

Synthesis of Unnatural α - Amino Acid Derivatives *via* Selective *o*-C-H Functionalization

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1. Procedure for the synthesis of compound 1a~1d

Procedure A for the synthesis of compound 1a and 1d. A suspension of α -phenylglycine or phenylalanine (10 mmol) in MeOH (30 ml) was cooled to 0 °C in an ice-water bath and SOCl_2 (1.5 mL) added dropwise over 10 min. The clear solution was elevated to ambient temperature and stirred for 4 h, continuously evaporated with DCM. The solvent was removed under vacuum to give the crude amino acid ester hydrochloride as a white solid, which was used directly for the next step. (Reference: B. R. Aluri, B. Niaz, M. K. Kindermann, P. G. Jones and J. Heinicke, *Dalton Trans.*, 2011, **40**, 211-224.)

Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (11 mmol) was treated with SOCl_2 (10.0 mL) at reflux temperature for 3 h. Excess SOCl_2 was then removed under vacuum to give the crude acid chloride. The crude acid chloride was diluted with dry CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL). A solution of the crude amino acid ester hydrochloride (10 mmol) and NEt_3 (40 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride solution at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was allowed warm to r.t., and then stirred overnight. The mixture was quenched with saturated NaHCO_3 solution and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 three times. These extracts were combined and dried over MgSO_4 . After evaporation in vacuo, the crude amide product was purified by silica gel chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 /ethyl acetate as the eluent to give the desired product. (Reference: R. Shang, L. Ilies, S. Asako and E. Nakamura, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 14349-14352.)

Procedure B for the synthesis of compound 1b. methyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(picolinamido) acetate (**1e**; 1.43 g, 5 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of dichloromethane and treated sequentially with imidazole (374 mg, 5.5 mmol) and tertbutyldimethylsilyl chloride (829 mg, 5.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 16 h at room temperature and concentrated to remove dichloromethane. The

crude oil was then taken up in EtOAc and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2x), water (1x), saturated aqueous NaCl (1x), and dried over MgSO₄. Concentration and through drying under vacuum yielded 85% of **1b** as a yellow oil. (Reference: J. S. Oakdale, L. Kwisnek and V. V. Fokin, *Macromolecules*, 2016, **49**, 4473-4479.)

Procedure C for the synthesis of compound 1c. A 250 mL two-necked flask equipped with a stir bar and a condenser coil was charged with anhydrous potassium carbonate (5 mmol, 691 mg), methyl 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(picolinamido) acetate (**1e**; 1.43 g, 5 mmol), acetone (30 mL), and (2-bromoethyl)benzene (5 mmol, 855 mg) were added. The mixture was refluxed until TLC analysis indicated complete consumption of the (2-bromoethyl)benzene. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated and dissolved in ethyl acetate (30 mL). The resulting solution was washed with 5% aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide (30 mL) and brine (30 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate 10:1) to give **1c** as a yellow solid yielded 83 %. (Reference: W. B. Wu and J. M. Huang, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **79**, 10189-10195.)

2. General procedure for the scale up experiment on gram scale

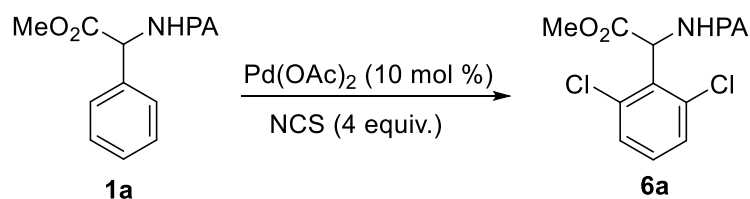
To a 100 mL round bottom flask, **1a** (1.08 g, 4 mmol), 4-Bromo-1-iodobenzene (**2g**; 5.66 g, 20 mmol), AgOAc (1.67 g, 10 mol), Pd(OAc)₂ (89.6 mg, 0.4 mmol) and *t*-AmylOH (30 mL) were added, reflux at 130 °C in oil bath for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, The mixture was filtered through a celite pad and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether /EtOAc) to afford the desired arylated product **3g** as a white solid.

