

Mn(II)-Catalysed Alkylation of Methylene Ketones with Alcohols: Direct Access to Functionalised Branched Products

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1.1 General Experimental Details: All solvents and reagents were used, as received from the suppliers. TLC was performed on Merck Kiesel gel 60, F₂₅₄ plates with the layer thickness of 0.25 mm. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (100-200 mesh) using a gradient of ethyl acetate and hexane as mobile phase. ¹H NMR spectral data were collected at, 400 MHz (JEOL), and ¹³C NMR were recorded at 100 MHz. ¹H NMR spectral data are given as chemical shifts in ppm followed by multiplicity (s- singlet; d- doublet; t- triplet; q- quartet; m- multiplet), number of protons and coupling constants. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are expressed in ppm. GC-MS were recorded using Agilent Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry. Elemental analysis data were recorded using Vario Micro Cube elemental analyser. All the reactions were performed in a closed system using Schlenk tube. All manganese salts were purchased from Alfa Aesar. Mn(acac)₂ (Assay ≥94.0 to ≤106.0% by Mn EA; CAS Number 14024-58-9; MDL number: MFCD00000022; Pack Size- No A18762-100G). Potassium tert-butoxide was purchased from Avra Synthesis Pvt. Ltd., India. (Purity-98%, CAS No: 865-47-4, Catalog No- ASP2012).

[1.2] General Procedure for Manganese-catalyzed alkylation with Ketones:

Procedure A:

In a 15 mL oven dried Schlenk tube, ketone (0.25 mmol), *t*-BuOK (0.25 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (0.00625 mmol), Phen (0.0075 mmol), and alcohols (0.3125 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) were added followed by toluene 2.0 mL under an atmosphere of N₂ and the reaction mixture was refluxed at 140 °C for 36 h in a closed system. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 3.0 mL of ethyl acetate was added and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a gradient of hexane and ethyl acetate (eluent system) to afford the pure product.

Procedure B:

In a 15 mL oven dried Schlenk tube, ketone (0.25 mmol), *t*-BuOK (0.375 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (0.00625 mmol), Phen (0.0075 mmol), and alcohols (0.3125 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) were added followed by toluene 2.0 mL under an atmosphere of N₂ and the reaction mixture was refluxed at 140 °C for 36 h in a closed system. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 3.0 mL of ethyl acetate was added and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a gradient of hexane and ethyl acetate (eluent system) to afford the pure product.

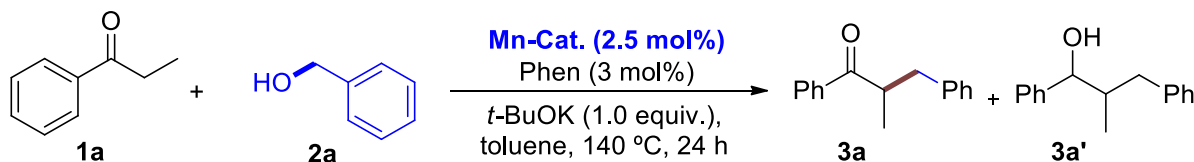
Procedure C:

In a 15 mL oven dried Schlenk tube, ketone (0.25 mmol), *t*-BuOK (0.25 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (0.00625 mmol), Phen (0.0075 mmol), and alcohols (0.3125 mmol, 1.25 equiv.) were added followed by toluene 2.0 mL under an atmosphere of N₂ and the reaction mixture was refluxed at 140 °C for 24 h

in a closed system. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and 3.0 mL of ethyl acetate was added and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography using a gradient of hexane and ethyl acetate (eluent system) to afford the pure product.

[1.3] Alkylation of propiophenone with alcohol:

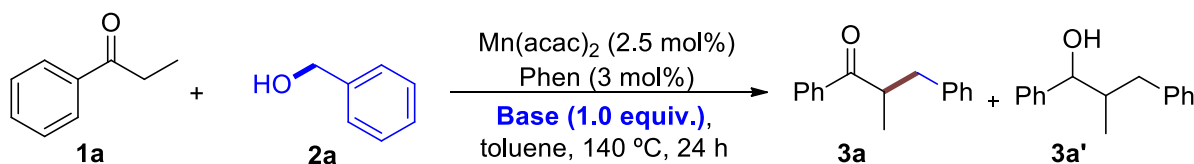
Table S1: Screening of catalysts^a



Entry	Mn-Catalyst	GC-MS Conversion 3a (%)	GC-MS Conversion 3a' (%)
1	Mn(CO) ₅ Br	45	50
2	Mn(acac)₂	72(67)^b	18
3	No Catalyst, No Ligand	<15	<25

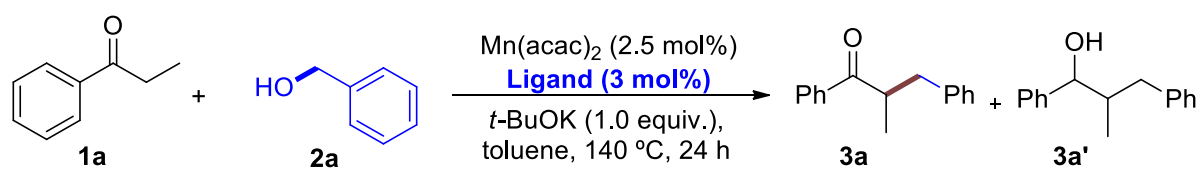
Reaction condition:[a] Propiophenone (0.25 mmol), Benzyl alcohol (0.3125 mmol), **Mn-catalyst (2.5 mol%)**, Phen (3 mol%), *t*-BuOK (0.25 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 24 h reaction time. [b] Isolated yield (average of two run).

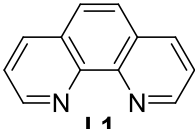
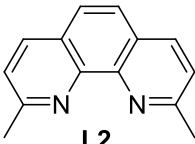
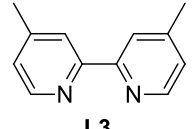
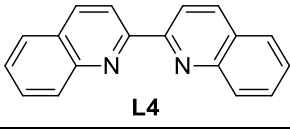
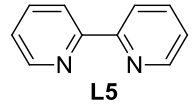
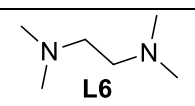
Table S2: Screening of base^a



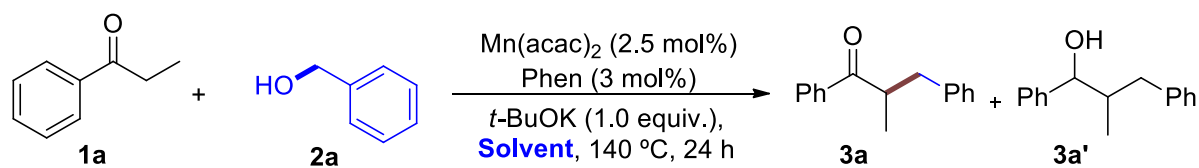
Entry	Base	GC-MS Conversion 3a (%)	GC-MS Conversion 3a' (%)
1	<i>t</i>-BuOK	72(67)^b	18
2	<i>t</i> -BuONa	37	47
3	K ₂ CO ₃	14	33
4	K ₃ PO ₄	4	0
5	Cs ₂ CO ₃	0	0
6	No Base	0	0

Reaction condition:[a] Propiophenone (0.25 mmol), Benzyl alcohol (0.3125 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (2.5 mol%), Phen (3 mol%), **Base (0.25 mmol)**, toluene (2.0 mL), Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 24 h reaction time. [b] Isolated yield (average of two run).

