Selective alkyl ether cleavage by cationic bis(phosphine)iridium complexes.

Caleb A.H. Jones⁺ and Nathan D. Schley^{*,+}

⁺Department of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37235 United States nathan.schley@vanderbilt.edu

Supporting Information

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I. General Information

General Considerations. Syntheses and manipulations were conducted in air unless otherwise specified. Tetrahydrofuran, toluene, dichloromethane, pentane, and diethyl ether were degassed with argon and dried over activated alumina using a solvent purification system. All reagents and building blocks including 3-benzyloxy-propanol were procured from commercial vendors. Complex **2**¹, BAr^F₃,² and [CPh₃]BAr^F₄³⁻⁴ were prepared using reported procedures.

Spectroscopy. ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker NMR spectrometers at ambient temperature unless otherwise noted. ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts are referenced to residual solvent signals; ³¹P chemical shifts are referenced to an external H₃PO₄ standard.

Mass Spectrometry. High resolution mass spectrometry was conducted by the Center for Innovative Technology at Vanderbilt University. Acetonitrile solutions of purified products were diluted into a carrier solvent of 20:80 H₂O:MeCN containing 0.1% formic acid analyzed in either positive or negative ion mode by APCI or ESI.



III. Synthesis and Characterization

 $^{BnO} (M_{5} CH_{3})$

6a

Benzyl heptyl ether: This compound was prepared using a reported method⁵

OBn

6b

Benzyl cyclohexyl ether: This compound was prepared using a reported method⁵

Bn^{-O}^tBu

6c

Benzyl tert-butyl ether: This compound was prepared using a reported method⁶

H₃C^{-O}()₅ CH₃

6d

Methyl octyl ether: This compound was prepared using a reported method⁷

^tBu^{-O} ()_5 CH₃

6e

Tert-butyl hepty ether: A 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with a stir bar and fitted with a reflux condenser and $Mg(ClO_4)_2$ (0.310 g, 1.09 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) and heptanol (1.6 mL, 10.9 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were combined in 16 mL dichloromethane. This solution was treated with di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (5.47 g, 25.1 mmol, 2.3 equiv.) and was refluxed while the reaction progress was monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the sample was diluted with 40 mL of water and extracted with three 30 mL portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were then dried with Na₂SO₄, filtered

and concentrated on a rotary evaporator. The crude oil was then purified by silica gel chromatography (5 % EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.6725 g (36%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.⁸

¹H NMR (300 MHz, C₆D₆) δ: 3.37 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.70 (p, J = 6.1Hz, 2H), 1.46-1.50 (m, 2H), 1.36 (bs, 6H), 1.24 (s, 9H), 0.96-0.98 (m, 3H)

2-(octyloxy)-2,3-dihydro-1*H***-indene:** A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.546 g, 22.8 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) and THF (43.5 mL) in the glove box and fitted with a rubber stopper. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. 1-indanol (2.78 g, 20.17 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was added slowly using a syringe. The resulting mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes after which 1-bromooctane (1.8 mL, 10.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was then refluxed for 6 hours at which point the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated. The resulting oil was then purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 1.15 g (45%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12-7.22 (m, 4H), 4.33 (p, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.94-3.20 (ddd, J = 16.5, 8.2, 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.59 (p, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28-1.36 (m, 10H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.15, 126.59, 124.83, 80.43, 69.49, 39.51, 31.98, 30.11, 29.61, 29.42, 26.40, 22.81, 14.25

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C17H26OH+: 247.2062, found: 247.2054

BnO O-CH3

6g

((3-methoxypropoxy)methyl)benzene: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.330 g, 13.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and THF (11.5 mL) in the glove box and fitted with a rubber stopper. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. 3-benzyloxy-propanol (1.9 mL, 11.46 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added slowly using a syringe. The resulting mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes after which iodomethane (2.1 mL, 34.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. Upon completion, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were

dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to give the product as a yellow oil. Yield: 1.65 g (80%). The compound has been previously reported.⁹ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26-7.37 (m, 5H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.57 (t, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 1.90 (p, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H)

BnO S-Ph

6h

(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)(phenyl)sufane: Triethylamine (6.4 mL, 45.9 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added to a solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (1.9 mL, 11.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 88 mL THF. Methanesulfonyl chloride (2.6 mL, 22.9 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was then added and the solution was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched with 25 mL saturated NH₄Cl. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with ether. The combined organic layers were then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to give an orange oil. This oil was taken up in 1.8 mL DMF and was treated with thiophenol (1.8 mL, 17.2 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and K₂CO₃ (2.38 g, 17.2 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours, after which the reaction was quenched with a 5% aqueous KOH solution and then extracted with three 20 mL portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (2%-10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as an oil. Yield: 0.3375 g (11%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.¹⁰

