

Supporting Information:

Rh(III)-catalyzed regioselective intermolecular Oxa-Pauson-Khand reaction of alkynes, arylboronic acids and CO to form butenolides

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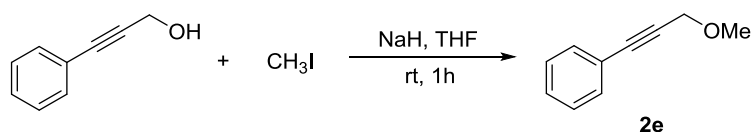
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1. General information

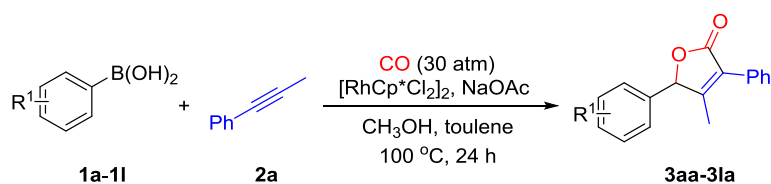
^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker instrument (400 MHz) and (100 MHz) or Bruker instrument (600 MHz) and (151 MHz). The following abbreviations (or combinations thereof) were used to explain multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, b = broad. Coupling constants, J were reported in Hertz unit (Hz). Preparative TLC was performed on TLC plates, analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on 10-25um silica gel GF254, visualization was carried out with UV light. Flash column chromatography was performed with SiO_2 (Silicycle Silica Gel 60 (200-300 mesh)). Unless otherwise stated, all reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification.

2. Typical procedure for preparation of alkyne **2e**

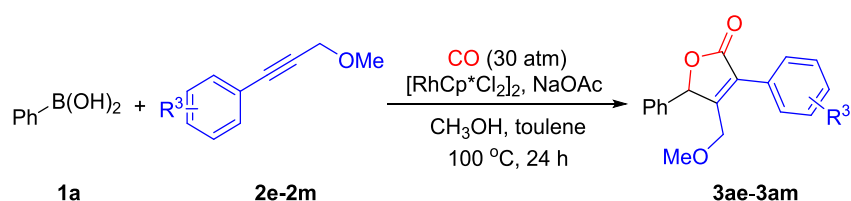


In a mixture of 3-phenylprop-2-yn-1-ol (10 mmol) and 30 mL of anhydrous THF, 0.48 g (20 mmol) of NaH was added slowly. Methyl iodide (12 mmol) was added dropwise at rt within 10 min. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 1 h. After this period of time, the reaction mixture was quenched with H_2O (20 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20 mL) and washed with brine (30 mL). The organic layer was dried over by anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated in vacuo. The desired material **2e** was obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with hexanes/ethyl acetate as the eluent (20:1).

3. Typical procedure for the synthesis of asymmetric butenolides

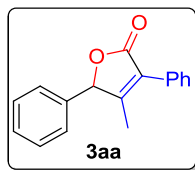


Arylboronic acid **1a-1l** (0.2 mmol), 1-phenyl-1-propyne **2a** (0.4 mmol, 46.4 mg), $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (0.5 mmol%, 0.6 mg), NaOAc (1.5 equiv, 24.6 mg) and methanol (1.0 equiv, 6.4 mg), toluene (2 mL) were charged in 5 mL round ampoule bottle and the bottle was placed in a autoclave. Then, the autoclave was evacuated and back-filled with CO (3-times, balloon), filled with 30 atm CO, and stirred at 100 °C for 24 hours. After this period of time, the autoclave was cooled to room temperature, and discharge the CO carefully. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O (10 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL) and washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over by anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in vacuo. The desired butenolides **3aa-3la** were obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with hexanes/ethyl acetate (v/v = 10:1) as the eluent.

