

## Supporting Information

### Copper-Catalyzed N-Arylation of Amines with Part-per-Million Catalyst Loadings under Air at Room Temperature

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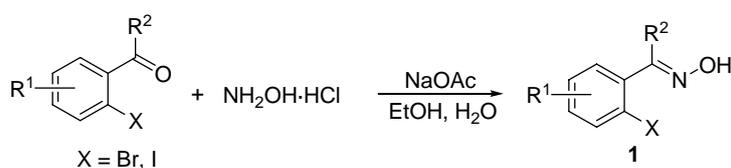
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## General experimental procedures

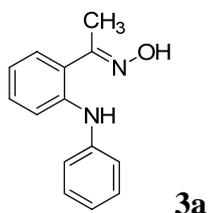
All reagents were weighed and handled in air at room temperature. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200 ~ 300 mesh). Proton magnetic resonance spectra ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR) were recorded using tetramethylsilane (TMS) (at 0.00 ppm) in the solvent, remaining  $\text{CHCl}_3$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (at 7.26 ppm) or remaining DMSO in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  (at 2.50 ppm) as the internal standard. Carbon magnetic resonance spectra ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR) were recorded using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (at 77.2 ppm) or  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  (at 39.5 ppm) as the internal standard.



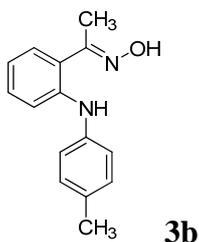
**General procedures for synthesis of oximes 1a-f:** Oximes were prepared according to the previous procedure.<sup>[1]</sup> Ketone (10 mmol), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (15 mmol) and  $\text{AcONa}$  (15 mmol) were added a round bottom flask with 8 mL of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{EtOH}$  (v/v = 1:1) and a magnetic stirrer at room temperature. The solution was refluxed till consumption of the ketone (TLC determination). After cooling to room temperature, ethanol in the resulting solution was removed in vacuo, and 25 mL of water was added to the residue. The crude product was extracted with  $\text{EtOAc}$  ( $3 \times 50$  mL), and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and concentrated. The residue was purified by crystallization or flash chromatography to get oxime (**1a-f**).

**General procedure for synthesis of compounds 3a-b':** 12.1 mg of  $\text{CuCl}_2$  was dissolved in 4 mL of methanol at room temperature to get 22.5 mM  $\text{CuCl}_2$  solution. 0.89  $\mu\text{L}$  of the  $\text{CuCl}_2$  solution ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $2.69 \times 10^{-3}$  mg of  $\text{CuCl}_2$ ) was added to a round bottom flask, then methanol was removed with the aid of a rotary evaporator, and  $\text{CuCl}_2$  was remained in the flask. Substituted (*E*)-1-(2-halophenyl)alkanone oxime (**1**) (0.25 mmol), amine (**2**) (0.50 mmol), *N,N'*-dimethylenediamine (0.025 mmol, 2.2 mg), 99.997%  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.50 mmol, 69 mg for free amine; 1.0 mmol, 138 mg for amine hydrochloride), cyclohexane (1.8 mL) and ethanol (0.2 mL) were added to the round bottom flask equipped with  $\text{CuCl}_2$  ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mmol,  $2.69 \times 10^{-3}$  mg) and a magnetic

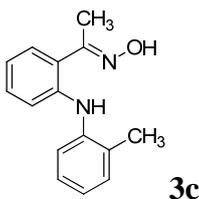
stirrer. The mixture was allowed to stir under air (without extrusion of air) at room temperature (ca. 25 °C) for 24 h. The resulting solution was concentrated with the aid of a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/ ethyl acetate as eluent to provide the desired product (**3**).



**(E)-1-(2-(Phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3a).**<sup>2</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). For substrate **1a**, yield 90% (51 mg); for substrate **1e**, yield 88% (50 mg). Light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 8.94 (br s, 1H), 7.44-7.14 (m, 8H), 6.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 158.5, 142.7, 142.2, 129.6, 129.4, 122.3, 121.5, 120.8, 118.8, 116.0, 13.4. ESI-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 227.2, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 249.2.