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.20-7.38 (m, 10H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.62 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (p, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H)

BnO N₃

6i

((3-azidopropoxy)methyl)benzene: Triethylamine (3.4 mL, 24.1 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added to a solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (0.95 mL, 6.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 46 mL THF. Methanesulfonyl chloride (0.95 mL, 12.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) was then added and the solution was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched with 25 mL saturated NH₄Cl. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with ether. The combined organic layers were then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to give an orange oil. This oil was taken up in 40 mL DMF and was treated with NaN₃ (2.0 g, 30.1 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) and then heated to 60 °C for five hours. The crude reaction mixture was then treated with brine and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to granic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to granic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to granic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to granic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and extracted with NaN₃ (2.0 g, 30.1 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) and then heated to 60 °C for five hours. The crude reaction mixture was then treated with brine and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. This crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.424 g (37%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.¹¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 7.18-7.32 (m, 5H), 4.30 (s, 2H), 3.23 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.54 (p, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H)

BnOCOCN

6j

4-(benzyloxy)butanenitrile: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹²

BnO 6k

(Z)-((hex-4-en-1-yloxy)methyl)benzene: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹³

((but-3-yn-1-yloxy)methyl)benzene: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹⁴

6m

(4-(benzyloxy)but-1-yn-1-yl)benzene: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹⁵

BnO NHTs

6n

N-(3-benzyloxy)propyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹⁶

2-(2-(benzyloxy)ethyl)-1,3-dioxolane: This compound was prepared using a reported method.¹⁷

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BnO<sup>O</sup>O
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3-(benzyloxy)propanal: DMSO (8.5 mL, 120.3 mmol, 10 equiv.), triethylamine (6.7 mL, 48.1 mmol, 4 equiv.), and SO₃·pyridine (5.7g, 36.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added sequentially to a solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (1.9 mL, 12.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in

60 mL dichloromethane at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1.5 hours. The crude reaction mixture was then quenched with NaHCO₃ and the layers separated. The organic layer was washed three times with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, two times with water, and three times with brine followed by drying over Na₂SO₄. The resulting solution was filtered concentrated under vacuum to give a yellow oil. This crude residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as an oil. Yield: 1.34 g (68%). The crude aldehyde used without further purification. Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.¹⁸ ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.78 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.35 (m, 5H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.80 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H)

4-(benzyloxy)butan-2-ol: A solution of 3-(benzyloxy)propanal (0.960 g, 5.85 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 12 mL THF was cooled to 0 °C and treated with a 3M solution of MeMgBr in THF (2.1 mL, 6.43 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) dropwise. The cold bath was removed after stirring for 10 minutes and the reaction was allowed to come to room temperature. After 2 hours the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl, diluted with 50 mL of water, and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give the product as an oil. Yield: 1.03g (98%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.¹⁹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26-7.34 (m, 5H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.98-4.03 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.74 (m, 2H), 2.87 (s, 1H), 1.68-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.19 (d, J= 6.3 Hz, 3H)

BnO OAc

3-(benzyloxy)propyl acetate. A 25 mL flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with 3benzyloxy-1-propanol (0.48 mL, 3.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), pyridine (0.32 mL, 3.90 mmol, 1.3 equiv.), and 6 mL of dichloromethane. The flask was then cooled to 0 °C and acetic anhydride (0.37 mL, 3.90, 1.3 equiv.) was added dropwise. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction was allowed to come to room temperature. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC. Upon completion the solution was poured into 20 mL of 1M aqueous HCl and extracted with three 20 mL portions of Et₂O. The combined organic extracts were then washed with saturated NaHCO₃ and dried over Na₂SO₄. Removal of the solvent on a rotary evaporator gave the product as a yellow oil. Yield: 0.4941 g (79%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.29-7.37 (m, 5H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.56 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.95 (p, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.19, 138.42, 128.48, 127.72, 127.71, 73.10, 66.74, 61.81, 29.13, 21.05 HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C₁₂H₁₆O₃H⁺: 209.1178, found: 209.1177

BnO CI

((3-chloropropoxy)methyl)benzene: A solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (0.95 mL, 6.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 20 mL diisopropyl ether was treated with triethylamine (0.13 mL, 0.90 mmol, 0.15 equiv.) and was then cooled to -10 °C with a salt-ice bath. Separately, a solution of 0.5 mL of SOCl₂ (7.06 mmol, 1.18 equiv.) in 20 mL of diisopropyl ether was prepared. A 10 mL portion of the SOCl₂ solution was added dropwise to the reaction mixture at -10 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to stir for 10 minutes, after which point the cooling bath was removed and the second portion of the SOCl₂ solution was added. The reaction mixture was then heated to 75 °C and stirred overnight. After cooling, the crude reaction mixture was treated with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to give the product as a yellow oil. Yield: 0.6792 g (61%). The compound has been previously reported.²⁰