Table S3: Screening of ligands^a

Entry	Ligand	GC-MS Conversion 3a (%)	GC-MS Conversion 3a' (%)
1	 L1	72(67)^b	18
2	 L2	42	58
3	 L3	27	68
4	 L4	22	30
5	 L5	15	42
6	 L6	57	24

Reaction condition:[a] Propiophenone (0.25 mmol), Benzyl alcohol (0.3125 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (2.5 mol%), **Ligand (3 mol%)**, *t*-BuOK (0.25 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 24 h reaction time. [b] Isolated yield (average of two run).

Table S4: Screening of solvents ^a

Entry	Solvent	GC-MS Conversion 3a (%)	GC-MS Conversion 3a' (%)
1	toluene	72(67)^b	18
2	P-Xylene	5	0
3	t-amyl alcohol	60	38
4	DMA	<1	0
5	DMF	5	<1

Reaction condition: [a] Propiophenone (0.25 mmol), Benzyl alcohol (0.3125 mmol), $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_2$ (2.5 mol%), Phen (3 mol%), $t\text{-BuOK}$ (0.25 mmol), **Solvent (2.0 mL)**, Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 24 h reaction time. [b] Isolated yield (average of two run).

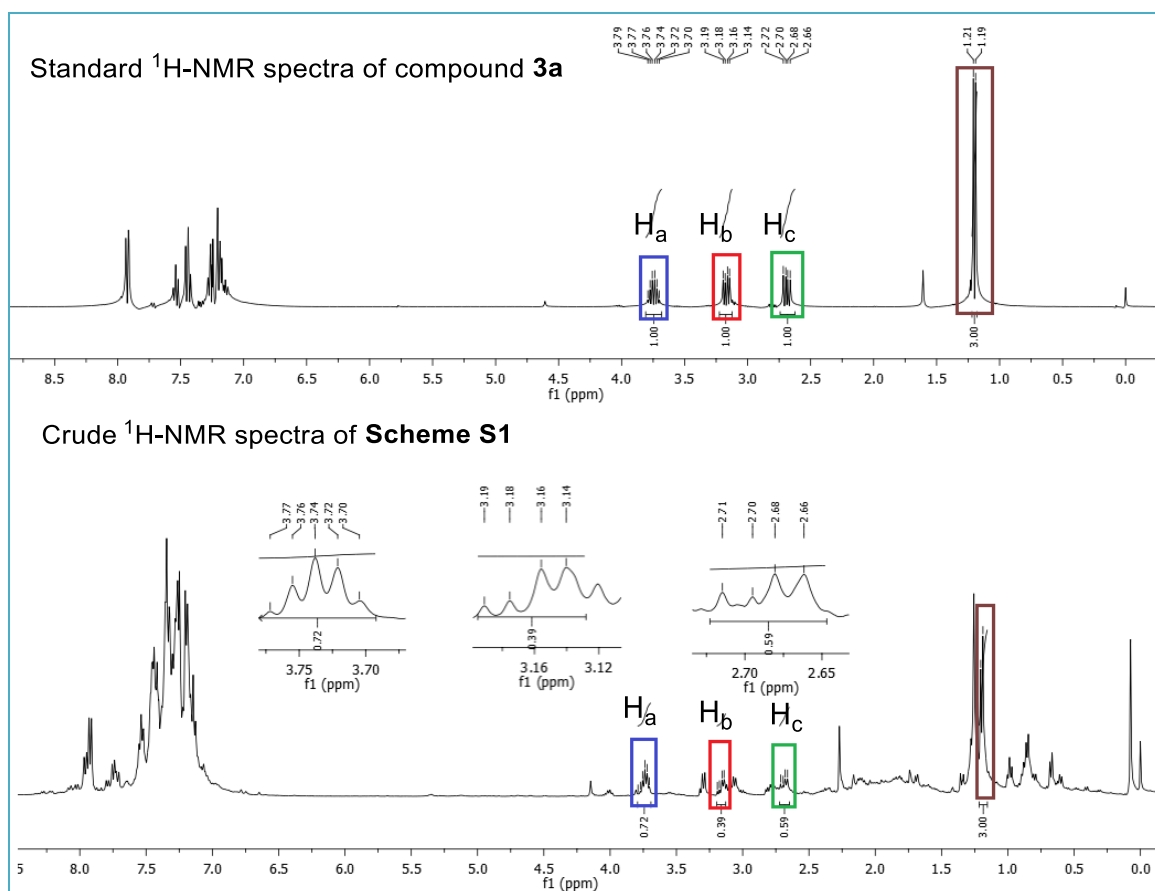
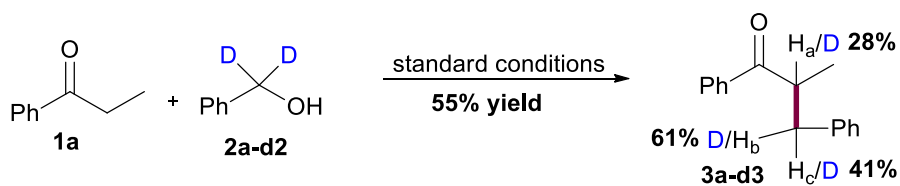
Table S5: Screening of alcohol equivalents ^a

Entry	Benzyl alcohol (X equiv.)	GC-MS Conversion 3a (%)	GC-MS Conversion 3a' (%)
1	1.5	33	67
2	1.25	72(67) ^b	18
3^c	1.25	80(72)^b	20
4	1.1	38	30

Reaction condition:[a] Propiophenone (0.25 mmol), **Benzyl alcohol (0.375, 0.3125, 0.275 mmol)**, $\text{Mn}(\text{acac})_2$ (2.5 mol%), Phen (3 mol%), $t\text{-BuOK}$ (0.25 mmol), toluene (2.0 mL), Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 24 h reaction time. [b] Isolated yield (average of two run). [c] 36 h reaction time.

