

**Palladium-Catalyzed Direct C(sp³)-H Arylation of Indole-3-ones with
Aryl Halides: A Novel and Efficient Method for the Synthesis of
Nucleophilic 2-Monoarylated Indole-3-ones**

Yong-Long Zhao,^{a,*} Yong-Qin Tang,^a Xing-Hai Fei,^a Tao Xiao,^a Ya-Dong Lu,^a Xiao-Zhong Fu,^a Bin He,^a Meng Zhou,^a Chun Li,^a Peng-Fei Xu,^{b,*} and Yuan-Yong Yang^a
,*

^a State Key Laboratory of Functions and Applications of Medicinal Plants, School of Pharmacy, Engineering Research Center for the Development and Application of Ethnic Medicine and TCM (Ministry of Education), Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang 550004, P.R. China.

^b State Key Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry and College of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, P.R. China.

*Corresponding authors: E-mail addresses: zhaoyl05@126.com; xupf@lzu.edu.cn; 312854015@qq.com

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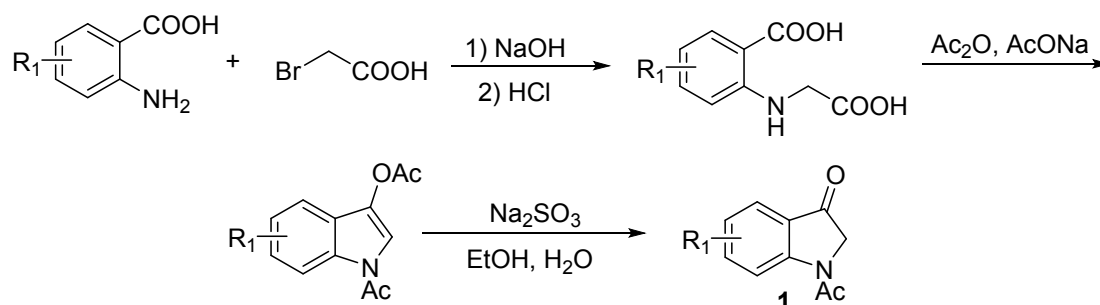
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1. General Information

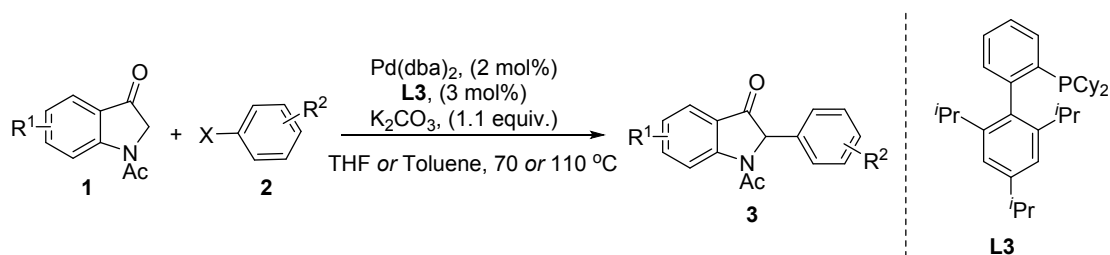
Chemicals and solvents were either purchased from commercial suppliers or purified by standard procedures as specified in Purification of Laboratory Chemicals, 4th Ed (Armarego, W. L. F.; Perrin, D. D. Butterworth Heinemann: 1997). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel plates with F-254 indicator and compounds were visualized by irradiation with UV light and/or by treatment with a solution of phosphomolybdic acid in ethanol followed by heating. Flash chromatography was carried out utilizing silica gel (200-300 mesh). ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 400 spectrometer (400 MHz ^1H , 100 MHz ^{13}C). The spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 as the solvent at room temperature, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to either the residual solvent peak (^{13}C) ($\delta = 77.00$ ppm) or TMS (^1H) ($\delta = 0$ ppm) as an internal standard. Data for ^1H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet), integration, coupling constant (Hz) and assignment. Data for ^{13}C NMR are reported as chemical shift. HRMS were performed on a Thermofisher (Vanquish (UPLC) — Q-Exactive Plus) mass instrument (ESI).

