

Efficient Ullmann C-X coupling reaction catalyzed by a recoverable functionalized-chitosan supported copper complex

Xuemin Liu ^a, Shuo Chang ^a, Xinzhi Chen ^b, Xin Ge ^{a*} and Chao Qian ^{b*}

^a *School of Chemical and Material Engineering, Jiangnan University, Wuxi, P.R China*

^b *Zhejiang Provincial Key Laboratory of Advanced Chemical Engineering Manufacture
Technology, College of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou,
P.R China.*

* Corresponding author. Xin, Ge, E-mail: gexin@jiangnan.edu.cn and Chao Qian, E-mail: qianchao@zju.edu.cn

1 Experiment

1.1 General

Chitosan powder (MW: 10,000-50,000, deacetylation degree 95%, purchased from Aladdin reagent (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.) was used without further purification. Pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde, 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde and *N,N'*-carbonyldiimidazole were purchased from Damas-beta, 2-Pyridinecarboxylic acid was purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd. Aryl halides, imidazole and sulfinate salts were purchased from Alfa Aesar. Melting points were determined on an X4-Data microscopic melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were measured at 400 MHz (^1H) or at 100 MHz (^{13}C) with CDCl_3 as solvent on a Bruker Avance DRX-400 spectrometer. All reactions were monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) from Merck with detection by UV. The products were purified by column chromatography through silica gel (300-400 mesh). All reagents and solvents were general reagent grade unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Preparation of Functional Chitosan.

The preparation of PCCS. Chitosan (2.0 g, equivalent to 12.4 mmol NH_2 group), pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde (4.72 mL, 49.6 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL) were added to methanol (75 mL). Then the mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 65 °C. After the resultant mixture was cooled to 0 °C, the solid was separated by filtration, washed with ethanol and then dried under vacuum at 50 °C for 12 h.

The preparation of HBCS. Chitosan (2.0 g, equivalent to 12.4 mmol NH_2 group) and 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (7.58 g, 62.1 mmol) were added to ethanol (100 mL), meanwhile 10 mL acetic acid was added. The mixture was refluxed for 12 h at 70 °C, then cooled with ice water to 0 °C. The solid was separated by filtration, and finally dried under vacuum at 50 °C for 12 h.

The preparation of PACS. *N,N'*-Carbonyldiimidazole (3.24 g, 20 mmol) and 2-Pyridinecarboxylic acid (1.85 g, 15 mmol) were heated to 60 °C in THF (100 mL) with stirring. After adding chitosan (1.61 g, 10 mmol), the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h. The product was crystallized by adding ice water and dried under vacuum at 50 °C for 12 h.

1.3 The preparation of functionalized-chitosan supported copper complex

Three modified chitosan supported copper salt was synthesized according to the following procedure: the catalyst was prepared by suspending modified chitosan in a solution of copper salt for 3 h under neutral conditions at 50 °C (For CuI, the solvent was acetonitrile. For CuSO₄ and Cu(OAc)₂, water was used as solvent). After adsorption of the copper, the solid was preconditioned by washing thoroughly to remove any loose Cu compounds and dried under vacuum at 50 °C overnight to give the catalyst. After complexation with CuI, CuSO₄ and Cu(OAc)₂, the colors of these catalysts are as follows: PCCS@CuI is reddish brown, PCCS@CuSO₄ is green, PCCS@Cu(OAc)₂ is green, HBCS@CuI is yellow, HBCS@CuSO₄ is yellow, HBCS@Cu(OAc)₂ is yellow, PACS@CuI is green, PACS@CuSO₄ is blue, PACS@Cu(OAc)₂ is blue.

1.4 General procedure for Ullmann reaction catalyzed by the PCCS@CuI

To a stirred solution of DMSO (3 mL) were added aryl halide (1.0 mmol), nucleophile (1.2 mmol), PCCS@CuI and Cs₂CO₃ (2 mmol) at room temperature. Then the reaction mixture was heated to 110 °C under air and stirred for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the catalyst PCCS@CuI was separated by centrifugation. The reaction mixture was partitioned by adding the ethyl acetate (20 mL) and water (20 mL). Subsequently, the organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) twice. The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuo. Then the crude product was purified by column chromatography through silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate solvent mixture, to give the pure product.