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.22-7.28 (m, 5H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.60 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.54 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (p, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H)

BnO Br

((3-bromopropoxy)methyl)benzene: A solution of PPh₃ (3.15 g, 12.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 34 mL of dichloromethane in the dark was treated with Br₂ (0.6 mL, 12.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) dropwise over 20 minutes. After an additional 15 minutes, a solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (1.9 mL, 12.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and imidazole (0.982 g, 14.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in 24 mL of DCM was added dropwise over 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 2.5 hours. Upon completion, the mixture was treated with excess solid Na₂SO₃ and the resulting suspension concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was extracted with pentane, filtered, and concentrated to give a crude oil which was purified by silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.8104 g (58%). The compound has been previously reported.²¹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 7.24-7.35 (m, 5H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.59 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (p, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H)



((3-bromobutoxy)methyl)benzene: A solution of PPh₃ (1.50 g, 5.70 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 16 mL of DCM in the dark was treated with Br₂ (0.3 mL, 5.70 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) dropwise over 20 minutes. After an additional 15 minutes, a solution of 4-(benzyloxy)butan-2-ol (1.03 g, 5.70 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and imidazole (0.466 g, 6.84 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in 11 mL of DCM was added dropwise over 15 minutes. The reaction mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 2.5 hours. Upon completion, the mixture was treated with excess solid Na₂SO₃ and the resulting suspension concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was extracted with pentane, filtered, and concentrated to give a crude oil which was purified by silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a yellow oil. Yield: 0.883 g (64%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27-7.39 (m, 5H), 4.54 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 4.37 (sextet, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (t, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.04-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.76 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 138.40, 128.53, 127.80, 127.78, 73.32, 68.28, 48.43, 41.22, 26.75

BnO

7g

((3-iodopropoxy)methyl)benzene[:] A solution of PPh₃ (3.15 g, 12.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 34 mL of dichloromethane in the dark was treated with I₂ (3.05 g, 12.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and stirred for 15 minutes. A solution of 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (1.9 mL, 12.03 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and imidazole (0.982 g, 14.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in 24 mL of DCM was added over dropwise over 15 minutes. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2.5 hours. Upon completion, the mixture was treated with excess solid Na₂SO₃ and the resulting suspension concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was extracted with pentane, filtered, and concentrated to give a crude oil which was purified by silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a clear oil. Yield: 2.78 g (84%). The compound has been previously reported.²²

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24-7.36, (m, 5H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.53 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.30 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.08 (p, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H)



7h

3-(3-chlorophenyl)propan-1-ol: This compound was prepared using a reported method.²³



7i

1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)3-chlorobenzene: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.066 g, 2.76 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and 2.1 mL THF in an inert atmosphere glove box. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. 3-(3-chlorophenyl)propan-1-ol (0.362 g, 2.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes before the addition of benzyl bromide (0.33 mL, 2.76 mmol, 1.3 equiv.). Upon completion, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH4Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with 20 mL of 1M NaOH and 20 mL water, then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.4985 g (90%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06-7.38 (m, 9H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (p, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.18, 138.63, 134.20, 129.68, 128.77, 128.53, 127.82, 127.73, 126.83, 126.10, 73.10, 69.30, 32.21, 31.25

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C16H17ClOH+: 261.1046, found: 261.1036

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8a

3-(3-bromophenyl)propan-1-ol: This compound was prepared using a reported method.²⁴

BnO

8b

1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)3-bromobenzene: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.060 g, 1.93 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and 3 mL THF in an inert atmosphere glove box. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. 3-(3-bromophenyl)propan-1-ol (0.363 g, 1.48 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added drowise. The resulting mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature before the addition of benzyl bromide (0.23 mL, 1.92 mmol, 1.3 equiv.). Upon completion, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting oil was then purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.4084 g (91%). This compound has been previously reported.²⁵

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32-7.38 (m, 7H), 7.11-7.17 (m, 2H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.2 Hz), 2.71 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 1.94 (p, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H)



3-(3-iodophenyl)propanoic acid: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with formic acid (0.25 mL, 6.46 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and triethylamine (0.36 mL, 2.59 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) under nitrogen. After 15 min, 2 mL DMF was added followed by 3-iodobenzaldehyde (0.500 g, 2.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and Meldrum's acid (0.311 g, 2.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The resulting mixture was heated to 100 °C and stirred overnight. Upon completion, the solution was poured into 15 mL ice water and extracted two 15 mL portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were shaken with a 10% aqueous NaOH solution and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was acidified with concentrated aqueous HCl and extracted with EtOAc. The organic extract was washed with water, brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum to give the product as an off-white solid. Yield: 0.5664 g (95%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.²⁶

