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Supporting Information

Ligand Free Iron-Catalyzed C (sp³)-H Amination of Methylarenes

with N-Fluorobenzenesulfonimide

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General information

All chemicals were commercial available and used without purification. All reactions were carried out in air and monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). ¹H and ¹³C NMR were measured on a Bruker AVANCE III 400 using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. In the NMR data, chemical shift (δ , ppm) and integration are recorded. The abbreviations are as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet. Hertz (Hz) is used for coupling constant (J). HRMS were measured on Agilent 1290-6540 Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography-Q-Time of Flight/ High Resolution Mass Spectrometer.

General procedure for the amination reactions of methylarenes

1, 2-Dichlorobenzene (20 mL) was added to a mixture of iron (III) oxalate hexahydrate (0.05 mmol, 10 mol%), methylarenes (0.5 mmol), N-fluorobenzenesulfonimide (NFSI, 0.75 mmol, 1.5 eq). The mixture was stirred and heated in electric heating sleeve at reflux. After the complete consumption of NFSI, the mixture was concentrated in vacuo, and the crude product was purified by a silica gel column chromatography.

Characterization data of compounds 3

N-benzyl-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3a)

3a was obtained according to the general procedure using toluene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6). Yield: 113.4 mg (59%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.77-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.44 (m, 6H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 3H), 4.94 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.0, 134.5, 133.6, 129.2, 128.8, 128.4, 128.1, 52.5. MS m/z: 410.2 ([M+Na]⁺).

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N-(2-methylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3b)

3b was obtained according to the general procedure using o-xylene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum **3b** ether = 1: 6). Yield: 97.8 mg (49%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.79-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.56-7.60 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, J = 7.76 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, J = 7.36 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 7.36 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, J = 7.36 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.1, 136.4, 133.6, 132.1, 130.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.1, 127.8, 126.0, 50.1, 19.2. MS m/z: 424.2 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(3-methylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3c)

3c was obtained according to the general procedure using mxylene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: 3cpetroleum ether = 1: 6). Yield: 78.1 mg (39%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.78-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.41-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.04-7.16 (m, 4H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.1, 138.1, 134.2, 133.6, 129.6, 128.8, 128.3, 128.1, 126.2, 52.6, 21.2. MS m/z: 424.2 ([M+Na]⁺).

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N-(4-methylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3d)

3d was obtained according to the general procedure using pxylene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: ^{3d} petroleum ether = 1: 6). Yield: 104.1 mg (52%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.77-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.48 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.88Hz, 4H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.88 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.88 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 140.1, 137.9, 133.5, 131.5, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.1, 52.3, 21.1. MS m/z: 424.2 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(4-ethylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3e)

3e was obtained according to the general procedure using 1ethyl-4-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 8). Yield: 24.5 mg (12%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.76-7.78 (m, 4H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.48 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, J = 8.00 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.00 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.00 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 2H), 2.62 (q, J = 7.60 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.60 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.4, 140.2, 133.5, 131.6, 129.4, 128.8, 128.1, 127.9, 52.4, 28.6, 15.9. MS m/z: 438.2 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(4-(tert-butyl)benzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3f)

3f was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-(tert-butyl)-4-methylbenzene and purified by column **3f** chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 8). Yield: 178.2 mg (80%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.75-7.77 (m, 4H), 7.52-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.38-7.72 (m, 4H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.40 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.40 Hz, 2H), 4.93 (s, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 151.2, 140.2, 133.5, 131.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.1, 125.3, 52.4, 34.6, 31.4. HRMS: calculated for C₂₃H₂₅NO₄S₂ ([M+Na]⁺), 466.1123, found, 466.1118.

N-(4-methoxylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3g)

3g was obtained according to the general procedure using 1methoxy-4-methylbenzene and purified by column **3g** chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 3.5). Yield: 66.6 mg (32%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.80-7.82 (m, 4H), 7.57-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.76 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.76 Hz, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 159.5, 140.1, 133.6, 130.8, 128.8, 128.1, 126.6, 113.8, 55.4, 52.1. MS m/z: 440.1 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(2-iodobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3h)

3h was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-iodo-2methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl ^{3h} acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6.5). Yield: 109.2 mg (43%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.89-7.92 (m, 4H), 7.77-7.79 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.64 (m, 2H), 7.46-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.11-7.13 (m, 1H), 7.00-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.85-6.90 (m, 1H), 5.04 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.6, 139.3, 136.6, 133.9, 129.2, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 128.1, 97.4, 57.4. MS m/z: 536.1 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(3-iodobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3i)

3i was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-iodo-3-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6). Yield: 104.2 mg (41%); white

solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.81-7.83 (m, 4H), 7.56-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.76 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, J = 7.76Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 137.7, 137.2, 136.8, 133.9, 130.1, 129.0, 128.2, 128.1, 94.2, 51.6. HRMS: calculated for C₁₉H₁₆INO₄S₂ ([M+H]⁺), 513.9643, found, 513.9639.

N-(4-iodobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3j)

3j was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-iodo-4-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6.5). Yield: 108.7 mg (42%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.78-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.60 (

white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.78-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.32 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.56 Hz, 4H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.32 Hz, 2H), 4.86 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 137.5, 134.3, 133.8, 131.1, 128.9, 128.1, 93.9, 51.9. MS m/z: 536.0 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(2-iodo-3-methylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3k)

3k was obtained according to the general procedure using 2-iodo-1, 3-dimethylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 4.5). Yield: 108.3 mg (41%); **3k** white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.91-7.93 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.08 (dd, J = 7.48, 1.40 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, J = 7.48 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dd, J = 7.72, 1.48 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.1, 139.5, 137.1, 134.0, 128.9, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 125.8, 104.4, 58.6, 29.4. HRMS: calculated for C₂₀H₁₈INO₄S₂ ([M+H]⁺), 527.9800, found, 527.9792.