2. Preparation of Substrates

Substrates **1** were prepared by following the publish procedures ^[1-3]



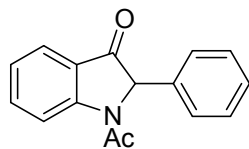
3. General procedure for the Direct C(sp³)-H Arylation of Indole-3-ones with Aryl Halides



Indole-3-ones **1** (0.25 mmol), $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$ (0.005 mmol, 4.6 mg), K_2CO_3 (0.275 mmol, 38 mg, 1.1 equiv.) and 2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2',4',6'-triisopropylbiphenyl **L3** (0.07 mmol, 3.3 mg) were added to a Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar.. Then sealed with a rubber septum and vacuum purged five times with high pure nitrogen to remove air. To these solids, aryl halides **2** (0.275 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) and fresh distilled degassed THF (2 ml) or Toluene (1 ml) was added consecutively under a positive

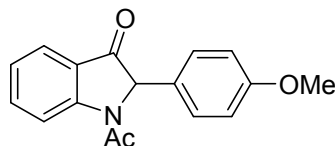
flow of high pure nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred at 70 °C or 110 °C. After the required period of time, the reaction was complete (as judged by TLC analysis). The reaction mixture was directly purified by flash column chromatography (eluted with petroleum ether/EtOAc = 15:1 to 10:1) to afford the C-2 aryl indole-3-ones **3**.

4. Analytical data of **3a–p**



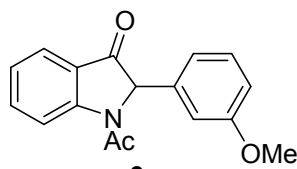
3a

1-Acetyl-2-phenylindolin-3-one (3a). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 87%; m. p.: 125-126 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.62 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.30 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.23 – 7.10 (m, 3H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.2, 169.6, 154.1, 137.9, 134.7, 129.8, 129.0, 126.0, 125.0, 123.0, 118.8, 69.8, 24.9; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₆H₁₄NO₂: 252.10191, found [M+H]⁺: 252.10171.



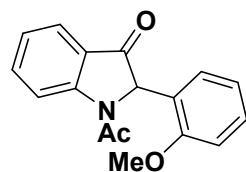
3b

1-Acetyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)indolin-3-one (3b). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 95%; m. p.: 138-139 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.78 (m, 3H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.0, 169.6, 154.0, 137.8, 136.1, 130.8, 124.9, 123.0, 118.7, 118.0, 114.0, 111.9, 69.7, 55.5, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃: 282.11247, found [M+H]⁺: 282.11228.



3c

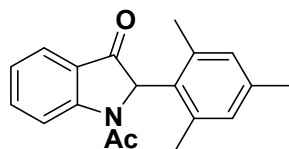
1-Acetyl-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)indolin-3-one (3c). Pale yellow solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 49%; m. p.: 135-136 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 6.88 – 6.68 (m, 3H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 195.0, 169.6, 160.6, 154.0, 137.8, 133.2, 130.8, 125.0, 118.7, 118.1, 114.1, 112.0, 69.8, 55.5, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃: 282.11247, found [M+H]⁺: 282.11224.



3d

1-Acetyl-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)indolin-3-one (3d). White solid;

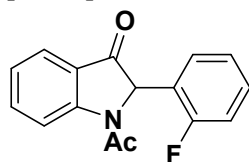
Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 50%; m. p.: 152-153 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.66 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.35 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 6.77 (m, 3H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.5, 169.6, 157.4, 154.2, 137.4, 130.2, 127.3, 124.6, 124.5, 124.0, 121.5, 118.6, 112.1, 64.5, 56.2, 24.5; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_3$: 282.11247, found $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 282.11225.



3e

1-Acetyl-2-mesitylindolin-3-one (3e). Yellow solid; Reaction

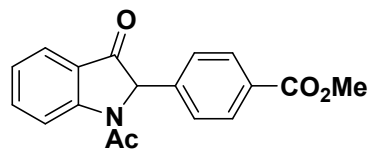
time: 14 h; Yield: 26%; m. p.: 120-121 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.59 (s, 1H), 7.74-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 2.47 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.3, 169.7, 153.7, 153.6, 137.6, 131.4, 130.1, 129.4, 124.5, 124.3, 123.7, 66.6, 24.3, 21.2, 21.0, 20.0; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_2$: 294.14886, found $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 294.14877.



