An efficient and atom-economical route to N-aryl amino alcohols from

primary amines

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Supplementary Information

Contents

Experimental section

Instrumentation and chemicals

Experimental procedures

Characterization Data

Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra

S2 S2-S3 S3-S8

S9-S30

Experimental Section

Instrumentation and chemicals

¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX-400 spectrometer with CDCl₃ as the solvent and TMS as an internal standard, operating at 400 MHz for ¹H NMR and 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR. Melting points were measured by SGW X-4A microscopic apparatus. The X-ray crystallography was measured on Bruker D8 VENTURE PHOTON instrument. HRMS-ESI were measured by Q Exactive LC/HRMS spectrometer. Ethyl acetate and hexane were used for column chromatography without further purification. All solvents and chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted. All the substrates **2** were prepared through the coupling between corresponding picolinamides and cyclic ethers according to our previous work.^[1]

General Procedure for the Reduction/Ring-opening Reaction of 2. A mixture of the picolinamide 2 (0.2 mmol), NaBH4 (5 equiv, 1.0 mmol) were added into a vial containing a stirring bar and sealed with a Teflon-lined cap. Then ethanol and water (1mL, v:v=100:1) was introduced. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h. Then it was added into H2O (15 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (10 mL) for three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO4 and filtered. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the product was obtained through column chromatography with EtOAc/hexane (1/10).

Synthesis of picolinamide 1f. A mixture of 2-picolinic acid (1.48 g, 12 mmol), 4-methoxyaniline (1.23 g, 10 mmol) and triethylamine (2.0 equiv) were dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL) in a 50 mL round-bottom flask. Dropwise POC13 (2.0 equiv) was added under stirring in ice-bath. The reaction solution was allowed to warm to room temperature for 2 hour. Then reaction mixture was diluted with CH2C12 (20 mL) and 1 M NaOH solution (5mL) and extracted with CH2C12 for 3 times. The crude organic layers were collected and washed by water (15 mL).Then it was dried over anhydrous MgSO4, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was obtained throughcolumn chromatography with EtOAc/hexane (1/20).

Synthesis of 2f. A mixture of N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-(2-tetrahydrofuranyl)picolinamide (9.47

mmol), $Cu(OAc)_2$ (5 mol%), 1,10-phenanthroline (5 mol%) and TBHP (3.5 equiv, 70% aqueous solution) were added into a vial containing a stirring bar and sealed with a Teflon-lined cap. Then ether (20 mL) was introduced. The resulting mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 8 h. After reaction the mixture was added into H₂O (25 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL) for three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and filtered. After removal of the solvent in vacuo, the residue was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane=1:5) to afford the pure product.

Synthesis of 3f. A mixture of the **2f** (8.89 mmol), NaBH4 (5 equiv, 44.45 mmol) were added into a vial containing a stirring bar and sealed with a Teflon-lined cap. Then ethanol and water (v:v=100:1) was introduced. The resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 12 h. Then the mixture was added into H2O (25 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL) for three times. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO4 and filtered. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the product was obtained through column chromatography with EtOAc/hexane (1/10).

Synthesis of 4. To a solution of alcohol (1 equiv) in toluene (0.1 Malcohol) was added the benzhydrol (1 equiv) and dry *p*-TsOH (1 equiv). This mixture was refluxed using a Dean–Stark trap for 6 h. The reaction was diluted with ethyl acetate and extracted two times with saturated NaHCO₃. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure, and purified by flash chromatography. Note: Dry *p*-TsOH was obtained by refluxing *p*-TsOH monohydrate in toluene under Dean–Stark conditions for 6 h. This mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure and placed under vacuum to afford brown solid. Place under vacuum for 30 min before each use.

Characterization Data

Characterization data of all substrates 2 are reported^[1] except 2s and 2t whose data are in the following.

N-(1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran-1-yl)-*N*-phenylpicolinamide (**2s**) Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.51–4.55 (m, 1H), 4.80–4.82 (m, 1H), 6.91–7.23 (m, 9H), 7.45–7.83 (m, 4H), 8.27 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 73.1, 89.9, 120.8, 123.4, 124.0, 127.5, 127.7, 128.2, 128.9, 130.5, 136.4, 137.8, 139.8, 148.6, 154.9, 169.3; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C20H17N₂O₂ (M+H): 317.1285, found 317.1284.

N-(isochroman-1-yl)-*N*-phenylpicolinamide (2t)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.50–2.69 (m, 2H), 3.87–3.97 (m, 2H), 6.97–7.23 (m, 9H), 7.45–7.52 (m, 4H), 8.41 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 28.5, 63.8, 123.6, 123.9, 124.0, 126.5, 126.9, 127.2, 127.5, 128.1, 128.4, 128.9, 130.2, 133.2, 135.8, 136.2, 148.6, 154.3, 170.0; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C₂₁H19N₂O₂ (M+H): 331.1441, found 331.1444.

