

Electronic Supplementary Information for
Cu-catalysed oxidative amidation of cinnamic acids/arylacetic
acids with 2° amines: an efficient synthesis of α -ketoamides

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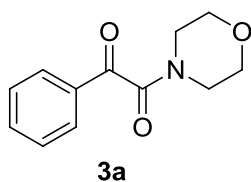
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I. General Information: All the reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, and E. Merck, and were used as received. The reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using Merck Kieselgel 60GF 254 plates (thickness 0.25 mm). Visualization of TLC was performed using UV light; products purification was done using Merck silica gel (100-200 mesh) column chromatography. NMR spectra were recorded with a 500 MHz spectrometer (JNM-ECZ500R/S1) for ^1H NMR, and 125 MHz for ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy using CDCl_3 solution. Chemical shifts are given in δ ppm and are measured relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Mass spectra was recorded on Waters Q-TOF Premier-HAB213 (ESI-MS).

II. General procedure for the synthesis of α -ketoamides (3): A mixture of cinnamic acid **1** (1.0 mmol), amine **2** (2.0 mmol) and $\text{Cu}(\text{OAc})_2$ (40 mol %) in *p*-xylene (1 mL) was stirred under open air at 110 °C for 24 h. After the completion of reaction (as indicated by TLC), the mixture was quenched with aqueous NaHCO_3 saturated solution (5 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (3×5 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated under reduced pressure, and then purified by silica gel column chromatography using a mixture of EtOAc-Hexane (1:4) to give the pure product **3**.

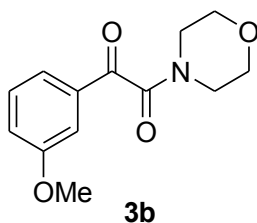
III. Spectral data of the products:

1-Morpholino-2-phenylethane-1,2-dione (3a):¹



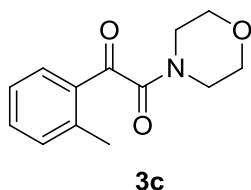
Reddish brown viscous liquid (64%, 140 mg); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.37 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, J = 5.0, 2H), 3.77-3.81 (m, 4H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 41.7, 46.4, 66.8, 66.9, 129.2, 129.8, 133.2, 135.1, 165.6, 191.3.

1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-morpholinoethane-1,2-dione (3b):¹



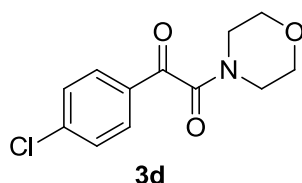
Reddish brown viscous liquid (66%, 164 mg); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 3.36 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (br. s, 4H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.43 (m, 1H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ = 41.7, 46.4, 55.7, 66.8, 66.9, 112.9, 122.0, 122.9, 130.2, 134.4, 160.3, 165.5, 191.2.

1-Morpholino-2-(o-tolyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3c):¹



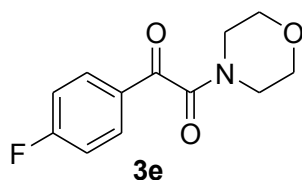
Reddish brown viscous liquid (61%, 142 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.59 (s, 3H), 3.32 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.71 (br. d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H), 7.24-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.9, 41.7, 46.4, 66.7, 66.8, 126.3, 131.6, 132.8, 132.8, 134.0, 141.8, 166.3, 193.2.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)- 2-morpholinoethane-1,2-dione (3d):¹



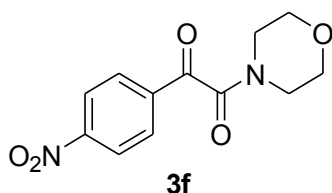
Reddish brown viscous liquid (62%, 156 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.36 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (br. s, 4H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 41.8, 46.4, 66.7, 66.8, 129.6, 131.1, 131.5, 141.7, 165.0, 189.8.

1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-morpholinoethane-1,2-dione (3e):¹



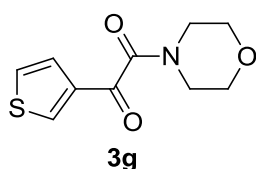
Reddish brown viscous liquid (61%, 144 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.31 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.58 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (br. s, 4H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 41.8, 46.4, 66.7, 66.8, 116.5, 116.6, 129.7, 129.9, 129.9, 132.6, 132.7, 165.2, 165.9, 167.9, 189.5; ¹⁹F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = -101.0 (s, 1F).

