# **Supplementary Materials**

# t-BuONa-mediated direct C-H halogenation of electron-deficient (hetero)arenes

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# **Table of Contents**

<ol> <li>General Information</li> <li>General Procedure for the Preparation of Halogenated (Hetero)Arenes</li> <li>General Procedure for the Preparation of Cross-coupling reaction products</li> </ol>	S2	
	S2	
	S4	
4. Analytical Data for Compounds 3-8	S6	
5. Copies of <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C Spectra for Compounds <b>3-8</b>	S12	

# **1. General Information**

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without treatment, unless otherwise indicated. The products were purified by column chromatography over silica gel. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Varian 600 MHz or 500 MHz or 300 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, at 150 MHz or 125 MHz or 75 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C respectively in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the residual signals of the deuterated solvents as the internal standard (CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  H = 7.26,  $\delta$  C = 77.16 ppm) and (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>:  $\delta$  H = 2.50,  $\delta$  C = 40.45 ppm). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded using TMS as internal standard, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded using an internal reference. Multiplicities are indicated by s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and br (broad). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hertz. High-resolution mass-spectra were obtained on an Agilient 1100 LCMsD mass spectrometer. Melting points (mp) are uncorrected.

# 2. Preparation of Halogenated (Hetero)Arenes

#### **2.1 Iodination of (Hetero)Arenes**

#### General procedure for iodination

Representative procedure for the preparation of **3a**: To a solution of benzothiazole (138 mg, 1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) were added perfluorobutyl iodide (381 mg, 1.1 mmol) and sodium *t*-butoxide (48 mg, 0.5 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min. After the starting material benzothiazole **1a** was consumed as indicated by TLC, the solution was poured into water and then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water (3 x 10 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 200-300 mesh, petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 60:1-30:1) to give 2-iodobenzothiazole **3a** (258 mg, 99%) as a white solid ( $R_f = 0.49$ , petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 30:1).

#### 2.2 Bromination of (Hetero)Arenes

General procedure for brominaton

Representative procedure for the preparation of 4a: To a solution of benzothiazole (138 mg, 1 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) were added carbon tetrabromide (365 mg, 1.1 mmol) and sodium *t*-butoxide (384 mg, 4 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 25 min. After the starting material benzothiazole **1a** was consumed as indicated by TLC, the solution was poured into water and then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water (3 x 10 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 200-300 mesh, petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 60:1-30:1) to give 2-bromobenzothiazole **4a** (198 mg, 93%) as a pale yellow solid ( $R_f = 0.46$ , petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 30:1).

#### 2.3 Chlorination of (Hetero)Arenes

#### General procedure for chlorination

Representative procedure for the preparation of **5a** : To a solution of benzothiazole (138 mg, 1 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) were added carbon tetrachloride (169 mg, 1.1 mmol) and sodium *t*-butoxide (384 mg, 4 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 25 min. After the starting material benzothiazole **1a** was consumed as indicated by TLC, the solution was poured into water and then extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water (3 x 10 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 200-300 mesh, petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 60:1-30:1) to give 2-chlorobenzothiazole **5a** (148 mg, 88%) as a light tan oil ( $R_f = 0.47$ , petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 30:1).

$$t\text{-BuONa} + CX_4 \xrightarrow{\text{SET}} [CX_4] \xrightarrow{\text{CX}_4} CX_3 \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} CX_3 \xrightarrow{\text{T-BuO}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} CX_3 \xrightarrow{\text{T-BuO}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} CX_3 \xrightarrow{\text{T-BuO}} F \xrightarrow{\text{F}} F \xrightarrow{$$

Scheme S1. Proposed Mechanism for the Tribromomethylation and Trichloromethylation of Pentafluorobenzene.

#### 3. Light-mediated Cross-coupling of Halogenated Heteroarenes

# General procedure for the Light-mediated Cross-coupling of 2-iodobenzothiazole with (Hetero)Arenes

An over-dried vial, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, is charged with 2-iodobenzothiazole (261 mg, 1 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (18) mg), 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (841 mg, 5 mmol), potassium tert-butoxide (449 mg, 4 mmol) in DMF (2 mL). The reaction mixture was then degassed via three cycles of freeze-pump-thaw, backfilling with nitrogen after each cycle. After the reaction mixture was degassed, the vial was placed approximately 2 cm away from a 36 W fluorescent lamp. The mixture was stirred at room temperature. After the starting material 2-iodobenzothiazole was consumed as indicated by TLC, the reaction mixture was poured into water and then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with water (3 x 10 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (silica gel: 200-300 mesh, petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 50:1-25:1) to give 2-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)benzothiazole **8a** (235 mg, 78%) as a white solid ( $R_f = 0.35$ , petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 5:1).