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.19 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H)



3-(3-iodophenyl)propan-1-ol: This compound was prepared using a reported method.²⁷

BnO **9c**

1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)3-iodobenzene: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.053 g, 2.22 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and 1.7 mL THF in an inert atmosphere glove box. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. 3-(3-iodophenyl)propan-1-ol (0.448 g, 1.71 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes before the addition of benzyl bromide (0.26 mL, 2.22 mmol, 1.3 equiv.). Upon completion, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with 20 mL of 1M NaOH and 20 mL water,

then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.1027 g (90%)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.13-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (p, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.62, 138.63, 137.68, 135.01, 130.20, 128.55, 127.94, 127.82, 127.74, 94.62, 73.11, 69.31, 32.10, 31.30

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C16H17IOH+: 351.0246, found: 351.0232

10a

Methyl 3-(3-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate[:] This compound was prepared using a reported method.²⁸



10b

Methyl 3-(3-((triisopropylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)propanoate[•] A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with 6 mL DMF, methyl 3-(3-hydroxyphenyl)propanoate (2.12 g, 11.8 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), and imidazole (2.41 g, 35.4 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) under nitrogen. The mixture was stirred for 10 min at room temperature followed by the dropwise addition of triisopropylchlorosilane (3.8 mL, 17.7 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). After stirring overnight the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O and extracted with diethyl ether. The combined organic layers were washed with water and brine and dried over Na₂SO₄ then concentrated under vacuum. The resulting crude residue was purified using silica gel chromatography to give the product as a pale yellow oil. Yield: 2.98 g (75%)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (s, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 2.89 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (sextet, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 18H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.46, 156.28, 142.10, 129.46, 121.08, 119.98, 117.90, 51.72, 35.79, 30.98, 18.05, 12.81

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C19H32O3SiH+: 337.2199, found: 337.2194

3-(3-((triisopropylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)propan-1-ol: A solution of LiAlH₄ (0.402 g, 10.6 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in 9 mL dry THF was prepared and cooled to 0 °C. A solution of

methyl 3-(3-((triisopropylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)propanoate (2.98 g, 8.85 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 9 mL THF was then added dropwise. The bath was removed and the mixture was allowed to come to room temperature where it was stirred for 3 hours. At this point the vessel was cooled back to 0 °C and treated with 10 mL of ether followed by the dropwise addition of 0.6 mL of water, 0.6 mL of a 15% aqueous NaOH solution and 1.8 mL of water. The reaction mixture was then warmed to room temperature and stirred for 15 minutes. Anhydrous Na₂SO₄ was then added with vigorous stirring for an additional 15 minutes. The material was filtered and the filtrate layers were separated. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under vacuum to give the product as a yellow oil. Yield: 2.27 g (56%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.71-6.78 (m, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 3.66 (s, 2H), 2.65 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.87 (p, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (sextet, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H), 1.10 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 18H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.23, 143.41, 129.31, 121.28, 120.16, 117.49, 62.43, 34.26, 32.12, 18.06, 12.82

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]+ calcd for C18H32O2SiH+: 309.2250, found: 309.2262

BnO OSi(ⁱPr)₃

10d

(3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenoxy)triisopropylsilane: A flame-dried Schlenk flask was charged with NaH (90%, 0.229 g, 9.55 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and 7.3 mL THF in an inert atmosphere glove box. The vessel was then brought outside of the box and attached to an oil bubbler. A solution of 3-(3-((triisopropylsilyl)oxy)phenyl)propan-1-ol (2.27 g, 7.35 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 7 mL THF was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 30 minutes before the addition of benzyl bromide (1.1 mL, 9.6 mmol, 1.1 equiv.). Upon completion, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and the layers separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 50 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were washed with 20 mL of 1M NaOH and 20 mL water, then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting oil was then purified by silica gel chromatography (1% to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 2.01 (69%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.24-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.08-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.69-6.75 (m, 3H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (p, J =7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (sextet, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 18H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.17, 143.60, 138.74, 129.22, 128.51, 127.78, 127.66, 121.38, 120.23, 117.41, 73.09, 69.71, 32.41, 31.41, 18.08, 12.83

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₅H₃₈O₂SiH⁺: 399.2719, found: 399.2730