1-Morpholino-2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethane-1,2-dione (3f):¹



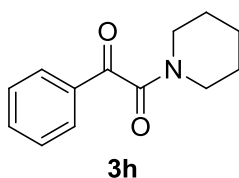
Reddish brown viscous liquid (51%, 134 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.41 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (br. s, 4H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 42.1, 46.5, 66.7, 66.8, 124.3, 130.9, 137.6, 151.3, 164.1, 188.8.

1-Morpholino-2-(thiophen-3-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3g):²



Reddish brown viscous liquid (63%, 141 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.43 (t, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.65-3.67 (m, 2H), 3.73-3.77 (m, 4H), 7.36-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 41.9, 46.4, 66.7, 66.9, 127.0, 127.4, 136.8, 138.6, 165.2, 184.4.

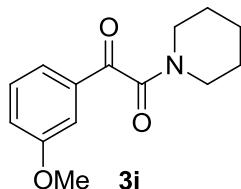
1-Phenyl-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3h):¹



Reddish brown viscous liquid (71%, 154 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.54 (br. s, 2H), 1.68 (quin, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 4H), 3.27 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.70 (br. s, 2H), 7.48 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 41.9, 46.4, 66.7, 66.9, 127.0, 127.4, 136.8, 138.6, 165.2, 184.4.

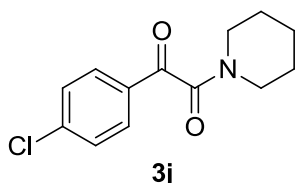
NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.5, 25.5, 26.3, 42.2, 47.1, 129.1, 129.6, 133.3, 134.7, 165.5, 192.0.

1-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3i):³



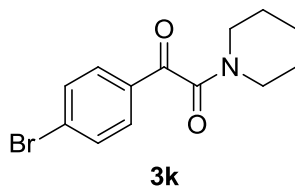
Reddish brown viscous liquid (74%, 182 mg); **¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 1.47 (br. s, 2H), 1.62 (br. s, 4H), 3.19 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (br. s, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 7.10-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (s, 2H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 24.5, 25.5, 26.3, 42.2, 47.1, 55.6, 112.7, 121.7, 122.8, 130.1, 134.7, 160.2, 165.5, 191.9.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3j):⁴



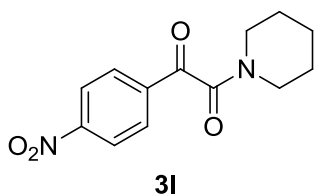
Reddish brown viscous liquid (63%, 158 mg); **¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 1.54 (br. s, 2H), 1.68 (br. s, 4H), 3.26 (t, J = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (br. s, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 24.4, 25.5, 26.3, 42.3, 47.1, 129.6, 131.0, 131.8, 141.3, 165.0, 190.6.

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3k):³



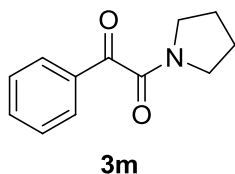
Reddish brown viscous liquid (62%, 182 mg); **¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 1.54 (br. s, 2H), 1.68 (br. s, 4H), 3.25 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (br. s, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 24.4, 25.5, 26.3, 42.3, 47.1, 130.2, 131.0, 132.1, 132.5, 165.0, 190.8.

1-(4-Nitrophenyl)-2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3l):³



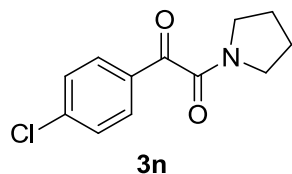
Reddish brown viscous liquid (54%, 141 mg); **¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 1.51-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.67-1.70 (m, 4H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.66 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 8.08-8.10 (m, 2H), 8.29 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 24.3, 25.4, 26.3, 42.4, 47.1, 124.1, 130.6, 137.7, 151.0, 164.1, 189.5.

1-Phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3m):³



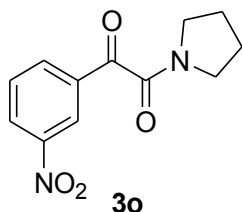
Reddish brown viscous liquid (69%, 140 mg); **¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 1.93-1.98 (m, 4H), 3.41 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.64 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H); **¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃):** δ = 24.1, 26.0, 45.4, 46.8, 129.0, 130.0, 133.0, 134.7, 165.0, 191.7.

1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3n):⁵



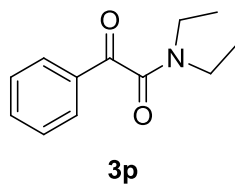
Reddish brown viscous liquid (63%, 149 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.93-1.97 (m, 4H), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.63 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.1, 26.0, 45.5, 46.9, 129.4, 131.4, 131.5, 141.3, 164.4, 190.2.

1-(3-Nitrophenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethane-1,2-dione (3o):⁶



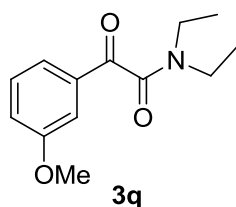
Reddish brown viscous liquid (53%, 131 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.99 (br. s, 4H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.85 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 24.0, 26.1, 45.8, 47.1, 125.0, 128.6, 130.2, 134.8, 135.6, 148.7, 163.1, 188.5.

***N,N*-Diethyl-2-oxo-2-phenylacetamide (3p):¹**



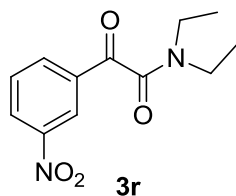
Reddish brown viscous liquid (52%, 106 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.54 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.49-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.9, 14.2, 38.9, 42.2, 129.0, 129.7, 133.4, 134.6, 166.8, 191.7.

***N,N*-Diethyl-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoacetamide (3q):⁷**



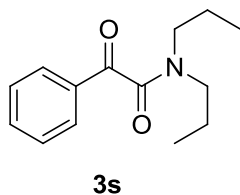
Reddish brown viscous liquid (57%, 133 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 7.16-7.18 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.41 (m, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.9, 14.2, 38.9, 42.2, 55.6, 112.8, 121.7, 122.9, 130.1, 134.7, 160.1, 166.8, 191.6.

***N,N*-Diethyl-2-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-oxoacetamide (3r):⁸**



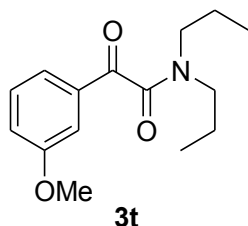
Reddish brown viscous liquid (47%, 117 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 3.26 (q, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.77 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.9, 14.4, 39.4, 42.4, 124.5, 128.6, 130.3, 134.9, 135.2, 148.7, 165.4, 188.7.

2-Oxo-2-phenyl-*N,N*-dipropylacetamide (3s):¹



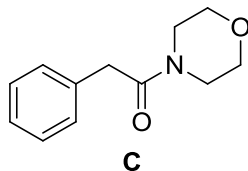
Reddish brown viscous liquid (47%, 109 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.77 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.54 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.68 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.11 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.45 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.61-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.93-7.94 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 11.1, 11.5, 20.7, 21.9, 46.0, 49.4, 129.0, 129.7, 133.5, 134.6, 167.3, 191.6.

2-(3-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-*N,N*-dipropylacetamide (3t):



Reddish brown viscous liquid (46%, 121 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.76 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.53 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (sext, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 7.14-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.47 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 11.1, 11.5, 20.7, 21.9, 45.9, 49.4, 55.6, 112.8, 121.6, 122.8, 130.1, 134.8, 160.1, 167.3, 191.5. HRMS (ESI⁺): (M+H)⁺ calcd. For C₁₅H₂₂NO₃ 264.1600; found 264.1600.

1-Morpholino-2-phenylethanone (C):⁹



Brown yellow solid (76%, 155 mg); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 3.34 (s, 2H), 3.37 (s, 2H), 3.55 (s, 4H), 3.64 (s, 2H), 7.14-7.18 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.25 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 40.8, 42.2, 46.5, 66.5, 66.8, 126.9, 128.5, 128.8, 134.8, 169.6.

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