N-(4-bromobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (31)







31 was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-bromo-4-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6.5). Yield: 176.1 mg (76%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.79-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.44 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (t, J = 8.00 Hz, 4H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.00 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d, J = 8.00 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.9, 133.8, 133.6, 131.5, 130.9, 128.9, 128.1, 122.3, 51.8. MS m/z: 488.1 ([M+Na]⁺).

N-(2-bromo-5-iodobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3m)

N-(4-chlorobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3n)

3n was obtained according to the general procedure using 1chloro-4-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6.5). Yield: 120.5 mg (57%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.79-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.58-7.62 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.48 Hz, 2H), 7.19-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.89 (s,

2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.9, 134.1, 133.8, 133.1, 130.6, 128.9, 128.5, 128.1, 51.7. MS m/z: 444.1 ([M+Na] ⁺).

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

30

N-(2-chlorobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (30)

3o was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-chloro-2-methylbenzene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 6). Yield: 113.3 mg (54%); white

solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.89-7.91 (m, 4H), 7.58-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 4H), 7.28-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.76 Hz, 1H), 7.11-7.15 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.99 (m, 1H), 5.15 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.7, 133.9, 132.8, 132.3, 129.4, 129.4, 128.9, 128.8, 128.3, 126.6, 49.8. MS m/z: 444.1 ([M+Na]⁺). **N-(4-fluorobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3p)**

3p was obtained according to the general procedure using 1fluoro-4-methylbenene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 5). Yield: 116.6 mg (58%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.78-7.81 (m, 4H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.95 (m, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 163.8, 161.4, 139.9, 133.7, 131.2, 131.1, 130.4, 130.4, 128.9, 128.1, 115.4, 115.2, 51.7. HRMS: calculated for C₁₉H₁₆FNO₄S₂ ([M+Na]⁺), 428.0403, found, 428.0398.

N-([1, 1'-biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3q)

N(SO₂Ph)₂ 3q was obtained according to the general procedure using 4methyl-1, 1'-biphenyl and purified column by 3q chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 4.5). 151.7 mg (66%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.81-7.83 (m, Yield: 4H), 7.55-7.59 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.48 (m, 11H), 4.99 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.0, 140.6, 140.1, 133.6, 133.5, 129.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.1, 127.5, 127.1, 127.1, 52.3. MS m/z: 486.2 ([M+Na] +).

N-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3r)

3r was obtained according to the general procedure using 1methylnaphthalene and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 4.5). Yield: 95.0 mg (43%); white 3r solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75-7.81 (m, 5H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.34-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.22 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.8, 133.5, 133.4, 131.1, 129.2, 128.7, 128.7, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 126.5, 125.7, 124.9, 122.7, 50.7. MS m/z: 460.2 ([M+Na] +).

N-(2-cyanobenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3s)

3s was obtained according to the general procedure using 2-CN methylbenzonitrile and purified by column chromatography (ethyl 3s acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 4). Yield: 73.7 mg (35%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.85-7.87 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.65 (m, 3H), 7.46-7.50 (m, 4H), 7.41-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.38 (m, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 139.3, 138.7, 134.1, 132.8, 132.7, 129.1, 128.9, 128.3, 128.2, 116.9, 111.7, 50.0. HRMS: calculated for $C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_4S_2$ ([M+H]⁺), 413.0629, found, 413.0623.

N-(4-(methylsulfonyl)benzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3t)

N(SO₂Ph)₂ 3t was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-MeO₂S methyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)benzene and purified by column 3t chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 2: 1.5). 107.4 mg (46%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): § 7.82-7.84 (m, Yield: 4H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.36 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.48 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.36 Hz, 2H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 4H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 141.0, 140.3, 139.5, 134.1, 129.6, 129.1, 128.1, 127.5, 51.6, 44.4. HRMS: calculated for

N(SO₂Ph)₂

N(SO₂Ph)₂

C₂₀H₁₉NO₆S₃ ([M+H]⁺), 466.0452, found, 466.0446.

N-(4-acetylbenzyl)-N-(phenylsulfonyl)benzenesulfonamide (3u)

3u was obtained according to the general procedure using 1-(ptolyl)ethan-1-one and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 3.5). Yield: 69.7 mg (32%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 7.80-7.83 (m, 6H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.48 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 8.00 Hz, 6H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 197.6, 139.9, 139.7, 136.7, 133.9, 129.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 51.9, 26.7. MS m/z: 430.2 ([M+H]⁺).

N-(phenylsulfonyl)-N-(quinolin-8-ylmethyl)benzenesulfonamide (5a)

5a was obtained according to the general procedure using 8methylquinoline and purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate: petroleum ether = 1: 2). Yield: 103.4 mg (47%); white solid. ¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.91 (dd, J = 4.16, 1.68 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, J = 8.32, 1.68 Hz, 1H), 7.89-7.92 (m, 4H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.32 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.47 (m, 5H),7.29 (t, J = 7.72 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.5, 145.6, 139.7, 136.3, 133.8, 133.0, 128.9, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.3, 126.0, 121.2, 49.1. HRMS: calculated for C₂₂H₁₈N₂O₄S₂ ([M+H]⁺), 439.0786, found, 439.0784.

The radical-trapping experiment

2 equiv of 2, 2, 6, 6-tetramethylpiperidyl-1-oxyl (TEMPO) was added in the amination reaction under the standard reaction conditions. No product could be detected by thin layer chromatography.







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