SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Thermally induced N-S bond insertion reaction of diazo compounds with N-sulfenyl imides: synthresis of sulfides and mechanism studies

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General Information

All reactions are carried out in oven-dried (140° C) glassware under an atmosphere of argon. Solvents are dried and degassed by the standard methods. Flash column chromatography is performed using silica gel (300-400 mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography is performed using glass plates pre-coated with 300-400 mesh silica gel impregnated with a fluorescent indicator (254 nm). 1 H NMR and 13 C NMR spectra are recorded in CDCl₃ on a 400 MHz spectrometer; chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent signals as reference, and coupling constants (J) are given in Hertz. The peak information is described as: br = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m= multiplet, comp = composite. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) are recorded on a commercial apparatus (ESI or CI Source). The diazo compounds 1 and N-sulfenylsuccinimides 2,3 were prepared according to the previously published procedures and had physical and spectral properties identical to those earlier reported.

General Procedure for N-S Bond Insertion Reaction.

$$N_{2}$$
 R^{1} + N_{2}
 N_{1}
 R^{2}
 R^{2}
 R^{2}
 R^{2}
 R^{2}
 R^{2}
 R^{1}
 R^{1}
 R^{1}
 R^{1}
 R^{2}
 R^{1}

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, and **2** (0.2 mmol) in PhCF₃ (0.5 mL), was added the solution of diazo compound **1** (0.4 mmol) in PhCF₃ (1.5 mL) via a syringe pump in 5 hours at 105 $^{\circ}$ C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 7 h under these conditions. After the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was directly purified by column chromatography on silica gel without any additional treatment (eluent: Hexanes : EtOAc = 20:1 to 3:1) to give the pure products **3** in moderate to high yields.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3aa). White solid, mp: 148.8-149.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.91 - 7.72 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 - 7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.29 - 7.20 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.55 - 2.38 (comp, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.7, 167.6, 137.8, 135.0, 130.4, 130.0, 128.8, 128.8, 128.2, 128.0, 76.4, 53.6, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{17}NaNO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 378.0776, found 378.0780.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(phenylthio)-2-(*p*-tolyl)acetate (3ba). White solid, mp: 78.7-80.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.70 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.17 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.54 – 2.40 (comp, 4H), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.7, 138.7, 137.8, 132.0, 130.4, 130.1, 128.9, 128.8, 127.9, 76.4, 53.6, 28.0, 21.2; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NNaO₄S[M+Na]⁺: 392.0932, found 392.0923.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ca). White solid, mp: 104.4-105.0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.87 - 7.81 (m, 2H), 7.49 - 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09 - 7.01 (m, 2H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.73 - 2.34 (comp, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.5, 162.9 (d, J = 249.1 Hz), 137.7, 130.9 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 130.6, 130.2, 130.1, 128.9, 115.1 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 75.8, 53.7, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{16}FNNaO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 396.0682, found 396.0672.

Methyl 2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3da). White solid, mp: 64.1-64.7 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.83 - 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.48 - 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.39 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.28 - 7.22 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.58 - 2.36 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.7, 167.3, 137.8, 134.9, 133.7, 130.6, 129.7, 129.6, 128.9, 128.3, 75.8, 53.7, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{16}CINNaO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 412.0386, found 412.0389.

$$O$$
 N
 $S-Ph$
 CO_2Me

Methyl 2-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ea). White solid, mp: 70.6-71.3 °C. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.76 – 7.71 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.43 (comp, 4H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.28 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.57 – 2.39 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.7, 167.2, 137.8, 134.3, 131.3, 130.6, 129.9, 129.7, 128.9, 123.6, 75.9, 53.8, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{16}BrNNaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺: 415.9881, found 455.9880.

$$O$$
 S -Ph
 CO_2 Me

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(phenylthio)-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)acetate (3fa). White solid, mp: 125.4-126.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.98 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.50 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.58 – 2.41 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.7, 167.1, 139.2, 137.8, 130.84 (d, J = 32.6 Hz), 130.75, 129.5, 129.0, 128.6, 125.2 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.0 (d, J = 1.5 (d, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.0 (d, J = 3.7

272.4 Hz), 75.9, 53.9, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI $^+$) calculated for $C_{20}H_{16}F_3NNaO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 446.0650, found 446.0641.

