## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Palladium-Catalyzed Decarboxylative, Decarbonylative and Dehydrogenative $\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{sp}^{2}\right)$-H Acylation at Room Temperature

Asik Hossian, ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$ Manash Kumar Manna, ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$ Kartic Manna ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$ and Ranjan Jana* ${ }^{\text {a,b }}$<br>${ }^{\text {a }}$ Organic and Medicinal Chemistry Division, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology,<br>4 Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, India<br>${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, India

Fax: (+91) 332473 5197; E-mail: rjana@iicb.res.in

## Table of Contents

Preparation of starting materials ..... S3-S7
General experimental procedure for the decarboxylative acylation reaction ..... S7-S8
Characterization data of the decarboxylative acylation reaction ..... S8-S15
Decarboxylative acylation reaction in gram scale ..... S15-S16
General experimental procedure for the decarbonylative acylation reaction ..... S16-S17
Characterization data of the decarbonylative acylation reaction ..... S17-S18
General experimental procedure for the dehydrogenative acylation reaction ..... S19
Characterization data of the dehydrogenative acylation reaction ..... S19-S26
Dehydrogenative acylation reaction in gram scale ..... S26-S27
Control experiments ..... S27-S30
References ..... S31-S32
ESI mass for TEMPO experiment. ..... S31
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra. ..... S33-S83

## General experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-phenylpyridines. ${ }^{1}$



To a solution of arylboronic acid ( $2.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.3$ equiv) in toluene ( 7.0 mL ), ethanol ( 1.5 mL ) and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(7.0 \mathrm{~mL}) \mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}\left(1.6 \mathrm{~g}, 15 \mathrm{mmol}, 7.5\right.$ equiv) was added followed by $\mathrm{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(69$ $\mathrm{mg}, 0.060 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and 2-bromopyridine ( $0.2 \mathrm{~mL}, 2.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) were added in a 50 mL round bottom flask. The reaction mixture was evacuated and refilled with nitrogen three times and stirred at $110{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 18 h . After the completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. To the reaction mixture, aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{CL}$ ( 15 mL ) was added, extracted with ethyl acetate for three times, dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and evaporated in vacuum to afford the crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with using hexane/EtOAc (9/1) to afford pure 2-arylpyridines.

## General Experimental procedure for the preparation of arylglyoxylic acids. ${ }^{2}$



A mixture of acetophenones ( $8.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and selenium dioxide ( $1.8 \mathrm{~g}, 16 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) in dry pyridine ( 4.0 mL ) was stirred at $120{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for 18 h . After completion of the reaction, as determined by TLC, the solution containing precipitated selenium was filtered using a Buckner funnel and the residue was washed with ethyl acetate ( 40 mL ). The combined filtrate was treated with $1 \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{HCl}(60 \mathrm{~mL})$, the organic layer was separated, and the remaining aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate ( $2 \times 20$ ). The organic layers were combined and treated with
$1 \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{NaOH}(2 \times 50)$, and the aqueous layer was separated. Then the aqueous layer was acidified using 1 N HCl to about pH 1.5 . The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate ( $3 \times 40$ ), and the combined organic layers were dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and evaporated in vacuum to afford the crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with using hexane/EtOAc (7/3) to give the pure corresponding arylglyoxylic acids.

## General experimental procedure for the preparation of phenylglyoxals. ${ }^{3}$



To a 50 mL two-neck round bottom flask fitted with a condenser, was added 1,4-dioxane (13.0 $\mathrm{mL}), \mathrm{SeO}_{2}(2.8 \mathrm{~g}, 25.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ and water $(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$. The mixture was heated at $50-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and stirred under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere until the solid was dissolved, then the corresponding acetophenone ( $25.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 4 h . Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The solid was removed by filtration; the filtrate was evaporated to afford a crude product. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane:ethyl acetate/8:2) to give the product as a yellow liquid. This liquid was dissolved in hot water ( 10 mL ) and allowed to crystallize to afford the desired products, arylglyoxal monohydrate as a white solid.

## Experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-phenylpyrimidine. ${ }^{4}$



To a round-bottom flask was added 2 -chloropyrimidine ( $229.0 \mathrm{mg}, 2.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), phenylboronic acid (293mg, 2.4 mmol , 1.2 equiv), $\mathrm{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( $28 \mathrm{mg}, 0.04 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.02$ equiv) and $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(2.0 \mathrm{M}, 5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ in dioxane $(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$. The reaction mixture was heated to $90{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 16 h under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere. After completion of the reaction (as indicated by TLC), the heterogeneous aqueous was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was extracted with EtOAc ( 30 mL ), washed by $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( 30 mL ). The organic layer was dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, concentrated and purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexane as eluent to afford the desired product, 2-phenylpyrimidine as colorless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (300 MHz, CDCl ${ }_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.81$ (d, $J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$ ), 8.43-8.46 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.19 $(\mathrm{t}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$.

## Experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-phenoxypyridine. ${ }^{5}$



To an oven-dried 50 mL round bottomed flask, $\mathrm{CuI}(122.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.64 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), picolinic acid ( 158 mg , 1.3 mmol , 0.2 equiv), phenol ( 715 mg , 7.6 mmol , 1.2 equiv) and $\mathrm{K}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(2.7 \mathrm{~g}$, $12.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) was added then the flask was evacuated and back-filled with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. To this reaction mixture, 2-bromopyridine ( $0.6 \mathrm{~mL}, 6.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and DMSO ( 12 mL ) was added via syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred at $90{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The mixture was poured into water ( 30 mL ) and extracted with ethyl acetate ( 30 mL ). The organic layer was washed with water ( 20 x 2 mL ) and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced
pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane as eluent to afford the desired product, 2-phenoxypyridine as a white solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.21(\mathrm{dd}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65-7.71(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.22(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.15(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.99(\mathrm{dd}, J=5.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $6.91(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$.

## Experimental procedure for the preparation of 1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole. ${ }^{6}$



To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(6.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.03 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.01$ equiv) in DMF $(6.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ were added iodobenzene ( $0.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 3.6 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.2 equiv), $1 H$-pyrazole ( $204 \mathrm{mg}, 3.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), and $\mathrm{Cs}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}\left(2.0 \mathrm{~g}, 6.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0\right.$ equiv) under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$. The mixture was stirred at $110{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h . Then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature. The mixture was poured into water (20 $\mathrm{mL})$ and extracted with ethyl acetate $(30 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was washed with water ( 10 x 2 mL ) and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexane as eluent to afford the desired product, 1-phenyl- 1 H -pyrazole as colorless oil. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.69-7.74(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.29(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.48(\mathrm{t}, J=1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$.

## Experimental procedure for the preparation of 2-phenylpyridine palladacyclo dimer

 complex (7a). ${ }^{7}$

To an oven-dried 50 mL round bottomed flask, 2-Phenylpyridine ( $155 \mathrm{mg}, 1.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) was added to a solution of $\operatorname{Pd}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}(225 \mathrm{mg}, 1.0 \mathrm{~mol}, 1.0$ equiv $)$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}(16 \mathrm{~mL})$ and stirred at room temperature for 6 h under $\mathrm{N}_{2}$, during which time a yellow solid precipitated was formed in the solution. The precipitate was collected at the top of a plug of celite, and the solids were washed with hexanes ( $3 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The yellow residue at the top of the celite plug was then washed through with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(2 \times 30 \mathrm{~mL})$. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the resulting solid was recrystallized from $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} /$ hexanes to afford the desired product as a yellow solid ( $82 \%$ yield). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.87(\mathrm{~d}, J=5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.38(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.09(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.79-6.94(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 6.45(\mathrm{t}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.29(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H})$.

General experimental procedure for the decarboxylative acylation reaction between 2phenylpyridines and $\alpha$-ketocarboxylic acids, Scheme 2.


To an oven-dried 10 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridines ( $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), $\alpha$ ketocarboxylic acids (0.3-0.4 mmol, 1.5-2.0 equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry MeCN ( 3.0 mL ) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen for 30 seconds, immediately the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. After that the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ to remove the unreacted acids. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$ and extracted with ethyl acetate $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was washed with water ( 10 mL ) and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ 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 product.

To note: During optimization, it was found that $\alpha$-ketocarboxylic acids are hygroscopic in nature thus water or moisture is detrimental to the reaction outcome. Therefore, so after flushing with nitrogen the reaction vessel was immediately sealed with a screw cap.

