Supporting Information

Hydrogenation and N-alkylation of anilines and imines via

transfer hydrogenation with homogeneous nickel

compounds

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1 Analytical Data

N-Ethylaniline^{1,2}

Prepared following the general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product **2a**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.15-7.02 (*m*, 2H), 6.62 (*p*, *J*=6.7Hz, 1H), 6.53 (*d*, *J*=7.8Hz, 2H), 3.08 (*q*, *J*=7.1Hz, 2H), 1.17 (*t*, *J*=7.1Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 148.4, 129.2, 117.3, 112.8, 38.5, 14.9; IR (cm⁻¹) v 3399, 3050, 3021, 2967, 2929, 2871, 1600, 1503, 1353, 1257, 745, 691, 507; EI-MS (m/z) 121, 106 (100%), 91, 77.

N-Ethyl-2-methylaniline²



2a

Prepared according to general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product **2b**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.05 (*td*, J_1 =7.5Hz, J_2 =1.6Hz, 1H), 6.97 (*d*, J= 7.7Hz, 1H), 6.58 (*d*, J=7.4Hz, 1H), 6.54 (*d*, J=8.0Hz, 1H), 3.3 (br), 3.12 (*q*, J= 7.1Hz, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.22 (*t*, J=7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 146.4, 130.0, 127.2, 116.8, 109.7, 38.4, 17.5, 15.0; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3424, 3016, 2967, 2929, 2872, 1605, 1585, 1511, 1377, 1258, 742, 440; **EI-MS** (m/z) 135, 120 (100%), 106, 91, 77.

N-Ethyl-4-methylaniline²

Following the general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product **2d**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

2d

ŅΗ

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 6.94-6.91 (*m*, 1H), 6.91-6.88 (*m*, 1H), 6.49-6.46 (*m*, 1H), 6.46-6.43 (*m*, 1H), 3.05 (*q*, *J*= 7.1Hz, 2H), 2.16 (*s*, 3H), 1.16 (*t*,

J=7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 146.3, 129.7, 126.4, 113.0, 38.9, 20.4, 15.0; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3397, 3015, 2966, 2920, 2868, 1617, 1518, 1377, 1275, 802, 507; EI-MS (m/z) 135, 120 (100%), 106, 91, 77.

N-Ethyl-2-fluoroaniline⁵

m-Fluoroaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the crude product was purified through column chromatography over silica gel 70/230 (12.0 g) and hexane/THF **2e**

(95/5) as eluent to give N-monoalkyl product 2e, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%, isolated product: 93%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.09 (*q*, *J*=7.2Hz, 1H), 6.43-6.32 (*m*, 2H), 6.28 (*dd*, *J*₁=11.7Hz, *J*₂= 2.2Hz, 1H), 3.45 (*br*, 1H), 3.13 (*q*, *J*=7.2Hz, 2H), 1.25 (*t*, *J*=7.2 Hz, 3H); ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ -NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 130.2 (*d*, J_{CF} =10.1Hz), 108.6, 103.6, 103.3, 99.4, 99.0, 38.4, 14.7; IR (cm⁻¹) v 3403, 3290, 3059, 2967, 2934, 2874, 1619, 1589, 1511, 1366, 1258, 814, 747, 454; EI-MS (m/z) 139, 124, 109, 95, 75.

3-Chloro-N-ethylaniline⁵



NH

m-Chloroaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the crude product was purified through column chromatography over silica gel 70/230 (12.0 g) and hexane/THF (95/5) as eluent to give N-monoalkyl product 2g, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 74%, isolated product: 58%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 6.98 (*t*, *J*=8.0Hz, 1H), 6.57 (*ddd*, *J*= 7.8Hz, 2.0Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (t, J=2.2Hz, 1H), 6.38 (ddd, J=8.2Hz, 2.3Hz, 0.9Hz, 1H), 3.56 (br., 1H), 3.05 (q, J= 7.1Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J=7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75) MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 149.7, 130.3, 117.1, 112.3, 111.2, 38.4, 14.8; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3410, 3026, 2968, 2927, 2872, 1599, 1497, 1292, 1279, 878, 810, 732, 504; EI-MS

(m/z) 155, 140(100%), 118, 105, 99, 77.