3. Removal of directing group

To a 15 mL Schlenk tube, **3g** (58 mg, 0.1 mmol) and MeOH (1 mL) were added under atmospheric air. The reaction solution was stirred at room temperature and BF₃·Et₂O (0.126 mL, 1 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirred solution. The tube was sealed with a teflon-coated cap and the mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 48 h. After being cooled to ambient temperature, the mixture was quenched by slow addition of saturated Na₂CO₃ solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were next washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in DCM (1 mL). Et₃N (0.027 mL, 0.2 mmol) and Boc₂O (43.6 mg, 0.2 mmol) were then added. The solution was stirred 6 h at room temperature. After concentration, the mixture was purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether/EtOAc as the eluent, and the product **5** was obtained as white solid (84 %). (Reference: K. Li, Q. Wu, J. Lan and J. You, *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, **6**, 8404.)

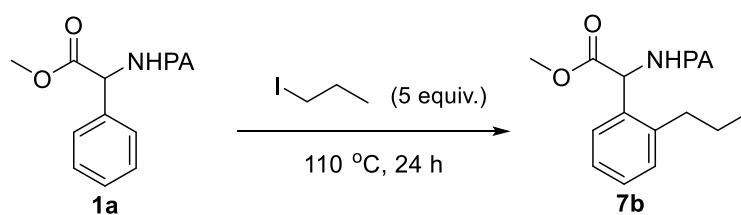
4. Optimization tables for chlorination, alkylation and acyloxylation

Table S1 Optimization of the reaction conditions for di-chlorination of phenylglycine^a



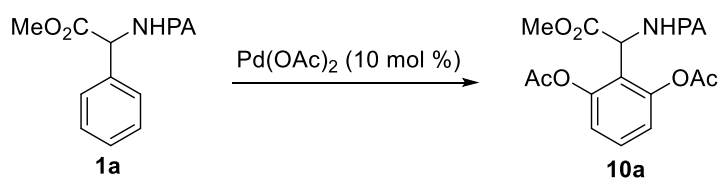
Entry	Solvent	Oxidant (eq.)	T (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^b (%)
1	DCE	no	100	24	0
2	CH ₃ CN	no	100	24	0
3	toluene	no	110	24	trace
4	<i>p</i> -xylene	no	110	24	7
5	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	no	110	24	0
6	toluene	Ag ₂ O (3)	110	24	21
7	toluene	AgOAc (3)	110	24	trace
8	toluene	PhI(OAc) ₂ (3)	110	24	0
9	DCE	PhI(OAc) ₂ (3)	110	24	0
10	<i>p</i> -xylene	Ag ₂ O (3)	110	36	52
11	<i>p</i> -xylene	AgF (3)	110	36	77
12	<i>p</i> -xylene	Ag ₂ CO ₃ (3)	110	36	10
13	<i>p</i> -xylene	AgOAc (3)	110	36	5

^aConditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), Pd(OAc)₂ (10 mol %), NCS (4 equiv.), oxidant (3 equiv.), solvent (1mL). ^bIsolated yield.

Table S2 Optimization of the reaction conditions for mono-alkylation of phenylglycine^a

Entry	Cat. (10 mol %)	Base (2 eq.)	Additive (2 eq.)	Solvent	Yield ^b (%)
1	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	NaTFA	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	12
2	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	NaOTf	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	10
3	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	PivOH	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	0
4	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	27
5	PdCl ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	0
6	Pd(TFA) ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	10
7	Pd(OAc) ₂	K ₂ HPO ₄	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	25
8	Pd(OAc) ₂	Cs ₂ CO ₃	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	27
9	Pd(OAc) ₂	KOAc	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	23
10	Pd(OAc) ₂	Na ₂ CO ₃	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	24
11	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaOAc	no	<i>t</i> -AmylOH	20
12	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	toluene	15
13	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	DCE	30
14 ^c	Pd(OAc) ₂	NaHCO ₃	no	DCE	45

^aConditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), Pd catalyst (10 mol %), RI (5 equiv.), base (2 equiv.), additives (2 equiv.), solvent (1 mL). ^bIsolated yield. ^cOxygen atmosphere.