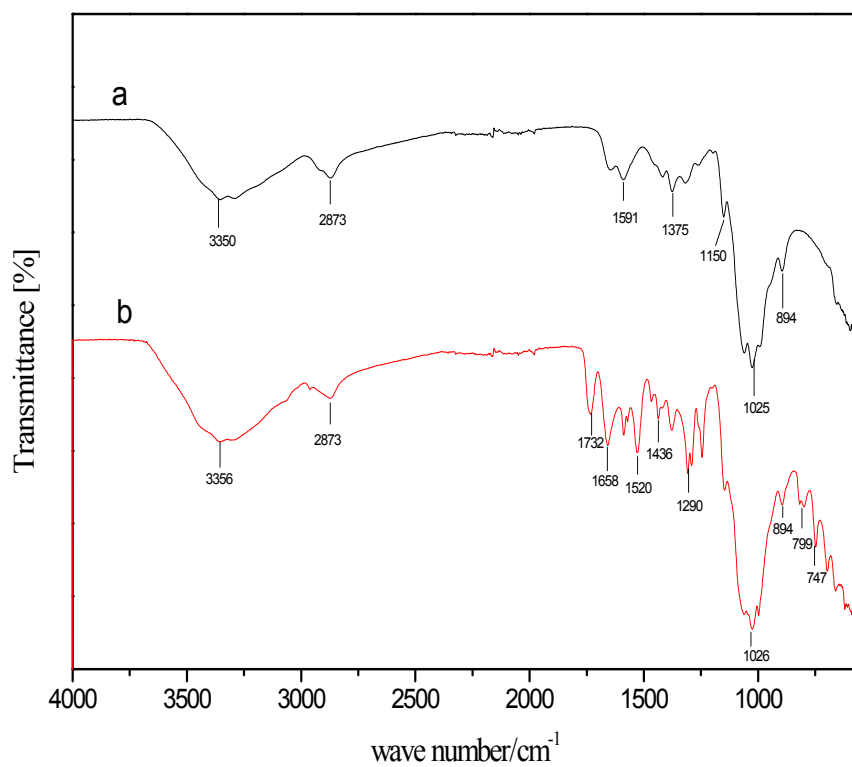


Figure S1. FTIR spectra of (a) CS (b) PACS

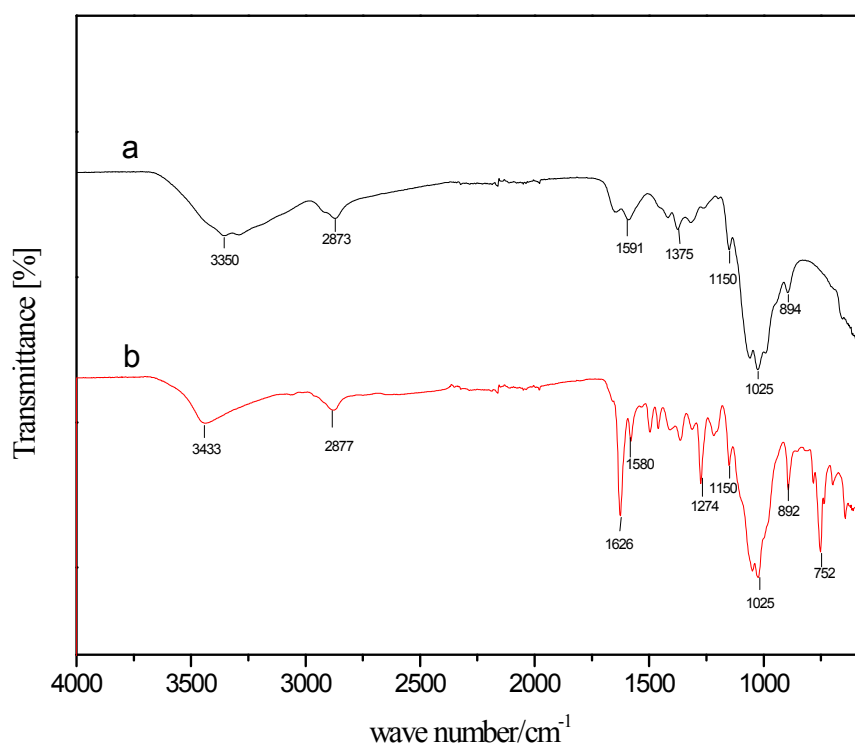


Figure S2. FTIR spectra of (a) CS (b) HBCS

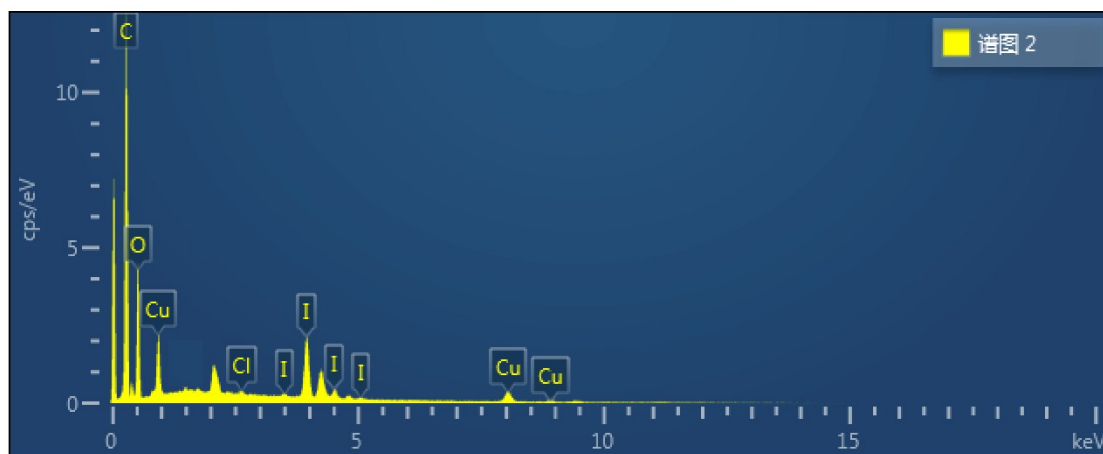


Figure S3. EDS of recovered PCCS@CuI after the fifth run.

2. The spectral data of the products

1-Phenyl-1*H*-imidazole 3a. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.87 (s, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 3H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.4, 135.6, 130.4, 129.8, 127.5, 121.5, 118.2. MS (EI): m/z = 144 $[\text{M}]^+$.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3b. Pale yellow solid, m.p.: 60-61 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.0, 135.8, 130.7, 129.9, 123.3, 118.8, 114.9, 55.6. MS (EI): m/z = 174 $[\text{M}]^+$.

1-(*p*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3c. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 5H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.5, 135.6, 135.0, 130.4, 130.2, 121.4, 118.4, 20.9.

1-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3d. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.30 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.00 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 4.03 (qd, J = 6.8, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (td, J = 7.0, 2.4 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.3, 135.9, 130.6, 130.0, 123.2, 118.8, 115.4, 63.9, 14.8.

1-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3e. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (dd, J = 13.4, 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.6, 137.8, 128.9, 128.7, 126.5, 125.5, 121.0, 120.3, 112.4, 55.8.

1-(*o*-tolyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3f. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.05 (t, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 137.5, 136.7, 133.9, 131.3, 129.3, 128.8, 126.9, 126.6, 120.5, 17.6.