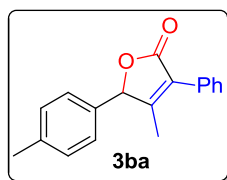


Phenylboronic acid **1a** (0.2 mmol, 24.4 mg), alkynes **2e-2m** (0.4 mmol), $[\text{RhCp}^*\text{Cl}_2]_2$ (2.5 mmol%, 3.1 mg), NaOAc (1.5 equiv, 24.6 mg) and methanol (1.0 eq, 6.4 mg), toluene (2 mL) were charged in a 5 mL round ampoule bottle and the bottle was placed in a autoclave. Then, the autoclave was evacuated and back-filled with CO (3-times, balloon), filled with 30 atm CO and stirred at 100 °C for 24 hours. After this period of time, the autoclave was cooled to room temperature, and discharge the CO carefully. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O (10 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL) and washed with brine (20 mL). The organic layer was dried over by anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in vacuo. The desired butenolides **3ae-3am** were obtained after purification by flash chromatography on silica gel with hexanes/ethyl acetate (v/v = 5:1) as the eluent.

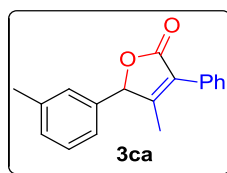
4. Spectroscopic data of the products



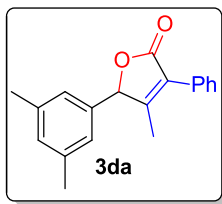
3aa¹: Brown oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.8, 160.4, 134.8, 129.8, 129.5, 129.1, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.0, 126.5, 84.9, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for C₁₇H₁₅O₂: [M+H]⁺ 251.1067. Found: 251.1064.



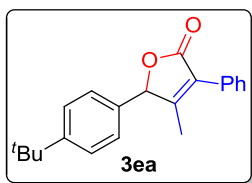
3ba: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.8, 160.4, 139.4, 131.6, 129.7, 128.9, 128.5, 128.5, 126.9, 126.3, 84.8, 21.2, 13.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for C₁₈H₁₇O₂: [M+H]⁺ 265.1223. Found: 265.1230.



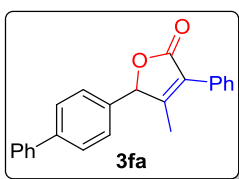
3ca: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.9, 160.6, 139.0, 134.6, 130.2, 129.9, 129.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 127.5, 126.3, 124.2, 85.0, 21.4, 13.5. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for C₁₈H₁₇O₂: [M+H]⁺ 265.1223. Found: 265.1229.



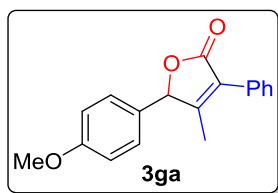
3da: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.39 (m, 1H), 5.67 (s, 1H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 2.01 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.9, 160.6, 138.7, 134.5, 131.0, 129.9, 129.0, 128.5, 128.5, 126.2, 124.6, 85.0, 21.2, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 279.1380. Found: 279.1384.



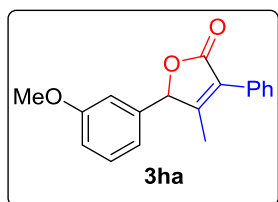
3ea: White solid, mp 111-113 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.37 (m, 5H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 160.5, 152.6, 131.6, 129.9, 129.0, 128.5, 126.8, 126.4, 126.0, 85.0, 34.7, 31.3, 13.5. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 307.1693. Found: 307.1696.



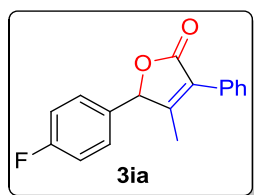
3fa: Orange solid, mp 115-116 $^\circ\text{C}$; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 4H), 7.37 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 160.3, 142.4, 140.2, 133.6, 129.7, 129.0, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.7, 127.4, 127.1, 115.6, 84.6, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 327.1380. Found: 327.1375.



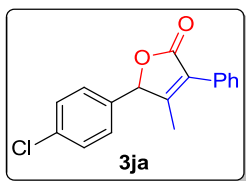
3ga: White oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 160.5, 160.5, 129.9, 129.0, 128.6, 128.6, 128.6, 126.6, 126.5, 114.5, 84.7, 55.4, 13.5. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 281.1172$. Found: 281.1177.