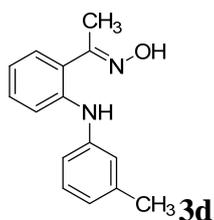


**(E)-1-(2-(p-Tolylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3b).**<sup>2</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 88% (53 mg). Light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 8.88 (br s, 1H), 7.50 (br s, 1H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 7.9 Hz, *J* = 1.4 Hz 1H), 7.24-7.04 (m, 6H), 6.82-6.77 (m, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 158.6, 143.6, 139.5, 132.3, 130.0, 129.6, 129.4, 121.8, 120.7, 118.1, 115.3, 20.9, 13.3. ESI-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 241.2, [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 263.2.

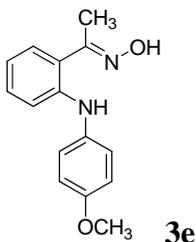


**(E)-1-(2-(o-Tolylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3c).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (12:1). For substrate **1a**, yield 63% (38 mg); for substrate **1e**, yield 65% (39 mg).

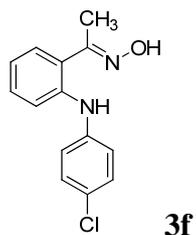
Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.82 (br s, 1H), 7.44 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz 1H), 7.30-7.11 (m, 5H), 7.05-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.83-6.78 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.7, 143.6, 140.5, 131.0, 129.6, 129.3, 126.7, 123.2, 121.7, 120.5, 117.9, 115.4, 18.3, 13.2. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 241.1341. Found: 241.1343.



**(E)-1-(2-(*m*-Tolylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3d).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (12:1). Yield 85% (51 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.88 (br s, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.86-6.79 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.4, 142.8, 142.2, 139.3, 129.5, 129.4, 129.2, 123.1, 121.4, 118.6, 117.7, 116.1, 21.6, 13.4. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 241.1341. Found: 241.1344.

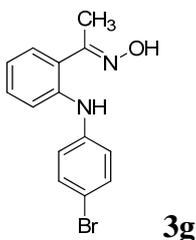


**(E)-1-(2-(4-Methoxyphenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3e).**<sup>2</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 90% (58 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.92 (br s, 1H), 7.47 (br s, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.14-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 6.78 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.36 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.7, 156.0, 144.8, 134.9, 129.6, 129.3, 124.8, 119.5, 117.3, 114.7, 114.2, 55.7, 13.0. ESI-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  257.2,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$   $m/z$  279.2.

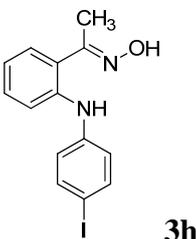


**(E)-1-(2-(4-Chlorophenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3f).**<sup>2</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl

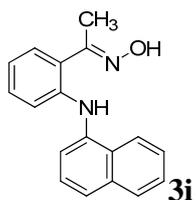
acetate (12:1). Yield 86% (56 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.92 (br s, 1H), 7.50 (br s, 1H), 7.43 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.27-7.04 (m, 6H), 6.87 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.5, 142.3, 140.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.4, 126.9, 121.8, 119.2, 116.0, 13.4. ESI-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  261.2,  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$   $m/z$  283.1.



**(E)-1-(2-(4-Bromophenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3g).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (12:1). Yield 84% (64 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.97 (br s, 1H), 7.44 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.26 (m, 4H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.90-6.85 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.4, 142.1, 141.4, 132.3, 129.6, 129.5, 122.0, 121.8, 119.3, 116.1, 114.2, 13.4. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{BrN}_2\text{O}$ : 305.0290. Found: 305.0293.

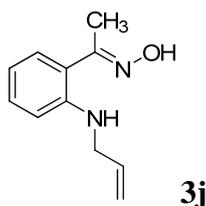


**(E)-1-(2-(4-Iodophenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3h).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (12:1). Yield 90% (79 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.93 (br s, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.92-6.86 (m, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.4, 142.2, 141.8, 138.2, 129.6, 129.5, 122.1, 119.5, 116.3, 83.9, 13.4. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{IN}_2\text{O}$ : 353.0151. Found: 353.0149.