Deuterium Incorporation Experiments:

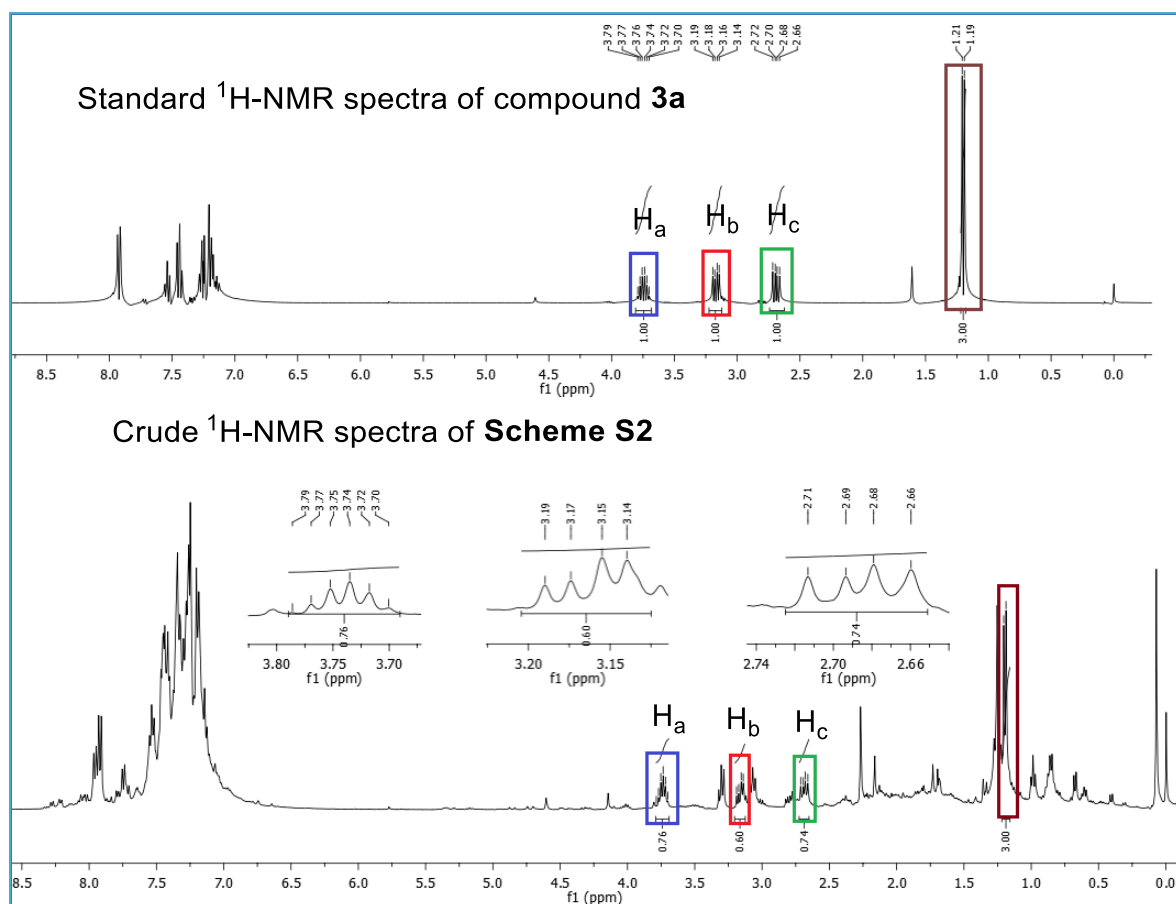
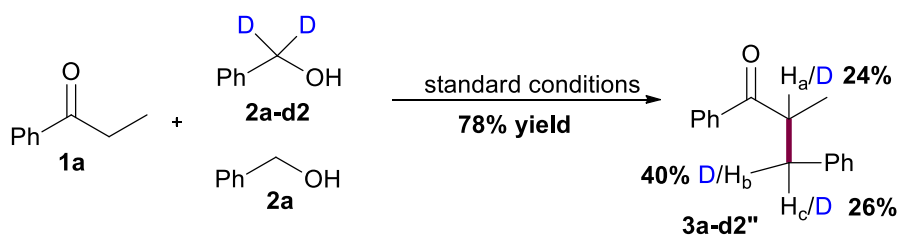
Scheme S1:



Conversion was calculated by 1H -NMR integration value

		Deuterium incorporation in H_a Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_b Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_c Position
Signal δ ppm	1.2 [d, CH ₃ , (3H)]	3.75 (1H)	3.17 (1H)	2.69 (1H)
Integral Value	3.0	0.72	0.39	0.59
Calculated ratio		$(1-0.72) \times 100 =$ 28%	$(1-0.39) \times 100 =$ 61%	$(1-0.59) \times 100 =$ 41%

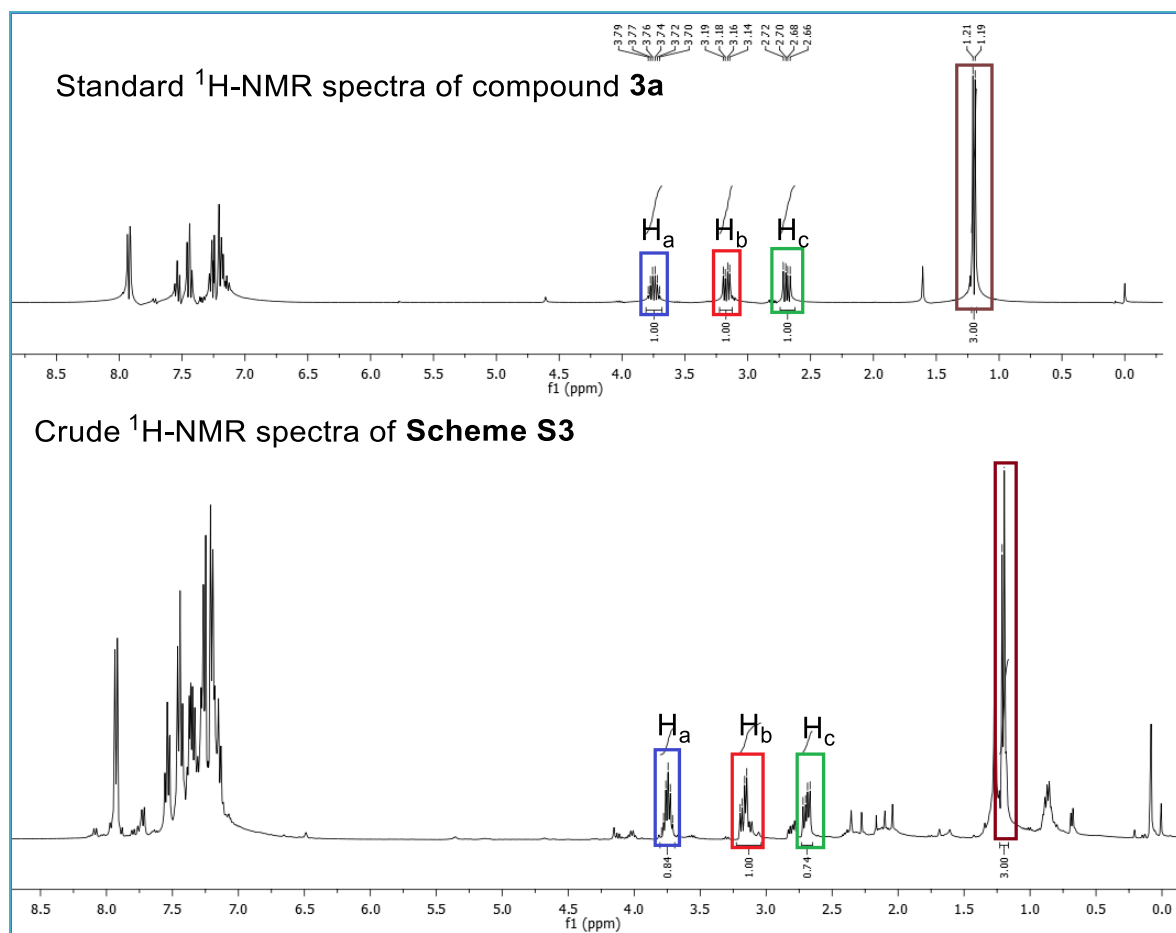
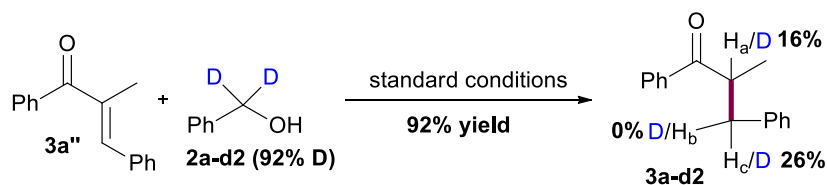
Scheme S2:



