### Lithium pipecolinate as a facile and efficient ligand for copper-catalyzed hydroxylation of aryl halides in water

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# **Supplementary Information**

### **Table of Contents**

1. General methods	
2. General procedure for direct hydroxylation of aryl halides	S2-S3
3. Experimental procedures and characterization of products	83-816
4. NMR spectra of compounds	

### **1. General Methods:**

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Merck silica gel GF254 plates. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (200-300mesh) eluting with ethyl acetate and petroleum ether or with chloroform and methanol. All products were characterized by their NMR. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz (Bruker DPX) with CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> as solvent. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm using TMS as internal standard. Gas chromatography - mass spectra (GC/MS) were recorded on an Agilent Technologies 6890 N instrument with an Agilent 5973 N mass detector (EI) and a HP5-MS 30 m × 0.25 mm capillary apolar column (Stationary phase: 5% diphenyldimethylpolysiloxane film, 0.25 µm). GC/MS method: Initial temperature: 100 °C; Initial time: 1 min; Ramp: about 6.7 °C/min until 200 °C then 20 min.

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. 1-Iodo-4-nitrobenzene<sup>1</sup>, 1-Iodo-2-nitrobenzene<sup>1</sup> and 1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene<sup>2</sup> were prepared according to the reported procedures. Ligands were prepared according to literature procedure.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. General procedure for direct hydroxylation of aryl halides:

The aryl halide (1.0 mmol), NaOH (3.0 mmol), CuI (0.1 mmol), Lithium

pipecolinate L4 (0.2 mmol),  $(n-Bu)_4NF$  (0.2 mmol) and water (3 mL) were put into a Teflon septum screw-capped tube and then sealed in the air. The reaction mixture was stirred at 130 °C for 24 h, then cooled to room temperature and carefully acidified with 1M HCl. After the solvent (H<sub>2</sub>O) being removed under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica-gel column chromatography to afford the corresponding product. All the products were confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic analysis.

### **3. Experimental procedures and characterization of products:**

# Phenol<sup>4</sup> (2a)

Following the general procedure using iodobenzene (112  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 80 mg (85% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.52 (s, 1H), 6.83 (d, 2H), 6.90-6.94 (m, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 155.16, 129.74, 120.92, 115.39.

MS (EI, M/Z): 94 [M+].

4-Nitrophenol<sup>5</sup> (2b)

Following the general procedure using 1-Iodo-4-nitrobenzene (249 mg, 1 mmol) provided 125 mg (90% yield) of the desired product as a yellow solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 11.08 (br, 1H), 8.14 (d, 2H), 6.96 (d, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 164.21, 139.93, 126.36, 116.00.
MS (EI, M/Z): 139 [M+].

# p-Cresol<sup>4</sup> (2c)

Following the general procedure using 4-iodotoluene (218 mg, 1 mmol) provided 85 mg (79% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.98-7.00 (d, 2H), 6.71-6.73 (d, 2H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 2.24 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 152.84, 130.19, 130.18, 115.29, 20.46.
MS (EI, M/Z): 108 [M+].

4-Chlorophenol<sup>4</sup> (2d)

Following the general procedure using 1-Chloro-4-iodobenzene (238 mg, 1 mmol) provided 92 mg (72% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/8).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.17-7.20 (d, 2H), 6.75-6.77 (d, 2H), 5.40 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 153.65, 129.57, 125.83, 116.67.

MS (EI, M/Z): 128 [M+].

# 4-Bromophenol<sup>4</sup> (2e)

Following the general procedure using 4-iodobromobenzene (282 mg, 1 mmol) provided 138 mg (80% yield) of the desired product as a brown solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.32-7.34 (d, 2H), 6.71-6.73 (d, 2H), 5.13 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 154.16, 132.51, 117.19, 113.11.

MS (EI, M/Z): 173 [M+].

o-Nitrophenol<sup>6,7</sup> (2f)

Following the general procedure using 1-Iodo-2-nitrobenzene (249 mg, 1 mmol) provided 118 mg (85% yield) of the desired product as a yellow solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 10.59 (s, 1H), 8.10-8.12 (m, 1H), 7.57-7.61 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.18 (m, 1H), 6.98-7.02 (m, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 154.99, 137.46, 133.55, 124.94, 120.12, 119.84.

MS (EI, M/Z): 139 [M+].

Catechol<sup>8,9</sup> (2g)

Following the general procedure using 2-Iodophenol (220 mg, 1 mmol) provided 84 mg (76% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15-1/2).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.80 (s, 2H), 6.72-6.76 (m, 2H), 6.59-6.63 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 145.19, 119.48, 115.75. MS (EI, M/Z): 110 [M+]. 4-Hydroxybenzoic acid<sup>10</sup> (2h)

Following the general procedure using 4-Iodobenzoic acid (248 mg, 1 mmol) provided 99 mg (72% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: chloroform/methanol = 20/1-5/1).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 12.44 (br, 1H), 10.23 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.83 (d, 2H), 6.83-6.86 (d, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 167.21, 161.56, 131.54, 121.35, 115.09.
MS (EI, M/Z): 138 [M+].

4-Hydroxybenzaldehyde<sup>11</sup> (2i)

Following the general procedure using 4-Iodobenzaldehyde (232 mg, 1 mmol) provided 85 mg (70% yield) of the desired product as a white yellow solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15-1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.61 (s, 1H), 9.80 (s, 1H), 7.76-7.79 (d, 2H), 6.94-6.96 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 190.77, 163.28, 132.02, 128.40, 115.79.
MS (EI, M/Z): 122 [M+].