4-Chloro-N-ethylaniline²

p-Chloroaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the crude product was purified through column chromatography over silica gel 70/230 (12.0 g) and hexane/THF (95/5) as eluent to give *N*-monoalkyl product **2h**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 55%, isolated product: 51%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.05 (*d*, *J*=8.8Hz, 2H), 6.44 (*d*, *J*= 8.8Hz, 2H), 3.04 (*q*, *J*=7.1Hz, 2H), 1.17 (*t*, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 129.0, 125.6, 113.8, 38.6, 14.7; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3411, 2969, 2928, 2872, 1569,

1500, 1379, 1276, 816, 439; **EI-MS** (m/z) 155, 140(100%), 118, 105, 91, 77.



N-Ethyl-2-methoxyaniline²

o-Methoxyaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL)
 according to general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product 2i, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 6.80 (*td*, *J*=7.6Hz, *J*=1.5Hz, 1H), 6.69 (*dd*, *J*=7.9Hz, *J*=1.4Hz, 1H), 6.59 (*dd*, *J*=7.5Hz, *J*=1.5Hz, 1H), 6.56-6.49 (*m*, 1H),4.0 (*br*., 1H), 3.76 (*s*, 3H), 3.09 (*q*, *J*=7.2Hz, 2H), 1.21 (*t*, *J*=7.2Hz, 3H); ¹³**C**{¹**H**}-**NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 146.8, 138.5, 121.3, 116.3, 109.8, 109.3, 55.4, 38.2, 14.9; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3419, 3064, 2965, 2935, 2871, 2834, 1600, 1511, 1453, 1248, 1218, 729, 506; **EI-MS** (m/z) 151, 136(100%), 120, 108, 77.



N-Ethyl-3-methoxyaniline⁶

m-Methoxyaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product **2j**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.00 (*t*, *J*=8.1Hz, 1H), 6.22-6.13 (*m*, 2H), 6.09 (*t*, *J*=2.3Hz, 1H), 3.7 (s, 3H), 3.07 (*q*, *J*=7.2Hz, 2H), 1.17 (*t*, *J*=7.1 Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 149.9, 129.9, 106.0, 102.3, 98.7, 55.1, 38.5, 14.9 ;)

; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3397, 2966, 2933, 2872, 2834, 1610, 1588, 1453, 1207, 1159, 988, 885, 815, 753, 686, 455; **EI-MS** (m/z) 151, 136(100%), 121, 108, 77.



N-Ethyl-4-methoxyaniline²

p-Methoxyaniline (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the crude product was analyzed directly by NMR spectroscopy, which corresponds to product **2k**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 100%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 6.78-6.64 (*m*, 2H), 6.57-6.44 (*m*, 2H), 3.67 (*s*, 3H), 3.03 (*q*, *J*=7.1Hz, 2H), 1.16 (*t*, *J*=7.1Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 142.8, 114.9, 114.1, 55.8, 39.4, 15.0; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3382, 2965, 2902, 2831, 1509, 1230, 1033, 815, 516; **EI-MS** (m/z) 151, 136(100%), 108.



N,1-di-p-tolylmethanimine⁷

p-Toluidine (1.0 mmol) and *p*-Tolualdehyde were reacted in Ethanol drops and stirred manually with a glass rod for 10 minutes (getting a pearly white solid), the crude

product was washed with cold ethanol, later it was solubilized in ethanol (25°C) and crystallized by evaporation at room temperature obtaining translucent white crystal, isolated yield 97%.

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 8.35 (*s*, 1H), 7.70 (*d*, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.19 (*d*, *J*=7.9Hz, 2H), 7.14-7.00 (*m*, 4H), 2.33 (*s*, 3H), 2.29 (*s*, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 159.6, 149.7, 141.7, 135.6, 133.8, 129.7, 129.5, 128.7, 120.8, 21.6, 21.0; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3049, 3015, 2917, 2887, 1627, 1543, 850, 825, 532; **EI-MS** (m/z) 208 (100%), 194, 118, 91, 77.