3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenol: (3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenoxy)triisopropylsilane (1.66 g, 4.16 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was taken up in 21 mL THF and treated with tetra-nbutylammonium fluoride (1.71 g, 5.41 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) at 0 °C. After stirring overnight at room temperature 20 mL ethyl acetate was added. The solution was extracted with three 20 mL portions of water and three 15 mL portions of brine. The organic phase was then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was then purified by silica gel chromatography to give the product as an oil. Yield: 0.7405 g (74%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.37 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 7.28-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.61-6.66 (m, 2H), 5.08 (bs, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H), 3.51 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.90-1.97 (m, 2H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.72, 143.97, 138.55, 129.61, 128.54, 127.95, 127.74, 121.02, 115.54, 112.85, 73.05, 69.52, 32.30, 31.23

HRMS (APCI-/Q-TOF) m/z [M-H]- calcd for C16H17O2-: 241.1229, found: 241.1219

BnO

10f

3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenyl trifluoromethanesulfonate: A flame dried Schlenk flask was charged with 3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenol (0.200 g, 0.83 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), 4.1 mL dichloromethane, 2,6-lutidine (0.15 mL, 1.24 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and DMAP (0.020 g, 0.17 mmol, 0.2 equiv.). The resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C and triflic anhydride (0.21 mL, 1.24 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) was added dropwise. The mixture was then allowed to come to room temperature and the reaction was stirred for 3.5 hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl and then extracted with two 30 mL portions of dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were then washed sequentially with 30 mL water, 30 mL saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and 30 mL water. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was then purified by silica gel chromatography (10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.2061 g (67%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.10-7.39 (m, 9H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.91-1.98 (m, 2H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.80, 145.24, 138.54, 130.15, 128.71, 128.56, 127.85, 127.79, 121.43, 118.91 (q, ¹J_{C-F} = 320.9 Hz), 118.74, 73.17, 69.05, 32.23, 31.18

HRMS (APCI-/Q-TOF) m/z [M-H]- calcd for C17H16F3O4S-: 373.0721, found: 373.0705



2-(3-((3-(benzyloxy)propoxy)methyl)phenyl)-4,4,5,5,-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane:

A flame-dried Schlenk flask under N₂ was charged with 1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)3bromobenzene (0.200 g, 0.65 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 2.2 mL THF and the resulting solution was cooled to -78 °C. A solution of 2.5M ⁿBuLi in hexanes (0.3 mL, 0.72 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added and the solution was allowed to stir for one hour. A solution of B₂Pin₂ (0.219 g, 0.87 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) in 2.2 mL THF was then added, at which point the solution was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Upon completion the reaction mixture was quenched with 1M aqueous HCl and the phases separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with three 25 mL portions of diethyl ether and the combined organic extracts were then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The resulting residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% to 10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.1518 g (66%)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 4H), 7.29 (d, J = 5 Hz, 3H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (p, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.35 (s, 12H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.38, 138.76, 134.98, 132.38, 131.63, 128.49, 127.89, 127.81, 127.64, 83.86, 73.04, 69.75, 32.44, 31.56, 25.01 (*Note:* A ¹³C resonance for the aromatic boron-attached carbon is not observed.)

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₂₉BO₃H⁺: 353.2288, found: 353.2274

General procedure for ether silylation:

In an inert-atmosphere glove box a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with a stir bar, the solid precatalyst $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.03 equiv.), and dry, degassed toluene (1 mL per 0.30 mmol of ether substrate). The HSiEt₃ (2.2 equiv.) was then added followed by the substrate ether (1.0 equiv.). The vial was fitted with a cap and removed from the glove box. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and the resulting products purified by silica gel chromatography.

Et₃SiO CI

12a

(3-chloropropoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.028 g, 0.016 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.8 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.19 mL, 1.19 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by ((3-chloropropoxy)methyl)benzene (0.100 g, 0.54 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1%

EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.0799 g (71%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.75 (t, J = 6.0, 2H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (p, J = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 9H), 0.60 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 59.25, 41.89, 35.62, 6.84, 4.47

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₉H₂₁ClOSiH⁺: 209.1128, found: 209.1131

Et₃SiO Br

12b

(3-bromopropoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0226 g, 0.013 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.5 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.16 mL, 0.96 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by ((3-bromopropoxy)methyl)benzene (0.100 g, 0.44 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.074 g (67%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.74 (t, J = 5.5, 2H), 3.52 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.04 (p, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 9H), 0.61 (q, J = 8.1 Hz, 6H) ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 60.26, 35.73, 30.77, 6.87, 4.46

Et₃SiO

12c

(3-iodopropoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0190 g, 0.011 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.2 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.13 mL, 0.80 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by ((3-iodopropoxy)methyl)benzene (0.100 g, 0.36 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.0656 g (60%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.67 (t, J = 5.6, 2H), 3.28 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.00 (p, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 9H), 0.61 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 6H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 62.25, 36.40, 6.92, 4.52, 3.73