3f

1-Acetyl-2-(2-fluorophenyl)indolin-3-one (3f). White solid;

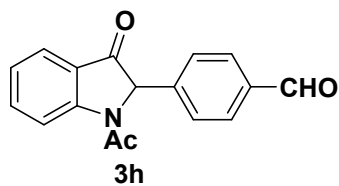
Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 43%; m. p.: 140-141 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.60 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.32 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 7.16 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 1H), 6.99-6.89 (m, 1H), 5.53 (s, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 194.9, 169.2, 161.9, 159.4, 154.2, 147.7, 147.2, 137.8, 125.2, 125.1, 124.9, 124.8, 124.6, 122.7, 122.5, 118.7, 116.8, 116.6, 63.5, 24.4; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{FNO}_2$: 270.09248, found $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 270.09270.



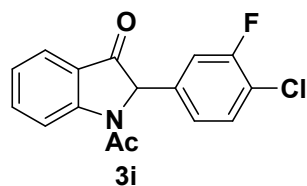
3g

Methyl 4-(1-acetyl-3-oxoindolin-2-yl)benzoate (3g).

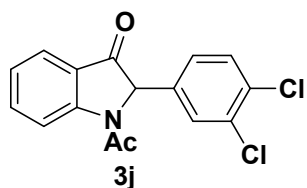
White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 88%; m. p.: 147-148 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.29 – 7.24 (m, 1H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 194.3, 169.4, 166.6, 154.0, 139.5, 138.1, 131.0, 126.1, 125.3, 125.2, 125.1, 122.8, 118.9, 69.5, 52.6, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4$: 310.10738, found $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$: 310.10714.



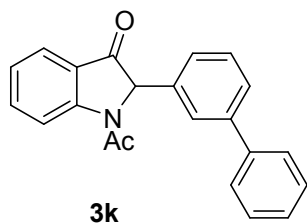
4-(1-Acetyl-3-oxoindolin-2-yl)benzaldehyde (3h). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 63%; m. p.: 157-158 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.01 (s, 1H), 8.70 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.80-7.70 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.0, 191.6, 169.2, 154.0, 141.1, 138.2, 136.7, 131.0, 130.6, 126.7, 125.3, 125.1, 122.7, 118.8, 69.4, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₇H₁₄NO₃: 280.09682, found [M+H]⁺: 280.09641.



1-Acetyl-2-(4-chloro-3-fluorophenyl)indolin-3-one (3i). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 42%; m. p.: 141-142 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 7.80 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.38 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.24 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.4, 169.2, 159.8, 157.3, 138.2, 131.9, 128.3, 128.0, 125.9, 125.3, 118.1, 117.9, 68.5, 24.9; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₆H₁₂ClFNO₂: 304.05351, found [M+H]⁺: 304.05351.

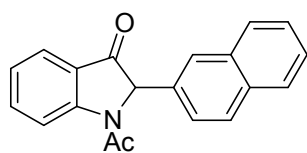


1-Acetyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)indolin-3-one (3j). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 28%; m. p.: 112-113 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.75 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.35 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.13 – 6.98 (m, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.1, 169.2, 147.9, 147.3, 138.3, 133.5, 125.3, 124.2, 119.3, 118.9, 68.5, 24.9; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₆H₁₂Cl₂NO₂: 320.02396, found [M+H]⁺: 320.02396.



2-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)-1-acetylindolin-3-one (3k). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 72%; m. p.: 160-161 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 – 7.47 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.26 (m, 5H), 7.25 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (s, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.7, 169.6, 154.4, 142.9, 140.0, 137.8, 133.0, 128.7, 128.4, 127.9, 124.8, 124.5, 123.4, 118.6, 65.7, 24.6; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₂₂H₁₈NO₂:

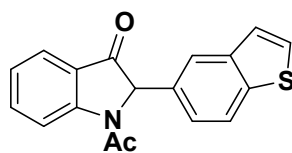
328.13321, found $[M+H]^+$: 328.13318.