# 4. Analytical Data for Compounds 3-8

#### 2-iodobenzothiazole (3a)

258 mg, 99% yield; White solid; m. p. 78-80 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.35-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.80-7.81 (m, 1H), 8.01-8.02 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 105.9, 120.5, 122.6, 125.7, 126.4, 139.2, 154.2;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7H_4INS (M+H)^+$ : 261.9187, found: 261.9192.

# 2-iodobenzoxazole (3b)



240 mg, 98% yield; White solid; m. p. 86-90 °C (dec.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.23-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.51 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.71 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 108.2, 110.1, 119.2, 124.6, 125.3, 142.6, 153.9;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>4</sub>INO (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 245.9416, found: 245.9422.

#### 2-iodo-N-methylbenzimidazole (3c)



208 mg, 81% yield; White solid; m. p. 118-119 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.66 (s, 3H),

7.18-7.19 (m, 2H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 33.6, 104.5, 109.3, 119.0, 122.1, 122.9, 136.1, 145.3;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_8H_7IN_2$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 258.9732, found: 258.9741.

# 1,4-dibromo-2-iodo-3-nitrobenzene (3d)



387 mg, 95% yield; White solid; m. p. 111-112 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.50-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.63 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 95.1, 111.0, 131.2, 134.0, 134.2, 156.8;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_6H_2Br_2INO_2 (M+H)^+$ : 407.7555, found: 407.7559.

# Pentafluorobenzene (3e)



291 mg, 99% yield; colorless oil;

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 65.9$  (td,  $J_1 = 28.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 4.5$  Hz ), 136.0-136.3 (m), 137.7-138.0 (m), 140.5-140.7 (m), 142.2-142.4 (m), 146.2-146.4 (m), 147.8-148.0 (m) ;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_6F_5I$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 294.9043, found: 294.9052.

# 2,5 -diiodothiazole (3f)



330 mg, 98% yield; White solid; m. p. 107-109 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.63 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 74.7, 104.0, 152.6;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_3HI_2NS (M+H)^+$ : 337.7997, found: 337.7993.

# 2,4-diiodo-5-phenyloxazole (3g)

3g

373 mg, 94% yield; White solid; m. p. 81-82 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.2

Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 100.2, 124.1, 124.9, 126.8, 128.9, 129.0, 157.4;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_9H_5I_2NO(M+H)^+$ : 397.8539, found: 397.8532.

# 2,6-diiodopyridine 1-oxide(3h)

321 mg, 93% yield; White solid; m. p. 175-176 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 6.56$  (t, J =

6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 108.2, 125.4, 137.3;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_5H_3I_2NO(M+H)^+$ : 347.8382, found: 347.8387.

#### 2-iodo-1-methylimidazole (3i)



72 mg, 35% yield; White solid; m. p. 88-89 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.53 (s, 3H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 36.6, 90.8, 124.1, 132.2;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_4H_5IN_2$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 208.9576, found: 208.9571.

#### 2,5-diiodo-1-methyl-1H-imidazole (3j)



210 mg, 63% yield; White solid; m. p. 150-152 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta = 3.59$  (s, 3H), 7.11 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ): δ = 37.7, 75.8, 93.9, 139.1;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_4H_5I_2N_2$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 334.8542, found: 334.8545.

#### 2-bromobenzothiazole (4a)

199 mg, 93 % yield; pale yellow solid; m. p. 38-39 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.37-7.48(m, 2H), 7.77-7.80(m, 1H), 7.96-7.99 (m, 1H);$ 

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 120.9, 122.8, 125.7, 126.6, 137.3, 138.9, 152.3;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7H_4BrNS$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 213.9326, found: 213.9331.

2-bromobenzoxazole (4b)

175 mg, 89% yield; yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.28-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.64-7.70 (m, 1H); The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum and HRMS were not provided in view that compound **4b** is very sensitive to light and heat. It can be easily decomposed at room temperature.

