ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

A one pot protocol

to convert nitro-arenes into N-aryl amides

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General Information

Methods: Reactions were monitored by analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel 60 F254 pre-coated glass plates (0.25 mm thickness) and visualized using UV light. Flash chromatography was carried out on silica gel (230-400 mesh). ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on spectrometers operating at 300 MHz (Bruker Fourier 300); proton chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) with the solvent reference relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS) employed as the internal standard (CDCl₃ δ = 7.26 ppm). ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz spectrometers (Bruker Fourier 300) operating at 75 MHz, with complete proton decoupling; carbon chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) relative to TMS with the respective solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃, δ = 77.0 ppm). 19F NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz spectrometers (Bruker Fourier 300) operating at 282.1 MHz; fluorine chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) relative to CF₃Cl with the respective solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃, δ = 77.0 ppm). 19F NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz spectrometers (Bruker Fourier 300) operating at 282.1 MHz; fluorine chemical shifts are reported in ppm (δ) relative to CF₃Cl with the respective solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃, δ = 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra and accurate mass analysis were carried out on a VG AUTOSPEC- M246 spectrometer (double-focusing magnetic sector instrument with EBE geometry) equipped with El source or with LCQ Fleet ion trap mass spectrometer, ESI source, with acquisition in positive ionization mode in the mass range of 50-2000 m/z.

Materials: Dry solvents were purchased and stored under nitrogen over molecular sieves (bottles with crown caps). All chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise specified.

General procedures for the one pot reduction-amidation reactions



General procedure for the one-pot amidation with anhydrides

Working under N₂ atmosphere, a solution of HSiCl₃ (2.54 mmol, 4 eq) in dry MeCN (1 mL) was added to a solution of the proper nitroarene (0.64 mmol, 1 eq) and Et₃N (3.8 mmol, 6 eq) in dry MeCN (4 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was allowed to RT and kept under stirring for 2 hours. Subsequently, MeOH (1.92 mmol, 3eq) and the anhydride (0.7 mmol, 1.1 eq) were added. The mixture was kept under stirring at RT for 24 hours. After this period, the reaction was quenched with 10% NaOH (5 mL), stirred for 10 minutes and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The collected organic phases were washed with 1M HCl and dried over Na₂SO₄; the solvent was needed.

General procedure for the one-pot amidation with lactones



Working under N₂ atmosphere, a solution of HSiCl₃ (2.54 mmol, 4 eq) in dry MeCN (1 mL) was added to a solution of the proper nitroarene (0.64 mmol, 1 eq), γ -butyrolactone (9.6 mmol, 15 eq) and Et₃N (3.8 mmol, 6 eq) in dry MeCN (4 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was allowed to RT and kept under stirring for 2 hours. Subsequently, the additive (when needed) was added. The mixture was heated to reflux (82 °C) and kept under stirring for 24 hours. After this period, the reaction was quenched with 10% NaOH (5 mL), stirred for 10 minutes, filtered over celite, washed with EtOAc, dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered; the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The product was purified via flash column chromatography.

General procedure for the one-pot amidation with acetyl chlorides



Working under N₂ atmosphere, a solution of HSiCl₃ (2.54 mmol, 4 eq) in dry MeCN (1 mL) was added to a solution of the proper nitroarene (0.64 mmol, 1 eq) and Et₃N (3.8 mmol, 6 eq) in dry MeCN (4 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was allowed to RT and kept under stirring for 2 hours. Subsequently, the acyl chloride (1.28 mmol, 2 eq) was added. The mixture was kept under stirring at RT for 24 hours. After this period, the reaction was quenched with 10% NaOH (5 mL), stirred for 10 minutes and then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The collected organic phases were washed with 1M HCl and dried over Na₂SO₄; the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The product was purified via flash column chromatography.

General procedure for the one-pot amidation with thioesters



Working under N₂ atmosphere, a solution of HSiCl₃ (2.54 mmol, 4 eq) in dry MeCN (1 mL) was added to a solution of the proper nitroarene (0.64 mmol, 1 eq) and Et₃N (3.8 mmol, 6 eq) in dry MeCN (4 mL) at 0 °C. After 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was allowed to RT and kept under stirring for 2 hours. Subsequently, the thioester (0.95 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added. The mixture was kept under stirring at RT for 24 hours. After this period, the reaction was quenched with 10% NaOH (5 mL), stirred for 10 minutes and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The collected organic phases were washed with 1M HCl and dried over Na₂SO₄; the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The product was purified via flash column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc 95:5 as eluent.