## SPECTRAL DATA

[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-yl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3f, Scheme $2 .{ }^{\mathbf{8}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $68 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a light yellow oil, ( $55.0 \mathrm{mg}, 82 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.41-8.42(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78-7.82$ (m, 3H), $7.64(\mathrm{td}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.61(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 7.45(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2, \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.38(\mathrm{t}, J$ $=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.03-7.05(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 197.8,156.8,149.1,144.9$, $139.9,139.6,139.5,136.6,136.3,130.2,130.1,129.0,128.84,128.82,128.5,128.0,127.2$,
126.7, 122.7, 122.0; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1662,1595,1280,926,745 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 335.1310$; found: 335.1314 .
(4-Fluorophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3g, Scheme 2.' The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $51.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $44.0 \mathrm{mg}, 80 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.38(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.70-7.73(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.59-7.65(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.54(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.52(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.04-7.06(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.92-6.96(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 196.7,165.1(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=252.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 156.6,149.0,139.4,139.2,136.4,134.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 131.9(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 130.3, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 122.6, 122.0, $115.1\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=21.0 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$ ); IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1666,1594$, 1280, 1232, 1151, $752 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{FNONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 300.0801$; found: 300.0806 .
(4-Chlorophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3h, Scheme 2. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 0}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2 -phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), $2-(4-$ chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $55.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $37.5 \mathrm{mg}, 64 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.35-8.36(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.79(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.60-7.64(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.56(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.24-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.05-7.07(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 197.0,156.4,149.0,139.4,139.1,138.6,136.45,136.41,130.7$,
$130.3,129.0,128.6,128.3,122.4,122.1$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2925,1669,1587,1280,1089,928,750$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{ClNONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 316.0505$; found: 316.0503.
(4-Bromophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3i, Scheme 2.' ${ }^{9}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), $2-(4-$ bromophenyl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $69 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4$ mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium(II) acetate $(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish solid, ( $54.5 \mathrm{mg}, 81 \%$ ), mp 102-104 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.35-8.36(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.60-7.64(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.57(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.40-7.42(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.05-$ 7.07 (m, 1H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 196.9,156.4,148.9,139.4,139.0,136.8,136.5$, $131.3,130.8,130.3,129.0,128.64,128.58,127.2,122.4,122.1$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1670,1584,1279$, 1067, 927, $750 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{BrNONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 360.0000$; found: 360.0002 .
(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methanone, 3j, Scheme $\mathbf{2 .}^{\mathbf{8}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetic acid $(65.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate $(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $37.0 \mathrm{mg}, 57 \%$ ), $\mathrm{mp} 76-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta$ 8.30-8.31 (m, 1H), 7.78-7.81 (m, 3H), 7.54-7.66 (m, 5H), $7.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.02-7.04(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 196.9,156.0,148.8,141.0,139.4,138.8,136.6,133.2(\mathrm{q}, J$ $=31.5 \mathrm{~Hz}), 130.5,129.3,129.1,128.8,128.4,125.0(\mathrm{q}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 123.6(\mathrm{q}, J=271.5 \mathrm{~Hz})$,
122.2, 122.1; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1675,1587,1322,1130,753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~F}_{3} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 327.0871$; found: 327.0867.

Naphthalen-1-yl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3k, Scheme 2. ${ }^{\mathbf{9}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $60 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate $(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish solid, ( $34.5 \mathrm{mg}, 56 \%$ ), mp 101-103 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.93(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.14(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.75-7.78(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.72(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.63-7.66(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 7.56(\mathrm{td}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.35-7.43(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.17(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.76-6.78(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 199.6,157.0,148.9,141.0$, $140.2,136.3,136.0,133.5,132.3,131.0,130.6,130.1,129.6,128.8,128.5,128.0,127.6,126.5$, 126.2, 123.7, 122.2, 121.4; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1662,1586,1432,1279,750 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 309.1154$; found: 309.1133.
(2-Bromophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 31, Scheme 2. ${ }^{11}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(2-bromophenyl)-2-oxoacetic acid ( $69 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4$ mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium(II) acetate $(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $54.0 \mathrm{mg}, 80 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.52-8.54(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.70-7.71(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61-7.66(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.57(\mathrm{td}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.53(\mathrm{td}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.44-$ $7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.06-7.09(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.01-7.03(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 196.7,157.1,149.1,140.7,139.4,138.7,136.2,139.9,131.6,131.3,131.2,130.6$,
129.3, 128.6, 126.5, 122.8, 121.8, 121.4; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1673,1586,1464,1432,1292,928,750$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{BrNO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 337.0102$; found: 337.0101.
(5-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone, 3o, Scheme 2. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 2}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-(p-tolyl)pyridine ( $34.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2phenylacetic acid ( $60 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 40.0 mg , $73 \%$ ), mp 137-139 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.35(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.68-7.70(\mathrm{~m}, 3$ H), $7.55(\mathrm{td}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.42(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.36-$ $7.40(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.26-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.98-7.00(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.47(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 198.4,156.6,148.9,139.4,138.6,137.9,136.8,136.2,132.2,130.9,129.6,129.4,128.5,127.9$, 122.4, 121.6, 21.2; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1666,1588,1461,1250,698 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 296.1051$; found: 296.1051.
(5-(tert-Butyl)-2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone, 3p, Scheme 2. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 3}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-(4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)pyridine ( $42.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-phenylacetic acid ( $60 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $38.0 \mathrm{mg}, 60 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.35(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.70-$ $7.73(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.64(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.53-7.56(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.38$ $(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.26-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.98-7.00(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.39(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( 150 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 198.7,156.7,151.8,148.9,139.0,138.0,136.8,136.2,132.2,129.4,128.4,127.9$,
$127.3,126.0,122.4,121.6,34.8,31.2$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2962,1667,1590,1467,1249,751 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 338.1521$; found: 338.1521 .
(4-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone, 3q, Scheme 2.' The same general procedure was followed by using 2-( $m$-tolyl)pyridine ( $34.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2phenylacetic acid ( $60 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 38.0 mg , $70 \%$ ), mp 106-108 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.40(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.68(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.55(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.38$ $(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.24-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.00-7.02(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.51(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;$ ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{NMR}}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$ ): $\delta 198.2,157.1,149.0,140.6,139.9,138.0,136.6,136.1,132.2$, $129.6,129.5,129.4,129.1,127.9,123.0,121.8,21.5$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1665,1588,1281,932,702$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 296.1051$; found: 296.1050.
(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(m-tolyl)methanone, 3r, Scheme 2. ${ }^{14}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-( $m$-tolyl)acetic acid ( $49 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $38.0 \mathrm{mg}, 70 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.39(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.77(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61(\mathrm{td}, J=$ $7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.48-7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.22(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.16(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.02-$ $7.04(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.29(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 198.4,156.9,149.0,139.7,139.6$, 137.7, 136.2, 133.2, 130.1, 129.9, 129.1, 128.8,128.4, 127.9, 127.0, 122.7, 121.9, 21.2; IR (neat):
$v_{\max } 1666,1588,1432,1284,752 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 273.1154$; found: 273.1150.
(5-Methoxy-2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(m-tolyl)methanone, 3s, Scheme 2. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine ( $37.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-(m-tolyl)acetic acid ( $66 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4$ mmol, 2.0 equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $42.5 \mathrm{mg}, 70 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.34(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.72(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.55(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.51-7.54(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.20(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.12-7.16(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.05(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.96-6.98(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $3.88(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.28(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta$ 198.1, 159.7, 156.4, 148.8, 140.8, 137.7, 137.6, 136.1, 133.2, 132.0, 130.0, 129.8, 127.9, 126.8, 122.1, 121.3, 116.0, 114.0, 55.5, 21.2; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1667,1595,1464,1288,1234,753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 326.1157$; found: 326.1161.