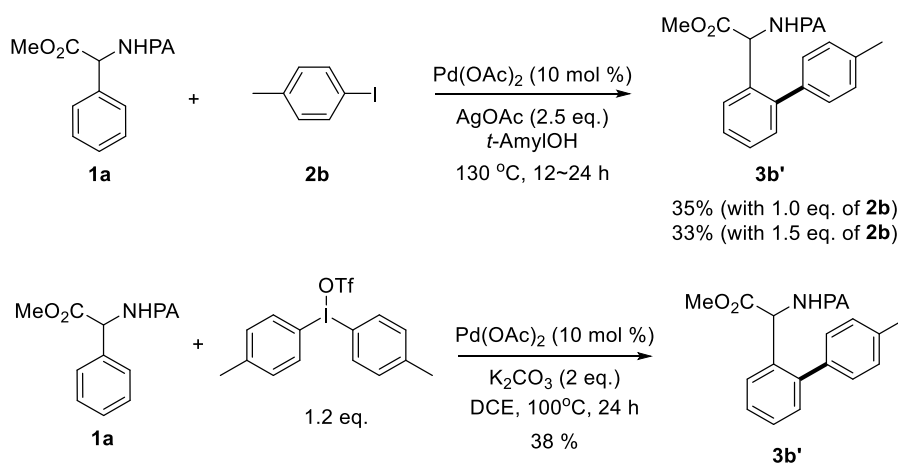
Table S3 Optimization of the reaction conditions for di-acyloxylation of phenylglycine

Entry	Oxidant (eq.)	Ac_2O (eq.)	Base (eq.)	Solvent	Yield ^b (%)
1	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	no	toluene	22
2	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	no	p-xylene	20
3	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	no	Ac_2O	0
4	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	no	$\text{Ac}_2\text{O}:\text{AcOH}$ (1:1)	0
5	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	no	DCE	3
6	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	Ag_2CO_3 (3)	toluene	40
7	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	Li_2CO_3 (3)	toluene	0
8	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	Na_2CO_3 (3)	toluene	0
9	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	no	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	40
10	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (4)	no	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	42
11	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (5)	10	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	65
12	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (4)	10	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	69
13	$\text{PhI}(\text{OAc})_2$ (3)	10	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	59
14	$\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ (3)	10	Ag_2CO_3 (1)	toluene	0

