 125.6 (q, *J* = 3.6 Hz), 123.6 (q, *J* = 270.9 Hz), 26.7.

### 1-(Thiophen-2-yl)ethanone (4i)<sup>16</sup>



Compound **4i** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **76%** (48 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 8.04-8.03 (m, 1H), 7.54-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.30 (m, 1H), 2.53 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ (ppm): 192.2, 142.6, 132.3, 127.0, 126.4, 27.5.

### 1-(3-Chlorophenyl)propan-1-one (4j)<sup>19</sup>



Compound **4j** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. White solid. Yield: **54%** (35 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 199.4, 138.4, 134.9, 132.8, 129.9, 128.1, 126.0, 31.9, 8.1. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1677, 1446, 1413, 1352, 1303, 1268, 1203, 1066, 997, 979, 741, 706, S18

686, 632, 573, 475, 418. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>ClNaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 191.0234; found 191.0223.

### Cyclopropyl(phenyl)methanone (4k)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **4k** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **82%** (60 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.71-2.65 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.23 (m, 2H), 1.06-1.02 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 200.6, 138.0, 132.7, 128.5, 128.0, 17.1, 11.6. IR (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 3008, 1668, 1596, 1577, 1450, 1387, 1225, 1035, 993, 868, 781, 708, 646. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 169.0623; found 169.0612.

### 6,7,8,9-Tetrahydro-5H-benzo[7]annulen-5-one (4l)<sup>20</sup>



Compound **4**I was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **60%** (48 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H); 1.91-1.78 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 206.1, 141.3, 138.8, 132.1, 129.6, 128.5, 126.6, 40.8, 32.5, 25.2, 20.9. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1678, 1600, 1451, 1289, 1259, 1218, 1094, 1030, 958, 771, 738, 554, 465. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NaO [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 183.0780; found 183.0771.

Benzaldehyde (5a)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5a** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **70%** (47 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 10.02 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 192.4, 136.4, 134.4, 129.7, 129.0.

4-Methylbenzaldehyde (5b)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5b** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **75%** (45 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.96 (s, 1 H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H ), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H ), 2.43 (s, 3H ); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 192.0, 145.5, 134.2, 129.8, 129.7, 21.9.

4-Methoxybenzaldehyde (5c)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5c** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. Oil. Yield: **80%** (54 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.84 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 190.7, 164.5, 131.8, 129.8, 114.2, 55.4.

### 4-Fluorobenzaldehyde (5d)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5d** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **78%** (48 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.94 (s, 1H), 7.88 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 190.4, 166.5 (d, *J* = 255.1 Hz), 132.9 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 132.2 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 116.3 (d, *J* = 22.0 Hz).

### 4-Chlorobenzaldehyde (5e)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5e** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **88%** (62 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.98 (s, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H ); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 190.8, 141.0, 134.7, 130.9, 129.5.

4-Bromobenzaldehyde (5f)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5f** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **78%** (72 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.97 (s, 1H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H ); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 191.1, 135.1, 132.4, 131.0, 129.8.

4-Formylbenzonitrile (5g)<sup>21</sup>



Compound **5g** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **89%** (58 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 10.09 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 190.6, 138.7, 132.9, 129.9, 117.7, 117.6.

3-Nitrobenzaldehyde (5h)<sup>22</sup>



Compound **5h** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 12 h. Oil. Yield: **82%** (62 mg). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 10.1 (s, 1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.71-8.47 (m, 1H), 8.23 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 189.7, 137.4, 134.6, 130.4, 128.6, 124.5.

2-Naphthaldehyde (5i)<sup>8</sup>



Compound **5i** was obtained following the general procedure for oxidation of **2**, reaction time: 24 h. White solid, m. p. 53-55 °C. Yield: **65%** (51 mg). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 10.17 (s, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.98-7.90 (m, 3H), 7.67-7.58 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  (ppm): 192.3, 136.5, 134.5, 134.2, 132.7, 129.5, 129.1, 128.1, 127.1, 122.8. **IR** (KBr, plate), v (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 2846, 2829, 1693, 1623, 1462, 1344, 1261, 1165, 1114, 1023, 1012, 961, 907, 871,

833, 775, 750, 627, 599, 480. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calc. for  $C_{11}H_9O[M+H]^+$  157.0647; found 157.0641.

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## 7. Traces of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra







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