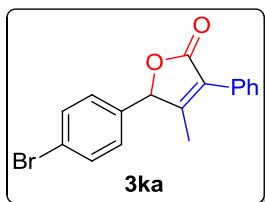
3ha: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.54 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.8, 160.4, 160.1, 136.2, 130.1, 129.7, 128.9, 128.6, 128.5, 126.3, 119.2, 114.7, 112.4, 84.7, 55.3, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 281.1172$. Found: 281.1179.



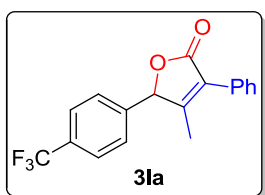
3ia: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.74 (s, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.6, 163.3 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 247.2$ Hz), 130.6 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.2$ Hz), 129.6, 129.0, 129.0, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 126.7, 116.2 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 21.8$ Hz), 84.1, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{FO}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+ 269.0972$. Found: 269.0974.



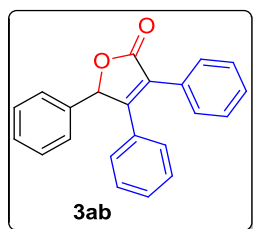
3ja: Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 2H), 5.73 (s, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 159.9, 135.3, 133.3, 129.8, 129.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 126.6, 84.0, 13.3. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClO}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 285.0677. Found: 285.0677.



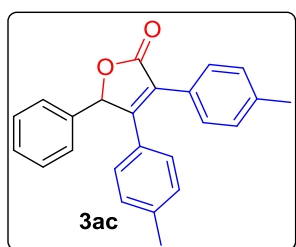
3ka: Brown oi; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.56-7.52 (m, 4H), 7.46 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.71 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.6, 159.9, 133.8, 132.3, 129.0, 128.8, 128.6, 128.6, 123.6, 117.3, 84.1, 13.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrO}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 329.0172. Found: 329.0164.



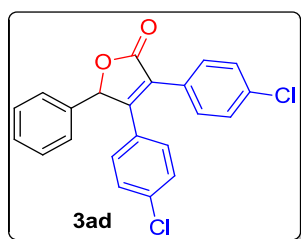
3la: White oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.69 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.38 (m, 5H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.4, 159.6, 138.9, 131.6 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 32.4$ Hz), 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.7, 127.2, 126.1 (q, $J_{\text{CF}} = 3.7$ Hz). HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{F}_3\text{O}_2$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 319.0940. Found: 319.0946.



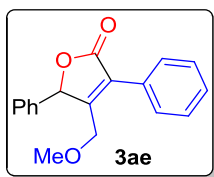
3ab²: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 1.7 Hz, 3H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.25 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.50, 159.42, 134.83, 131.18, 129.92, 129.90, 129.46, 129.40, 128.97, 128.88, 128.74, 128.60, 128.38, 127.67, 126.90, 83.73. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C₂₂H₁₇O₂: [M+H]⁺ 313.1223. Found: 313.1230.



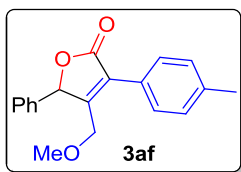
3ac: Brown oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 5H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.22 (s, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.81, 158.67, 140.17, 138.74, 135.22, 129.43, 129.32, 129.30, 128.92, 128.31, 127.76, 127.20, 126.25, 83.59, 21.42, 21.39. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C₂₄H₂₁O₂: [M+H]⁺ 341.1536. Found: 341.1528.



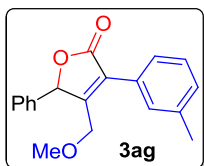
3ad: Yellow oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 5H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.21 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.83, 158.43, 136.31, 135.24, 134.21, 130.75, 129.68, 129.60, 129.30, 129.14, 129.04, 127.94, 127.60, 126.25, 83.68. HRMS Calcd (ESI) *m/z* for C₂₂H₁₅Cl₂O₂: [M+H]⁺ 381.0444. Found: 381.0453.