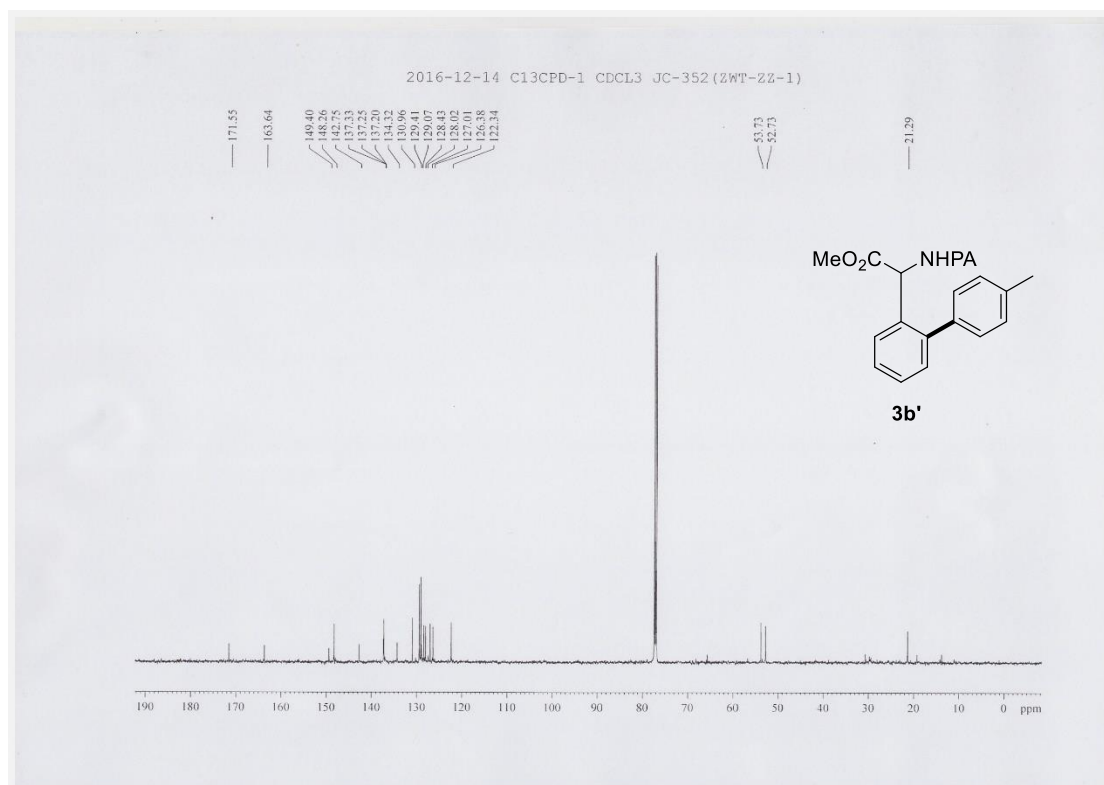
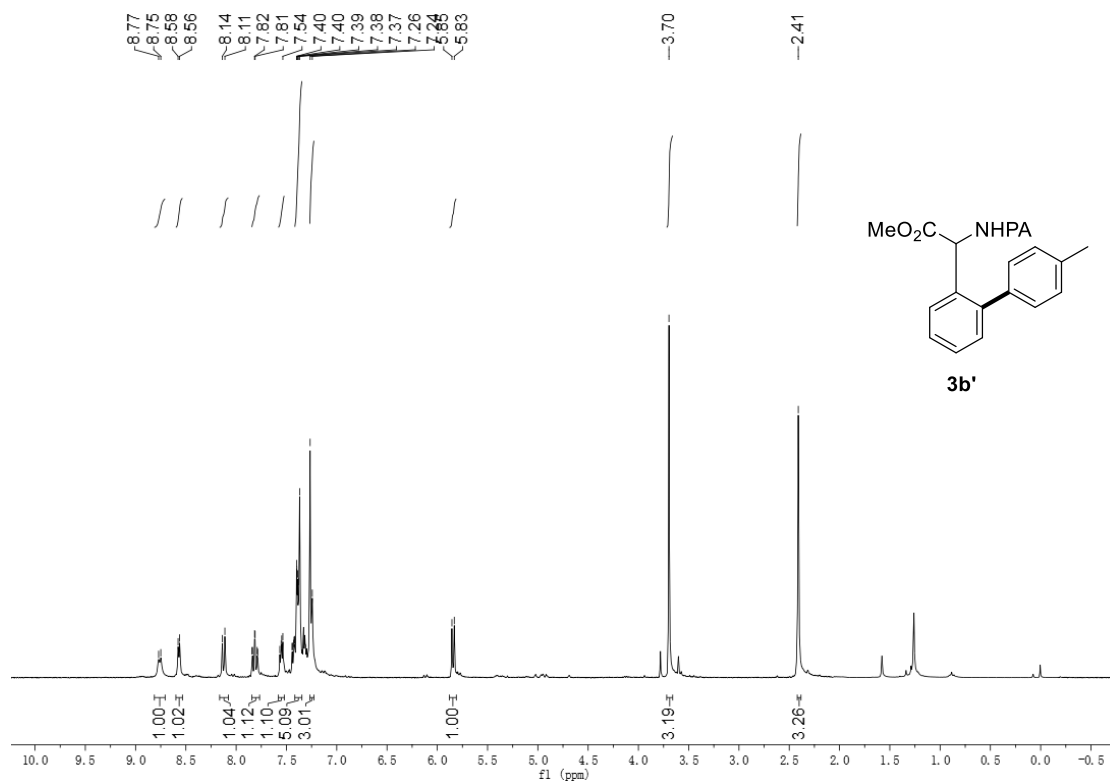
^aConditions: **1a** (0.1 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (10 mol %), base, solvent (1mL). ^bIsolated yield.

5. The attempts and result of mono-arylation of α -phenylglycine

One of the referees commented about the mono-arylated product. It would be of great value if mono-arylation could be developed to access mono-arylated α -phenylglycine derivatives. A lot of efforts were made to optimize the yield of the mono-arylated product *via* reducing the equivalents of aryl iodide to 1~1.5 equiv, however both the conversion of the reactions and the yields of mono-arylated product are low. Other efforts to achieve mono-arylation reaction included: solvent screening (DCE, toluene, dioxane, etc), additive screening (AgCO_3 , AgF , AgO , K_2CO_3 , Li_2CO_3 , NaHCO_3 , etc), and different arylation reagents (PhB(OH)_2 , diaryliodonium triflate, and diaryliodonium tetrafluoroborate). However, the yield of the mono-arylated product is always below 40%. The following are our inferior results of mono-arylation of α -phenylglycine.



Compound 3b': ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.76 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, $J = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (td, $J = 7.7, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, $J = 5.4, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.35 (m, 5H), 7.25 (d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, 3H), 5.84 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.55, 163.64, 149.40, 148.26, 142.75, 137.33, 137.25, 137.20, 134.32, 130.96, 129.41, 129.07, 128.43, 128.02, 127.01, 126.38, 122.34, 53.73, 52.73, 21.29. HRMS (ESI) calcd. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$: 360.1474. Found 360.1476.



6. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds

