Electronic Supplementary Information

Sodium periodate/TEMPO as selective and efficient system for amine oxidation

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Table of contents:	
Figure 1S	pag. 2
Figure 2S	pag. 3
Table 1S	pag. 4
General procedure for synthesis of imines 4a, 4m, 4n, 4o and 4t (GP5)	pag. 4
General procedure for synthesis of secondary amines 7-11 (GP6)	pag. 5
¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR of 4m	pag. 7
¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR of 12	pag. 8



Figure 1S. ¹H NMR spectra (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of products distribution in crude reaction mixtures in different reaction conditions (Table 1 entry 2, 3, 10 and 13)



Figure 2S. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of products distribution in crude reaction mixture of entry 6, table 5 (acid and basic work-up respectively)

Table 1S. Secondary amines preparation



^a Reaction conditions: 1) aldehyde (1 equiv.), amine (from 1 to 2 equiv.), $MgSO_4$ (4 equiv.), CH_2Cl_2 (10mL), r.t., 24h; 2) imine (1 equiv.), $NaBH_4$ (2 equiv.), CH_3OH (5mL), r.t., 24h

^b Reaction conditions: aldehyde (1 equiv.), amine (1.5 equiv.), NaBH(OAc)₃ (2 equiv.), AcOH (1.5 equiv.), CH₂Cl₂ (10mL), r.t., 24h

General procedure for synthesis of imines 4a, 4m, 4n, 4o and 4t (GP5):

In a 50 mL two-necked flask under nitrogen atmosphere, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** and the desired amine (**1a**, **1m**, **1n**, **1o**, or **1t**) were diluted in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL); MgSO₄ was added and the solution was stirred overnight. After completion (TLC monitoring, 24h), the mixture was filtered on celite under vacuum and the solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. The desired imines **4a**, **4m**, **4n**, **4o** and **4t** were obtained as yellow oils without further purification.

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methanimine (4a)

Following GP5, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (248 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv), *p*-methoxybenzylamine **1a** (266 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv) and MgSO₄ (963 mg, 8 mmol, 4 equiv) yielded imine **4a** (506 mg, 99% yield).

N-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methanimine (4m)

Following GP5, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (248 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv), cyclohexylmethylamine **1m** (265 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv) and MgSO₄ (963 mg, 8 mmol, 4 equiv) yielded imine **4m** (447 mg, 97% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.14 (s, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 1.79 – 1.65 (m, 6H), 1.31 – 1.11 (m, 3H), 1.02 – 0.93 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 161.4, 160.1, 131.9, 129.5, 113.9, 68.6, 55.3, 39.0, 31.5, 26.6, 26.1; IR (film, cm⁻¹): 2923, 2849, 1698, 1649, 1606, 1579, 1253, 1165; HPLC-MS (ESI⁺): R_t = 1.73 min; m/z = 232 [M+H]⁺.

N-cyclohexyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methanimine (4n)

Following GP5, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (248 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv), cyclohexylamine **1n** (299 μ L, 2.6 mmol, 1 equiv) and MgSO₄ (1.20 g, 10 mmol, 5 equiv) yielded imine **4n** (362 mg, 83% yield).

N-isopropyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methanimine (40)

Following GP5, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (310 μ L, 2.5 mmol, 1 equiv), isopropylamine **1o** (677 μ L, 7.5 mmol, 2 equiv) and MgSO₄ (1.81 g, 15 mmol, 6 equiv) yielded imine **4o** (437 mg, 99% yield).

N-butyl-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)methanimine (4t)

Following GP5, *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (248 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv), butylamine **4t** (300 μ L, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and MgSO₄ (1.69 g, 14 mmol, 7 equiv) yielded imine **4t** (369 mg, 96% yield).

General procedure for synthesis of secondary amines 7-11 (GP6):

In a 25 mL two-necked flask under nitrogen atmosphere, imines **4a**, **4m**, **4n**, **4o** or **4t** (1 equiv.) were diluted in anhydrous CH₃OH (5 mL) and NaBH₄ (2 equiv.) was added; the solution was stirred overnight. After completion (TLC monitoring, 24 h), the mixture was quenched with water and HCl 6M until pH 2 and left 30 minutes under stirring. The organic solvent was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the mixture was basified until pH 11 with NaOH 5M. The precipitate was filtered out under vacuum, the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 10 mL). The collected organic layers were dried on anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to afford the corresponding amines **7-11** as yellow oils without further purification. Spectroscopic data of amines **7-11** were consistent with those reported in the literature and in the NMR spectroscopy database (SDBS).

bis(4-methoxybenzyl)amine (7)

Following GP6, imine 4a (510 mg, 2 mmol) yielded the secondary amine 7 (463 mg, 90% yield).

1-cyclohexyl-N-(4-methoxybenzyl)methanamine (8)

Following GP6, imine **4m** (447 mg, 1.9 mmol) yielded the secondary amine **8** (366 mg, 83% yield).

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)cyclohexanamine (**9**) Following GP6, imine **4n** (359 mg, 1.65 mmol) yielded the secondary amine **9** (315 mg, 87% yield).

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)propan-2-amine (10)

Following GP6, imine 40 (437 mg, 2.5 mmol) yielded the secondary amine 10 (408 mg, 92% yield).

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)butan-1-amine (11)

Following GP6, imine 4t (365 mg, 1.9 mmol) yielded the secondary amine 11 (307 mg, 83% yield).

N-(4-methoxybenzyl)pentan-2-amine (12)

In a 25 mL two-necked flask under nitrogen atmosphere, 2-aminopentane **1j** (366 μ L, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and acetic acid (172 μ L, 3 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) were added to a solution of *p*-anisaldehyde **2a** (248 μ L, 2 mmol, 1 equiv.) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). The mixture was left 15 minutes under stirring, then NaBH(OAc)₃ (874 mg, 4 mmol, 2 equiv.) was added at 0°C and the solution was diluted with 2 mL of anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ and stirred overnight. After completion (TLC monitoring, 24 h), the mixture was quenched with HCl 6M and left 30 minutes under stirring. The mixture was then diluted with water and basified until pH 11 with NaOH 5M. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (1 x 10 mL) and Et₂O (2 x 10 mL), the collected organic layers were dried on anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to afford the target amine **12** as a yellow oil without further purification (370 mg, 89% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.76 (d, *J*_{AB} = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (d, *J*_{AB} = 12.7 Hz, 1H), 2.69 – 2.65 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.31 (m, 4H), 1.07 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 158.5, 133.0, 129.2, 113.7, 55.2, 52.1, 50.7, 39.3, 20.2, 19.1, 14.2; IR (film, cm⁻¹): 2958, 2930, 2870, 1612, 1512, 1463, 1299, 1246, 1038; HPLC-MS (ESI⁺): R_t = 2.0 min; m/z = 208 [M+H]⁺.