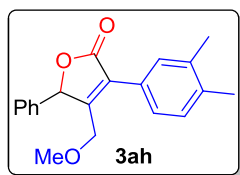
3ae: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.41 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.4, 159.9, 134.9, 129.2, 129.2, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.5, 126.7, 115.3, 82.6, 66.3, 59.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 281.1172. Found: 281.1168.



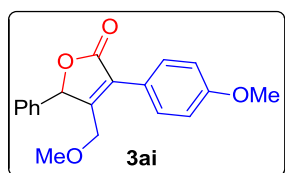
3af: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41-7.32 (m, 7H), 7.26 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.97 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.5, 159.1, 139.2, 135.0, 129.3, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 127.4, 126.7, 126.3, 82.5, 66.3, 59.0, 21.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 295.1329. Found: 295.1325.



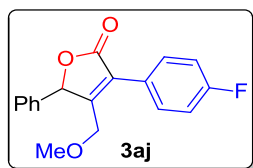
3ag: Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.4, 159.7, 138.3, 134.9, 129.9, 129.7, 129.2, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 126.7, 126.2, 82.5, 66.3, 59.0, 21.5. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 295.1329. Found: 295.1334.



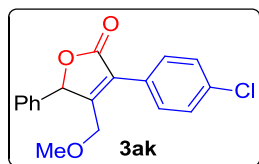
3ah: Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.6, 159.0, 137.9, 136.9, 135.1, 130.1, 129.8, 129.1, 129.0, 127.6, 126.7, 126.7, 126.6, 82.5, 66.3, 59.0, 19.9, 19.7. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 309.1485. Found: 309.1480.



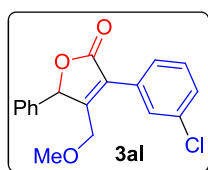
3ai: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.45-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.40 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.6, 160.2, 158.1, 135.0, 130.5, 129.1, 128.9, 127.0, 126.7, 121.6, 114.1, 82.5, 66.3, 59.0, 55.4. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_4$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 311.1278. Found: 311.1279.



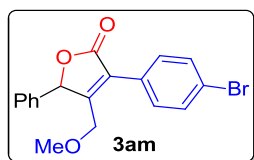
3aj: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 4.36 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.3, 163.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 248.3$ Hz), 159.6, 134.7, 131.1 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 8.2$ Hz), 129.3, 129.0, 126.7, 126.6, 115.8 (d, $J_{\text{CF}} = 21.6$ Hz), 82.7, 66.2, 59.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{FO}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 299.1078. Found: 299.1075.



3ak: Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43-7.40 (m, 7H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 6.08 (s, 1H), 4.36 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.95 (d, $J = 12.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 172.0, 160.2, 135.3, 134.6, 130.5, 129.3, 129.0, 128.9, 127.6, 126.7, 126.5, 82.7, 66.2, 59.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClO}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 315.0782. Found: 315.0778.



3al: Yellow oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.47-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.43-7.37 (m, 6H), 7.34-7.32 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.37 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 170.8, 159.9, 133.5, 133.5, 129.9, 128.8, 128.3, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 126.3, 125.7, 125.3, 81.7, 65.1, 58.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClO}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 337.0602. Found: 337.0591.



3am: Brown oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.60-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.39 (m, 3H), 7.38-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 4.35 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.94 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 171.9, 160.2, 134.5, 131.8, 130.7, 129.3, 129.0, 128.1, 126.7, 126.6, 123.6, 82.7, 66.2, 59.1. HRMS Calcd (ESI) m/z for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{BrO}_3$: $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 359.0277. Found: 359.0268.