2-Aminophenol<sup>12,13</sup> (2j)

Following the general procedure using 2-Iodoaniline (219 mg, 1 mmol) provided 81 mg (74% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15-1/2).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d<sub>6</sub>*): δ 8.92 (s, 1H), 6.62-6.64 (m, 1H),
6.51-6.59 (m, 2H), 6.36-6.40 (m, 1H), 4.45 (s, 2H).
<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d<sub>6</sub>*): 144.36, 136.84, 119.91, 116.89, 114.87,

114.78.

MS (EI, M/Z): 109 [M+].

### o-Cresol<sup>4</sup> (2k)

Following the general procedure using o-bromotoluene (120  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 65 mg (60% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.06-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.83-6.87 (m, 1H), 6.75-6.77 (m, 1H), 4.73 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 153.62, 131.06, 127.11, 123.89, 120.81, 114.95, 15.73.

MS (EI, M/Z): 108 [M+].

# **2,6-Dimethylphenol**<sup>14,15</sup> (**2l**)

Following the general procedure using 2-bromo-m-xylene (133  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 55 mg (45% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 – 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.97-6.98 (d, 2H), 6.74-6.77 (t, 1H), 4.59 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 152.13, 128.60, 123.03, 120.23, 15.82.

MS (EI, M/Z): 122 [M+].

### 4-Methoxyphenol<sup>4</sup> (2m)

Following the general procedure using 4-bromoanisole (125  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 77 mg (62% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.76 (d, 4H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 153.41, 149.46, 116.13, 114.97, 55.88. MS (EI, M/Z): 124 [M+].

### m-Methoxyphenol<sup>4</sup> (2n)

Following the general procedure using 3-bromoanisole (127  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 74 mg (60% yield) of the desired product as an oil after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.08-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.41-6.50 (m, 3H), 6.29 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 160.56, 156.58, 130.35, 108.21, 106.63, 101.67, 55.32.

MS (EI, M/Z): 124 [M+].

# **2-Methoxyphenol**<sup>14,15</sup> (**20**)

Following the general procedure using 2-bromoanisole (125  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 62 mg (50% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.92-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.89 (m, 3H), 5.69 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 146.64, 145.65, 121.43, 120.17, 114.63, 110.82, 55.79.

MS (EI, M/Z): 124 [M+].

# 4-Fluorophenol<sup>4</sup> (2p)

Following the general procedure using 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (110  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 73 mg (65% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.90-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.75-6.79 (m, 2H), 5.48 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 158.56, 156.19, 150.89, 116.36, 116.28, 116.18, 115.95.

MS (EI, M/Z): 112 [M+].

# 1-Naphthol<sup>15</sup> (2q)

Following the general procedure using 1-bromonaphthalene (139  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 89 mg (62% yield) of the desired product as a white

solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.15-8.18 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.81 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.49 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 1H), 6.77-6.79 (m, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 151.21, 134.77, 127.75, 126.51, 125.90, 125.39, 124.37, 121.51, 120.83, 108.83.

MS (EI, M/Z): 144 [M+].

# 4-Hydroxybenzonitrile<sup>5</sup> (2r)

Following the general procedure using 4-bromobenzonitrile (182 mg, 1.0 mmol) provided 95 mg (80% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.64 (s, 1H), 7.64-7.66 (d, 2H), 6.91-6.93 (d, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 161.95, 134.50, 119.85, 116.72, 101.38.
MS (EI, M/Z): 119 [M+].

# 4'-Hydroxyacetophenone<sup>5</sup> (2s)

Following the general procedure using 4'-bromoacetophenone (199 mg, 1

mmol) provided 102 mg (75% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.91-7.93 (d, 2H), 6.95-6.97 (d, 2H), 2.60 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 199.13, 161.73, 131.26, 129.19, 115.57, 26.19.

MS (EI, M/Z): 136 [M+].

# 2-Hydroxypyridine<sup>16,17</sup> (2t)

Following the general procedure using 2-bromopyridine (97  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 71 mg (75% yield) of the desired product as a white solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: chloroform/methanol = 20/1).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.37-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.35 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.31 (m, 1H), 6.12-6.15 (m, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 162.97, 141.42, 135.83, 120.33, 105.39.
MS (EI, M/Z): 95 [M+].

# **3-Hydroxypyridine**<sup>16,18</sup> (2u)

Following the general procedure using 3-bromopyridine (96  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol) provided 70 mg (74% yield) of the desired product as a pale yellow after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: chloroform/methanol = 20/1).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 9.89 (s, 1H), 8.14-8.15 (dd, 1H), 8.02-8.04 (dd, 1H), 7.14-7.22 (m, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 154.08, 140.54, 138.32, 124.46, 122.42.
MS (EI, M/Z): 95 [M+].

# 2,4-Dinitrophenol<sup>19</sup> (2v)

Following the general procedure using 2,4-dinitrochlorobenzene (203 mg, 1 mmol) provided 129 mg (70% yield) of the desired product as a light yellow solid after purification by flash chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/petrol ether = 1/15 - 1/4).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.04 (s, 1H), 9.08 (d, 1H), 8.46-8.49 (dd, 1H), 7.34-7.37 (d, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 158.96, 140.17, 132.50, 131.57, 121.81,
121.18.

MS (EI, M/Z): 184 [M+].

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### 4. NMR spectra of compounds:











