3l

1-Acetyl-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)indolin-3-one (3l).

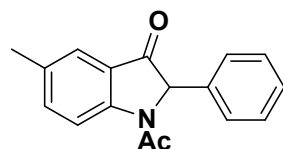
White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 53%; m. p.: 130-131 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.72 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.87 – 7.73 (m, 5H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.40 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.2, 169.8, 154.0, 137.9, 133.6, 133.5, 132.0, 130.0, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.0, 126.8, 125.5, 125.1, 124.9, 118.8, 69.9, 24.9; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[M+H]^+$ for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$: 302.11756, found $[M+H]^+$: 302.11730.



3m

1-Acetyl-2-(benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl)indolin-3-one (3m).

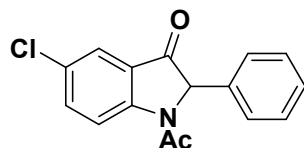
Yellow solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 41%; m. p.: 160-161 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.66 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.60 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.13 (m, 3H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 196.3, 169.7, 154.1, 140.4, 140.3, 137.9, 130.9, 129.0, 128.2, 125.1, 124.0, 123.9, 121.8, 121.1, 118.8, 69.8, 24.9; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[M+H]^+$ for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2\text{S}$: 308.07398, found $[M+H]^+$: 308.07397.



3n

1-Acetyl-5-methyl-2-phenylindolin-3-one (3n).

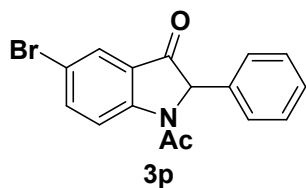
White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 32%; m. p.: 155-156 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.50 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.33 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 5.11 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 195.2, 169.3, 152.3, 147.3, 139.0, 135.0, 134.9, 129.7, 129.0, 126.0, 124.2, 123.2, 119.3, 118.5, 70.1, 24.7, 21.0; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[M+H]^+$ for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_2$: 266.11756, found $[M+H]^+$: 266.11743.



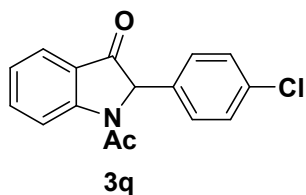
3o

1-Acetyl-5-chloro-2-phenylindolin-3-one (3o).

White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 91%; m. p.: 155-156 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 8.59 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.39 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 2H), 5.16 (s, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 194.0, 169.5, 152.4, 137.6, 134.2, 130.6, 129.9, 125.9, 124.4, 120.0, 70.2, 24.7; HRMS (ESI): calculated $[M+H]^+$ for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{13}\text{ClNO}_2$: 286.06293, found $[M+H]^+$: 286.06286.



1-Acetyl-5-bromo-2-phenylindolin-3-one (3p). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 53%; m. p.: 155-156 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.45 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.28 – 7.15 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 2.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 193.8, 169.5, 147.3, 140.4, 134.2, 130.3, 129.9, 129.6, 127.6, 126.0, 124.2, 120.4, 118.0, 70.1, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₆H₁₃BrNO₂: 330.01242, found [M+H]⁺: 330.01256.



1-Acetyl-2-(4-chlorophenyl)indolin-3-one (3q). White solid; Reaction time: 14 h; Yield: 40%; m. p.: 120-121 °C; ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.20 (m, 3H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 2.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 194.7, 169.3, 154.0, 138.0, 135.1, 133.3, 130.0, 127.4, 125.2, 122.9, 118.9, 69.2, 24.8; HRMS (ESI): calculated [M+H]⁺ for C₁₆H₁₃ClNO₂: 286.06293, found [M+H]⁺: 286.06286.

References

- 1) Y. Z. Liu, J. Zhang, P. F. Xu and Y. C. Luo, *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, 76, 7551–7555.
- 2) Y. Z. Liu, R. L. Chen and P. F. Xu, *J. Org. Chem.* **2011**, 76, 2884 – 2887.
- 3) W. S. Shun, L. Hong and R. Wang, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, 17, 6030 – 6033.

NMR spectrogram

