

Supporting Information to

Copper-Catalyzed Decarboxylative Methylthiolation of Aromatic Carboxylate Salts with DMSO

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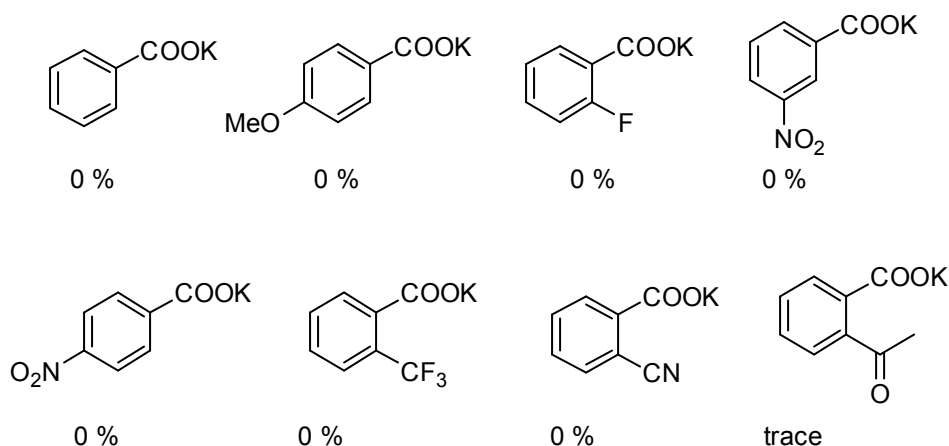
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General information

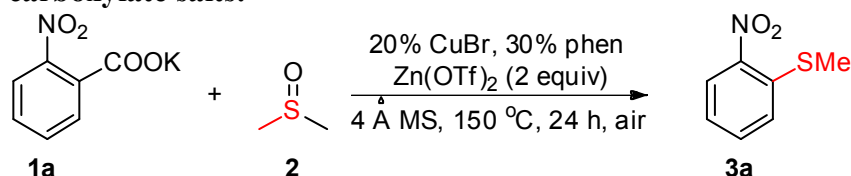
^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and ^{19}F NMR were recorded in CDCl_3 at room temperature on the Varian INOVA-400 spectrometer (400 MHz, ^1H). The ^1H NMR chemical-shifts scale is based on internal TMS. The peak patterns are indicated as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; qui, quintet; sxt, sextet. The coupling constants, J are reported in Hertz (Hz). High-resolution mass spectral (HRMS) analyses were carried out using a TOF MS instrument with an ESI source. Melting points were measured by a melting point instrument and were uncorrected.

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Anhydrous CuBr was purchased from Alfa Aesar. All solvents were purified and dried according to standard methods prior to use. Products were purified by flash column chromatography on 300-400 mesh silica gel, SiO_2 .

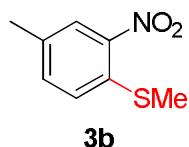
Ineffective substrates



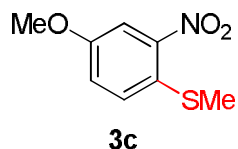
General procedure for copper-catalyzed decarboxylative methylthiolation of aromatic carboxylate salts:



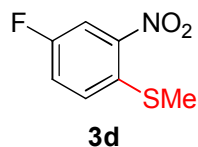
Compound 3a. To a mixture of aromatic carboxylate salt **1a** (61.5 mg, 0.3 mmol), CuBr (8.6 mg, 0.06 mmol), Phen. (17.8 mg, 0.09 mmol), $\text{Zn}(\text{OTf})_2$ (218.0 mg, 0.6 mmol) and 4 Å MS (50 mg) was added dimethyl sulfoxide **2** (2 ml) under an air atmosphere. After stirring at 150°C for 24 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O (20 ml), extracted with EtOAc, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated. Column chromatography on silica gel (EtOAc/petroleum ether = 1:50) gave **3a** as a yellow solid (43.1 mg, 85% yield); *Methyl(2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (3a)*. 85% yield (43.1 mg); yellow solid, mp: $55\text{--}57^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.26 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.4, 139.3, 133.6, 126.1, 125.6, 124.1, 15.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 192.0095, found 192.0087.