Conversion was calculated by ^1H -NMR integration value

		Deuterium incorporation in H_a Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_b Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_c Position
Signal δ	1.2 [d, CH ₃ , (3H)]	3.75 (1H)	3.17 (1H)	2.69 (1H)
Integral Value	3.0	0.76	0.60	0.74
Calculated ratio		(1-0.76)×100 = 24%	(1-0.60)×100 = 40%	(1-0.74)×100 = 26%

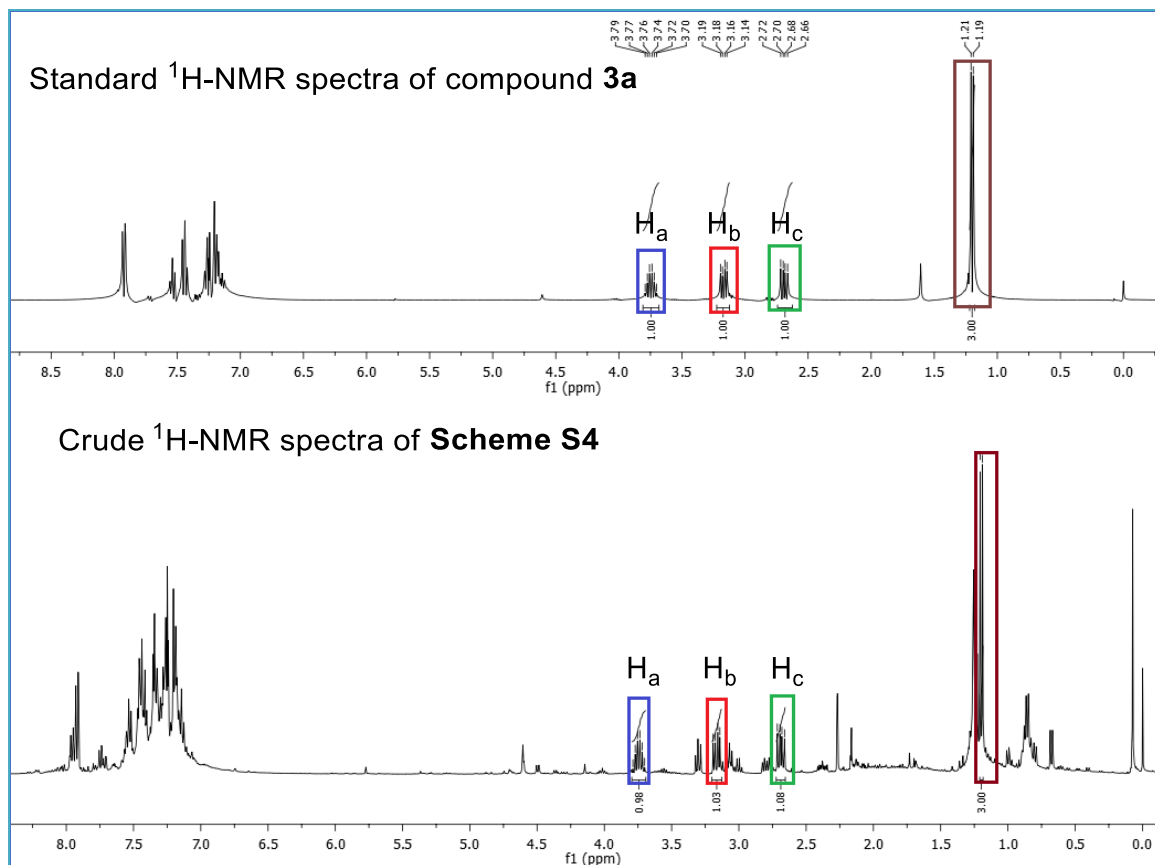
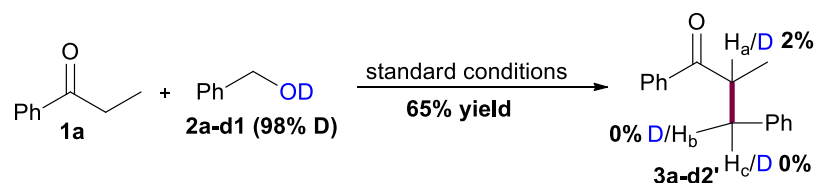
Scheme S3:



Conversion was calculated by ¹H-NMR integration value

		Deuterium incorporation in H_a Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_b Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_c Position
Signal δ ppm	1.2 [d, CH ₃ , (3H)]	3.75 (1H)	3.17 (1H)	2.69 (1H)
Integral Value	3.0	0.84	1.0	0.74
Calculated ratio		$(1-0.84) \times 100 =$ 16%	$(1-1) \times 100 =$ 0%	$(1-0.74) \times 100 =$ 26%

