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Supporting Information

Trichloroacetonitrile as an efficient activating agent for *ipso*-hydroxylation of arylboronic acids to phenolic compounds

Yuanding Fang, Rong Zhao, Yuan Yao, Yang Liu, Denghu Chang, Ming Yao, Lei Shi*

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1. General information

All reagents were purchased from Energy, Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, or TCI, and used without further purification. Acetonitrile was freshly distilled from calcium hydride before use. Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and visualized by UV lamp (254 nm) or by staining with a solution of phosphomolybdic acid in EtOH followed by heating. Flash column chromatography was performed using 230-400 mesh silica gel. Yields refer to purified compounds unless otherwise noted.

¹H NMR (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) spectra were obtained on Bruker 400M nuclear resonance spectrometers. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are referenced with respect to CDCl₃ (¹H NMR: residual CHCl₃ at δ 7.26, ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ triplet at δ 77.16). Data for ¹H NMR spectra were reported as chemical shifts (δ ppm), broad peak (b), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, p = pentet, h = hextet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz) and integration; data for ¹³C NMR were reported in terms of chemical shift (δ ppm) and no special nomenclature is used for equivalent carbons. HR-ESI-MS spectra were recorded on a Bruker Esquire LC mass spectrometer and Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL using electrospray ionization.

2. Optimization of reaction conditions^[a] and the reaction device

Entry	TBHP	Cl ₃ CCN	Yield ^[b] [%]
1	1.0 eq.	0.5 eq.	40%
2	1.0 eq.	1.0 eq.	60%
3	1.0 eq.	1.2 eq.	72%
4	1.0 eq.	1.5 eq.	78%
5	1.0 eq.	2.0 eq.	47%
6	1.0 eq.	3.0 eq.	40%
7	0.5 eq.	1.5 eq.	32%
8	0.8 eq.	1.5 eq.	93%
9	1.0 eq.	1.5 eq.	96%
10	1.5 eq.	1.5 eq.	96%
11	2.0 eq.	1.5 eq.	96%

Table S1 Screening the amount of TBHP and Cl₃CCN

[a] Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were performed on 0.6 mmol scale.

[b] Isolated yields.



Scheme S1: Reaction device photo

3. UV-vis absorption spectra experiment



Scheme S2: UV-vis absorption spectra of phenylboronic acid (PBA) (0.001 M), TBHP (0.001 M), Cl₃CCN (0.001 M), and the mixture of PBA, TBHP and Cl₃CCN (0.001 M, PBA; PBA: TBHP: Cl₃CCN =1:1:1.5) in THF

4. Characterization of products

ОН

2a^[1]: Colorless solid, 54 mg (96% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.27 (dd, J = 8.6, 7.4 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.97 (tt, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.87 (dd, J = 8.6, 1.1 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.18 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.4 (C_{Ar}), 129.8 (C_{Ar}), 121.0 (C_{Ar}), 115.5 (C_{Ar}); GC-MS (EI): m/z (%): 94 (100), 66, 50, 39, 28.

2b^[2]: Colorless liquid, 25 mg (38% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.18-7.10 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.85 (td, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.78 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 4.73 (s, 1H; OH), 2.26 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.9 (C_{Ar}), 131.2 (C_{Ar}), 127.3 (C_{Ar}), 123.8 (C_{Ar}), 120.9 (C_{Ar}), 115.0 (C_{Ar}), 15.8 (CH₃); **GC-MS (EI)**: *m/z* (%): 108, 90, 77, 51, 39, 28 (100).

HO

2c^[3]: Colorless liquid, 63 mg (97% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.72-6.60 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.51 (s, 1H; OH), 2.23 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.5 (C_{Ar}), 134.0 (C_{Ar}), 130.0 (C_{Ar}), 121.7 (C_{Ar}), 116.2 (C_{Ar}), 112.5 (C_{Ar}), 21.4 (CH₃); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 108 (100), 79, 53, 39, 26.