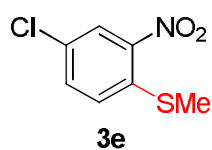
Methyl(4-methyl-2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (3b). 81% yield (44.4 mg); yellow solid, mp: 63–65 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.06 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.4, 135.7, 134.7, 134.6, 126.3, 125.6, 20.4, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 206.0252, found 206.0240.



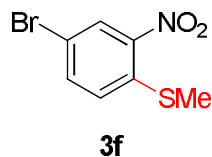
(4-methoxy-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3c). 80% yield (47.8 mg); yellow solid, mp: 71–73 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.27 (m, 1H), 7.20 (dd, $J = 8.9, 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.48 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.7, 146.1, 130.1, 127.0, 121.9, 109.6, 55.9, 16.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{NNaO}_3\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 222.0201, found 222.0185.



(4-fluoro-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3d). 78% yield (43.8 mg); yellow solid, mp: 66–68 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.99 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.37–7.35 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.0 (d, $J = 246.6$ Hz), 134.7 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz), 127.2 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz), 121.6 (d, $J = 21.8$ Hz), 113.4, 113.1, 16.2. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -116.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{FNNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 210.0001, found 210.0007.

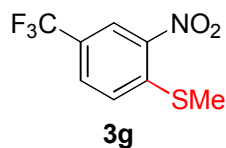


(4-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3e). 71% yield (43.2 mg); yellow solid, mp: 82–84 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.6, 138.0, 133.7, 130.0, 126.8, 126.0, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{ClNNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 225.9705, found 225.9697.

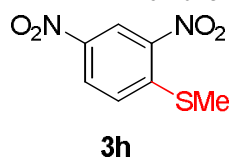


(4-bromo-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3f). 67% yield (49.6 mg); yellow solid, mp: 95–97 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.7, 138.6, 136.5,

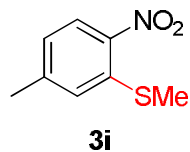
128.8, 127.0, 117.0, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_7H_6BrNNaO_2S$ ($M + Na$)⁺ 269.9200, found 269.9189.



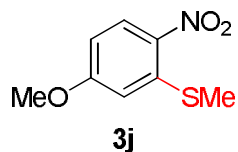
Methyl(2-nitro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)sulfane (3g). 73% yield (51.9 mg); yellow soild, mp: 88–90 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 144.3, 129.7 (q, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 126.7 (q, *J* = 18.1 Hz), 126.3, 123.5 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 123.0 (q, *J* = 270.4 Hz), 16.0; ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_6F_3NNaO_2S$ ($M + Na$)⁺ 259.9969, found 259.9973.



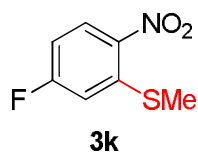
(2,4-dinitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3h). 41% yield (26.3 mg); yellow soild, mp: 112–114 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.11 (s, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 144.5, 143.7, 127.2, 126.3, 121.6, 16.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_7H_6N_2NaO_4S$ ($M + Na$)⁺ 236.9946, found 236.9951.



Methyl(5-methyl-2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (3i). 71% yield (39.0 mg); yellow soild, mp: 70–72 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.9, 143.6, 139.3, 126.3, 125.8, 125.1, 21.8, 15.9; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_9NNaO_2S$ ($M + Na$)⁺ 206.0252, found 206.0236.

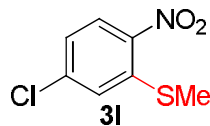


(5-methoxy-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3j). 67% yield (40.0 mg); yellow soild, mp: 77–79 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.30 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.47 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.6, 142.3, 138.9, 128.8, 110.6, 109.1, 55.9, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_8H_9NNaO_3S$ ($M + Na$)⁺ 222.0201, found 222.0186.

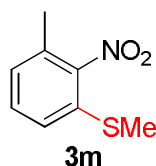


(5-fluoro-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (3k). 72% yield (40.4 mg); yellow soild, mp:

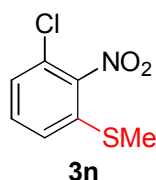
71–73 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35–8.32 (m, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.96–6.92 (m, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 165.4 (d, $J = 256.8$ Hz), 143.4 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 129.0 (d, $J = 10.7$ Hz), 124.4 (d, $J = 110.0$ Hz), 112.4 (d, $J = 26.8$ Hz), 111.5 (d, $J = 23.6$ Hz), 16.2; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -102.4; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{FNNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 210.0001, found 210.0007.



