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Supporting Information

Nickel-Catalyzed Direct C-H Bond Sulfenylation of

Acylhydrazines

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1 Experimental Section

1.1 Synthesis of Starting Materials

Compounds **1a-1j** and **1l** were prepared following typical method A, compounds **1k** and **1m-1p** were prepared following typical method B.

Preparation of 1-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-hydrazine (III)



Synthesis of 2-hydrazinopyridine (II) Hydrazine monohydrate (85% solution, 9.7 mL, 0.2 mol) was added to 2-chloropyridine (I, 2.26 g, 20 mmol), the resulting mixture was refluxed for 6 h under argon atmosphere. Then the solution was cooled to room temperature and extracted with Et_2O for three times. The organic phase was combined and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , crude II was obtained as brown liquid after condensation under reduced pressure. The crude II was used directly for the next step.

Synthesis of 1-methyl-1-(pyridin-2-yl)-hydrazine (III) NaH (960 mg, 40 mmol) was introduced into a flask containing absolute tetrahydrofuran. Crude **II** was added dropwise to the slurry at 0 °C and stirred for 30 minutes. Then MeI (3.41 g, 24 mmol) was added dropwise to the mixture and stirred for 6 h at 0 °C. The reaction solution was quenched with ice water, and extracted with Et₂O for three times. The organic phase was combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give product **III** as deep red oil (2.15 g, 87.5% yield from **I**).

General procedure for the preparation of benzamide substrates (Method A)



A mixture of **III** (123 mg, 1 mmol), substituted aryl acid (1 mmol), EDCI (2.29 g, 1.2 mmol), DMAP (24.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) and Et₃N (202 mg, 2 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature overnight. Water was added and the mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to give the desired product.

General Procedure for the preparation of benzamide substrates (Method B)



Aryl acid (5 mmol) was refluxed in SOCl₂ (5 mL) for 2 h, then cooled to rt. The excess SOCl₂ was

removed under vacuum to give the corresponding acyl chloride. The acyl chloride was dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂, and added dropwise at 0 °C to a dry CH₂Cl₂ solution (20 mL) containing **III** (615 mg, 5 mmol) and Et₃N (2.02 g, 10 mmol). Then the mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 3 h, the resulting mixture was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography to give the desired product.

1.2 General Procedure for the Thiolation



An oven-dried pressure tube was charged with benzamide **1** (0.2 mmol), disulfide **2** (0.24 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (7.14 mg, 0.02mmol), Na₂CO₃ (42 mg, 0.4 mmol), BINAP (24.88 mg, 0.04 mmol), and DMSO (1.0 mL). The tube was then sealed and stirred vigorously at 140 °C for 12 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted water, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×10 mL). The combined phase was then washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc as the eluent to afford product **3**.

1.3 Mechanistic Investigation

General procedures for the radical trapping



An oven-dried pressure tube was charged with benzamide **1a** (48.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), disulfide **2a** (52.32 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (7.14 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (42 mg, 0.4 mmol), BINAP (24.88 mg, 0.04 mmol), TEMPO (93.6 mg, 0.6 mmol) and DMSO (1.0 mL). The tube was then sealed and stirred vigorously at 140 °C for 12 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with water, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×10 mL). The combined phase was then washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc as the eluent to afford product **3a**.

Ni-catalyzed thiolation with 4



To a Schlenk tube was added benzamide 1a (48.2 mg, 0.2 mmol), 4-methylbenzenethiol 4 (52.32 mg, 0.24 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (7.14 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (42 mg, 0.4 mmol), BINAP (24.88 mg, 0.04 mmol) and DMSO (1.0 mL). The mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 12 h. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with water, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×10 mL). The combined phase was then washed with brine and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc as the eluent to afford product 3q.

Oxidation of thiol 4 to form disulfide



To a Schlenk tube was added 4-methylbenzenethiol 4 (0.2 mmol), Ni(OTf)₂ (7.14 mg, 0.02 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (42 mg, 0.4 mmol), BINAP (24.88 mg, 0.04 mmol) and DMSO (1.0 mL). The mixture was stirred at 140 °C for 8 h. Then the mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×10 mL). The combined phase was then washed with brine and dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentration, the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using petroleum ether as the eluent to afford product 2b, which was confirmed by ¹H NMR spectrum. Dimethyl sulfide, a byproduct of DMSO, can be detected by GC-MS, which provided an evidence for the DMSO oxidant (Figure S1).



Figure S1



1.4 Hydrolysis of Hydrazine to Amide



To a solution of **3q** (72 mg, 0.2 mmol) in THF/MeOH (20 mL, 4:1 V/V) under N₂ was added SmI₂ (5 mL, 0.1 M in THF) dropwise. Upon addition, the blue color of the SmI₂ solution was decolorized. After complete addition, the reaction was allowed to stir for 30 min. The reaction was then concentrated on a Rotovap, and the resulting residue was purified by preparative TLC using CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc as the eluent to afford product **5**. White solid, yield 63%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.13 (dt, *J* = 17.8, 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 169.50, 137.21, 136.61, 134.64, 131.90, 130.74, 130.49, 129.13, 128.47, 128.30, 128.01, 20.08, 18.38.

2 NMR Spectra

Compound 1a



Compound 1b











Compound 1f



Compound 1g







Compound 1i







Compound 1k



Compound 11 -9.85 -9.78 -8.01 -8.00 -8.00 -10000 -9000 CH3 -8000 NH NH -7000 N. -6000 -5000 -<mark>40</mark>00 -3000 -2000 -1000 -0 ₽ - <mark>2.01</mark> - -3.01 -3.11 2.02 1.00-1.00-1 7.0 8.0 5.0 4.5 fl (ppm) 3.0 10.0 9.5 8.5 7.5 6.0 5.5 4.0 3. 5 2.5 2. 0 1.5 1.0 0.5 0.0 -0.5 9.0 -147.25 137.76 137.76 134.53 130.27 130.27 130.29 130.29 122.93 122.93 1122.93 1122.93 112.93 114.64 1107.16L165.73 L165.71 163.77 161.31 159.07 $<_{38.45}^{38.50}$ -900 -800 CH₂ -700 NH -600 -500 -400 -300 -200 -100 -0 --100

70 60

50

40

30 20

10

0

-10

170

160

150

140

130

120 110

100

90 80 fl (ppm)



Compound 1m









Compound 1p





Compound 3b



Compound 3c'



Compound 3c



Compound 3d



Compound 3e



Compound 3f



Compound 3g'



Compound 3g



Compound 3h







Compound 3j'



Compound 3j





Compound 3k'



Compound 31





Compound 3m'







Compound 3n





Compound 3n'









Compound 3r



Compound 3s





Compound 3t











Compound 3x



Compound 3y



Compound 5

