Copper-Catalyzed *a*-Amination of Aliphatic Aldehydes

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I. <u>General Procedures</u>

All reactions were carried out without exclusion of air or moisture unless otherwise stated. Copper salts, and peroxides such as *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) (TBHP), di-tert-butyl peroxide, and tert-butyl benzoylperoxide were purchased from commercial suppliers, and used directly as received. Commercial solvents and reagents were used without further purification. Secondary amines $1 b^{1-2}$, enamine $1 c^3$, and aliphatic aldehydes $2 (f, h)^{4-5}$ were synthesized according to literatures.¹⁻⁵ Reactions were monitored through thin layer chromatography [Merck 60 F254 precoated silica gel plate (0.2 mm thickness)]. Subsequent to elution, spots were visualized using UV radiation (254 nm) on Spectroline Model ENF-24061/F 254 nm. Further visualization was possible using basic solution of potassium permanganate or acidic solution of ceric molybdate as stain, followed by heating on a hot plate. Flash chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60 with distilled solvents. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IR Prestige-21 FT-IR. Liquid samples were examined as film between NaCl salt plates. HRMS spectra were recorded on a Waters Q-Tof Permier Spectrometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker Avance 300, 400 and 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts for ^IH NMR spectra are reported as δ in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe₄ (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-d (δ 7.260, singlet). Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet); brs (broad singlet); d (doublet); t (triplet); q (quartet); dd (doublets of doublet); ddd (doublets of doublet); td (triplet of doublet); m (multiplets); ddt (doublet of doublet of triplet) and etc. Coupling constants are reported as a Jvalue in Hz. Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹³C NMR) are reported as δ in units of parts per million (ppm) downfield from SiMe₄ (δ 0.0) and relative to the signal of chloroform-d (δ 77.00, triplet).

II. Optimization of the reaction conditions^{*a*}

Among the various solvents screened (Table 1, entries 2 and 11-14), acetonitrile emerged as the best medium for this reaction, rendering the desired product in 80% isolated yield (Table 1, entry 2). Other copper catalysts were also examined (Table 1, entries 15-20). CuBr and CuBr₂ also catalyzed the reaction to afford the desired product **3a** in moderate yield under the same conditions (Table 1, entries 15, 17). Other copper salts such as CuCl, CuCl₂, Cu(OAc)₂ and Cu(OTf)₂ showed low or even no catalytic activities for this reaction (Table 1, entries 16, 18-20).

Table 1: Optimization of the reaction condition	s ^a
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Bn	0 L		ı catalyst Oxidant			
NH Bn	+ H´ ~	<	MeOH		eO	∫ NBn₂
1a	2a			3a		
Entry	Catalyst	Oxidant	Solvent	<i>Т</i> (°С)	<i>t</i> (h)	Yield (%) ^b
1	CuI	O_2 or air (1 atm)	MeCN	40	24	0
2	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	80
3		^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	0
4	CuI	^t BuOO ^t Bu	MeCN	40	24	trace
5	CuI	^t BuOOBz	MeCN	40	24	50
6	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	20	96	75
7^c	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	72	57
8^d	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	50
9 ^e	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	70
10 ^{<i>f</i>}	CuI	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	62
11	CuI	^t BuOOH	МеОН	40	24	50
12	CuI	^t BuOOH	DCE	40	24	48
13	CuI	^t BuOOH	THF	40	24	53
14	CuI	^t BuOOH	DMSO	40	24	51
15	CuBr	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	55
16	CuCl	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	14
17	CuBr ₂	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	67
18	CuCl ₂	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	9
19	Cu(OAc) ₂	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	0
20	Cu(OTf) ₂	^t BuOOH	MeCN	40	24	trace

^{*a*} Reaction conditions: Dibenzylamine (0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.), butyraldehyde (0.75 mmol), copper catalyst (0.4 equiv.), oxidant (1.1 equiv.), methanol (0.4 mL), solvent (2 mL). ^{*b*} Isolated yields based on dibenzylamine. ^{*c*} The reaction was performed using 0.2 equiv. CuI. ^{*d*} The reaction was performed using 0.2 mL MeOH. ^{*e*} Dibenzylamine (0.5 mmol), butyraldehyde (0.5 mmol). ^{*f*} Dibenzylamine (0.75 mmol), butyraldehyde (0.5 mmol).