Methyl2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ga). White solid, mp: 133.8-134.5 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.79 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.91 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.54 – 2.41 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.7, 159.9, 137.7, 130.4, 130.2, 129.5, 128.8, 126.9, 113.5, 76.1, 55.4, 53.6, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{19}NNaO_5S[M+Na]^+$: 408.0882, found 408.0876.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ha). White solid, mp: 74.0-76.6 °C. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.88 – 7.50 (comp, 3H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.02 – 6.96 (m, 1H), 6.86 – 6.81 (m, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.5, 167.5, 157.2, 137.5, 131.0, 130.2, 129.9, 129.5, 128.5, 123.5, 120.6, 112.1, 75.3, 56.0, 53.7, 27.9; HRMS (TOF MS ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $C_{20}H_{19}NaNO_{5}S[M+Na]^{+}$: 408.0882, found 408.0883.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ia). White solid, mp: 99.8-101.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d,

J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.34 - 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.39 (s, 4H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.5, 167.5, 157.2, 137.5, 130.9, 130.2, 129.9, 129.4, 128.4, 123.4, 120.5, 112.1, 75.2, 55.9, 53.6, 27.8; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{19}\text{NaNO}_5\text{S}[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$: 408.0882, found 408.0877.

Ethyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ja). White solid, mp: 131.1-131.9 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.88 - 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40 - 7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 4.33 - 3.95 (m, 2H), 2.46 (comp, 4H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.7, 167.0, 137.8, 135.0, 130.4, 130.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.04, 128.03, 76.5, 63.0, 28.0, 13.8; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{19}NNaO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 392.0932, found 392.0923.

Benzyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ka). White solid, mp: 43.1-48.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.82 - 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.54 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.35 (comp, 4H), 7.25 (comp, 5H), 7.09 - 7.04 (m, 2H), 5.15 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, J = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.7, 166.9, 137.9, 135.0, 134.9, 130.4, 129.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 76.5, 68.4, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{25}H_{22}NO_4S[M+H]^+$: 432.1270, found 432.1267.

Cinnamyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3la). White solid, mp: 43.1-48.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.88 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.54 - 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.40 - 7.33 (m, 4H), 7.30 (comp, 4H), 7.27 - 7.21 (m, 4H), 6.40 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.10 - 6.00 (m, 1H), 4.79 - 4.59 (m, 1H), 2.53 - 2.42 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.7, 166.9, 137.9, 136.3, 135.0, 134.2, 130.4, 130.0, 128.84, 128.81, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1 126.7, 122.4, 76.6, 67.2, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{27}H_{24}NO_4S[M+H]^+$: 458.1426, found 458.1417.

3-Phenylprop-2-yn-1-yl2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3ma). White solid, mp: 52.2-54.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.85 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.56 - 7.51 (m, 2H), 7.40 - 7.34 (comp, 6H), 7.31 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.25 (m, 2H), 4.91 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.53 - 2.46 (comp, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.7, 166.4, 137.9, 134.7, 131.9, 130.5, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 128.4, 128.2, 128.1, 126.8, 122.2, 87.2, 82.1, 76.2, 55.1, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{27}H_{21}NNaO_4S[M+Na]^+$: 478.1089, found 478.1089.

2-Isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexyl2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3na). White solid, mp: 61.7-62.2 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) one isomer: 7.71 - 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.56 - 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.19 (comp. 6H), 4.64 (td, J = 10.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 - 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.56 - 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.19 (comp. 6H), 4.64 (td, J = 10.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 - 7.69 (m, 2H), 1.50 - 1.50 (comp. 1.50 - 1.50 (

0.76 (comp, 13H), 0.84 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 0.60 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.43 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); the other isomer: 7.91 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.19 (comp, 6H), 4.55 (td, J = 10.9, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.50 – 0.76 (comp, 13H), 0.87 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.71 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.39 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) combination of the two isomers: 174.6, 174.4, 166.9, 166.8, 138.1, 137.7, 135.0, 134.6, 130.4, 130.3, 130.25, 130.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 127.9, 127.8, 127.5, 77.8, 77.4, 77.2, 76.6, 47.4, 47.2, 39.9, 34.2, 31.5, 28.0, 25.6, 24.9, 23.2, 22.7, 22.1, 22.0, 21.0, 20.8, 15.7, 15.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{28}H_{33}NNaO_4S$ [M+Na]⁺:502.2028, found 502.2013.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(p-tolylthio)acetate (3gb). White solid, mp: 78.6-79.7 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.79 – 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 2.54 – 2.41 (m, 4H), 2.30 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.7, 159.8, 140.8, 137.6, 129.6, 129.4, 126.9, 126.6, 113.4, 75.9, 55.3, 53.5, 28.0, 21.4; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for C₂₁H₂₁NNaO₅S [M+Na]⁺:422.1038, found 422.1024.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(*o*-tolylthio)acetate (3gc). White solid, mp: 131.8-132.4 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.81 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.06 – 6.99 (m, 1H), 6.90 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.46 (comp, 4H), 2.41 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.9, 167.7, 159.8, 145.3, 138.8, 130.6, 130.3, 130.2, 129.7, 127.6, 125.9, 113.3, 75.6, 55.4,