2d^[4]: Colorless liquid, 33 mg (45% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.69-6.90 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.86 (q, J = 3.5 Hz, 3H; H_{Ar}), 5.60 (s, 1H; OH), 3.89 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 146.7 (C_{Ar}), 145.8 (C_{Ar}), 121.6 (C_{Ar}), 120.3 (C_{Ar}), 114.7 (C_{Ar}), 110.9 (C_{Ar}), 56.0 (CH₃); GC-MS (EI): m/z (%): 124, 88, 74 (100), 63, 51, 38, 28.



2e^[5]: Yellow oil, 71 mg (95% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.21-7.08 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.55-6.49 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.48-6.39 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.58 (s, 1H; OH), 3.78 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.0 (C_{Ar}), 156.9 (C_{Ar}), 130.3 (C_{Ar}), 108.1 (C_{Ar}), 106.6 (C_{Ar}), 101.7 (C_{Ar}), 55.4 (CH₃); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 124 (100), 94, 81, 66, 53, 28.



2f^[6]: Colorless oil, 73 mg (98% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.93-6.59 (m, 4H; H_{Ar}), 4.71 (s, 1H; OH), 3.77 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.8 (C_{Ar}), 149.7 (C_{Ar}), 116.2 (C_{Ar}), 115.1 (C_{Ar}), 56.0 (CH₃); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 124, 95, 81 (100), 66, 50, 39, 27.



2g^[7]: White solid, 51 mg (61% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.81-6.75 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.74 (s, 1H; OH), 2.44 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.2 (C_{Ar}), 130.5 (C_{Ar}), 128.9 (C_{Ar}), 116.2 (C_{Ar}), 18.2 (CH₃); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 140 (100), 125, 97, 69, 45, 28.



2h^[4]: White solid, 64 mg (57% yield); **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34-7.24 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.05 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.98-6.89 (m, 4H; H_{Ar}), 6.85-6.78 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.73 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.5 (C_{Ar}), 151.8 (C_{Ar}), 150.3 (C_{Ar}), 129.8 (C_{Ar}), 122.6 (C_{Ar}), 121.1 (C_{Ar}), 117.1 (C_{Ar}), 116.5 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 188, 157, 129, 109, 77 (100), 51, 39, 28.



2i^[8]: Yellow solid, 91 mg (82% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (dd, J = 7.8 ,1.3 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.63-7.41 (m, 3H; H_{Ar}), 7.36 (td, J = 7.6, 1.0 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.23 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.05 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 5.56 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.2 (C_{Ar}), 144.2 (C_{Ar}), 141.2 (C_{Ar}), 127.4 (C_{Ar}), 125.9 (C_{Ar}), 124.7 (C_{Ar}), 123.8 (C_{Ar}), 123.8 (C_{Ar}), 121.1 (C_{Ar}), 113.8 (C_{Ar}), 112.9 (C_{Ar}), 111.9 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 184 (100), 155, 128, 102, 28.



2j^[7]: White solid, 88 mg (98% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33-7.26 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.88-6.74 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.13 (s, 1H; OH), 1.32 (s, 9H; CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.2 (C_{Ar}), 143.7 (C_{Ar}), 126.6 (C_{Ar}), 114.9 (C_{Ar}), 34.2 (C), 31.7 (CH₃); GC-MS (EI): *m/z* (%): 150 (100), 135, 107, 91, 77, 41, 28.



2k^[9]: White solid, 91 mg (89% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.49 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.42 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.36-7.28 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.92 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.72 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.2 (C_{Ar}), 140.9 (C_{Ar}), 134.2 (C_{Ar}), 128.9 (C_{Ar}), 128.5 (C_{Ar}), 126.9 (C_{Ar}), 126.9 (C_{Ar}), 115.8 (C_{Ar}); GC-MS (EI): m/z (%): 170 (100), 141, 155, 63, 28.