4-(phenylamino)butan-1-ol (**3a**)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.65–1.66 (m, 4H), 2.90 (br, 2H), 3.10–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.65 (m, 2H), 6.60–6.62 (m, 2H), 6.68–6.72 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.19 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.1, 30.3, 44.0, 62.5, 113.1, 117.5, 129.3, 148.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H16NO (M+H): 166.1226, found 166.1229.

4-(o-tolylamino)butan-1-ol (**3b**)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.68–1.77 (m, 4H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.69 (br, 2H),3.17– 3.20 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 6.61–6.68 (m, 2H), 7.05–7.06 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.15 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 17.6, 26.1, 30.4, 43.8, 62.6, 109.9, 117.0, 122.1, 127.2, 130.1, 146.2; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO (M+H): 180.1383, found 180.1382.

4-(m-tolylamino)butan-1-ol (3c)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.66–1.71 (m, 4H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.48 (br, 2H), 3.12– 3.15 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.69 (m, 2H), 6.42–6.44 (m, 2H), 6.52–6.54 (m, 1H), 7.04-7.08 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.6, 26.2, 30.4, 44.0, 62.6, 110.2, 113.8, 118.5, 129.1, 139.0, 148.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO (M+H): 180.1383, found 180.1380.

4-(p-tolylamino)butan-1-ol (**3d**)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.68–1.70 (m, 4H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.51 (br, 2H), 3.11-

3.15 (m, 2H), 3.66–3.70 (m, 2H), 6.55–6.57 (m, 2H), 6.98–7.00 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 20.4, 26.2, 30.5, 44.4, 62.7, 113.3, 126.9, 129.8, 146.0; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO (M+H): 180.1383, found 180.1385.

4-((4-ethylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3e)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.17–1.20 (m, 3H), 1.68-1.70 (m, 4H), 2.44 (br, 2H), 2.54 (dd, *J*₁= 7.60Hz, *J*₂=15.16Hz), 3.12–3.15 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 6.57–6.59 (m, 2H), 7.01-7.03 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 16.0, 26.2, 30.5, 44.3, 62.6, 113.2, 128.6, 133.5, 146.2; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C12H20NO (M+H): 194.1539, found 194.1535.

4-((4-methoxyphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3f)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.69–1.70 (m, 4H), 2.59 (br, 2H), 3.09–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.69 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 6.61–6.63 (m, 2H), 6.77–6.80 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.4, 30.6, 45.2, 55.8, 62.6, 114.7, 114.9, 142.3, 152.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO₂ (M+H): 196.1332, found 196.1333.

4-((4-fluorophenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3g)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.69–1.71 (m, 4H), 2.20-2.34 (m, 2H), 3.10–3.13 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.71 (m, 2H), 6.54–6.58 (m, 2H), 6.87–6.91 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.1, 30.4, 44.7, 62.6, 113.9 (d, *J*=7.37Hz), 115.7 (d, *J*=22.15Hz), 144.6, 155.9 (d, *J*=233.55Hz); HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H15FNO (M+H): 184.1132, found 184.1130.

4-((4-chlorophenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3h)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.67–1.70 (m, 4H), 2.63 (br, 2H), 3.09–3.12 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.69 (m, 2H), 6.51–6.53 (m, 2H), 7.10–7.12 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 25.9, 30.2, 44.0, 62.5, 113.9, 121.8, 129.1, 147.0; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H15CINO (M+H): 200.0837, found 200.0839.

4-((4-bromophenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3i)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.67–1.69 (m, 4H), 2.59 (br, 2H), 3.09–3.12 (m, 2H),

3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 6.47–6.49 (m, 2H), 7.22–7.23 (m, 1H), 7.24-7.25 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 25.9, 30.2, 43.8, 62.5, 108.8, 114.4, 131.9, 147.3; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H15BrNO (M+H): 244.0332, found 244.0330.

4-((3,4-dimethylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (**3j**)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.67–1.70 (m, 4H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.51 (br, 2H), 3.11–3.14 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.69 (m, 2H), 6.39–6.42 (m, 1H), 6.46–6.47 (m, 1H), 6.93-6.95 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.7, 20.1, 26.3, 30.5, 44.4, 62.7, 110.6, 115.1, 125.7, 130.3, 137.3, 146.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C12H20NO (M+H): 194.1539, found 194.1543.

4-((3-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3k)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.69–1.70 (m, 4H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.49 (br, 2H), 3.12– 3.15 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 6.14–6.16 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.93 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 15.3, 26.2, 30.5, 44.4, 55.2, 62.7, 96.8, 104.5, 115.7, 131.0, 147.8, 158.5; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C12H20NO₂ (M+H): 210.1489, found 210.1491.