3-Methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)butan-1-one, 3w, Scheme 2. ${ }^{8}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 4-methyl-2oxopentanoic acid ( $52 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( 34.0 mg , $71 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.76(\mathrm{td}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.61(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.56(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.44-7.52(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.24-7.28(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.40(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.09-2.16(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 0.87(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta$ 206.6, 157.6, 149.2, 142.0, 138.6, 136.7, 130.0, 129.2, 128.5, 127.5, 122.6, 122.2, 51.7, 24.8,
22.6; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2956,1693,1587,1465,1208,754 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 262.1208$; found: 262.1207.

Phenyl(2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3x, Scheme 2. ${ }^{15}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyrimidine ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2phenylacetic acid ( $45 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 33 mg , $63 \%)$, mp 129-131 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.56(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.38(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=7.2$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.73(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.66(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.42(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.30(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.00(\mathrm{t}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 197.8,163.9,156.6,140.5,138.1,136.9,132.2,130.3,129.9,129.4,129.0$, 128.6, 128.1, 118.7; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1664,1557,1413,1281,752 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{ONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 283.0847$; found: 283.0841.

## Decarboxylative acylation reaction in gram scale (Synthesis of phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-

## yl)phenyl)methanone, 3a, Scheme 2).



To an oven-dried 100 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridines $(0.93 \mathrm{~mL}, 6.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-phenylacetic acid ( $1.46 \mathrm{~g}, 9.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 3.51 g , $13.0 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II)acetate ( $146 \mathrm{mg}, 0.65 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry $\mathrm{MeCN}(50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen for 30 seconds, immediately the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. After that the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ to remove the unreacted acids. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water $(80 \mathrm{~mL})$ and extracted with ethyl acetate $(60 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was washed with water $(30 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine ( 30 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The pure phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone (3a) was obtained as a white solid in 68\% (1.15 g) yield after column chromatography of the crude reaction mixture using ethyl acetate/hexane (7:3) as eluent.

## General experimental procedure for the decarbonylative acylation reaction between 2-

## phenylpyridines and phenylglyoxals, Scheme 3.



To an oven-dried 10 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridines ( $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), phenylglyoxals ( $0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry $\mathrm{MeCN}(3.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to it. After flushing with nitrogen, immediately the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. After that the reaction
mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water ( 40 mL ) and extracted with ethyl acetate $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was washed with water ( 10 mL ) and brine ( 10 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ 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 product.

## SPECTRAL DATA

Phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3a, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $\left(\begin{array}{lllll}31.0 & \mathrm{mg}, & 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, & 1.0 & \text { equiv }) \text {, 2-oxo-2- }\end{array}\right.$ phenylacetaldehyde ( $40 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 36.5 mg , $70 \%$ ), mp 105-107 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The spectral data of compound 3a is in Scheme 2.
(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)methanone, 3b, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-( $p$ tolyl)acetaldehyde ( $45 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 26 mg , $48 \%), \mathrm{mp} 97-99^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 b}$ is in Scheme 2.
(4-Fluorophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3g, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde ( $46 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 56 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 g}$ is in Scheme 2.
(4-Chlorophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3h, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde ( $51.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $33.5 \mathrm{mg}, 57 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 h}$ is in Scheme 2.
(2-Bromophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 31, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-(2-bromophenyl)-2-oxoacetaldehyde ( $64.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $40.5 \mathrm{mg}, 60 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 1}$ is in Scheme 2.
(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(m-tolyl)methanone, 3r, Scheme 3. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-( m tolyl)acetaldehyde ( $45 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( $108 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil ( 26.0 mg , $47 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 r}$ is in Scheme 2.

## General experimental procedure for the dehydrogenative acylation reaction between 2phenylpyridines and aldehydes, Scheme 4.