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₉H₂₁IOSiH⁺: 301.0485, found: 301.0475

Et₃SiO CH₃

(3-bromobutoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. [H₂Ir(PPh₃)₂(THF)₂]BAr^{F₄} (0.0213 g, 0.012 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.4 mL

toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.15 mL, 0.90 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by ((3-bromobutoxy)methyl)benzene (0.100 g, 0.41 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.051 g (46%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.32 (sext, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (t, J = 5.6, 2H), 1.98 (q, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.71 Hz, 9H), 0.61 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 6H) ¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 60.80, 48.46, 43.03, 26.83, 6.91, 4.51

HRMS (ESI/Q-TOF) m/z [M-H]⁻ calcd for C10H22BrOSiH⁻: 265.0623, found: 265.0630

Et₃SiO² 12e

(3-(3-bromophenyl)propoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.020 g, 0.012 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.3 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.14 mL, 0.84 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by 1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-3-chlorobenzene (0.100 g, 0.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.0836 g (76%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.14-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (t, J = 6.3, 2H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (p, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 9H), 0.60 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.43, 134.16, 129.63, 128.74, 126.78, 126.00, 61.94, 34.28, 31.96, 6.93, 4.57

HRMS (APCI⁻/Q-TOF) m/z [M-H]⁻ calcd for C15H24ClOSi⁻: 283.1285, found: 283.1298



(3-(3-bromophenyl)propoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.017 g, 0.010 mmol, 0.04 equiv.), and 1.1 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.12 mL, 0.72 mmol, 2.7 equiv.) followed by 1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-3-bromobenzene (0.081 g, 0.27 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.0672 g (77%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 6.24 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.14 (m, 2H), 3.62 (t, J = 5.8, 2H), 2.65 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 1.82 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 9H), 0.60 (q, J = 7.7 Hz, 6H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.75, 131.68, 129.95, 128.93, 127.25, 122.49, 61.91, 34.29, 31.94, 6.93, 4.58

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C15H24BrOSiH⁺: 329.0936, found: 329.0948

Et₃SiO

(3-(3-iodophenyl)propoxy)triethylsilane: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0142 g, 0.0082 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 0.95 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.10 mL, 0.62 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by 1-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-3-iodobenzene (0.100 g, 0.28 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.1051 g (98%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (t, J = 6.3, 2H), 2.62 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (p, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 9H), 0.60 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H)

¹³C{¹H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.85, 137.65, 134.91, 130.14, 127.88, 94.55, 61.89, 34.28, 31.82, 6.94, 4.58

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C15H24IOSiH⁺: 377.0798, found: 377.0785



(3-(3-(triethylsilyl)oxy)propyl)phenyl) triflate: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0138 g, 0.0080 mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 0.90 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (0.95 mL, 0.59 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by 3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenyl triflate (0.100 g, 0.27 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The crude reaction mixture was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes to 2% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.101 g (95%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33 (t, J = 7.7, 1H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08-7.10 (m, 2H), 3.63 (t, J = 6.2, 2H), 2.74 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (p, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 9H), 0.60 (q, J = 8.1 Hz, 6H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.81, 145.52, 130.08, 128.67, 121.37, 118.91 (q, $^{1}J_{C-F}$ = 320.9 Hz), 118.64, 61.71, 34.14, 31.97, 6.88, 4.54

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₂₅F₃O₄SSiH⁺: 399.1273, found: 399.1268



3-(3-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)phenyl)propan-1-ol: This compound was prepared according to the general procedure. [H₂Ir(PPh₃)₂(THF)₂]BAr^F₄ (0.0147, 0.0085mmol, 0.03 equiv.), and 1.0 mL toluene were combined in a vial which was treated with HSiEt₃ (1.0 mL, 0.62 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) followed by 2-(3-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)phenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (0.100 g, 0.28 mmol, 1.0 equiv.).

Upon completion after 2 hours, the solution was concentrated on a rotatory evaporator and the resulting residue was dissolved in 1.4 mL of THF. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and tetra-n-butylammonium fluoride (0.200 g, 0.63 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) was added. This solution was allowed to come to room temperature and was stirred for 30 minutes before being diluted with 2 mL of EtOAc and extracted with water and brine. The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator. This residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.0299 g (40%).

Note: NMR Analysis suggests benzyl cleavage proceeds in high yield (>90%) however we have not been able to purify the resulting triethylsilyl ether. We suspect the low yields of the free alcohol obtained results from challenges in the selective desilylation of the product of benzylic ether cleavage.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (s, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (t, J = 6.3, 2H), 2.71 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.90 (p, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (s, 12H)

 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.20, 134.88, 132.50, 131.57, 127.97, 83.90, 62.47, 34.45, 32.10, 25.00. (*Note:* A ^{13}C resonance for the aromatic boron-attached carbon is not observed.)

HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C15H23BrO3H⁺: 263.1818, found: 263.1831

(3-(benzyloxy)propoxy)(tert-butyl)dimethylsilane (eqn. 1):

In an inert atmosphere glovebox a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0312 g, 0.018 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) and 2 mL toluene followed by tert-butyl(dimethyl)silane (0.11 mL, 0.662 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (95 µL, 0.602 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The resulting solution was stirred for 15 before being filtered through a short filter pad of silica using diethyl ether. The filtrate was then concentrated by rotatory evaporation and the resulting residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (5% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a yellow oil.

Yield: 0.1533 g (91%). Spectroscopic data for this product has been previously reported.²⁹

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.26-7.34 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.72 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.83 (t, J = 6.3, 2H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.05 (s, 6H)

$$\begin{array}{c} Et\\ Si \\ Et \\ CH_3 \end{array} \stackrel{O}{\underset{H_3}{\circ}} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ}} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ}} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ}} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ} O \stackrel{^{t}Bu}{\underset{H_3}{\circ}} O$$

9,9-diethyl-2,2,3,3-tetramethyl-4,8-dioxa-3,9-disilaundecane (eqn. 1):

This compound was prepared according to a variation to the general procedure. In an inert atmosphere glovebox a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0312 mg, 0.018 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) and 2 mL toluene followed by tert-butyl(dimethyl)silane (0.11 mL, 0.662 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and 3-benzyloxy-1-propanol (95 µL, 0.602 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The resulting solution was stirred 15 minutes, at which point ethyl(dimethyl)silane (0.20 mL, 1.05 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) was added. The reaction mixture stirred for two hours and was purified by silica gel chromatography (1% EtOAc/hexanes) to give the product as a colorless oil. Yield: 0.1365 g (78%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.67-3.71 (m, 4H), 1.73 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.56-0.61 (m, 4H), 0.05 (2s, 9H)

 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 59.83, 59.50, 36.05, 26.07, 18.45, 6.89, 6.37, -4.88, -5.22 HRMS (APCI/Q-TOF) m/z [M+H]⁺ calcd for C14H34O2Si2H⁺: 291.2175, found: 291.2174

Catalytic ether silvlation conducted with (PPh₃)₂IrH₅ (3) as the precatalyst (eqn. 3):

 $BnO_{\text{H}_{5}^{\text{CH}_{3}}} \underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \text{Complex 3 (3 mol \%)} \\ \text{HSiEt}_{3} (2.2 \text{ equiv.}) \\ \hline C_{6}D_{6}, 60 \text{ °C}, 16 \text{ h} \end{array}}_{C_{6}D_{6}, 60 \text{ °C}, 16 \text{ h}} no$

In an inert-atmosphere glove box a septum-capped NMR tube was charged with $(PPh_3)_2IrH_5$ (3) (0.0032 g, 0.0045 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) followed by 0.5 mL of C₆D₆. Triethylsilane (53 µL, 0.33 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) was then added and the NMR tube was inverted to ensure appropriate mixing. Benzyl heptyl ether (37 µL, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was then added and the NMR tube was inverted once more. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR. As no change was observed at 25 °C, the sample was heated to 40 °C for 2 hours and then to 60 °C for 16 hours. No substrate reduction was observed. Analysis by ³¹P{¹H} NMR at various points show complete consumption of **3** and formation of complex **4**.

Catalytic ether silvlation conducted with complex 4 and [CPh₃]BArF₄ (eqn. 4):



In an inert-atmosphere glove box a septum-capped NMR tube was charged with $(PPh_3)_2IrH_5$ (3) (0.0032 g, 0.0045 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) followed by 0.25 mL of C₆D₆. Triethylsiane (26.2 µL, 0.17 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added and the NMR tube was heated to 80 °C for three minutes with periodic agitation of the reaction vessel. Analysis of this sample by ³¹P{¹H} and ¹H NMR show complete consumption of **3** and formation of complex **4**. The NMR tube was then brought back into the glovebox and the solution was frozen solid using a cold well. In a separate vial a solution of [CPh₃]BAr^{F₄} (0.0053 g, 0.0048 mmol, 0.032 equiv.) in 0.25 mL of C₆D₆ was prepared. Triethylsilane (26.2 µL, 0.17 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added followed by benzyl heptyl ether (37 µL, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The resulting solution was transferred into the NMR tube and layered onto the frozen iridium solution in the cold well. The sample was allowed to freeze solid. The sealed NMR tube was then brought out of the box and thawed immediately before analysis by NMR. Quantitative conversion of benzyl heptyl ether to triethyl(heptyloxy)silane was observed within 10 minutes.