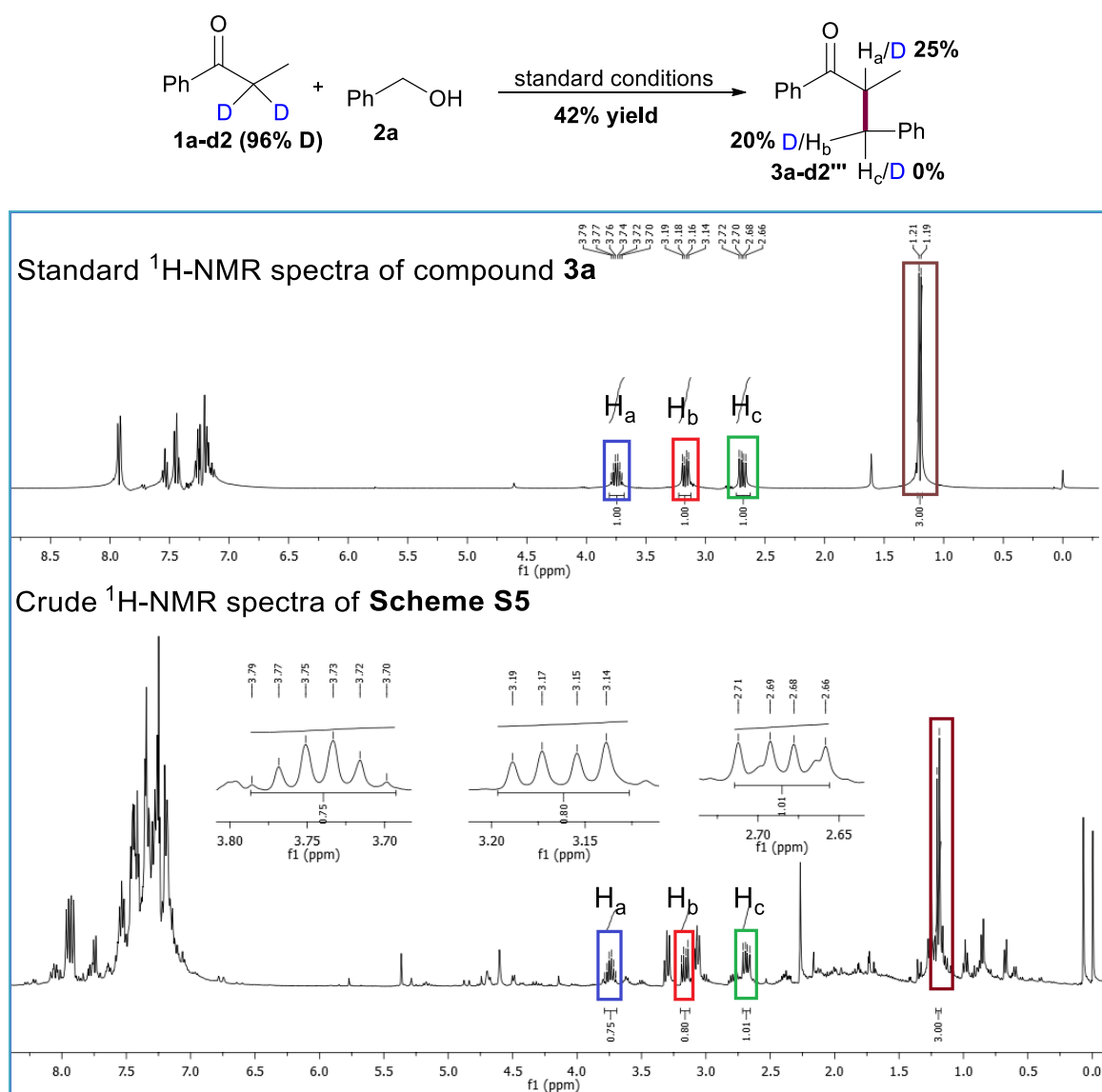
Scheme S4:



Conversion was calculated by ^1H -NMR integration value

		Deuterium incorporation in H_a Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_b Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_c Position
Signal δ ppm	1.2 [d, CH ₃ , (3H)]	3.75 (1H)	3.17 (1H)	2.69 (1H)
Integral Value	3.0	0.98	0.99	1.0
Calculated ratio		$(1-0.98) \times 100 =$ 2%	$(1-1) \times 100 =$ 0%	$(1-1) \times 100 =$ 0%

Scheme S5:



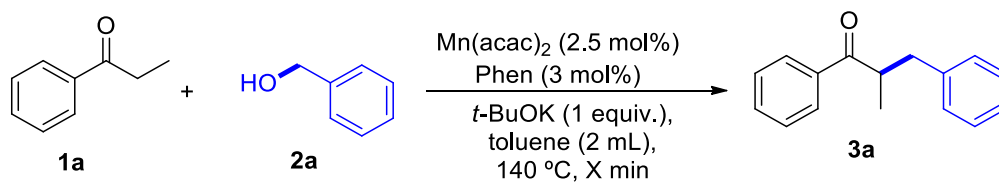
Conversion was calculated by ^1H -NMR integration value

		Deuterium incorporation in H_a Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_b Position	Deuterium incorporation in H_c Position
Signal δ ppm	1.2 [d, CH ₃ , (3H)]	3.75 (1H)	3.17 (1H)	2.69 (1H)
Integral Value	3.0	0.75	0.80	1.0
Calculated ratio		$(1-0.75) \times 100 =$ 25%	$(1-0.80) \times 100 =$ 20%	$(1-1.0) \times 100 =$ 0%

Reaction condition: Unless otherwise specified, Propiophenone **1a** (0.1 mmol), Benzyl Alcohol **2a** (0.125 mmol), Mn(acac)₂ (2.5 mol%), Phen (3 mol%), *t*-BuOK (0.1 mmol), toluene (1.0 mL), Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere, 140 °C oil bath, 36 h reaction time.

Scheme S6: Determination of rate and order of reaction

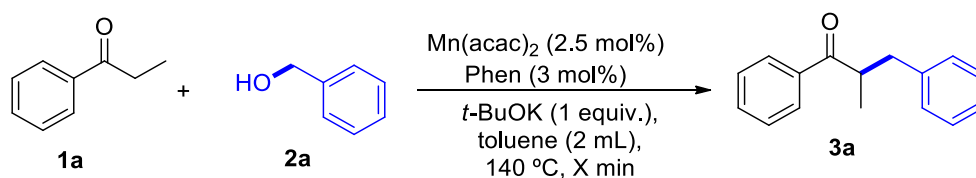
Run 1: Reaction was carried out in 2 mL of toluene and yield was calculated by GC



No.	1a (mmol)	2a (mmol)	Mn(acac) ₂ (mmol)	Phen (mmol)	<i>t</i> -BuOK (mmol)	toluene (mL)
Run 1	0.2	0.25	0.005	0.006	0.2	2.0

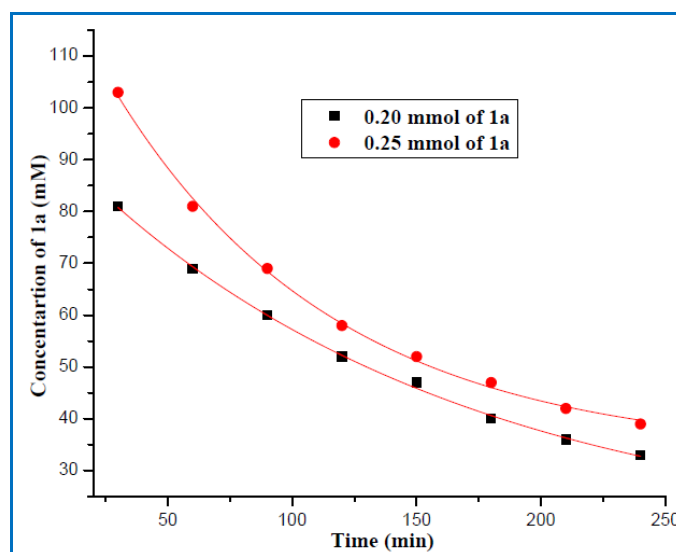
Sl. No.	Time (min)	Concentration of 1a (mM)
1	30	81
2	60	69
3	90	60
4	120	52
5	150	47
6	180	40
7	210	36
8	240	33

