# **Supporting Information**

## A mild method for synthesizing carboxylic acids by oxidation of aldoximes using hypervalent iodine reagents

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#### **Experimental Section**

**General.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on the JEOL JMN-400 spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO- $d_6$  with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm ( $\delta$ ), integration, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constant (Hz).

**Materials:** Unless otherwise noted, all reagents, including  $PhI(OCOCH_3)_2$ , PhI(OH)OTs and  $PhI(OCOCF_3)_2$ , and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

**General Oxidation Procedure:** To a DMSO-H<sub>2</sub>O (50:1, 2 mL) solution of aldoxime **1** (0.2 mmol) was added PhI(OH)OTs (0.21 mmol) at room temperature, and another amount of PhI(OH)OTs (0.21 mmol) was added in 30 min. After completion of the reaction as indicated by TLC monitoring, the reaction mixture was poured into 10% aq. Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and then EtOAc was added. The organic layer was extracted with 10% aq. Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The combined aqueous layers were acidified by addition of aq. HCl, and then extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford pure carboxylic acid **2** with no need for further purification.

#### Preparation of rhodamine-hydroxamic acid<sup>1</sup>



To a solution of rhodamine B base (221 mg, 0.5 mmol) and hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.347 g, 5 mmol) in EtOH (5 mL) was added NaOH (200 mg, 5 mmol) dissolved in water (2 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 h, and then poured into water (20 mL). The solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, ethyl acetate) to give product (208 mg, 91%) as a beige colored solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) :  $\delta$  7.84 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44–7.40 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 6.27 (dd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.32 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 8H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 12H).

#### Signaling experiment<sup>1</sup>



Solution of rhodamine-hydroxamic acid ( $5.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M) and PhI(OH)OTs ( $5.0 \times 10^{-2}$  M) were prepared in DMSO. The solution of rhodamine-hydroxamic acid ( $30 \mu$ L) was diluted to 3.0 mL with DMSO and pH 4.8 acetate buffer solution to make a composition of 1:9, v/v (colorless solution). The solution of PhI(OH)OTs ( $30 \mu$ L) was added and the resulting solution was fluoresced in a second.

#### NMR data



#### 3-Methoxybenzoic acid (2b)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H).



Ο

`OMe 2c

O

OH

#### 2-Methoxybenzoic acid (2c)<sup>3</sup>

OH <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.18 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (ddd, J = 8.4, 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (ddd, J = 8.8, 7.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H).





The hybrid of the second seco



2g

HO

4-Bromobenzoic acid (2h)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.14 (brs, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H).



**4-Chlorobenzoic acid (2i)**<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.93 (d, *J* = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H).



**4-Nitrobenzoic acid (2j)**<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H).



2-Naphthoic acid (2l)<sup>2</sup>
 OH
 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97-8.02 (m, 3H), 7.59-7.68 (m, 2H).
 2I

**4-Cyanobenzoic acid (2m)**<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H).



2m

NC

4-Acetoxybenzoic acid (2n)<sup>5</sup>
<sup>5</sup>OH <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.13 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H).



**Thiophene-2-carboxylic acid (20)**<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.89-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.63 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.12 (m, 1H).



**1-Tosyl-1***H***-indole-3-carboxylic acid (2p)<sup>7</sup>** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.15-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.97-7.95 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H).



## **Rhodamine-hydroxamic acid** <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2a<sup>1</sup>H NMR





2c <sup>1</sup>H NMR





2e <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2d <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2g <sup>1</sup>H NMR



S10

## $2f^{1}HNMR$



2i <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2h <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2k <sup>1</sup>H NMR





2m <sup>1</sup>H NMR





20 <sup>1</sup>H NMR





2q<sup>1</sup>H NMR



S15

## 2p <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2s <sup>1</sup>H NMR



2r<sup>1</sup>H NMR



2u<sup>1</sup>H NMR



## $2v {}^{1}H NMR$



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