53.3, 28.1, 21.6; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_5S[M+Na]^+$: 422.1038, found 422.1024.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(m-tolylthio)acetate (3gd). White solid, mp: 146.8-147.1 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.79 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.91 – 6.85 (m, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.46 (comp, 4H), 2.27 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.8, 159.8, 138.6, 138.2, 134.7, 131.1, 129.8, 129.5, 128.6, 126.9, 113.5, 76.1, 55.4, 53.5, 28.0, 21.3; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_5S[M+Na]^+$: 422.1038, found 422.1033.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)thio]acetate (3ge). White solid, mp: 109.4-109.8 °C. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.77 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 6.89 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 6.79 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.48 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.9, 167.8, 161.5, 159.7, 139.3, 129.4, 126.9, 120.7, 114.3, 113.5, 76.0, 55.4, 55.3, 53.5, 28.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $C_{21}H_{21}NNaO_6S[M+Na]^{+}$: 438.0987, found 438.0988.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[(4-nitrophenyl)thio]acetate (3gf). White solid, mp: 77.6-78.2 °C. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 8.04 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63

(s, 3H), 2.61 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.9, 167.0, 160.1, 148.4, 139.3, 136.7, 129.7, 126.0, 123.4, 113.7, 75.9, 55.4, 53.7, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{18}N_2NaO_7S[M+Na]^+$: 453.0732, found 453.0725.

Methyl 2-[(4-Bromophenyl)thio]-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3gg) White solid, mp: 96.9-97.6 °C. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.76 – 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 6.91 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.55 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.4, 159.9, 138.9, 132.0, 129.5, 129.3, 126.7, 125.2, 113.6, 75.8, 55.4, 53.6, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI $^{+}$) calculated for $C_{20}H_{18}BrNNaO_{5}S[M+Na]^{+}$: 485.9981, found 485.9972.

Methyl 2-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3gh) White solid, mp: 65.6-66.3 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.75 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.54 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.9, 167.4, 159.9, 138.7, 136.9, 129.4, 129.0, 128.7, 126.7, 113.6, 75.9, 55.4, 53.6, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{18}$ CINNaO₅S[M+Na]⁺: 442.0492, found 442.0481.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-[(4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3gi) White solid, mp: 45.3-46.6 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.76 – 7.67 (m, 2H),

7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 6.99 – 6.83 (comp, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.62 – 2.45 (comp, 4H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 174.8, 167.6, 164.3 (d, J = 251.8 Hz), 159.9, 139.7 (d, J = 8.7 Hz), 129.4, 126.7, 125.6 (d, J = 3.4 Hz), 116.0 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 113.6, 75.9, 55.4, 53.6, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{18}FNNaO_{5}S[M+Na]^{+}$: 426.0787, found 426.0773.

Methyl 2-(Benzylthio)-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3gj). White solid, mp: 45.3-46.6 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.61 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (comp, 4H), 7.21 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.86 (q, J = 14.2 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.34 (comp, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 175.6, 167.8, 159.8, 136.5, 131.5, 129.5, 129.1, 128.6, 127.3, 125.6, 114.0, 113.7, 73.3, 55.4, 53.7, 35.4, 28.2. HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for C₂₁H₂₁NNaO₅S [M+Na]⁺: 422.1038, found 422.1040.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pentylthio)acetate (3gk). Colorless oil. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 6.89 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.77 (s, 4H), 2.54 – 2.41 (m, 2H), 1.54 – 1.47 (m, 2H), 1.30 (comp, 4H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 175.7 167.7, 159.8, 129.7, 126.1, 113.6, 73.0, 55.4, 53.6, 31.5, 31.3, 28.4, 28.1, 22.4, 14.0; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{19}H_{25}NNaO_5S[M+Na]^+$: 402.1351, found 402.1352.