1-(4-(Trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3g. Colorless oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.1 (J = 1 Hz), 135.7 (J = 27 Hz), 130.8, 122.9, 122.6, 121.7, 119.1, 118.3. MS (EI): m/z = 228 $[\text{M}]^+$. ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -113.85.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3h. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.77 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.11 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 162.9, 160.5, 134.8 (J = 194.4 Hz), 130.4, 123.5 (J = 8.5 Hz), 118.6, 116.8 (J = 23.0 Hz). MS (EI): m/z =

162 [M]⁺. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -58.08.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3i. Colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.52 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.9, 135.5, 133.2, 130.7, 130.0, 122.7, 118.2. MS (EI): *m/z* = 178 [M]⁺.

1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-1*H*-imidazole 3j. Yellow solid. m.p.: 208-209 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.3, 142.0, 135.4, 131.8, 125.8, 121.1, 117.7. MS (EI): *m/z* = 189 [M]⁺.

1-(4-(1*H*-Imidazol-1-yl)phenyl)ethanone 3k. White solid. m.p.: 112-114 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.53 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 2.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.5, 140.7, 135.9, 135.4, 131.1, 130.3, 120.8, 117.8, 26.6. MS (EI): *m/z* = 186 [M]⁺.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)pyrrolidine 3l. Yellow solid. m.p.: 45-46 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.76 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.14 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 1.99 – 1.79 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.8, 142.2, 114.0, 111.6, 54.9, 47.2, 24.4. MS (EI): *m/z* = 177 [M]⁺.