#### 2-bromo-1-methylbenzimidazole (4c)

179 mg, 85 % yield; white solid; m. p. 103-104 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.78 (s, 3H), 7.22-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.72 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 31.6, 109.2, 119.2, 122.4, 123.0, 130.3, 135.9, 142.9;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_8H_7BrN_2 (M+H)^+$ : 210.9871, found: 210.9869.

#### 2-bromo-1-methylimidazole (4d)



101 mg, 63% yield; red brown oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.61 (s, 3H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 34.4, 119.7, 123.1, 129.3;

HRMS (ESI+) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_4H_5BrN (M+H)^+$ : 160.9714, found: 160.9722.

#### 2,5-dibromothiazole (4e)

187 mg, 77 % yield; white solid; m. p. 45-47 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.52 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 110.6, 135.8, 144.0;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for C<sub>3</sub>HBr<sub>2</sub>NS (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 243.8254, found: 243.8251.

# 2,4-dibromo-5-phenyloxazole (4f)

245 mg, 81 % yield; yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.29-7.33$  (m, 1H), 7.33-7.43 (m,

2H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 123.5, 123.6, 126.3, 128.4, 128.5, 132.0, 154.8;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 303.8796, found: 303.8792.

#### 2-chlorobenzothiazole (5a)

149 mg, 88 % yield; light brownish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.33-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.69-7.70 (m, 1H), 7.90-7.91 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 121.0, 122.8, 125.7, 126.6, 136.0, 150.9, 153.1;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7H_4CINS (M+H)^+$ : 169.9831, found: 169.9835.

#### 2-chloro-1-methylbenzoimidazole (5b)



85.1 mg, 51% yield; White solid; m. p. 117-118 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 3.77 (s,1H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 1H), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.67-7.70 (m, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 30.4, 109.2, 119.3, 122.6, 123.1, 135.6, 140.9, 141.6;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7H_4CINO (M+H)^+$ : 167.0376, found: 167.0371.

# 2,4-dichloro-5-phenyloxazole (5c)

135 mg, 63 % yield; yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 7.32-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.44 (m, 2 H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 122..8, 123.5, 124.3, 126.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 153.2;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_9H_5Cl_2NO(M+H)^+$ : 213.9826, found: 213.9833.

# 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluoro-6-(tribromomethyl)benzene (6)



383 mg, 92 % yield; colorless oil;

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 20.3-20.4 (m), 102.3 (t, J = 22.5 Hz), 119.8 (t, J = 12.8 Hz),

142.4-142.6 (m), 144.0-144.3 (m), 145.6-145.9 (m);

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7Br_3F_5$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 418.7528, found: 418.7536.

# 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluoro-6-(trichloromethyl)benzene (7)

CCI

218 mg, 77 % yield; colorless oil;

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 58.4 (t, *J* = 2.25 Hz), 117.7 (t, *J* = 13.5 Hz), 142.6-143.0 (m), 143.2-143.6 (m), 144.3-144.6 (m), 144.9-145.3 (m);

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_7Cl_3F_5$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 284.9064, found: 284.9058.

#### 2-(2, 4, 6-trimethoxyphenyl)benzothiazole (8a)



223 mg, 74% yield; White solid; m. p. 118-119 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 3.77 (s, 6H),3.86 (s, 3H), 6.20 (s, 2H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 55.4, 55.9, 90.6, 104.9, 121.1, 123.2, 124.5, 125.3, 136.4, 153.1, 159.6, 161.9, 162.7;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{15}NO_3S [M+H]^+$ : 302.0851 found: 302.0855.

#### 2-(1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)benzothiazole (8b)



206 mg, 78% yield; White solid; m. p. 140-142 °C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 4.28 (s, 3H), 7.13-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 32.2, 107.2, 110.0, 120.5, 121.2, 121.5, 123.1, 126.2, 132.1, 134.4, 139.7, 154.2, 160.5;

HRMS (ESI) (m/z): Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{12}N_2S$  (M+H)<sup>+</sup> : 256.0799, found: 256.0794.



# 5. Copies of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra for Compounds 3-8



S13









S17





S19











90 80 f1 (ppm) , 




S26







S29











S33