Substrate synthesis

Synthesis of N,N-diethyl-4-nitrobenzamide



Working under N₂ atmosphere, thionyl chloride (50.3 mmol, 12 eq) was added dropwise to the carboxylic acid (4.19 mmol, 1 eq) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2h. The residual thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was then dissolved in dry CH_2CI_2 (3.0 mL) and a solution of diethylamine (10.5 mmol, 2.5 eq) in dry CH_2CI_2 (1.0 mL) was added. The crude was treated with NaHCO₃ss and extracted with CH_2CI_2 ; the collected organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified via flash column chromatography with the mixture Hex:EtOAc 3:7 as eluent (Rf = 0.40). The desired product was obtained as a white solid in 63% yield. Analytical data are in agreement with those reported in the literature.¹

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (bd, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (bd, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (bt, 3H), 1.10 (bt, 3H).



Synthesis of 4-chlorophenylaceticpyridylthioester



Working under N₂ atmosphere, phenylacetic acid (2.6 mmol, 1 eq) is dissolved in 2.60 mL of dry CH₂Cl₂. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 0 °C and oxalyl chloride (7.79 mmol, 3 eq) is added dropwise; the reaction mixture was allowed to room temperature and kept under stirring for 14 h. After this period, the solvent and the residual oxalyl chloride were removed under reduced pressure. The so formed acyl chloride was dissolved in 0.4 mL of dry DCM and added dropwise to a solution of 2-mecaptopyridin (2.6 mmol, 1 eq) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2.3 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was kept under stirring at this temperature for 10 minutes, then allowed to room temperature and kept under stirring for further 40 minutes. The reaction mixture was treated NaHCO₃ss and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ as organic solvent for the extraction; the collected organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified via flash column chromatography using the mixture with the mixture CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc 8:2 as eluent (Rf = 0.45). The product was obtained as an orange oil in 73% yield.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.61 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.04 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.46 (s), 162.39 (d, *J* = 246.4 Hz), 151.30 (s), 150.42 (s), 137.15 (s), 131.43 (s), 131.32 (s), 130.07 (s), 128.56 (s), 123.63 (s), 115.82 (s), 115.53 (s), 49.59 (s).

¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.64.

HRMS (EI): calcd for C13H10FNOS: 247.046714, found: 247.046750



Products characterization

N-phenylacetamide 2a²

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (s, 3H).

N-(4-Chlorophenyl)acetamide 2b²



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.57-7.54 (d, 2H, J = 9.00 Hz), 7.32-7.29 (d, 2H, J = 6.00 Hz), 2.13 (s, 3H). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, J = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (bs, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H).

N-(4-Bromophenyl)acetamide 2c3



 ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CD_3OD) δ 7.52-7.43 (m, 4H), 2.13 (s, 3H). ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44-7.36 (m, 4H), 2.16 (s, 3H).

N-(4-Fluorophenyl)acetamide 2d4



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (bs, 1H), 7.47-7.42 (m, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H).

N-(4-acetylphenyl)acetamide **2e**⁴



 ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H),, 7.80 (bs, 1H), 7.62 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H).

N-(4-Cyanoophenyl)acetamide 2f⁵

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (AB system, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (AB system, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H).

4-acetamido-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide 2g

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.48 (bs, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (bs, 2H), 3.27 (s, 2H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 1.25-1.12 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.26 (s), 168.92 (s), 139.12 (s), 132.33 (s), 127.03 (s), 119.83 (s), 43.46 (s), 39.51 (s), 24.36 (s), 14.22 (s), 12.96 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C13H18N2O2: 234.136828, found:234.136040

N-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)acetamide **2h**⁶

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.53 (m, 6H), 7.46 (bs, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 1H)

N-(p-tolyl)acetamide 2i2

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (bs, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.14 (s, 3H)

N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)acetamide **2**I²



¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.15 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 3H).

N-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)acetamide 2m⁵



¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.6 Hz. 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H).

N-(2-Fluorophenyl)acetamide **2n**⁷



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.29 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (bs, 1H), 7.15-7.02 (m, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H).

N-(2,4-Dimethylphenyl)acetamide 20⁵



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.52 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (bs, 2H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H).

N-Phenylpropionamide 2p8

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (bs, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

*N-(*4-chlorophenylpropionamide **2q**⁹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 3H), 2.39 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)isobutyramide 2r¹¹



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (bs, 1H), 2.65-2.43 (m, 1H), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)benzamide 2s¹¹



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (bs, 1H), 7.68 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.34 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)succinimide **3a**¹²



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) δ 7.50 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (s, 3H).