To an oven-dried 7 mL clear vial, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridines ( $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry $\mathrm{MeCN}(3.0 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) was added to it. The corresponding aldehydes ( 0.3 mmol 1.5 equiv) were added to the reaction mixture. After flushing with nitrogen for 30 seconds, immediately the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. Then aq. TBHP ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv) was added to the reaction mixture via micro-litter syringe. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at room temperature. After completion (as indicated by TLC), the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$ and extracted with ethyl acetate $(40 \mathrm{~mL})$. The organic layer was washed with water $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and brine $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$, dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ 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 product.

## SPECTRAL DATA

Phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3a, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( $32 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography
( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $45.0 \mathrm{mg}, 87 \%$ ), $\mathrm{mp} 105-107^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The spectral data of compound 3a is in Scheme 2.
(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)methanone, 3b, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 4-methylbenzaldehyde ( $36 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3$ mmol, 1.5 equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, $(42.5 \mathrm{mg}, 78 \%), 97-99{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 b}$ is in Scheme 2.
(4-Methoxyphenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3e, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (36.5 $\mu \mathrm{L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a yellowish oil, ( $39.0 \mathrm{mg}, 68 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 e}$ is in Scheme 2.

1-(4-(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)benzoyl)phenyl)ethanone, 3ac, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 4-acetylbenzaldehyde ( $44.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3$ $\mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, $(44.0 \mathrm{mg}, 73 \%), 80-82{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.30(\mathrm{~d}, J=$
$4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.80(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.75(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, 7.62-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.60 (td, $J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.56-7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.00-7.02(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 2.57(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 197.6,197.3,156.1,148.8,141.6$, $139.3,139.2,139.0,136.5,130.5,129.2,129.1,128.8,128.4,127.9,122.2,122.1,26.8$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1682,1433,1259,930,753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ; \operatorname{HRMS}\left(\mathrm{EI}, \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}\right.$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$ $[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 301.1103$; found: 301.1104 .

4-(2-(Pyridin-2-yl)benzoyl)benzonitrile, 3ae, Scheme 4. ${ }^{9}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.0 equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( 4.5 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 4-formylbenzonitrile ( $40 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $26.5 \mathrm{mg}, 47 \%$ ), mp 106-108 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.26(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.81(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.74-7.75$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.54-7.67(\mathrm{~m}, 7 \mathrm{H}), 7.02-7.04(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta$ 196.4, 155.7, $148.7,141.6,139.2,138.4,136.7,131.9,130.7,129.2,129.0,128.2,122.3,122.0,118.2,115.0$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2225,1671,1285,929,744 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}$: 284.0950; found: 284.0958 .
(3-Nitrophenyl)(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3af, Scheme 4.' The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 3-nitrobenzaldehyde ( $45 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( 34.0 mg , $56 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.44(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.26(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.22(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 8.03(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.58-7.69(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$,

1H), 7.00-7.02 (m,1H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 195.5,155.8,148.7,147.9,139.8,139.3$, $138.2,136.8,134.4,130.8,129.20,129.17,129.0,128.4,126.2,123.6,122.2,122.0$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1674,1531,1349,1277,753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$: 327.0746; found: 327.0752.

Naphthalen-2-yl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3ag, Scheme 4. ${ }^{\mathbf{8}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine $(31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 2-naphthaldehyde ( $47 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( $37.0 \mathrm{mg}, 60 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.33(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.09(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.94(\mathrm{dd}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.83(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.77-7.81(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.65-7.67(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.51-7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.93-6.95(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 $\left.\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 198.2,156.7,149.0,139.7,139.6,136.3,135.3,135.2,132.2,131.5,130.2$, $129.4,129.1,128.8,128.5,128.1,128.0,127.6,126.4,124.9,122.5,121.9 ;$ IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1662$, 1588, 1465, 1289, $753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 309.1154$; found: 309.1150.
(5-Methyl-2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)(p-tolyl)methanone, 3al, Scheme 4. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 4}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2 -(p-tolyl)pyridine ( $34.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 4-methylbenzaldehyde ( $36 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.5 equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, $(40.0 \mathrm{mg}, 70 \%)$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.37-8.38(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.68(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.53-7.55(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.40(\mathrm{~d}, J=$
$7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.32(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.07(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.99-7.01(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.45(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 2.32(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}) ;$ ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 198.2,156.8,149.0,143.0,139.6,138.5,136.7,136.1,135.3$, 130.7, 129.7, 129.4, 128.72, 128.70, 122.6, 121.6, 21.6, 21.2; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2923,1663,1603$, 1463, 1290, $757 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{NO}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 287.1310$; found: 287.1316.

Phenyl(2-(quinolin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3ao, Scheme 4. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 6}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylquinoline ( $41.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( $32 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $28.5 \mathrm{mg}, 46 \%$ ), mp 118-120 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{HNMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.07(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.76-7.77$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.65-7.74(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.57-7.61(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.43(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.31-7.33(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.23$ $(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{NMR}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 198.2,156.1,147.3,140.3,139.4$, $138.2,136.6,132.1,130.1,129.5,129.2,129.04,128.99,128.82,128.80,127.9,127.2,126.54$, 126.46, 119.9; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1665,1596,1282,931,768 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 332.1051$; found: 332.1050.