4-Methyl-N-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline⁸

N-di-*p*-tolymethanimine **4** (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure, the

crude product was purified via preparative thin layer chromatography and hexane/THF (95/5) as eluent to give amine **7c**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 96% **7c**, isolated product **7c**: 73%)

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.18 (*d*, *J*=7.8Hz, 2H), 7.06 (*d*, *J*=7.9Hz, 2H), 6.95-6.84 (*m*, 2H), 6.51-6.46 (*m*, 3H), 4.18 (*s*, 2H), 2.26 (*s*, 3H), 2.16 (*s*, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 129.7, 129.3, 129.2, 127.5, 127.7, 113.0, 112.5, 48.4, 38.9, 21.1, 20.4; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 3409, 3331, 3016, 2928, 2854, 1603, 1511, 1489, 1176, 799, 766, 690, 477, 440; **EI-MS** (m/z) 211, 196, 105(100%), 91, 77.



N-Ethyl-3-methyl-N-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline

m-Toluidine (1.2 mmol) and *p*-Tolualdehyde (1 mmol) were reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure for *N*-alkylation of imines, the crude product

was purified via preparative thin layer chromatography and hexane/THF (95/5) as eluent to give amine **7c**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 95% **7c**, and 5% **5c**, isolated product **7c**: 83%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.12-6.86 (*m*, 5H), 6.58-6.30 (*m*, 3H), 4.38 (*s*, 2H), 3.35 (*q*, *J*=7.0Hz, 2H), 2.24 (*s*, 3H), 2.19 (*s*, 3H), 1.10 (*t*, *J*=7.0Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 148.7, 138.9, 136.3, 129.2, 129.1, 126.6, 125.6, 117.0, 112.8, 109.4, 53.6, 44.9, 30.4, 21.1, 12,1; **IR** (cm-1) v 2963, 2921, 2869, 1600, 1496, 1257,1073, 1011, 863, 790, 690, 477; **EI-MS** (*m/z*) 239, 205, 105(100%), 77.



N-Ethyl-4-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline⁸

N-di-*p*-tolymethanimine **4** (1.0 mmol) was reacted in dry Ethanol (5.0 mL) according to general procedure for *N*-alkylation of imines, the crude product was purified via

preparative thin layer chromatography and hexane/THF (95/5) as eluent to give amine **7d**, brown oil, yield (GC-MS: 98%, isolated product: 86%).

¹**H-NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 7.11-6.98 (*m*, 4H), 6.95-6.86 (*m*, 2H), 6.55 (*d*, J=8.6Hz, 2H), 4.37 (*s*, 2H), 3.35, (*q*, J=7.0Hz, 2H), 2.25 (*s*, 3H), 2.15 (*s*, 3H), 1.10 (*t*, J=7.0Hz, 3H); ¹³C{¹H}-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm) 129.7, 129.2, 126.6, 125.5, 112.5, 53.9, 45.1, 30.3, 29.4, 12.1; **IR** (cm⁻¹) v 2961, 2919, 2866, 1617, 1516, 795, 512, 478; **EI-MS** (m/z) 239, 205, 105(100%), 91, 77.

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3 Spectra and Chromatograms



Figure S1. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethylaniline 2a in CDCl₃.



Figure S2. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethylaniline 2a in CDCl₃.



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Figure S3. FT-IR spectrum of *N*-ethylaniline 2a.



Figure S4. Mass spectrum of *N*-ethylaniline 2a.



Figure S5. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-2-methylaniline **2b** in CDCl₃.





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Figure S7. FT-IR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-2-methylaniline 2b.



Figure S8. Mass spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-2-methylaniline 2b.







Figure S10. Chromatogram and mass spectrum of *N*, *N*-diethyl-3-methylaniline **3c**.



Figure S11. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methylaniline 2d in CDCl₃.



Figure S12. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methylaniline 2d in CDCl₃.

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Figure S13. FT-IR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methylaniline 2d.