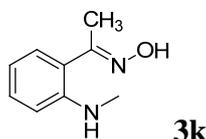


**(E)-1-(2-(Naphthalen-1-ylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3i).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl

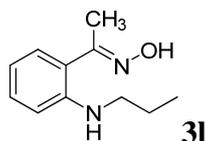
acetate (10:1). Yield 75% (52 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  9.56 (br s, 1H), 8.08-8.05 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.84 (m, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.52-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.15-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.85-6.79 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  159.0, 144.5, 138.1, 134.9, 129.7, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5, 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 123.8, 122.6, 120.2, 118.7, 118.0, 115.5, 13.0. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 277.1341. Found: 277.1345.



**(E)-1-(2-(Allylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3j).**<sup>3</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 80% (38 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.46 (br s, 1H), 7.41-7.38 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.70-6.66 (m, 2H), 6.02-5.90 (m, 1H), 5.31-5.13 (m, 2H), 3.86-3.84 (m, 2H), 2.34 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  159.2, 146.9, 135.3, 130.0, 129.2, 118.1, 116.0, 115.5, 111.4, 46.0, 12.7. ESI-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  191.2.

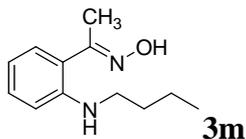


**(E)-1-(2-(Methylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3k).**<sup>3</sup> Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 76% (31 mg). Light yellow solid. mp 71-72 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.39 (dd,  $J = 8.1$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.22 (m, 3H), 6.71-6.66 (m, 2H), 2.88 (s, 3H), 2.33 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  159.2, 148.0, 130.2, 129.1, 118.0, 115.2, 110.6, 30.2, 12.6. ESI-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  165.2.

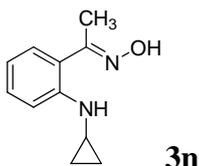


**(E)-1-(2-(Propylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3l).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 77% (37 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.39 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 3H), 6.70-6.63 (m, 2H), 3.14 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.00 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75

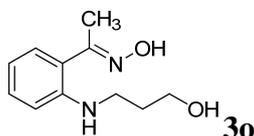
MHz)  $\delta$  159.2, 147.2, 130.1, 129.2, 117.8, 115.0, 111.0, 45.4, 22.5, 12.6, 12.0.  
HR-MS  $[M+H]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $C_{11}H_{17}N_2O$ : 193.1341. Found: 193.1339.



**(E)-1-(2-(Butylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3m).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 80% (41 mg). Light yellow solid. mp 56-57 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.44 (br s, 1H), 7.37 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.23-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.70-6.63 (m, 2H), 3.16 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.69-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.37 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  159.2, 147.2, 130.1, 129.2, 117.9, 115.1, 111.1, 43.3, 31.5, 20.6, 14.0, 12.8. HR-MS  $[M+H]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{19}N_2O$ : 207.1497. Found: 207.1495.

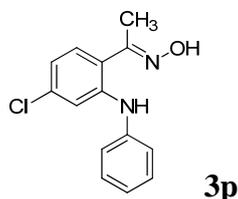


**(E)-1-(2-(Cyclopropylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3n).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 86% (41 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.43 (br s, 1H), 7.36 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (br s, 1H), 7.27-7.15 (m, 2H), 6.74-6.69 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.40 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 0.79-0.73 (m, 2H), 0.56-0.51 (m, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  159.0, 147.6, 130.0, 129.0, 118.0, 115.9, 112.6, 24.9, 12.7, 7.6. HR-MS  $[M+H]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $C_{11}H_{15}N_2O$ : 191.1184. Found: 191.1181.