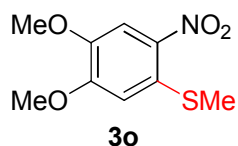
(5-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (**3l**). 75% yield (45.5 mg); yellow solid, mp: 87–89 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.21 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.50 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 143.7, 141.6, 140.7, 127.4, 125.3, 124.3, 16.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{ClNNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 225.9705, found 225.9705.



Methyl(3-methyl-2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (**3m**). 61% yield (33.5 mg); yellow solid, mp: 73–75 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.33 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 151.1, 131.8, 131.0, 130.4, 128.6, 126.7, 17.9, 17.3; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 206.0252, found 206.0240.



(3-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (**3n**). 54% yield (32.9 mg); yellow solid, mp: 87–89 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40–7.37 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.30 (m, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.0, 133.6, 130.9, 127.5, 127.3, 125.8, 17.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_7\text{H}_6\text{ClNNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 225.9705, found 225.9687.

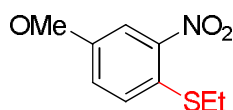


(4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrophenyl)(methyl)sulfane (**3o**). 83% yield (57.0 mg); yellow solid, mp: 123–125 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (s, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 4.01 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 2.51 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.0, 145.9, 138.0, 134.1, 108.7, 106.6, 56.4, 56.3, 16.2; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_4\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 252.0306, found 252.0290.



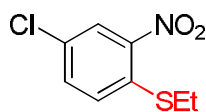
3p

Ethyl(2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (3p). 67% yield (36.8 mg); yellow solid, mp: 89–91 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.20 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 145.9, 138.0, 133.4, 126.4, 126.1, 124.3, 26.3, 12.8; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_9\text{NNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 206.0252, found 206.0239.



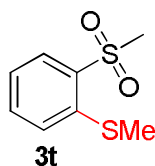
3q

Ethyl(4-methoxy-2-nitrophenyl)sulfane (3q). 65% yield (41.5 mg); yellow solid, mp: 105–107 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.66 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, J = 8.9, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 2.96 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.9, 147.1, 128.5, 128.0, 121.3, 109.5, 55.8, 26.8, 13.1; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{NNaO}_3\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 236.0357, found 236.0339.



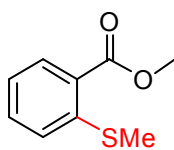
3r

(4-chloro-2-nitrophenyl)(ethyl)sulfane (3r). 60% yield (39.1 mg); yellow solid, mp: 101–103 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.0, 136.7, 133.5, 130.1, 127.6, 125.9, 26.4, 12.7; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{ClNaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 239.9862, found 239.9851.



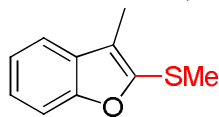
3t

Methyl(2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfane (3t). 45% yield (27.3 mg); yellow solid, mp: 70–72 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.04 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69–7.65 (m, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 3H), 2.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 139.7, 137.0, 133.7, 129.9, 126.5, 124.8, 41.5, 16.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 225.0020, found 225.0011.



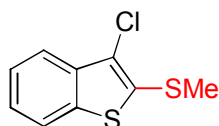
3u

methyl 2-(methylthio)benzoate (3u). 67% yield (36.6 mg); colourless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.00 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.26 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 166.8, 143.3, 132.5, 131.3, 126.8, 124.3, 123.4, 52.0, 15.6; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{10}\text{NaO}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 205.0299, found 205.0291.



3v

3-methyl-2-(methylthio)benzofuran (3v). 54% yield (28.8 mg); colourless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.20 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 155.3, 146.9, 129.6, 124.6, 122.4, 119.3, 119.2, 110.8, 17.9, 9.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{NaOS}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 201.0350, found 201.0339.



3w

3-chloro-2-(methylthio)benzothiophene (3w). 51% yield (32.7 mg); colourless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74–7.70 (m, 2H), 7.42 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.9, 136.9, 132.7, 125.2, 125.1, 122.0, 121.9, 121.5, 19.0; HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_7\text{NaClS}_2$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}$) $^+$ 236.9575, found 236.9582.