***N*-butyl-4-methoxyaniline 3m.** Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.81 – 6.76 (m, 2H), 6.61 – 6.57 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.08 – 3.05 (m, 2H), 1.60 (dt, J = 20.0, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (dt, J = 14.8, 7.4 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.0, 142.8, 114.9, 114.1, 55.9, 44.8, 31.8, 20.3, 13.9.

***N*-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-pyrrolidinone 3n.** White solid. m.p.: 111-112 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.98 – 3.63 (m, 5H), 2.60 (t, J = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 2.24 – 2.09 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 156.6, 132.7, 121.8, 114.1, 55.5, 49.2, 32.5, 18.0. MS (EI): *m/z* = 191 [M]⁺.

1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-benz[d]imidazole 3o. Yellow solid, m.p.: 96-97 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.87 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (p, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 143.8, 142.6, 134.3, 129.2, 125.8, 123.6, 122.6, 120.5, 115.1, 110.4, 55.7. MS (EI): *m/z* = 224 [M]⁺.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methyl-1*H*-imidazole 3p. White solid, m.p.: 79-80 °C. ¹H NMR (400

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.94 – 6.80 (m, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 138.7, 135.5, 130.4, 123.0, 115.7, 114.9, 55.6, 13.7. MS (EI): m/z = 188 [M]⁺.

1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-5-nitro-1H-indole 3q. White solid ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.37 (m, 4H), 7.10 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, J = 3.2, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 142.1, 139.2, 131.7, 131.5, 128.1, 126.3, 118.3, 117.8, 115.0, 110.4, 105.1, 55.7.

Diphenyl sulphone 5a. White solid, m.p.: 123-124 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.97 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.7, 133.2, 129.3, 127.7. MS (EI): m/z = 218 [M]⁺.

4-Methoxyphenyl phenyl sulfone 5b. White solid, m.p.: 91-92 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (dd, J = 14.2, 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (dd, J = 14.8, 7.0 Hz, 3H), 6.89 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.4, 141.4, 132.1, 131.8, 128.9, 128.2, 126.3, 113.5, 54.6. MS (EI): m/z = 248 [M]⁺.

Phenyltolyl sulfone 5c. White solid, m.p.: 125-126 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.2, 140.9, 137.6, 131.9, 128.9, 128.2, 126.7, 126.5, 20.6. MS (EI): m/z = 232 [M]⁺.

1-methoxy-2-(phenylsulfonyl)benzene 5d. White solid, m.p.: 74-76 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.86 (m, 2H), 7.59 (ddd, J = 6.6, 3.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.4, 138.9, 138.0, 133.6, 132.9, 132.7, 129.5, 129.0, 127.7, 126.5, 20.2. MS (EI): m/z = 156 [M]⁺.

1-(Phenylsulfonyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene 5e. White solid, m.p.: 91-92 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.10 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.04 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.69 – 7.60 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dd, J = 10.4, 4.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.2, 140.6, 134.6 (J = 160 Hz), 129.6, 128.2, 127.9, 126.5 (J = 8.5 Hz), 124.5, 121.8. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -63.21. MS (EI): m/z = 286 [M]⁺.

4-Chlorophenyl phenyl sulfone 5f. White solid, m.p.: 93-95 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.44 (m, 4H).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 141.1, 140.1, 139.9, 133.5, 129.6, 129.4, 129.1, 127.6. MS (EI): $m/z = 252$ $[\text{M}]^+$.

4-Nitrophenyl phenyl sulfone 5g. Yellow solid, m.p.: 141-143 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.65 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.4, 147.4, 140.0, 134.2, 129.7, 128.9, 128.0, 124.5. MS (EI): $m/z = 263$ $[\text{M}]^+$.

3-Nitro-(phenylsulfonyl)benzene 5h. Yellow solid, m.p.: 78-80 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.67 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, $J = 15.2, 8.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.4, 142.9, 139.1, 133.1, 132.1, 129.7, 128.7, 126.9, 126.7, 121.9. MS (EI): $m/z = 263$ $[\text{M}]^+$.

4-Acetylphenyl phenyl sulfone 5i. White solid, m.p.: 130-131 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.12 – 8.03 (m, 4H), 8.01 – 7.94 (m, 2H), 7.62 (dd, $J = 8.0, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.55 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.65 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.8, 145.4, 140.8, 140.4, 133.7, 129.5, 129.1, 127.9, 127.8, 26.9. MS (EI): $m/z = 260$ $[\text{M}]^+$.

3. NMR spectra of products