2i^[1]: Brown solid, 76 mg (88% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.28-8.90 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.96-7.73 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.68-7.39 (m, 3H; H_{Ar}), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 5.45-5.28 (m, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.5 (C_{Ar}), 134.9 (C_{Ar}), 127.8 (C_{Ar}), 126.6 (C_{Ar}), 126.0 (C_{Ar}), 125.4 (C_{Ar}), 124.5 (C_{Ar}), 121.7 (C_{Ar}), 120.9 (C_{Ar}), 108.1 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 144, 115 (100), 89, 63, 50, 28.



2m^[7]: Brown solid, 48 mg (55% yield); ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.78 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.45 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.36 (ddd, J = 8.1, 6.8, 1.2 Hz; 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.20-7.07 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.29 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 153.4 (C_{Ar}), 134.8 (C_{Ar}), 130.1 (C_{Ar}), 129.2 (C_{Ar}), 128.0 (C_{Ar}), 126.7 (C_{Ar}), 126.6 (C_{Ar}), 123.8 (C_{Ar}), 117.9 (C_{Ar}), 109.7 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI)**: m/z (%): 144, 115 (100), 104, 86, 75, 62, 39, 29.



2n^[8]: Yellow solid, 66 mg (98% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.92 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.63-6.66 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.99 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.4 (d, J = 237.7 Hz; C_{Ar}), 151.7 (d, J = 2.2 Hz; C_{Ar}), 116.4 (d, J = 8.0 Hz; C_{Ar}), 116.1 (d, J = 23.4 Hz; C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI)**: m/z (%): 112, 83, 57, 28 (100).

20^[10]: White solid, 68 mg (88% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.19 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.77 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.08 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3 (C_{Ar}), 129.7 (C_{Ar}), 125.7 (C_{Ar}), 116.8 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 128 (100), 99, 72, 65, 62, 37, 28.

2p^[11]: Brown solid, 87 mg (85% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.27 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.78-6.67 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.28 (m, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.8 (C_{Ar}), 132.6 (C_{Ar}), 117.4 (C_{Ar}), 113.0 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 172, 93, 81, 65 (100), 39.

2q^[7]: White solid, 45 mg (34% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.51 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.33 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 4.94 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.5 (C_{Ar}), 138.6 (C_{Ar}), 117.9 (C_{Ar}), 82.8 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI)**: m/z (%): 220, 178, 127, 93, 65 (100), 39, 27.

2r^[7]: Yellow solid, 63 mg (65% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56-7.42 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.98-6.83 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.5 (C_{Ar}), 127.3 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz; C_{Ar}), 124.5 (q, *J* = 271.0 Hz; CF₃), 123.3 (q, *J* = 32.8 Hz; C_{Ar}), 115.6 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): *m/z* (%): 162, 152 (100), 28.

2s^[12]: Colorless oil, 51 mg (48% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.10 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.82 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.3 (C_{Ar}), 142.9 (C_{Ar}), 122.8 (C_{Ar}), 116.3 (C_{Ar}), 119.6 (d, J = 658.4 Hz; CF₃); **GC-MS (EI)**: m/z (%): 178, 109, 64, 69 (100), 53, 28.

2t^[7]: Colorless solid, 66 mg (79% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.93 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.23 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 161.8 (C_{Ar}), 141.7 (C_{Ar}), 126.5 (C_{Ar}), 115.9 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 139, 135, 109, 78, 75, 64, 45, 30 (100), 26.



2u^[7]: White solid, 61 mg (85% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.87 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.55 (s, 1H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 160.3 (C_{Ar}), 134.5 (C_{Ar}), 119.4 (CN), 116.6 (C_{Ar}), 103.2 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 119 (100), 91, 75, 64, 50, 39, 29.

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2v^[13]: White solid, 44 mg (66% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.91-6.85 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.84-6.79 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 5.35 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H; OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 143.7 (C_{Ar}), 121.4 (C_{Ar}), 115.7 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 110, 64, 51, 28 (100).