Methyl 2-(Decylthio)-2-(2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetate (3gl). White solid, mp: 42.2-44.4 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.60 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.77 (s, 4H), 2.54 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 1.56 – 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.22 (m, 14H), 0.87 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 175.7, 167.7, 159.8, 129.7, 126.1, 113.6, 73.0, 55.4, 53.6, 32.0, 31.6, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 29.4, 29.1, 28.4, 28.39, 22.8, 14.2; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for C₂₄H₃₅NNaO₅S[M+Na]⁺: 472.2134, found 472.2132.

Methyl 2-(1,3-Dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(p-tolylthio)acetate (3am).³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.90 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 4H), 7.41 – 7.33 (m, 3H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 168.0, 166.4, 140.5, 137.7, 135.4, 134.3, 131.4, 129.5, 128.7, 128.1, 128.1, 126.2, 123.3, 76.5, 53.6, 21.3.

Methyl 2-(1,3-Dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-((4-methoxyphenyl)thio)-2-phenylacetate (3an).³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.89 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 4H), 7.37 (comp, 5H), 6.51 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.63 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 168.0, 166.4, 161.3, 139.4, 135.4, 134.3, 131.3, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 123.3, 120.4, 114.2, 76.5, 55.3, 53.6.

Methyl 2-(1,3-Dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(phenylthio)acetate (3go).³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 4H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 168.1, 166.4, 159.9, 137.7, 134.3, 131.3, 130.0, 129.9, 129.6, 128.7, 127.0, 123.3, 113.5, 76.3, 55.4, 53.6.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-phenyl-2-(p-tolylthio)acetate (3ab).³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 2H), 7.35 (comp, 5H), 7.05 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 2.48 (comp, 4H), 2.31 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.7, 140.9, 137.8, 135.1, 129.6, 128.7, 128.1, 128.0, 126.4, 76.3, 53.6, 28.1, 21.5; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for C₂₀H₁₉NNaO₄S[M+Na]⁺: 392.0932, found 392.0919.

Methyl 2-(2,5-Dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl)-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2-phenylacetate (3ae). White solid, mp: 60.0-61.0 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 7.83 - 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.43 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.32 (m, 3H), 6.79 - 6.74 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 3H), 2.52 - 2.48 (comp, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 174.8, 167.7, 161.6, 139.4, 135.1, 128.7, 128.2, 127.9, 120.6, 114.3, 76.4, 55.5, 53.6, 28.1; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $C_{20}H_{19}NNaO_5S[M+Na]^+$: 408.0882, found 408.0872.

1-{[(4-Methoxyphenyl)thio]diphenylmethyl}pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (3oe). White solid, mp: $66.1\text{-}66.8\,^{\circ}\text{C}$. ^{1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 7.43 (d, $J = 8.8\,\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.30 (comp, 5H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.3\,\text{Hz}$, 2H), 7.08 (d, $J = 8.4\,\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.90 (d, $J = 8.8\,\text{Hz}$, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ , ppm) 176.8 160.2, 138.8, 137.5, 136.0, 135.0, 129.5, 128.6, 128.5, 127.9, 127.6, 123.6, 115.2, 58.1, 55.5, 28.3; HRMS (TOF MS ESI⁺) calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{NO}_{3}\text{S}[\text{M}+\text{H}]}^{+}$: 404.1320, found 404.1311.

Methyl 2-(1,3-Dioxoisoindolin-2-yl)-2-(phenylthio)-2-(*o*-tolyl)acetate (3qo).³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 8.10 – 8.02 (m, 1H), 7.73 – 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.45 – 7.38 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.96 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ, ppm) 167.9, 166.3, 137.7, 137.1, 134.4, 133.6, 132.9, 131.2, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 128.6, 128.4, 125.9, 123.4, 77.3, 53.8, 21.7.

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, and **2a** (0.2 mmol, 41.5mg) in PhCF₃ (0.5 mL), was added the solution of diazo compound **S1a** (0.4 mmol, 80.9mg) in PhCF₃ (1.5 mL) *via* a syringe pump in 5 hours at 105 °C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 7 h under these conditions. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was subjected to proton NMR analysis

(Figure S1). Most of the material **2a** remains untouched and **S3a** is observed as the only product.