Ш

<u>General Experimental Procedure for Copper-Catalyzed *a*-Amination of <u>Aliphatic Aldehydes</u></u>



Typical procedure for copper-catalyzed α -amination of aliphatic aldehydes for the synthesis of α -amino acetals using secondary amines with readily removable protecting groups as a nitrogen source (dibenzylamine **1a** and butyraldehyde **2a** as a model system): *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (~5.5 M in decane) (0.1 mL, ~0.55 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuI (38 mg, 0.2 mmol), dibenzylamine **1a** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and butyraldehyde **2a** (54 mg, 0.75 mmol) in methanol (0.4 mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C until dibenzylamine **1a** was completely converted by TLC detection. The resulting reaction mixture was mixed with a small amount of silica gel and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3a** as a light yellowish oil (0.125 g, 80% yield).



N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine (3a): $R_f = 0.70$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.37 (d, J = 5.16 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, J = 50.34, 13.61 Hz, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.65-2.60 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.43 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.4, 59.4, 54.8, 54.44 (CH₂ x 2), 54.38, 19.5, 12.0 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3015, 1452, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₈NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 314.2120, found: 314.2119.



N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-methylbutan-2-amine (3b): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 3-methylbutanal (2b) (64 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3b as a light yellowish oil (0.108 g, 66% yield); $R_f = 0.76$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.22-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.51 (d, J = 4.28 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, J = 102.13, 13.70 Hz, 4H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 2.46-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.97 (m, 1H), 0.98 (t, J = 6.82 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (t, J = 6.68 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.2 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.1, 62.5, 55.5 (CH₂ x 2), 55.2, 54.8, 27.2, 20.9, 20.7 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3015, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{21}H_{30}NO_2^+$ [M+H]⁺ 328.2277, found: 328.2273.



N,*N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyoctan-2-amine (3c): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and octanal (2c) (96 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3c as a light yellowish oil (0.129 g, 70% yield); $R_f = 0.77$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.37 (d, J = 5.03 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, J = 50.95, 13.56 Hz, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.36 (m, 3H), 1.25-1.17 (m, 5H), 1.15-1.08 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.07 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.8 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.5, 57.4, 54.8, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 54.3, 31.9, 29.4, 26.9, 26.5, 22.7, 14.1

ppm; **FTIR (neat):** v = 3015, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₂₄H₃₆NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 370.2746, found: 370.2743.



N,*N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxypent-4-en-2-amine **(3d)**: The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and pent-4-enal (2d) (63 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3d as a light yellowish oil (0.102 g, 63% yield); $R_f =$ 0.70 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.37 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 5.89-5.79 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d, J =17.14 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (d, J = 10.10 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, J = 4.93 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J= 25.44, 13.56 Hz, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.89-2.84 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.26 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.5 (C x 2), 137.8, 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.7 (CH x 2), 115.5, 107.0, 57.8, 54.7, 54.5, 54.4 (CH₂) x 2), 31.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3015, 1454, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for $C_{21}H_{28}NO_2^+$ [M+H]⁺ 326.2120, found: 326.2114.



(Z)-*N*,*N*-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyhept-4-en-2-amine (3e): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and (Z)-hept-4-enal (2e) (84 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3e as a light yellowish oil (0.115 g, 65% yield); $R_f = 0.72$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 2H), 5.44-5.36 (m, 2H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 4.73

Hz, 1H), 3.79-3.71 (m, 4H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 2.86-2.81 (m, 1H), 2.44-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, J = 7.53 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.6 (C x 2), 131.9, 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 127.6, 126.7 (CH x 2), 107.3, 58.0, 54.8, 54.6, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 24.2, 20.7, 14.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3017, 1454, 1215, 1072, 756, 699, 498 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₃H₃₂NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 354.2433, found: 354.2443.



N,N-dibenzyl-5-(tert-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-1,1-dimethoxypentan-2-amine

(3f): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 5-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)pentanal (2f) (0.255 g, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3f as a light yellowish oil (0.230 g, 79% yield); R_f = 0.72 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.66-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 10H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 6H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 5.42 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 40.61, 13.45 Hz, 4H), 3.61-3.45 (m, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.68 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.40 (m, 3H), 1.04 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.6 (C x 2), 135.6 (CH x 4), 134.2 (C x 2), 129.4 (CH x 2), 129.1 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 127.5 (CH x 4), 126.7 (CH x 2), 107.4, 63.9, 57.4, 54.7, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 54.2, 30.3, 26.9 (CH₃ x 3), 22.8, 19.2 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3017, 1215, 1111, 758, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₃₇H₄₈NO₃Si⁺ [M+H]⁺ 582.3403, found: 582.3401.



N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-3-phenylpropan-2-amine (3g): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (1a) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and 3-phenylpropanal (2g) (0.100 g, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product 3g as a light yellowish oil (0.129 mg, 69% yield); R_f = 0.72 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.27-7.01 (m, 15H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 4.38 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 4H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.13-3.08 (m, 1H), 2.88-2.86 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.8, 140.3 (C x 2), 129.6 (CH x 2), 128.7 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 6), 126.5 (CH x 2), 125.3, 107.2, 59.6, 54.9, 54.8, 54.4 (CH₂ x 2), 32.6 ppm; FTIR (neat): ν = 3019, 1495, 1454, 1215, 1072, 756, 698, 496 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₅H₃₀NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 376.2277, found: 376.2278.