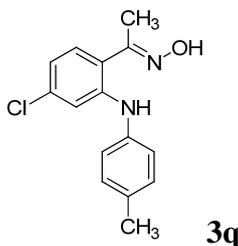


**(E)-1-(2-(3-Hydroxypropylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3o).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (1:1). Yield 56% (29 mg). Light yellow solid. mp 96-97 °C.  $^1H$  NMR ( $DMSO-d_6$ , 600 MHz)  $\delta$  11.02 (br s, 1H), 7.68 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 6.54 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.47 (t,  $J = 5.5$  Hz, 1H), 3.49 (q,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 3.14 (q,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s,

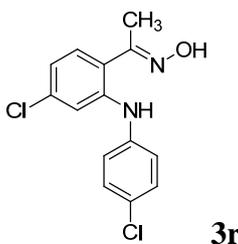
3H), 1.72-1.68 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.6, 147.0, 130.0, 129.1, 118.7, 115.7, 111.2, 61.9, 41.3, 31.5, 12.7. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ : 209.1290. Found: 209.1293.



**(E)-1-(4-Chloro-2-(phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3p).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 69% (45 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  11.43 (br s, 1H), 9.67 (br s, 1H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.05 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.85 (m, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  155.7, 144.2, 141.6, 134.0, 131.6, 130.1, 123.2, 121.2, 121.1, 118.6, 114.4, 13.3. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ : 261.0795. Found: 261.0792.

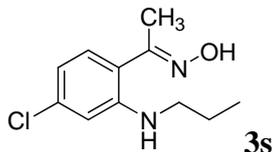


**(E)-1-(4-Chloro-2-(p-tolylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3q).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 74% (51 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  9.18 (br s, 1H), 7.33 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.05 (m, 5H), 6.74-6.70 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.2, 145.3, 138.2, 135.6, 133.5, 130.4, 130.2, 122.9, 118.0, 117.5, 113.9, 21.0, 13.0. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{16}\text{ClN}_2\text{O}$ : 275.0951. Found: 275.0955.

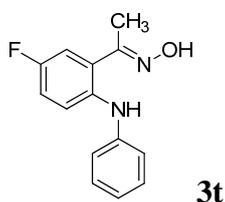


**(E)-1-(4-Chloro-2-(4-chlorophenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3r).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 62% (46 mg). White solid, mp 120-122 °C.  $^1\text{H}$

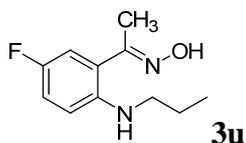
NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  11.36 (br s, 1H), 9.49 (br s, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 3H), 6.88 (dd,  $J = 8.6$  Hz,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 2.13 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  155.4, 143.5, 141.0, 134.1, 131.7, 129.9, 126.2, 122.5, 121.8, 119.6, 115.5, 13.5. HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: 295.0405. Found: 295.0402.



**(E)-1-(4-Chloro-2-(propylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3s).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 60% (34 mg). White solid, Light yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  11.24 (br s, 1H), 8.11 (t,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 6.66-6.61 (m, 2H), 3.16-3.10 (q, 2H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 1.71-1.59 (m, 2H), 1.07 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  156.2, 148.3, 134.5, 130.7, 116.9, 114.3, 109.8, 44.5, 22.1, 12.4, 12.1. HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O: 227. 0951. Found: 227. 0949.

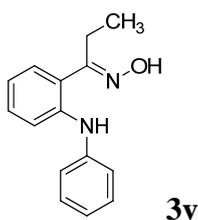


**(E)-1-(5-Fluoro-2-(phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3t).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (12:1). Yield 85% (52 mg). Light yellow solid, mp 106-107 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 600 MHz)  $\delta$  11.38 (br s, 1H), 8.87 (br s, 1H), 7.24-7.18 (m, 4H), 7.06 (td,  $J = 8.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.83 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 150 MHz)  $\delta$  156.6 (d,  $J = 235.5$  Hz), 155.1, 143.8, 138.3, 129.8, 127.0 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz), 121.0, 120.3 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 118.1, 116.2 (d,  $J = 21.7$  Hz), 116.0 (d,  $J = 23.1$  Hz), 13.8. HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O: 245.1090. Found: 245.1091.