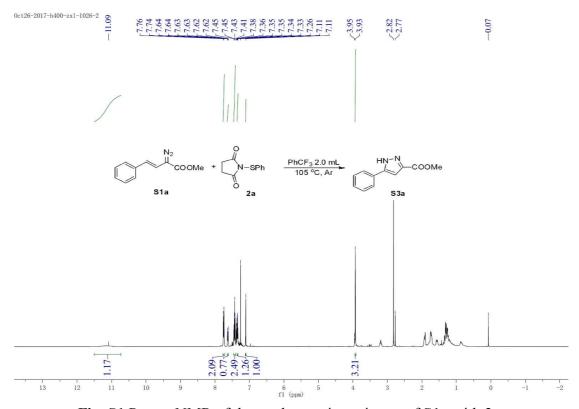


Fig. S1 Proton NMR of the crude reaction mixture of S1a with 2a.

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, and 2a (0.2 mmol, 41.5 mg) in PhCF₃ (0.5 mL), was added the solution of diazo compound 81b (0.4 mmol, 76.1 mg) in PhCF₃ (1.5 mL) *via* a syringe pump in 5 hours at 105 °C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 7 h under these conditions. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude reaction mixture was subjected to proton NMR analysis. Most of the material 2a remains untouched and 83b is observed as two isomer (Z:E = 0.6:1).

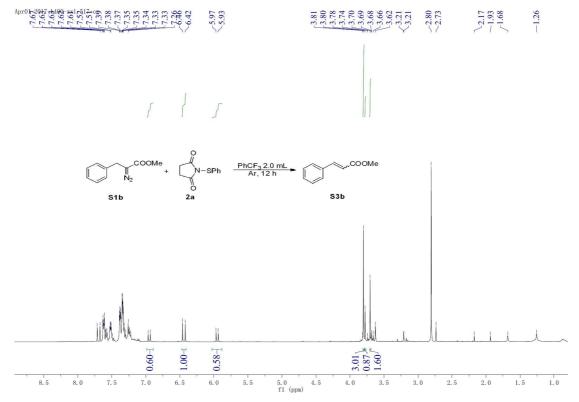


Fig. S2 Proton NMR of the crude reaction mixture of S1a with 2a.

Derivatization: Synthesis of 6.

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, **3ga** (77 mg, 0.2 mmol) in MeOH (2.0 mL), was added 85% hydrazine hydrate (64 uL, 1.0 mmol) dropwise over 2 min at 0 °C under stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for additional 1 h, and then warmed up to room temperature and reacted overnight. After the reaction completed, the solvents were removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in water (8.0 mL), the pH of solution was then adjusted to 1-2 by adding 1N HCl at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1h at room temperature, and then filtered. The filtrate was treated with solid Na₂CO₃ until the pH reached at 11-12. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5.0 mL x 3). The combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and dried in vacuo after filtration to provide a yellow oil **6** in 73% yield (28.4 mg). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ ppm) 7.26 – 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) (δ ppm) 165.2, 160.4, 137.4, 130.4, 121.4, 114.8, 55.5, 52.5. HRMS (TOF MS CI⁺) calculated for C₁₀H₁₂NO₃[M+H]⁺: 194.0817, found 194.0818.

Control Experiments.

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, 2a (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol), and TEMPO (156.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous PhCF₃ (0.5 mL), was added a solution of diazo compound 1a (70.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) in anhydrous PhCF₃ (1.5 mL) *via* a syringe pump over 5 h at 105°C under argon atmosphere. And the mixture was stirred for additional 7 h under these conditions. When the reaction was completed, The reaction mixture was subjected to proton NMR (Figure 3) and HRMS analysis (Figure 4) after evaporation of the solvent in *vacuo*. And then the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexanes : EtOAc = 5:1 to 3:1) to give the product 3aa in 30% yield. In this study, ketone 4 was also isolated as the major by product.

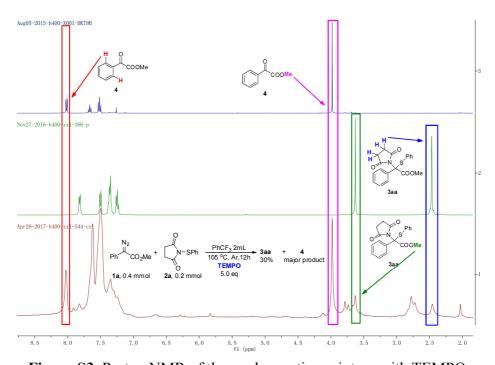


Figure S3. Proton NMR of the crude reaction mixture with TEMPO.