Furan-2-yl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3aq, Scheme 4. ${ }^{17}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), furan- 2 -carbaldehyde ( $25 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tertbutyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( $21.0 \mathrm{mg}, 42 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.78(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.61-7.66(\mathrm{~m}$, $3 \mathrm{H}), 7.52-7.54(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.43(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.10-7.12(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.82(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.34-6.35(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (150 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 185.4,157.1,152.8,149.2,146.5,139.8,138.3,136.4$,
$130.6,129.1,129.0,128.4,122.7,121.9,119.3,111.9$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1656,1566,1465,1301$, 1019, $753 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$: 272.0687; found: 272.0634 .

3-Methyl-1-(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)butan-1-one, 3w, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), 3-methylbutanal ( $33 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 65 \%$ ). The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 w}$ is in Scheme 2.

Cyclohexyl(2-(pyridin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3ar, Scheme 4. ${ }^{18}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), cyclohexanecarbaldehyde ( $36.5 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 46.5 mg , $88 \%$ ), mp 86-88 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.64(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.76(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 7.68(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.51(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.44(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.23-7.25(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.18-2.23(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.73(\mathrm{~d}, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 H), 1.66-1.69(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=13.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.35-1.42(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.10-1.17(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 0.94-$ $1.02(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 210.8,157.2,149.3,141.3,138.1,136.8,129.8$, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 122.3, 122.3, 50.8, 29.1, 25.9, 25.8; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2928,1687,1586,1438$, 976, $750 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{NONa}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 288.1364$; found: 288.1361.

Benzo[h]quinolin-10-yl(phenyl)methanone, 3at, Scheme 4. ${ }^{9}$ The same general procedure was followed by using benzo[ $h$ ]quinoline ( $36.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( 4.5 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( $32 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $51.5 \mathrm{mg}, 91 \%$ ) $\mathrm{mp} 148-150$ ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.51(\mathrm{~d}, J=4.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.04-8.07(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.88(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.77-7,80(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.72(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.65(\mathrm{dd}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, 7.40-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.32 (m, 3H); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta$ 198.6, 147.0, 144.6, $139.2,138.9,135.3,133.8,131.7,129.2,129.0,128.7,128.1,127.8,127.7,127.0,126.4,126.1$, 121.6; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1672,1417,1272,841,708 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ; \mathrm{HRMS}\left(\mathrm{EI}, \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}\right.$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{NO}$ $[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 283.0997$; found: 283.0993.

Phenyl(2-(pyrimidin-2-yl)phenyl)methanone, 3x, Scheme 4. The same general procedure was followed by using 2-phenylpyrimidine ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( 4.5 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( $32 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( $34.0 \mathrm{mg}, 65 \%$ ), mp 129-131 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The spectral data of compound $\mathbf{3 x}$ is in Scheme 2.

Phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-yloxy)phenyl)methanone, 3au, Scheme 4. ${ }^{19}$ The same general procedure was followed except the reaction was run for 72 hours by using 2-phenoxypyridine ( 34.0 mg , $0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( 32 $\mu \mathrm{L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with $7: 3$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a colourless oil, ( $12.0 \mathrm{mg}, 22 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 8.00-8.02(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$,
$7.76(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.56-7.59(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.46-7.52(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.30-7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.27(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.86-6.88(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 195.3$, $163.0,151.6,147.0,139.3,137.5,132.8,132.22,132.15,130.3,129.8,128.0,124.7,122.8$, 118.5, 111.5, IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1666,1590,1432,1250,766 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 298.0844$; found: 298.0861.
(2-(1H-Pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl)(phenyl)methanone, 3av, Scheme 4. ${ }^{\mathbf{1 9}}$ The same general procedure was followed by using 1-phenyl- 1 H -pyrazole ( $29.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), palladium(II) acetate ( $4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv), benzaldehyde ( $32 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), and aq. tert-butyl hydroperoxide ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv). Column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, eluting with 7:3 hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, (16.0 $\mathrm{mg}, 32 \%$ ), mp 82-84 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 7.58-7.66(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.50(\mathrm{td}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.43-7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.30(\mathrm{t}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.19(\mathrm{t}, J=1.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 195.8,141.2,138.6,136.7,133.8,132.9,131.2,129.8$, 129.6, 129.0, 128.1, 127.5, 123.2, 107.6; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 1669,1590,1264,931,762 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ;$ HRMS (EI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}[\mathrm{M}]^{+}: 248.0950$; found: 248.0947 .

## Dehydrogenative acylation reaction in gram scale (Synthesis of phenyl(2-(pyridin-2-

yl)phenyl)methanone, 3a, Scheme 4).