5. References

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6. Data of Density functional theory (DFT) calculations

All calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 package (1). The equilibrium geometries and transition states (TS) were fully optimized by the dispersion-corrected density functional method B3LYP-D3 (2-4) with the LanL2DZ basis set for Rh and 6-31G(d) basis set for other atoms (5-8). Normal vibrational mode analysis at the same level of theory confirmed that the optimized structures are minima (zero imaginary frequency) or saddle points (one imaginary frequency). Single-point corrected energies with solvent effects in Toluene were computed by the dispersion-corrected density functional method M06L-D3 (4, 9) with the SDD basis set for Rh (10-11) and 6-311++G (d,p) basis set for other atoms (12-14) using the SMD solvation model (15). The relative energies and free energies (at 373.15K) are in kcal/mol.

References:

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Cartesian coordinates for optimized geometry

Im C

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TS-1

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Im C'

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1	-1.539275000	2.515452000	-0.676833000
6	-5.101141000	1.305759000	0.272795000
1	-4.457931000	-0.627400000	-0.432907000
6	-4.741715000	2.638882000	0.484522000
1	-3.175718000	4.109429000	0.291199000
1	-6.099780000	0.961497000	0.527851000
1	-5.458176000	3.336862000	0.908676000
6	-1.423558000	-2.084274000	-2.870948000
1	-1.115780000	-3.058926000	-2.481063000
1	-2.400413000	-2.178785000	-3.361168000
1	-0.673063000	-1.783213000	-3.606620000
8	0.118619000	1.667508000	-2.009833000
6	2.062716000	1.671040000	-0.689332000
6	2.029667000	3.021866000	-0.311232000
6	3.261090000	0.955181000	-0.596995000
6	3.171994000	3.636752000	0.199621000
1	1.102419000	3.577628000	-0.416773000
6	4.410630000	1.583663000	-0.114731000
1	3.283262000	-0.078293000	-0.920521000
6	4.366137000	2.917510000	0.300656000
1	3.133805000	4.677631000	0.510224000
1	5.343311000	1.027854000	-0.061927000
1	5.259663000	3.397517000	0.691031000

TS-1'

6	3.114391000	-0.407649000	0.584302000
6	2.262421000	-0.567999000	1.708017000
6	1.454541000	0.617371000	1.810671000
6	1.912764000	1.579257000	0.822257000
6	2.901705000	0.946866000	0.045281000
17	1.821365000	-1.138262000	-2.411869000
6	-0.828032000	0.394203000	-1.340364000
6	2.187662000	-1.738484000	2.642204000
1	1.148866000	-2.019605000	2.847757000
1	2.697603000	-2.613257000	2.230736000

1	2.659488000	-1.500803000	3.605139000
6	0.520858000	0.893441000	2.951988000
1	-0.132200000	0.037650000	3.153830000
1	1.097237000	1.086697000	3.867370000
1	-0.107207000	1.764791000	2.762883000
6	4.179447000	-1.342178000	0.102101000
1	4.156803000	-1.413055000	-0.988565000
1	5.170937000	-0.982422000	0.409526000
1	4.044041000	-2.349284000	0.505937000
6	3.693961000	1.525938000	-1.084492000
1	3.289133000	2.489022000	-1.405901000
1	4.738264000	1.679164000	-0.780441000
1	3.681500000	0.846863000	-1.942972000
6	1.443032000	2.996963000	0.691099000
1	2.060311000	3.665818000	1.306611000
1	1.504686000	3.343154000	-0.343774000
1	0.406093000	3.112640000	1.011363000
45	1.028901000	-0.354697000	-0.234325000
6	-1.078923000	-1.314517000	-0.410481000
6	-0.037546000	-2.064086000	-0.234016000
6	-2.515675000	-1.429010000	-0.131282000
6	-3.500175000	-0.993409000	-1.034577000
6	-2.920440000	-2.034059000	1.074578000
6	-4.851059000	-1.168887000	-0.739964000
1	-3.200556000	-0.527472000	-1.966993000
6	-4.272414000	-2.207816000	1.363708000
1	-2.159794000	-2.360024000	1.778739000
6	-5.243068000	-1.772357000	0.457734000
1	-5.601212000	-0.832485000	-1.450428000
1	-4.568116000	-2.678873000	2.297479000
1	-6.297890000	-1.901138000	0.684574000
6	0.380494000	-3.474304000	-0.101727000
1	0.974691000	-3.632546000	0.805024000
1	-0.489188000	-4.143543000	-0.081365000
1	1.010603000	-3.730255000	-0.961871000
8	-0.930939000	0.269921000	-2.536535000
6	-1.385096000	1.593753000	-0.628824000
6	-1.826546000	1.576137000	0.698938000
6	-1.463916000	2.786376000	-1.365427000
6	-2.346957000	2.731568000	1.281670000
1	-1.778940000	0.656586000	1.268215000
6	-1.957046000	3.947067000	-0.772774000
1	-1.130086000	2.782708000	-2.397966000
6	-2.405199000	3.921908000	0.551257000