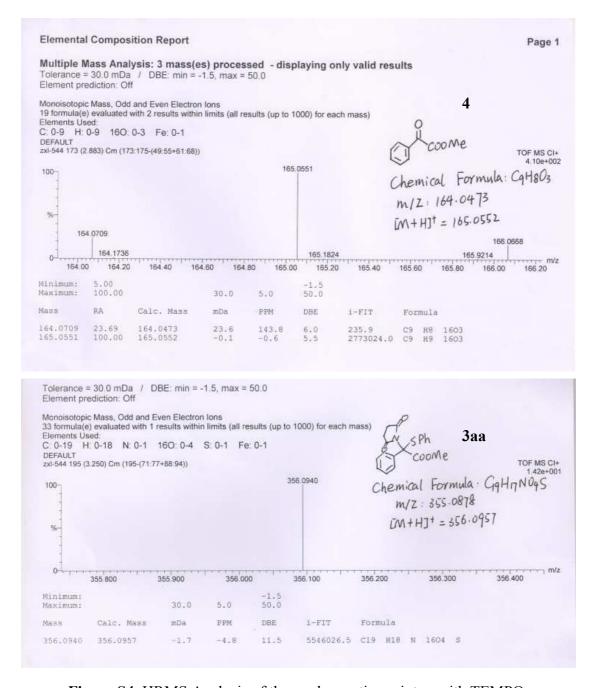
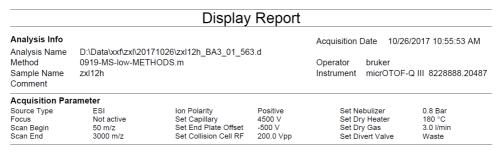


Figure S4. HRMS Analysis of the crude reaction mixture with TEMPO.

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, **2a** (43.7 mg, 0.2 mmol), diazo compound **1a** (70.5 mg, 0.4 mmol) and anhydrous PhCF₃ (1.5 mL) were

added in sequence, and the reaction mixture was stirred over 1 h at 105°C under argon atmosphere. Then TEMPO (156.2 mg, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous PhCF₃ (0.5 mL) was added *via* a syringe pump, and the mixture was stirred for additional 0.5 h under these conditions. The crude reaction mixture was then subjected to LC-MS analysis and molecular weight of compound 5 was detected (See Fig. S3).



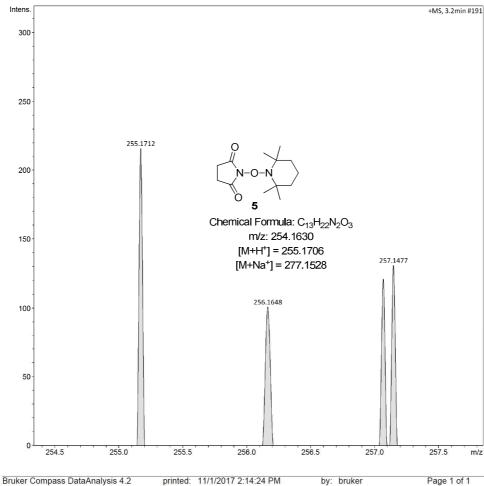


Fig. S5 LC-MS Analysis of compound 5.

Cross-Coupling Experiment:

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, **2b** (44.3 mg, 0.2 mmol), and **2n** (57.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) in anhydrous PhCF₃ (1.0 mL), was added diazo compound **1a** (141.0 mg, 0.8 mmol) in anhydrous PhCF₃ (3.0 mL) *via* a syringe pump over 5 h at 105°C under argon atmosphere. And the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 7h under these conditions. When the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was subjected to proton NMR analysis after evaporation of the solvent in *vacuo* (Figure S6). In this study, four products **3ab**, **3ae**, **3am**, **3an** were obtained with a ratio of 26 : 20 : 24 : 30. And each was further confirmed by HPLC-HRMS analysis (Figure S7-S10).