Methyl 4-(dibenzylamino)-5,5-dimethoxypentanoate (3h): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing dibenzylamine (**1a**) (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and methyl 5-oxopentanoate (**2h**) (97 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 48 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3h** as a light yellowish oil (0.124 g, 67% yield); R_f = 0.54 (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.33-7.27 (m, 8H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 2H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 5.53 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 63.86, 13.41 Hz, 4H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 3.363-3.359 (m, 6H), 2.78-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.53-2.26 (m, 2H), 1.86-1.70 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 174.2, 140.2 (C x 2), 129.1 (CH x 4), 128.1 (CH x 4), 126.8 (CH x 2), 106.7, 56.6, 54.8, 54.2 (CH₂ x 2), 53.6, 51.3, 31.1, 21.9 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3017, 1454, 1215, 758, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₂H₃₀NO₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ 372.2175, found: 372.2178.



N-allyl-*N*-benzyl-1,1-dimethoxybutan-2-amine **(3i)**: The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N*-benzylprop-2-en-1-amine (1b) (74 mg, 0.5 mmol), and butyraldehyde (2a) (55 mg, 0.75 mmol). After 24 h, The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3i** as a light yellowish oil (92 mg, 69%) yield); $R_f = 0.72$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 1H), 5.85-5.75 (m, 1H), 5.15 (d, *J* = 17.21 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 10.10 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 5.35 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (dd, J = 72.44, 14.03 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (s, 6H), 3.28-3.15 (m, 2H), 2.72-2.67(m, 1H), 1.57-1.41 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.41 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, **100 MHz**) δ 141.1, 138.1, 128.7 (CH x 2), 128.0 (CH x 2), 126.5, 116.1, 107.3, 60.4, 54.7, 54.5, 54.4, 53.5, 19.7, 12.0 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3017, 1452, 1215, 1065, 756, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for $C_{16}H_{26}NO_2^+$ [M+H]⁺ 264.1964, found: 264.1965.



N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxyhexan-2-amine (3j): The product was prepared by above general procedure and the same chemicals except employing *N,N*dibenzylhex-1-en-1-amine (1c) (0.139 g, 0.5 mmol). After 20 h, the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3l** as a light yellowish oil (0.129 g, 76% yield); $R_f = 0.70$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37-7.35 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 5.01 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, *J* = 50.64, 13.59 Hz, 4H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 2.73-2.69 (m, 1H), 1.59-1.39 (m, 3H), 1.26-1.10 (m, 3H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 7.31 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.8 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.5, 57.4, 54.8, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 54.3, 29.2, 26.2, 22.7, 14.1 ppm; **FTIR (neat):** v = 3015, 1452, 1215, 758, 494 cm⁻¹; **HRMS (ESI, m/z):** calcd for C₂₂H₃₂NO₂⁺ [M+H]⁺ 342.2433, found: 342.2436.

IV. Deuterium Labeling Exiperiment



Typical procedure for deuterium labeling experiment (eq. 2): *tert*-butyl benzoylperoxide (0.107 g, 0.55 mmol) was added to a mixture of CuI (38 mg, 0.2 mmol), dibenzylamine **1a** (98 mg, 0.5 mmol), and butyraldehyde **2a** (54 mg, 0.75 mmol) in CD₃OD (0.5 mL)/acetonitrile (2.0 mL) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 40 h. The resulting reaction mixture was mixed with a small amount of silica gel and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel; ethyl acetate or diethyl ether/hexane = 1:100) to afford the desired product **3k** as a light yellowish oil (0.144 g, 80% yield).



N,N-dibenzyl-1,1-dimethoxy-D6-butan-D1-2-amine (3k): $R_f = 0.70$ (hexane: ethyl acetate = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.38-4.37 (m, 1H), 3.74 (dd, J = 49.61, 13.60 Hz, 4H), 2.64-2.60 (m, 0.43H), 1.59-1.44 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t, J = 7.43 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 140.7 (C x 2), 129.0 (CH x 4), 128.0 (CH x 4), 126.6 (CH x 2), 107.2, 59.4, 54.5 (CH₂ x 2), 19.54, 19.43, 12.03, 11.99 ppm; FTIR (neat): v = 3015, 1215, 754, 700, 494 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI, m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₃₃D₅NO₄⁺ [M+H]⁺ 361.3115, found: 361.3109.

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