Run 2: Reaction was carried out in 2 mL of toluene and yield was calculated by GC



No.	1a (mmol)	2a (mmol)	Mn(acac) ₂ (mmol)	Phen (mmol)	<i>t</i> -BuOK (mmol)	toluene (mL)
Run 2	0.25	0.3125	0.00625	0.0075	0.25	2.0

Sl. No.	Time (min)	Concentration of 1a (mM)
1	30	103
2	60	81
3	90	69
4	120	58
5	150	52
6	180	47
7	210	42
8	240	39



Graphical representation for determination of rate and order of reaction

Considering steady state approximation for benzyl alcohol

$$\text{From Run 1: Slope} = k [1a]^x$$

$$-0.224 = k [0.20]^x$$

$$\text{From Run 2: Slope} = k [1a]^x$$

$$-0.284 = k [0.25]^x$$

$$-0.284 / -0.224 = [0.25]^x / [0.2]^x$$

$$1.267 = [1.25]^x$$

$$\text{Log}(1.267) = x \cdot \text{Log}(1.25)$$

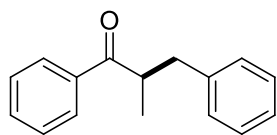
$$x = 0.103 / 0.0969$$

$$= 1.06 \approx 1$$

$$\text{Rate} = k [1a]^1$$

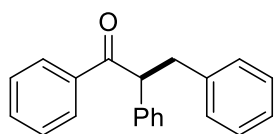
[1.4] Analytical data:

2-Methyl-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (3a):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title product was



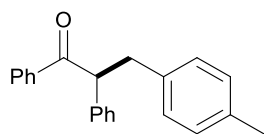
obtained as a colourless oil (40 mg, 72% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.56 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.19 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 3.75 (dq, J = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (dd, J = 14.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.20 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.85, 140.04, 136.52, 133.02, 129.18, 128.73, 128.47, 128.37, 126.29, 42.84, 39.44, 17.49.

1,2,3-Triphenylpropan-1-one (3b):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title product was



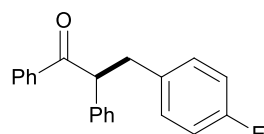
obtained as a colourless solid (59 mg, 82% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.33 (dd, J = 8.0, 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 4H), 7.20 – 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.14 – 7.12 (m, 1H), 7.08 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.80 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, J = 13.7, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 13.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.32, 139.86, 139.17, 136.84, 132.91, 129.21, 128.97, 128.81, 128.54, 128.37, 128.30, 127.22, 126.19, 55.96, 40.20.

1,2-diphenyl-3-(p-tolyl)propan-1-one (3c):² Following the general procedure A, the title product was



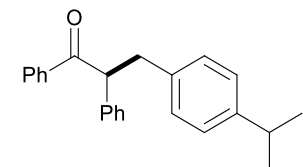
obtained as a colourless solid (63 mg, 84% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 6.95 – 6.88 (m, 4H), 4.72 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, J = 13.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.41, 139.27, 136.82, 136.75, 135.64, 132.91, 129.06, 129.00, 128.96, 128.77, 128.55, 128.38, 127.18, 56.04, 39.76, 21.10.

3-(4-ethylphenyl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3d): Following the general procedure A, the title



product was obtained as a colourless solid (54 mg, 69% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 6.98 – 6.92 (m, 4H), 4.76 – 4.72 (m, 1H), 3.47 (dd, J = 13.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, J = 13.8, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 2.50 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.11 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.42, 142.05, 139.35, 137.04, 136.92, 132.85, 129.09, 128.93, 128.75, 128.51, 128.38, 127.78, 127.16, 56.14, 39.63, 28.22, 15.49; Aanal. Calcd. For C₂₃H₂₂O: C, 87.86; H, 7.05; Found C, 87.54; H, 7.21.

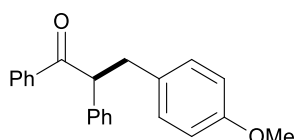
3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3e): Following the general procedure A, the title



product was obtained as a colourless solid (59 mg, 72% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.27

(t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.17 (m, 5H), 6.97 (q, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 4H), 4.75 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, $J = 13.9, 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 – 2.71 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.40, 146.70, 139.40, 137.20, 136.85, 132.89, 129.06, 128.98, 128.79, 128.54, 128.37, 127.18, 126.36, 55.94, 39.78, 33.73, 24.09; Aanal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}$: C, 87.76; H, 7.37; Found C, 87.85; H, 7.28.

3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3f):³ Following the general procedure A, the title



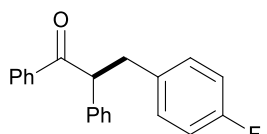
product was obtained as a colourless solid (46 mg, 58% yield); ^1H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H),

7.27 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 6.92 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H),

6.66 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.70 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.43 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.0$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.51, 158.04, 139.25, 136.93, 132.85, 131.94, 130.11, 128.94, 128.73, 128.53, 128.39, 127.16, 113.33, 56.26, 55.25, 39.36.

3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3g):⁴ Following the general procedure B, the title



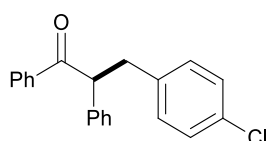
product was obtained as a colourless solid (39 mg, 51% yield); ^1H NMR (500

MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.83 (d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, $J =$

7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.19 – 7.10 (m, 5H), 6.97 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.81 (t, $J = 8.7$ Hz,

2H), 4.69 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.89, 161.5 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 242$ Hz), 138.90, 136.69, 135.45 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 3$ Hz), 133.03, 130.65 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 8$ Hz), 129.05, 128.76, 128.60, 128.35, 127.33, 115.05 (d, $J_{\text{C-F}} = 21$ Hz), 56.10, 39.36.

3-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3h):³ Following the general procedure A, the title



product was obtained as a colourless solid (62.5 mg, 78% yield); ^1H NMR

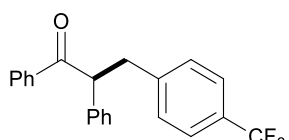
(400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.35

(t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H), 7.21 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d,

$J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.02 – 6.98 (m, 2H), 4.75 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, $J =$

13.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, $J = 13.7, 7.2$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.00, 138.80, 138.30, 136.67, 133.03, 132.02, 130.58, 129.07, 128.74, 128.59, 128.41, 128.33, 127.36, 55.82, 39.36.