N-(4-chlorophenyl)glutarimide 3b



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.84 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 2.22-1.99 (m, 2H).

³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.45 (s), 134.42 (s), 133.60 (s), 129.90 (s), 129.47 (s), 32.97 (s), 17.17 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C11H10N1O2CI1: 223.040006, found: 223.039470

2-acetamido-N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutanamide 4



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.15 (bs, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.57-4.51 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.05 (m, 1H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.00 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 3H).

 ^{3}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.69 (s), 170.06 (s), 136.43 (s), 129.37 (s), 128.92 (s), 121.20 (s), 59.39 (s), 31.31 (s), 23.31 (s), 19.24 (s), 18.42 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C13H17CIN2O2: 268.097856, found: 268.093990

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide 5a



¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (AB, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (bs, 1H), 3.71 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.82 (s), 162.20 (d, J = 147.15), 136.10 (s), 131.13 (s), 131.07 (s), 129.92 (s), 129.60 (s), 121.10 (s), 116.10 (s), 116.30 (s), 43.80 (s).

¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.33 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C14H11CIFNO: 263.051320, found: 263.051610

N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)acetamide 5b

MeC

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.33-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.08 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (bs, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.76 (s), 163.83 (s), 160.57 (s), 156.60 (s), 131.13 (s), 131.02 (s), 130.61 (s), 130.37 (s), 130.32 (s), 121.84 (s), 116.14 (s), 115.85 (s), 114.09 (s), 55.46 (s), 43.63 (s).

¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -114.69 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C15H14FNO2: 259.100857, found: 259.100830

4-chloro-N-phenylbutanamide 6a

CI North

White solid Hex/EtOAc 6/4, Rf= 0.40

m.p. 188-190°C, then dec; IR (nujol): v 3410, 1770, 1602, 1496, 1455, 1379 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (bs, 2H), 3.67 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (p, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.07 (s), 137.70 (s), 129.04 (s), 124.44 (s), 119.93 (s), 44.47 (s), 34.14 (s), 27.92 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C10H12CINO: 197.060742, found: 197.061230

4-chloro-N-(4-chlorophenyl)butanamide 6b13

White solid Hex/EtOAc 8/2, Rf= 0.25

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (bs, 2H), 3.67 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.57 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (p, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H).

4-chloro-N-(4-bromophenyl)butanamide 6c

Pale yellow solid Hex/EtOAc 1:1, Rf= 0.45

m.p. 230-231°C, then dec; IR (nujol): v 3383, 1770, 1538, 1486, 1460, 1376 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.19 (bs, 1H), 3.66 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.20 (p, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.16 (s), 136.76 (s), 131.99 (s), 121.52 (s), 117.03 (s), 44.40 (m), 34.11 (s), 27.81 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C10H11BrCINO: 274.971253, calcd for C10H11BrNO

[M-Cl]: 240.002400, found: 240.002190

4-chloro-N-(4-methylphenyl)butanamide 6d

White solid Hex/EtOAc 7:3, Rf= 0.54

m.p. 201°C, then dec; IR (nujol): v 3414, 1771, 1596, 1508, 1460, 1380 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (bs, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.21 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.06 (s), 135.18 (s), 134.06 (s), 129.48 (s), 120.12 (s), 44.50 (s), 34.08 (s), 28.02 (s), 20.86 (s).

HRMS (EI): calcd for C11H14CINO: 211.076392, found: 211.078630

4-chloro-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)butanamide 6e¹⁴

White solid Hex/EtOAc 3:7, Rf= 0.40

m.p. 208°C, then dec; IR (nujol): v 3382, 1770, 1604, 1510, 1457, 1380 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (bs, 1H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.15-2.23 (m, 2H).

5-chloro-N-(4-methylphenyl)-pentanamide 7

Pale yellow solid. Hex/EtOAc 7:3, Rf= 0.52

m.p. 219°C, then dec; IR (nujol): v 3382, 1771, 1597, 1508, 1457, 1378 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (Bs, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.62-3.37 (m, 2H), 2.43-2.33 (m, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.00-1.66 (m, 4H)

 ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.07 (s), 135.33 (s), 133.97 (s), 129.41 (s), 120.30 (s), 44.61 (s), 36.45 (s), 31.94 (s), 22.93 (s), 20.87 (s).



¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of lactones derived butanamides















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