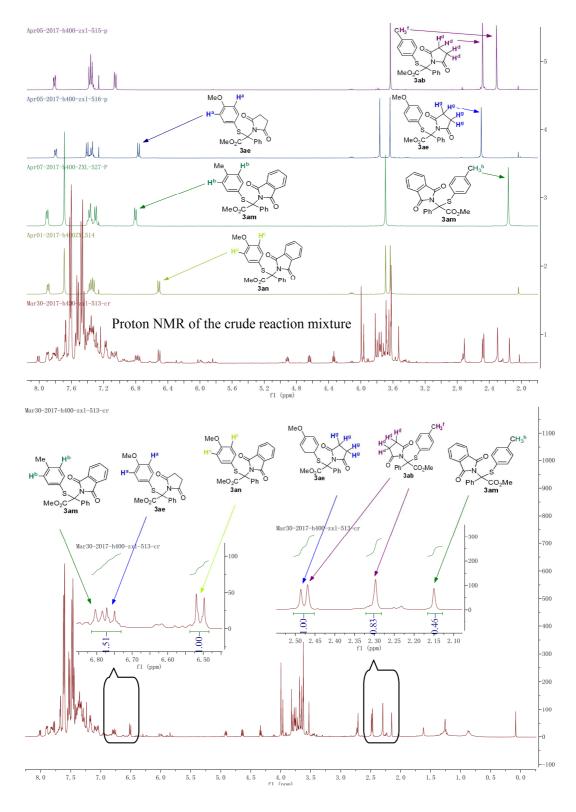


Figure S6. Proton NMR of the crude reaction mixture of the cross-coupling experiment.

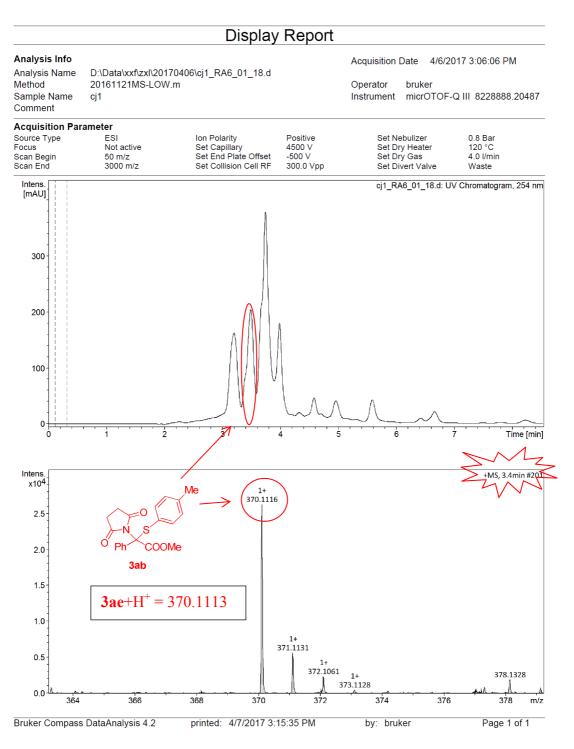


Figure S7. HPLC-HRMS Analysis of the crude reaction mixture of the cross-coupling experiment_1.

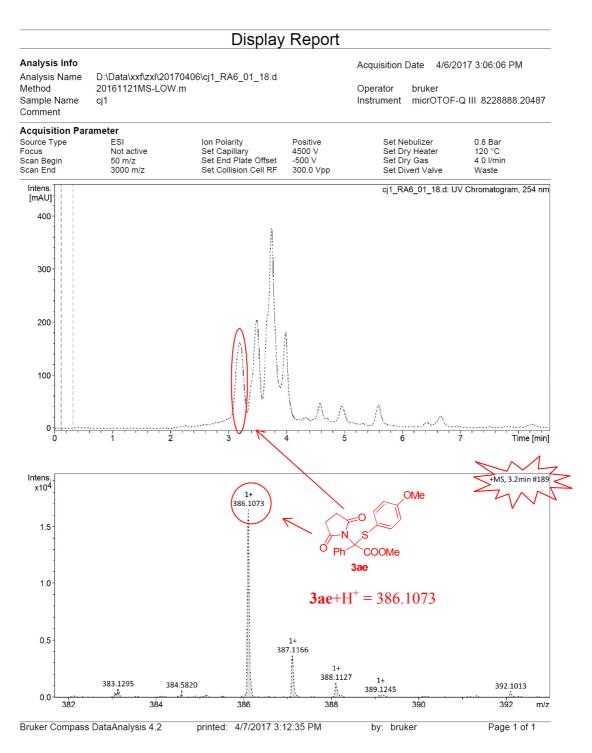


Figure S8. HPLC-HRMS Analysis of the crude reaction mixture of the cross-coupling experiment 2.