1,2-diphenyl-3-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)propan-1-one (3i): Following the general procedure B,



the title product was obtained as a colourless solid (71 mg, 80% yield); ^1H

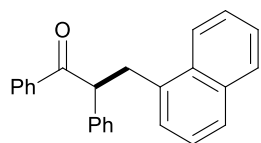
NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, $J = 8.9$ Hz,

3H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.19 (dd, $J = 12.8, 7.6$

Hz, 5H), 4.78 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, $J = 13.7, 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.1$ Hz, 1H); ^{13}C

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.70, 143.99, 143.97, 138.64, 136.45, 133.15, 129.56, 129.17, 128.79, 128.64, 128.30, 127.49, 125.25, 125.21, 55.71, 39.93; Aanal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₇F₃O: C, 74.57; H, 4.84; Found C, 74.90; H, 4.72.

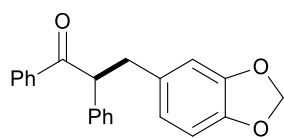
3-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3j): Following the general procedure A, the title



product was obtained as a colourless solid (62 mg, 73% yield); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz,

2H), 7.25 – 7.17 (m, 6H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.37, 139.52, 136.75, 135.59, 133.97, 132.96, 131.90, 129.08, 129.06, 128.81, 128.55, 128.39, 128.26, 127.70, 127.29, 127.08, 126.12, 125.48, 123.54, 54.66, 37.03; Aanal. Calcd. for C₂₅H₂₀O: C, 89.25; H, 5.99; Found C, 89.39; H, 5.87.

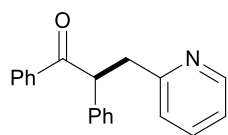
3-(1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-5-yl)-1,2-diphenylpropan-1-one (3k): Following the general



procedure A, the title product was obtained as a colourless solid (45 mg, 55% yield); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.20 – 7.11 (m, 5H), 6.58 – 6.46

(m, 3H), 5.81 (s, 2H), 4.69 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.30, 147.44, 145.89, 139.07, 136.78, 133.64, 132.97, 129.01, 128.77, 128.58, 128.34, 127.27, 122.17, 109.64, 108.13, 100.82, 56.21, 39.91; Aanal. Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₈O₃: C, 79.98; H, 5.49; Found C, 79.91; H, 5.58.

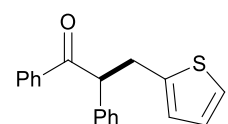
1,2-diphenyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)propan-1-one (3l):⁵ Following the general procedure B, the title



product was obtained as a yellow oil (54.5 mg, 76% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 – 8.42 (m, 1H), 7.92 (dt, *J* = 8.6, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (ddd, *J* = 13.1, 9.4, 4.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.13 (ddd, *J* = 6.1,

4.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 5.30 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 6.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.51, 159.48, 149.17, 139.25, 136.79, 136.21, 132.83, 129.00, 128.90, 128.48, 128.37, 127.17, 124.19, 121.31, 53.27, 42.30.

(S)-1,2-diphenyl-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-1-one (3m): Following the general procedure A, the title



product was obtained as a pale yellow solid (31 mg, 42% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 – 7.43 (m, 1H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 3.8, 3.3 Hz, 4H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H),

6.82 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, *J* = 14.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.92, 142.16,

138.73, 133.07, 133.06, 129.08, 128.82, 128.61, 128.32, 127.45, 126.75, 125.78, 123.71, 56.37, 34.21; Anl. Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₆OS: C, 78.05; H, 5.52; S, 10.97; Found C, 78.19; H, 5.69; S, 11.08.

2-methyl-1-phenyldecan-1-one (3n):¹ Following the general procedure C, the title product was obtained as a colourless oil (20 mg, 33% yield); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.51-3.45 (m, 1H), 1.85 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.48 – 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.29 – 1.26 (m, 12H), 1.22 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H); GC-MS (EI) *m/z* = 246.2.

2-Methyl-1-phenyldodecan-1-one (3o):¹ Following the general procedure C, the title product was obtained as a colourless oil (21 mg, 30% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.51 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.43 – 3.35 (m, 1H), 1.82 – 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.42 – 1.27 (m, 1H), 1.21 – 1.17 (m, 16H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.68, 136.90, 132.83, 128.66, 128.35, 40.67, 33.83, 31.96, 30.03, 29.80, 29.65, 29.55, 29.37, 27.48, 22.74, 17.27, 14.17.

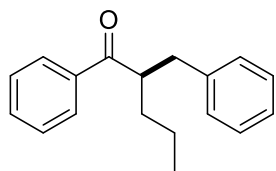
2,5,9-Trimethyl-1-phenyldec-8-en-1-one (3p):¹ Following the general procedure C, the title product was obtained as a pale yellow oil (34 mg, 50% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 5.05 (ddd, *J* = 12.8, 5.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 1.97 – 1.74 (m, 3H), 1.65 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 3H), 1.57 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 1.47 – 1.24 (m, 5H), 1.18 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.15 – 1.08 (m, 2H), 0.84 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 204.66, 133.34, 132.84, 131.16, 129.03, 128.66, 128.28, 40.93, 37.03, 36.85, 34.63, 32.57, 31.22, 25.51, 19.47, 17.24.

2-benzyl-1,3-diphenylpropan-1-one (3q):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title product was obtained as a colourless oil (34 mg, 45% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.30 (m, 2H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 15.4, 7.1 Hz, 4H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 6H), 4.05 – 3.98 (m, 1H), 3.13 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.46, 139.59, 137.45, 132.88, 129.11, 128.53, 128.50, 128.19, 126.36, 50.57, 38.30.

2-Benzyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (3r):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title product was obtained as a colourless oil (33 mg, 40% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.00 – 3.93 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.12 – 3.03

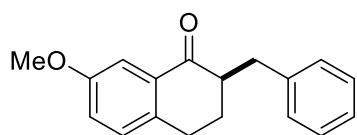
(m, 2H), 2.80 – 2.71 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 203.60, 158.11, 139.68, 137.50, 132.82, 131.60, 130.05, 129.08, 128.51, 128.46, 128.18, 126.29, 113.89, 55.29, 50.80, 38.21, 37.45.

2-benzyl-1-phenylpentan-1-one (3s):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title product was



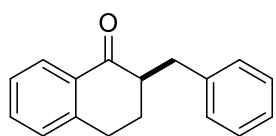
obtained as a colourless oil (22 mg, 35% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.86 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.52 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 – 7.14 (m, 5H), 3.76 – 3.70 (m, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 13.5, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, J = 13.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.31 – 1.25 (m, 2H), 0.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ = 204.14, 140.12, 137.62, 132.90, 129.09, 128.63, 128.43, 128.21, 126.20, 48.24, 38.32, 34.68, 20.69, 14.29.