To an oven-dried 100 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridines $(0.93 \mathrm{~mL}, 6.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and palladium(II) acetate ( $146 \mathrm{mg}, 0.65 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry MeCN ( 50 mL ) was added to it. Then benzaldehyde ( $1.0 \mathrm{~mL}, 9.8 \mathrm{mmol} 1.5$ equiv) was added to the reaction mixture. After few seconds flushing with nitrogen, immediately $70 \%$ aq. TBHP ( $2.6 \mathrm{~mL}, 19.5$ mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added to the reaction mixture via syringe. The vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at room temperature. After completion (as indicated by TLC), the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. Then the reaction mixture was poured into water ( 80 mL ) and extracted with ethyl acetate ( $60 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The organic layer was washed with water ( $30 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) and brine ( 30 mL ), dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The pure phenyl(2-(pyridin-2yl)phenyl)methanone (3a) was obtained as a white solid in $72 \%(1.21 \mathrm{~g})$ yield after column chromatography of the crude reaction mixture using ethyl acetate/hexane (7:3) as eluent.

## Control experiments, Scheme 5.

The standard decarboxylative acylation reaction with radical scavenger (2,2,6,6-

## Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO), Scheme 5a.



To an oven-dried 10 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine $(31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-phenylacetic acid ( $45 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5$ equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 mg , $0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) and ( $2,2,6,6-$

Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) was taken and dry MeCN ( 3.0 mL ) was added to it. After few seconds flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. After that the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. We did not detect any desired acylation product (3a) by TLC. However, we isolated TEMPO-acyl adduct, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-$1-\mathrm{yl}$ benzoate (6a) in $74 \%$ yield as a white solid from the reaction mixture.

This control experiment suggested that the reaction may proceed via radical pathway and the acyl radical intermediate may form from the corresponding 2-oxo-2-phenylacetic acids.

2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate 6a, Scheme 5a. ${ }^{20}$ Column chromatography ( $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$, eluting with $95: 5$ hexane/ethyl acetate) afforded the desired product as a white solid, ( 39.0 mg , $74 \%), \mathrm{mp} 85-87{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 8.08-8.10(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.59(\mathrm{t}, J=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.47(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.77-1.82(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.67-1.74(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.59-1.62(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.46-1.49(\mathrm{~m}$, 1H), 1.29 ( $\mathrm{s}, 6 \mathrm{H}$ ) , $1.13(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 166.4,132.8,129.7,129.5$, $128.4,60.4,39.0,31.9,20.8,17.0$; IR (neat): $v_{\max } 2932,1742,1452,1248,1067,712 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS (ESI, m/z) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{NO}_{2} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}$: 284.1626; found: 284.1628.

The standard decarbonylative acylation reaction with radical scavenger (2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO), Scheme 5a.


To an oven-dried 10 mL sealed tube, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv), 2-oxo-2-phenylacetaldehyde ( $40 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1.5 equiv), potassium persulfate ( 108 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv), palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) and ( $2,2,6,6-$ Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) was taken and dry MeCN ( 3.0 mL ) was added to it. After few seconds flushing with nitrogen, the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 16 h at room temperature. After that the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. We did not detect any desired acylation product (3a) as indicated by TLC. But we isolated TEMPO-acyl adduct, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (6a) in $56 \%$ as a white solid from the reaction mixture.

This control experiment suggested that the reaction may proceed via radical pathway and the acyl radical intermediate may form from the corresponding arylglyoxals.

The standard dedrogenative acylation reaction with radical scavenger (2,2,6,6-

## Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO), Scheme 5a.



To an oven-dried 7 mL clear vial, a mixture of 2-phenylpyridine ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0$ equiv) and palladium(II)acetate ( $4.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.1$ equiv) was taken and dry $\mathrm{MeCN}(3.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to it. Then benzaldehyde ( $32.0 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol} 1.5$ equiv) and (2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) ( $63.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.0$ equiv) was added to the reaction mixture. After flushing with nitrogen, immediately the vessel was sealed with a screw cap. Then aq. TBHP ( $82 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 3.0$ equiv) was added to the reaction mixture via micro-
litter syringe. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 36 h at room temperature. After that the reaction mixture was quenched with $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$. We did not detect any desired acylation product (3a) as indicated by TLC. But we isolated TEMPO-acyl adduct, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (6a) in $71 \%$ as a white solid from the reaction mixture.

When the same experiment was performed with 1.0 equiv of $2,2,6,6$-Tetramethylpiperidin-1yl)oxyl (TEMPO) ( $31.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), we isolated the desired acylation product (3a) in $28 \%$ yield and also TEMPO-acyl adduct, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate (6a) in $90 \%$ as a white solid from the reaction mixture. In addition, when the same experiment was performed with 1.5 equiv of (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) ( $47.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), we isolated the desired acylation product ( $\mathbf{3 a}$ ) in $12 \%$ yield and also TEMPO-acyl adduct, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl benzoate ( $\mathbf{6 a}$ ) in $75 \%$ as a white solid from the reaction mixture. This control experiment suggested that the reaction may proceed via radical pathway and the acyl radical intermediate may form from the corresponding aldehydes.