Catalytic ether silvlation conducted in the presence of excess mercury (eqn. 6).

$$BnO_{1} \xrightarrow{C} CH_{3} \xrightarrow{HSiEt_{3} (2.2 \text{ equiv.})}{C_{6}D_{6}, 25 \text{ °C}, 3 \text{ h}} \xrightarrow{Et_{3}SiO_{1} \xrightarrow{C} CH_{3}} >98\% (NMR)$$

To a 4 mL vial containing a stir bar was added Hg⁰ (0.033 g, 0.17 mmol, 4.20 equiv.) followed by $[H_2Ir(PPh_3)_2(THF)_2]BAr^{F_4}$ (0.0020 g, 0.0012 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) as a solution in C₆D₆. The solution was then diluted to 0.5 mL of C₆D₆. Triethylsilane (13.7 µL, 0.085 mmol, 2.2 equiv.) was then added and the solution was stirred briefly to ensure appropriate mixing. Benzyl heptyl ether (8.9 µL, 0.039 mmol 1.0 equiv.) was then added and the solution was allowed to stir vigorously for two hours, ensuring maximal contact between the liquid mercury and the reaction solvent. The solution was then transferred to an NMR tube and 10 µL of pyridine was added as an internal standard. The NMR yield was determined to be >98%.

Catalytic ether silvlation conducted with complex 4 and NaBArF4:



In an inert-atmosphere glove box a septum-capped NMR tube was charged with (PPh₃)₂IrH₅ (3) (0.0032 g, 0.0045 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) followed by 0.25 mL of C₆D₆. Triethylsiane (26.2 μ L, 0.17 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added and the NMR tube was heated to 80 °C for three minutes with periodic agitation of the reaction vessel. Analysis of this sample by ³¹P{¹H} and ¹H NMR show complete consumption of **3** and formation of complex **4**. The NMR tube was then brought back into the glovebox and the solution was frozen solid using a cold well. In a separate vial a solution of NaBArF₄ (0.0043 g, 0.0048 mmol, 0.032 equiv.) in 0.25 mL of C₆D₆ was prepared. Triethylsilane (26.2 μ L, 0.17 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was then added followed by benzyl heptyl ether (37 μ L, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The resulting solution was transferred into the NMR tube and layered onto the frozen iridium solution in the cold well. The sample was allowed to freeze solid. The sealed NMR tube was then brought out of the box and thawed immediately before analysis by NMR. No reaction was observed over 30 minutes at room temperature.

Observation of complex 2 resulting from hydride abstraction from 4:



In an inert-atmosphere glove box a septum-capped NMR tube was charged with $(PPh_3)_2IrH_5$ (3) (0.0100 g, 0.0139 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) followed by 0.5 mL of C₆D₆ and triethylsilane (22.5 µL, 0.139 mmol, 10 equiv.). The suspension was then heated to 80 °C until a clear solution formed (~ 3 minutes). The mixture was brought back into the glove box and the solution was concentrated under vacuum. The resulting solid was dissolved in 0.5 mL of THF and was treated with [Ph₃C]BArF₄ (0.0153 g, 0.0139 mmol, 1.0 equiv). Analysis by ³¹P{¹H} NMR gave a single signal at 30.4 ppm which we have assigned as complex **2** by comparison to the authentic material in THF.





S-23



S-24





S-26



Figure S6. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **6i**



Figure S7. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7a**



Figure S8. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7b**



Figure S9. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7c**



Figure S10. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum of **7c**



Figure S11. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7d**



Figure S12. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7e**





Figure S14. $^{\rm 13}{\rm C}\{^{\rm 1}{\rm H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of 7f



Figure S15. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **7g**








Figure S18. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **8b**



Figure S19. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **9a**





Figure S21. $^{\rm 13}C\{^{\rm 1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 9c



Figure S22. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **10b**





Figure S24. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **10c**





















Figure S34. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12a**



Figure S35. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum of **12a**



Figure S36. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12b**



Figure S37. $^{\scriptscriptstyle 13}C\{^{\scriptscriptstyle 1}\!H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12b



Figure S38. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12c**



Figure S39. $^{\rm 13}C\{^{\rm 1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12c



Figure S40. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12d**







Figure S43. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum of **12e**





Figure S45. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR Spectrum of **12f**



Figure S46. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12g**



Figure S47. $^{\rm 13}C\{^{\rm 1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12g



Figure S48. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12h**



Figure S49. $^{\scriptscriptstyle 13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12h





Figure S51. $^{\rm 13}C\{^{\rm 1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12i


Figure S52. ¹H NMR Spectrum of **12k**



Figure S53. $^{\rm 13}C\{^{\rm 1}H\}$ NMR Spectrum of 12k

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