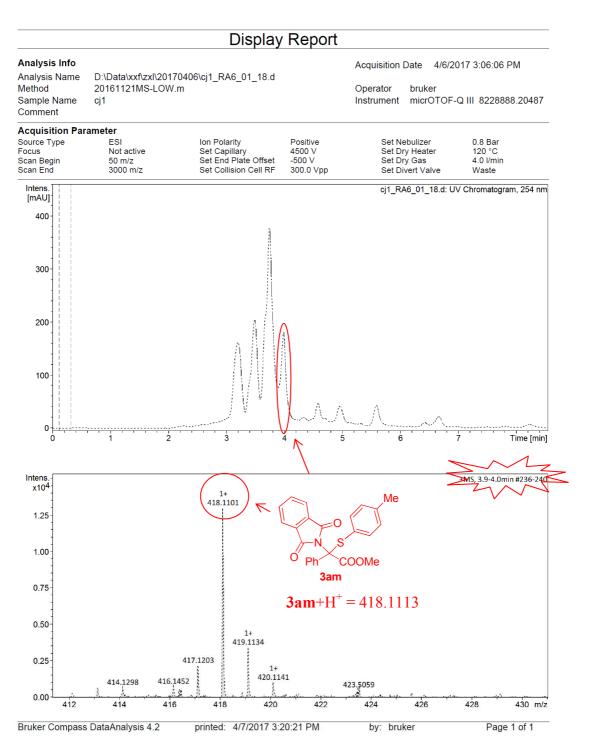


Figure S9. HPLC-HRMS Analysis of the crude reaction mixture of the cross-coupling experiment 3.

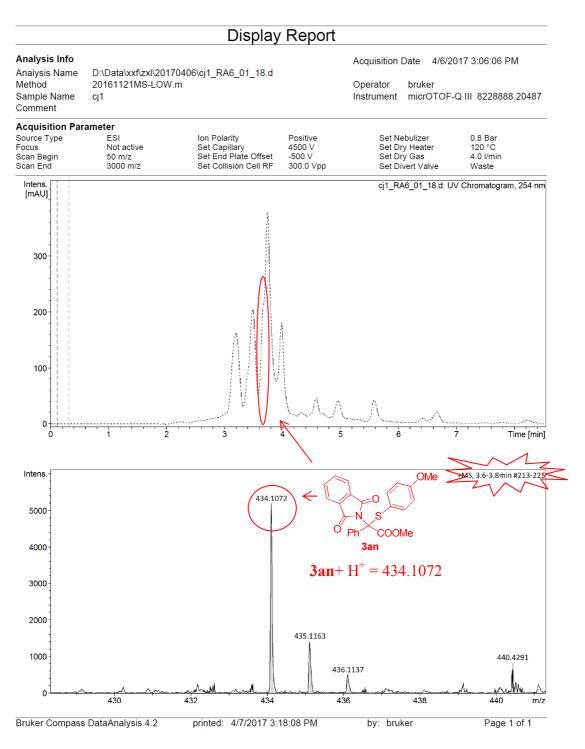


Figure S10. HPLC-HRMS Analysis of the crude reaction mixture of the cross-coupling experiment_4.

Comparative Experiment in the Presence of Rh₂(OAc)₄:

To a 10-mL oven-dried vial containing a magnetic stirring bar, **11** (51.6 mg, 0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv.), and **20** (111.3 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in anhydrous hexane (4 mL), was added $Rh_2(OAc)_4$ (8.8 mg, 1.0 mol %). The reaction was stirred for 12 h at 80 °C under argon atmosphere. Then the solvent was evaporated in *vacuo* and the residue was directly subjected to proton NMR analysis (Figure S11). Then the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: Hexanes: EtOAc = 5:1 to 3:1) to give the product **8** in >90% yield, 4 and unreacted **20** was recovered.

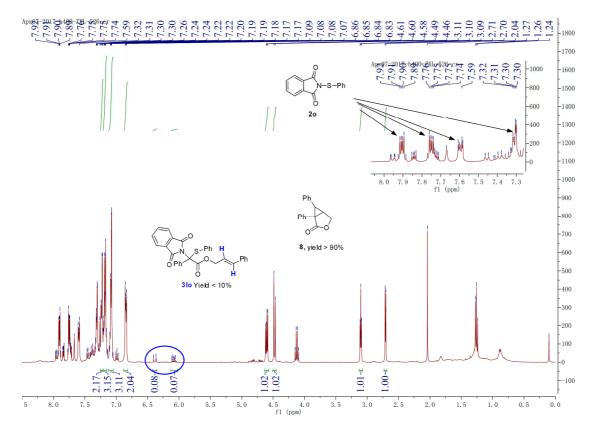


Figure S11. Proton NMR of the crude reaction in the presence of Rh₂(OAc)₄.

References:

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