Figure S14. Mass spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methylaniline 2d.



Figure S15. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-3-fluoroaniline 2e in CDCl₃.



Figure S16. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-3-fluoroaniline 2e in CDCl₃.

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Figure S17. FT-IR spectrum of N-Ethyl-3-fluoroaniline 2e.



Figure S18. Mass spectrum of N-Ethyl-3-fluoroaniline 2e.



Figure S19. Chromatogram and mass spectrum of 2-chloro-N-ethylaniline 2f.



Figure S20. ¹H-NMR spectrum of 3-chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2g in CDCl₃.



Figure S21. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of 3-chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2g in CDCl₃.



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Figure S22. FT-IR spectrum of 3-chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2g.



Figure S23. Mass spectrum of 3-chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2g.



Figure S24. ¹H-NMR spectrum of 4-Chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2h in CDCl₃.



Figure S25. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of 4-Chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2h in CDCl₃.

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Figure S26. FT-IR spectrum of 4-Chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2h.



Figure S27. Mass spectrum of 4-Chloro-*N*-ethylaniline 2h.



Figure S28. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-2-methoxyaniline 2i in CDCl₃.



Figure S29. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-2-methoxyaniline 2i in CDCl₃.



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Figure S30. FT-IR spectrum of N-Ethyl-2-methoxyaniline 2i.



Figure S31. Mass spectrum of N-Ethyl-2-methoxyaniline 2i.



Figure S32. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-3-methoxyaniline 2j in CDCl₃.



Figure S33. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-3-methoxyaniline 2j in CDCl₃.



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Figure S34. FT-IR spectrum of N-Ethyl-3-methoxyaniline 2j.



Figure S35. Mass spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-3-methoxyaniline 2j.



Figure S36. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methoxyaniline 2k in CDCl₃.



Figure S37. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methoxyaniline 2k in CDCl₃.



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Figure S38. FT-IR spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methoxyaniline 2k.



Figure S39. Mass spectrum of *N*-Ethyl-4-methoxyaniline 2k.



Figure S40. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-di-*p*-tolylmethanimine 4d in CDCl₃.







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Figure S42. FT-IR spectrum of N-di-p-tolylmethanimine 4d.



Figure S43. Mass spectrum of *N*-di-*p*-tolylmethanimine 4d.



Figure S44. Chromatogram and mass spectrum of 2-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **5b**.



Figure S45. Chromatogram of *N*-ethyl-3-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **7d** and 3-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **5c**.



Figure S46. Mass spectrum of 3-Methyl-N-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline 5c (5%).



Figure S47. ¹H-NMR spectrum of 4-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline 5d in CDCl₃.



Figure S48. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of 4-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **5d** in CDCl₃.

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Figure S49. FT-IR spectrum of 4-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline 5d.



Figure S50. Mass spectrum of 4-Methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline 5d.



Figure S51. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethyl-3-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **7c** in CDCl₃.



Figure S52. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethyl-3-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **7c** in CDCl₃.

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Abundance







Figure S55. ¹H-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethyl-4-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **7d** in CDCl₃.



Figure S56. ¹³C{¹H}-NMR spectrum of *N*-ethyl-4-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline **7d** in CDCl₃.





Figure S57. FT-IR spectrum of *N*-ethyl-4-methyl-*N*-(4-methylbenzyl)aniline 7d.







73.0 72.5 72.0 71.5 71.0 70.5 70.0 69.5 69.0 68.5 68.0 67.5 67.0 66.5 66.0 65.5 65.0 64.5 64.0 63.5 63.0 52.5 52.0 51.5 51.0 50.5 50.0 49.5 49.0 fl (ppm)

Figure S59. ³¹P{¹H}-NMR spectrum of [(dippe)Ni(η^2 -C, N)-PhHC=NPh], dippe and [Ni(COD)₂] mixture in THF-d⁸.



Figure S60. ¹H-NMR spectrum of [(dippe)Ni(η^2 -C, N)-PhHC=NPh], dippe and [Ni(COD)₂] mixture in THF-d⁸.