HO

2w^[4]: Colorless solid, 55 mg (75% yield); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 9.86 (s, 1H, COH), δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H_{Ar}), 6.98 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H_{Ar}), 6.36 (s, 1H, OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.4 (C=O), 161.8 (C_{Ar}), 132.7 (C_{Ar}), 130.0 (C_{Ar}), 116.2 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI)**: m/z (%): 121 (100), 93, 65, 50, 39, 29.

OH OH

2x^[1]: Yellow liquid, 23 mg (31% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 11.02 (s, 1H; OH), 9.91 (s, 1H; COH), 7.55 (ddd, J = 17.1, 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 2H; H_{Ar}), 7.13-6.82 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}); ¹³**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.8 (C=O), 161.8 (C_{Ar}), 137.2 (C_{Ar}), 133.9 (C_{Ar}), 120.8 (C_{Ar}), 120.0 (C_{Ar}), 117.8 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 121, 80, 64 (100), 45, 38, 28.

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2 $\mathbf{y}^{[2]}$: White solid, 47 mg (57% yield); ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.38 (s, 1H; COOH), 7.94 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.53 (ddd, J = 8.7, 7.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 7.02 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H; H_{Ar}), 6.99-6.90 (m, 1H; H_{Ar}); ¹³**C** NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 175.0 (C=O), 162.3 (C_{Ar}), 137.1 (C_{Ar}), 131.1 (C_{Ar}), 119.8 (C_{Ar}), 118.0 (C_{Ar}), 111.4 (C_{Ar}); **GC-MS (EI**): m/z (%): 138, 123, 95, 81, 67, 43, 28 (100).



2z: White solid, 79 mg (28% yield); ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.02-6.84 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 6.84-6.73 (m, 2H; H_{Ar}), 3.64 (tt, *J* = 11.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H; CH), 2.58 (ddd, *J* = 14.9, 9.8, 4.9 Hz, 1H; CH₂), 2.44 (ddd, *J* = 15.7, 9.1, 6.8 Hz, 1H; CH₂), 2.01-1.82 (m, 4H; CH₂), 1.83-1.63 (m, 4H; CH₂), 1.62-1.45 (m, 4H; CH₂), 1.44-1.31 (m, 7H; CH₂, CH), 1.26 (ddq, *J* = 11.2, 6.7, 2.8 Hz, 3H; CH), 1.17-1.03 (m, 4H; CH₂), 1.10-0.95 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 0.92 (s, 3H; CH₃), 0.66 (s, 3H; CH₃); ¹³C **NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 172.5 (C=O), 153.5 (C_{Ar}), 144.4 (C_{Ar}), 122.6 (C_{Ar}), 166.1 (C_{Ar}), 72.3 (CH), 56.7 (CH), 56.1 (CH), 42.9 (CH), 42.2 (CH), 40.6 (CH₂), 40.3 (C), 36.6 (CH₂), 36.0 (CH₂), 35.5 (CH), 35.5 (C), 34.7 (CH), 31.5 (CH₂), 31.2 (CH₂), 30.7 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 27.3 (CH₂), 26.6 (CH₂), 24.4 (CH₂), 23.5 (CH₂), 21.0 (CH₃), 18.5 (CH₃), 12.2 (CH₃); **HRMS** (ES+) exact mass calculated for [M+K]⁺ (C₃₀H₄₄O₄) requires m/z 507.2871, found m/z 507.2883.

Lewis adduct intermediate (III): GC-MS (EI): *m*/*z* (%): 355, 331, 311, 281, 267, 253, 237, 207(100), 133, 119, 104, 91, 73, 28.

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6. ¹H, ¹³C NMR spectra of products

















7, 7, 32 7, 7, 30 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 07 7, 7, 06 7, 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 7, 28 7, 7, 70 7, 70,

















180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -1(f1 (ppm)