2-Benzyl-7-methoxy-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (3t):¹ Following the general procedure A,



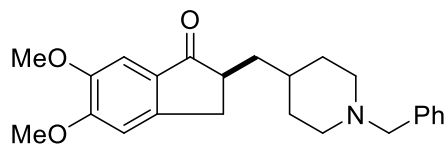
the title product was obtained as a pale yellow oil (33 mg, 50% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.47 (dd, J = 13.4, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 2.88 – 2.86 (m, 2H), 2.69 – 2.61 (m, 2H), 2.10 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 1.81 – 1.72 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.49, 158.40, 140.13, 136.74, 133.30, 130.02, 129.35, 128.48, 126.22, 121.77, 109.52, 55.57, 49.37, 35.80, 27.98, 27.85.

2-Benzyl-3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (3u):¹ Following the general procedure A, the title



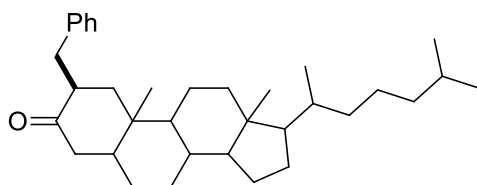
product was obtained as a colourless oil (45 mg, 76% yield); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.07 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, J = 7.5, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 3.49 (dd, J = 13.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.95 – 2.92 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.64 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.73 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.52, 144.13, 140.14, 133.37, 132.55, 129.36, 128.81, 128.50, 127.64, 126.72, 126.23, 49.55, 35.75, 28.71, 27.74.

2-((1-Benzylpiperidin-4-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethoxy-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-one (3v):¹ Following



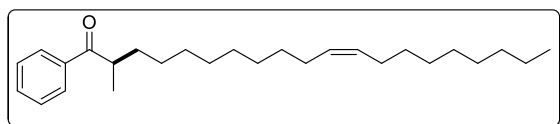
the general procedure A, the title product was obtained as a yellow oil (38 mg, 40% yield); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ

7.55 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43-7.36 (m, 3H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 3.34-3.25 (m, 1H), 2.71 – 2.51 (m, 4H), 1.97 – 1.85 (m, 5H), 1.50 – 1.27 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 207.14, 155.67, 149.54, 148.69, 137.53, 131.05, 129.38, 129.01, 127.11, 107.37, 104.31, 70.54, 56.25, 56.07, 52.23, 44.58, 33.73, 31.89, 29.66, 22.66, 14.10.

2-Benzyl-10,13-dimethyl-17-(6-methylheptan-2-yl)-6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-**dodecahydro-3H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-one (3w):⁶**

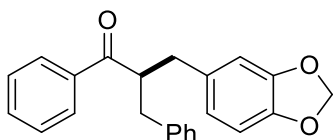
Following the general procedure A, the title product was obtained as a yellow oil (89.3 mg, 75% yield); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.11 (t, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H),

3.23 – 3.02 (m, 2H), 2.73 – 2.67 (m, 1H), 2.37 (dt, J = 14.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.98 – 1.75 (m, 5H), 1.58 – 1.44 (m, 4H), 1.40 – 1.09 (m, 18H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.91 – 0.86 (m, 10H), 0.63 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 213.56, 142.01, 129.38, 128.87, 128.23, 128.16, 125.91, 56.44, 56.25, 54.17, 48.27, 47.16, 46.83, 44.49, 42.66, 39.89, 39.51, 37.03, 36.57, 36.14, 35.76, 35.12, 32.01, 29.71, 28.31, 28.02, 24.16, 23.80, 23.19, 22.82, 21.51, 18.68, 13.85, 11.96.

2-methyl-1-phenylicos-11-en-1-one (3x):¹

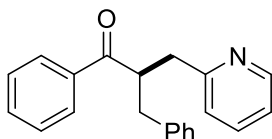
obtained as a pale yellow oil (48 mg, 50% yield); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 – 7.29 (m, 5H), 5.38 (t, J = 3.7 Hz, 2H), 3.59 – 3.52 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.04 (m,

4H), 1.89– 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.30 (m, 24H), 0.95 – 0.77 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 206.05, 142.78, 128.84, 127.07, 126.32, 125.61, 125.27, 113.91, 39.10, 32.07, 31.15, 30.82, 29.88, 28.88, 28.70, 28.56, 28.44, 28.23, 26.14, 25.93, 21.60, 14.59, 13.02.

3-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-benzyl-1-phenylpropan-1-one (3y):¹

procedure A, the title product was obtained as a colourless liquid (40 mg, 46% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (dd, J = 11.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m,

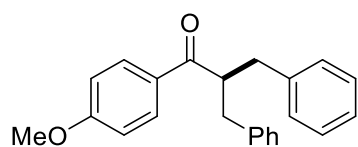
2H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 6.65 – 6.57 (m, 3H), 5.86 (dd, J = 3.3, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.91 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.80 – 2.68 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.40, 147.61, 145.99, 139.54, 137.44, 133.34, 132.89, 129.08, 128.55, 128.50, 128.18, 126.36, 122.09, 109.46, 108.24, 100.85, 50.79, 38.27, 37.95.

2-Benzyl-1-phenyl-3-(pyridin-2-yl)propan-1-one (3z):¹

title product was obtained as a pale yellow oil (27 mg, 36% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.37 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dd, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.27 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.14 – 6.96 (m, 6H), 6.94 (dd, J

= 6.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.43 – 4.36 (m, 1H), 3.23 (dd, J = 14.1, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 14.1, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, J = 13.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 203.58, 159.38, 149.34, 139.31, 137.36, 136.25, 136.23, 132.76, 129.18, 128.45, 128.42, 126.34, 123.99, 121.32, 47.98, 40.20, 38.53.

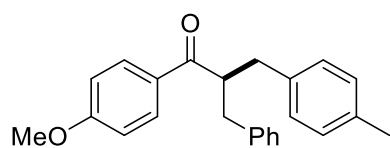
2-Benzyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-phenylpropan-1-one (3ab):¹ Following the general procedure A,



the title product was obtained as a colourless oil (66 mg, 80% yield);

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 4H), 7.13 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 5H), 6.80 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.94 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dd, J = 14.2, 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (dd, J = 14.1, 6.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.76, 163.37, 139.79, 130.53, 130.45, 129.09, 128.46, 126.29, 113.70, 55.49, 50.06, 38.43.

2-Benzyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-(*p*-tolyl)propan-1-one (3ac):¹ Following the general procedure



A, the title product was obtained as a colourless liquid (47 mg, 55% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.26

– 7.17 (m, 3H), 7.13 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 7.01 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 3H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.10 – 3.04 (m, 2H), 2.79 – 2.72 (m, 2H), 2.25 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.79, 163.33, 139.88, 136.63, 135.71, 130.53, 130.45, 129.08, 128.95, 128.41, 127.69, 126.21, 113.69, 55.50, 50.09, 38.26, 37.95, 21.13.

[1.5] References:

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[1.6] Copies of ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR for selected compounds