4-((3-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3l)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.67–1.69 (m, 4H), 2.14 (d, *J*=1.56Hz), 2.65 (br, 2H), 3.09–3.12 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.69 (m, 2H), 6.27–6.31 (m, 2H), 6.91–6.95 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 13.6 (d, *J*=3.25Hz), 26.0, 30.3, 44.1, 62.6, 99.7 (d, *J*=25.95Hz), 108.7 (d, *J*=2.66Hz), 112.8 (d, *J*=17.62Hz), 131.6 (d, *J*=7.11Hz), 148.0 (d, *J*=10.42Hz), 162.13 (d, *J*=240.58Hz); HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H17FNO (M+H): 198.1289, found 198.1285.

4-((3-chloro-4-methylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3m)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.66–1.69 (m, 4H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 2.59 (br, 2H), 3.09– 3.10 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 6.41–6.44 (m, 1H), 6.61–6.62 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 18.8, 25.9, 30.2, 43.9, 62.5, 111.7, 113.0, 124.1, 131.2, 134.7, 147.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H17CINO (M+H): 214.0993, found 214.0994.

4-((3-bromo-4-methylphenyl)amino)butan-1-ol (3n)

Yellow solid, mp 65–68 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 1.67–1.69 (m, 4H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.57 (br, 2H), 3.09–3.12 (m, 2H), 3.67-3.70 (m, 2H), 6.46–6.48 (m, 1H), 6.80–6.81 (m, 1H), 6.99-7.00 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.7, 25.9, 30.2, 43.9, 62.6, 112.4, 116.2, 125.4, 126.0, 131.0, 147.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H17BrNO (M+H): 258.0488, found 258.0486.

5-(phenylamino)pentan-2-ol (**3o**)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.21 (d, *J*=6.20Hz, 3H), 1.53–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.76 (m, 2H), 3.12–3.15 (m, 2H), 3.51 (br, 2H), 3.82–3.87 (m, 1H), 6.61–6.63 (m, 2H), 6.69–6.73 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.19 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.6, 25.9, 36.8, 44.2, 67.9, 113.1, 117.6, 129.3, 148.3; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO (M+H): 180.1383, found 180.1386.

5-(phenylamino)pentan-1-ol (3p)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.46–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.59–1.67 (m, 4H), 2.32 (br, 2H), 3.11-3.14 (m, 2H), 3.65–3.68 (m, 2H), 6.59–6.62 (m, 2H), 6.67–6.71 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.19 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.3, 29.3, 32.4, 43.8, 62.8, 112.7, 117.2, 129.2, 148.4; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C11H18NO (M+H): 180.1383, found 180.1384.

2-(2-(phenylamino)ethoxy)ethan-1-ol (3q)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.83 (br, 2H), 3.31–3.33 (m, 2H), 3.58–3.60 (m, 2H), 3.70-3.76 (m, 4H), 6.64–6.74 (m, 3H), 7.16–7.20 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 43.7, 61.8, 69.7, 72.2, 113.2, 117.8, 129.3, 148.1; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H16NO₂ (M+H): 182.1176, found 182.1178.

4-(phenylamino)butane-1-thiol (**3r**)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.80–0.90 (m, 1H), 1.96–2.02 (m, 1H), 2.07-2.16 (m, 2H), 2.23–2.31 (m, 1H), 2.90–2.96 (m, 1H), 3.02–3.08 (m, 1H), 5.32–5.35 (m, 1H), 6.64–6.66 (m, 2H), 6.76–6.80 (m, 1H), 7.18–7.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 29.2, 32.3, 38.1, 64.2, 114.1, 118.8, 129.4, 146.2; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C10H16NS (M+H): 182.0998, found 182.0995.

(2-((phenylamino)methyl)phenyl)methanol (3s)

Yellow Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.68 (br, 2H), 4.30 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 6.69–6.71 (m, 2H), 6.78–6.82 (m, 1H), 7.17–7.21 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.34–7.36 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 47.4, 63.7, 114.3, 119.1, 128.3, 128.4, 129.4, 129.5, 129.8, 137.2, 139.8, 147.8; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C14H16NO (M+H): 214.1226, found 214.1230.

2-(2-((phenylamino)methyl)phenyl)ethan-1-ol (3t)

Brown Oil, ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.79–2.82 (m, 2H), 2.93–3.02 (m, 2H), 3.88 (t, *J*=6.36Hz, 2H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 6.60–6.77 (m, 3H), 7.14–7.31 (m, 5H), 7.34–7.36 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 35.4, 46.6, 63.5, 113.3, 118.1, 126.9, 128.0, 129.3, 129.6, 130.2, 137.3, 137.7, 148.1; HRMS-ESI (m/z): calcd for C15H18NO (M+H): 228.1383, found 228.1381.

[1] Q. Yue, Z. Xiao, Z. Kuang, Z. Su, Q. Zhang and D. Li, Adv. Synth. Catal., 2018, 360, 1193.

Copies of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra











