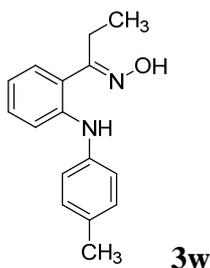


**(E)-1-(5-Fluoro-2-(propylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3u).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl

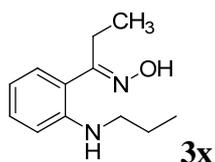
acetate (15:1). Yield 76% (40 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 600 MHz)  $\delta$  11.21 (br s, 1H), 7.55 (t,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd,  $J = 11.0$  Hz,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.96 (td,  $J = 8.2$  Hz,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.58-6.56 (m, 1H), 3.02 (q,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.58-1.52 (m, 2H), 0.92 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 150 MHz)  $\delta$  156.2, 153.6 (d,  $J = 228.3$  Hz), 144.1, 118.8 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 116.3 (d,  $J = 21.7$  Hz), 115.3 (d,  $J = 23.1$  Hz), 111.7 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz), 45.3, 22.4, 12.6, 12.2. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{16}\text{FN}_2\text{O}$ : 211.1247. Found: 211.1244.



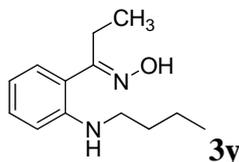
**(E)-1-(2-(Phenylamino)phenyl)propan-1-one oxime (3v).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 45% (27 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.82 (br s, 1H), 7.43 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.14 (m, 7H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 1H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 1H), 2.86 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  163.2, 143.1, 142.3, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 122.2, 120.7, 120.5, 118.8, 116.1, 20.6, 11.4. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 241.1341. Found: 241.1345.



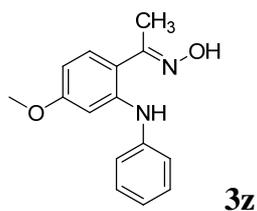
**(E)-1-(2-(p-Tolylamino)phenyl)propan-1-one oxime (3w).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 52% (33 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.73 (br s, 1H), 7.43 (br s, 1H), 7.42 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.03 (m, 6H), 6.80 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 2.86 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 1.21 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  163.3, 143.9, 139.5, 132.2, 130.0, 129.6, 129.1, 121.7, 119.8, 118.2, 115.4, 20.9, 20.6, 11.4. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 255.1497. Found: 255.1496.



**(E)-1-(2-(Propylamino)phenyl)propan-1-one oxime (3x).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 60% (31 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.39-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.71-6.64 (m, 2H), 2.85 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.85 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 1.00 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  164.0, 147.6, 130.1, 128.9, 116.7, 115.1, 111.2, 45.4, 22.5, 20.0, 12.0, 11.6. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 207.1497. Found: 207.1493.

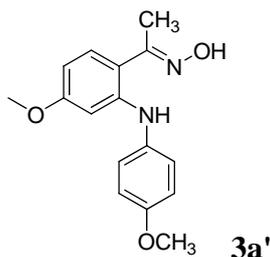


**(E)-1-(2-(Butylamino)phenyl)propan-1-one oxime (3y).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield 62% (34 mg). Light yellow oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.38 (dd,  $J = 7.9$  Hz,  $J = 1.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 3H), 6.70-6.63 (m, 2H), 3.16 (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), 2.86 (q,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.37 (m, 2H), 1.20 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  164.0, 147.7, 130.1, 128.9, 116.6, 115.0, 111.1, 43.3, 31.5, 20.6, 20.0, 14.0, 11.6. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : 221.1654. Found: 221.1652.

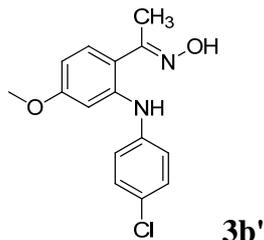


**(E)-1-(4-Methoxy-2-(phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3z).** Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 84% (54 mg). White solid, mp 108-109 °C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 300 MHz)  $\delta$  11.15 (br s, 1H), 9.72 (br s, 1H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (t,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.01 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.50 (dd,  $J = 8.8$  Hz,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 75 MHz)  $\delta$  160.3, 156.0, 143.9, 142.4, 131.2, 130.0, 127.2, 120.1, 115.8, 105.2, 100.8, 55.5, 13.3. HR-MS  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$   $m/z$  Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ :

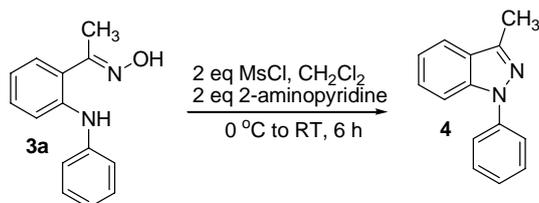
257.1290. Found: 257.1293.