1	-2.706059000	2.701879000	2.306954000
1	-1.999374000	4.869922000	-1.344826000
1	-2.800987000	4.823759000	1.010396000

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6	3.487737000	-0.803005000	-0.002048000
6	2.869656000	-0.896163000	1.288213000
6	2.520329000	0.437544000	1.688180000
6	3.113339000	1.370140000	0.724628000
6	3.707796000	0.620521000	-0.296384000
17	1.203081000	-0.174211000	-2.582967000
6	-1.304280000	0.752584000	0.037492000
6	2.659548000	-2.135332000	2.104152000
1	1.682697000	-2.136039000	2.597259000
1	2.733649000	-3.038160000	1.493330000
1	3.427658000	-2.203278000	2.885837000
6	1.869403000	0.846053000	2.975403000
1	1.254857000	0.038556000	3.383260000
1	2.621483000	1.113613000	3.730519000
1	1.222829000	1.715790000	2.824369000
6	4.025455000	-1.920683000	-0.842583000
1	3.801903000	-1.737130000	-1.897753000
1	5.114353000	-2.011855000	-0.729576000
1	3.574725000	-2.878689000	-0.569240000
6	4.380720000	1.108845000	-1.540810000
1	4.427045000	2.200209000	-1.574066000
1	5.405204000	0.720255000	-1.601884000
1	3.831215000	0.764887000	-2.424817000
6	2.973165000	2.859046000	0.824712000
1	3.475579000	3.241443000	1.722444000
1	3.398611000	3.363423000	-0.046034000
1	1.915282000	3.139681000	0.889964000
45	1.443135000	0.001026000	-0.176298000
6	-1.336083000	-0.691334000	0.035173000
6	-0.087682000	-1.271229000	-0.076449000
6	-2.607161000	-1.471106000	-0.003043000
6	-3.479871000	-1.359980000	-1.097052000
6	-2.953225000	-2.335108000	1.047083000
6	-4.670791000	-2.084626000	-1.133560000
1	-3.216375000	-0.697748000	-1.916818000
6	-4.142661000	-3.065658000	1.009595000
1	-2.282401000	-2.425441000	1.897915000
6	-5.007062000	-2.938909000	-0.079843000
1	-5.335431000	-1.985566000	-1.987738000

1	-4.395284000	-3.729575000	1.832384000
1	-5.935013000	-3.503749000	-0.109314000
6	0.128866000	-2.730684000	-0.314577000
1	0.779798000	-3.165024000	0.451936000
1	-0.800998000	-3.308438000	-0.347892000
1	0.648900000	-2.837216000	-1.275347000
8	-0.174635000	1.329207000	-0.031150000
6	-2.491306000	1.643608000	0.076739000
6	-3.647358000	1.334424000	0.812349000
6	-2.421868000	2.865972000	-0.613826000
6	-4.712219000	2.233188000	0.852408000
1	-3.709977000	0.400549000	1.358404000
6	-3.496548000	3.750955000	-0.587520000
1	-1.521851000	3.098160000	-1.173512000
6	-4.643745000	3.437249000	0.147357000
1	-5.598409000	1.989755000	1.431914000
1	-3.440103000	4.685938000	-1.138137000
1	-5.481243000	4.129540000	0.170935000

7. Appendix (copies of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra)