ESI mass of the crude reaction mixture for TEMPO experiment


## References:

1. J. Park and S. Chang, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2015, 54, 14103-14107.
2. J. Zhuang, C. Wang, F. Xie and Wanbin Zhang, Tetrahedron, 2009, 65, 9797-9800.
3. N. Battini, S. Battula and Q. N. Ahmed, Eur. J. Org. Chem., 2016, 658-662.
4. S. Mo, Y. Zhu and Z. Shen, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2013, 11, 2756-2760.
5. J. Yao, R. Feng, Z. Wu, Z. Liu and Y. Zhanga, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2013, 355, 1517-1522.
6. Z.-L. Xu, H.-X. Li, Z.-G. R, W.-Y. Du, W.-C. Xu and J.-P. Lang, Tetrahedron, 2011, 67, 5282-5288.
7. T. W. Lyons, K. L. Hull and M. S. Sanford, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2011, 133, 4455-4464.
8. M. Li and H. Ge, Org. Lett., 2010, 12, 3464-3467.
9. X. Jia, S. Zhang, W. Wang, F. Luo and J. Cheng, Org. Lett., 2009, 11, 3120-3123.
10. S. Guin, S. K. Rout, A. Banerjee, S. Nandi and B. K. Patel, Org. Lett., 2012, 14, 5294-5297.
11. J. Lu, H. Zhang, X. Chen, H. Liu, Y. Jiang and H. Fua, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2013, 355, 529536.
12. W. Zhou, H. Li and L. Wang, Org. Lett., 2012, 14, 4594-4597.
13. A. B. Khemnar and B. M. Bhanage, Eur. J. Org. Chem., 2014, 6746-6752.
14. A. Behera, W. Ali, S. Guin, N. Khatun, P. R. Mohanta and B. K. Patel, RSC. Adv., 2015, 5, 33334-33338.
15. F. Xiong, C. Qian, D. Lin, W. Zeng and X. Lu, Org. Lett., 2013, 15, 5444-5447.
16. J.-P. Djukic, K. H. Dötz, M. Pfeffer, A. D. Cian and J. Fischer, Organometallics, 1997, 16, 5171-5182.
17. D. Zhang, B. Zhaorigetu and Y.-S. Bao, J. Phys. Chem. C, 2015, 119, 20426-20432.
18. O. Baslé, J. Bidange, Q, Shuai and C.-J. Lia, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2010, 352, 1145-1149.
19. Y.-F. Liang, X. Wang, C. Tang, T. Shen, J. Liua and N. Jiao, Chem. Commun., 2016, 52, 1416-1419.
20. N. Xu, P. Li, Z. Xie and L. Wang, Chem. Eur. J., 2016, 22, 2236-2242.


``` \(\underbrace{\infty 00000000000 N N N N N N N}\)
```



AH-652-1H/1












## 












acylation NMR/AH-594P P




```
acylation NMR/AH-594 C
AH-594
\(\stackrel{\beta-}{1}\)
```






| , | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ! 10 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 | $\begin{array}{r} 110 \\ f 1 \end{array}$ |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |









3g, Scheme 2

acylation NMP/AH-597 C AH-597



3g, Scheme 2


| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 |  |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |















| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | T | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 |  |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

acylation NMR/AH-625 B) AH-635 1H-NMRHी $\overline{\sigma_{9} D C l 3}$




| T | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 |  |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |











3n, Scheme 2




| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 , 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 | ${ }_{\mathrm{f1}(\mathrm{ppm})}^{100}$ | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | S48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |




| acylation /LMIR/AH-593 C <br> AH-593 ${ }^{2} 3 \mathrm{C}$-NMR in CDCl <br> $\stackrel{\infty}{\stackrel{\circ}{\top}}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |


$\stackrel{\infty}{\stackrel{\infty}{\sim}}$




| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 |  |  | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |





acylation NMR/AH-613 C AH-613 ${ }_{8}^{3} \mathrm{C}$ C-NMR in $\mathrm{CDCl}^{2}$ $\stackrel{\infty}{\square}$


।

ले




S52







## acylation NMR/AH-617 P

















```
M,
```








## 







##  めのNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN






3ab, Scheme 3












## acylation NMR/AH-647 P

 めのNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNMNNNNN





##  





3af, Scheme 4







3ag, Scheme 4

acylation NMR/AH-643 P AH-643 1H-NMR in CDCl3 M M M



3ah, Scheme 4







| T | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | , | 1 | 1 | 1 | , | , | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 120 | $\begin{gathered} 110 \\ \mathrm{f1}(\mathrm{ppm}) \end{gathered}$ | 90 | 80 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | S69 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 め品NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN






acylation NMF/AH-625 C AH-625 1 $\stackrel{\pi}{1}$



- m ! !
















##  oorNNTNNNNNNRNRNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN











3aq, Scheme 4


## 




3ar, Scheme 4





ヘロN
N~~N


3ar, Scheme 4




3at, Scheme 2



3at, Scheme 2




```
acylation NMRAAH-669 C
AH-669 1% %/&NMR in CDCB
    M
```





3au, Scheme 4