**(E)-1-(4-Methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (3a')**. Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 92% (66 mg). White solid, mp 154-156 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 11.09 (br s, 1H), 9.66 (br s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.17-6.96 (m, 4H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (dd, *J* = 8.8 Hz, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 160.4, 156.4, 155.9, 146.1, 134.6, 131.1, 124.4, 115.2, 113.7, 103.5, 98.7, 55.7, 55.3, 12.9. HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 287.1396. Found: 287.1397.

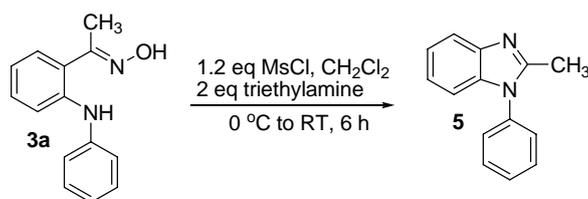


**(E)-1-(2-(4-Chlorophenylamino)-4-methoxyphenyl)ethanone oxime (3b')**. Eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield 80% (58 mg). White solid, mp 127-128 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 11.16 (br s, 1H), 9.63 (br s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.15 (m, 4H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 160.3, 155.8, 143.1, 141.8, 131.3, 129.7, 125.1, 120.9, 117.0, 106.1, 101.8, 55.5, 13.5. HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 291.0900. Found: 291.0906.



**Synthesis of 3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-indazole (4).**<sup>2</sup> Compound **4** was synthesized according to the previous procedure.<sup>2</sup> (E)-1-(2-(Phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime

**(3a)** (0.25 mmol, 57 mg) and 2-aminopyridine (0.50 mmol) were added to a round bottom flask equipped with 5 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and a magnetic stirrer. The solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 min, and then cooled to 0 °C. A solution of methanesulfonyl chloride (MsCl) (0.5 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was slowly added to the flask, and the solution was allowed to warm to ambient temperature over 6 h. The resulting solution was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/ ethyl acetate (9:1) as eluent to provide the desired product **(4)**. Yield 75% (39 mg). Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz) δ 7.72-7.70 (m, 4H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 144.1, 140.4, 139.5, 129.5, 127.2, 126.2, 125.0, 122.5, 120.9, 120.7, 110.4, 12.0. ESI-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 209.2.



**Synthesis of 2-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (5).**<sup>2</sup> Compound **5** was synthesized according to the previous procedure.<sup>[2]</sup> (*E*)-1-(2-(Phenylamino)phenyl)ethanone oxime (**3a**) (0.25 mmol, 57mg) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.50 mmol) were added to a round bottom flask equipped with 5 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and a magnetic stirrer. The solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 min, and then cooled to 0 °C. A solution of MsCl (0.30 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) was slowly added to the flask, and the solution was allowed to warm to ambient temperature over 6 h. The resulting solution was concentrated, and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc. The solution was washed twice with water, and the organic phase was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane/ ethyl acetate (1:1) as eluent to provide the desired product **(5)**. Yield 52% (27 mg). Yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 600 MHz) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz) δ 151.6,

142.7, 136.5, 136.2, 130.0, 128.9, 127.2, 122.6, 122.5, 119.0, 110.0, 14.5. ESI-MS  
[M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z 209.2.

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- 2 B. C. Wray and J. P. Stambuli, *Org. Lett.*, **2010**, *12*, 4576.
- 3 C. M. Counciller, C. C. Eichman, B. C. Wray and J. P. Stambuli, *Org. Lett.*, **2008**, *10*, 1021.

