Design of Small Molecule Reagents that Enable Signal Amplification via an Autocatalytic, Base-Mediated Cascade Elimination Reaction

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Supporting Information

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General experimental procedures

All reactions that required anhydrous conditions were performed in flame-dried glassware under a positive pressure of argon. Air- and moisture-sensitive liquids were transferred by syringe or stainless steel cannula. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation (25–40 mmHg) at ambient temperature, unless otherwise noted. Methyl 4-(bromomethyl)-3-methoxybenzoate, 9-fluorenemethanol, piperidine, allyl alcohol, and all other reagents were purchased commercially and were used as received. Flash-column chromatography was performed as described by Still et al., employing silica gel (60-Å pore size, 32–63 μm, standard grade, Dynamic Adsobents). Thin layer chromatography was carried out on Dynamic Adsorbants silica gel TLC (20×20 cm w/h, F-254, 250 μm). Deionized water was purified using a Millipore-purification system (Barnstead EASYpure[®] II UV/UF).

Instrumentation

All UV-Visible data were obtained using a Beckman-Coulter DU[®]-800 spectrophotometer. Photographs were taken using a Nikon digital camera (D40). Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^{1}H NMR) spectra were recorded using a Bruker DRX-400 (400 MHz) or AV-360 (360 MHz) at 25 °C. Proton chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to tetramethylsilane ((CH₃)₄Si, 0.00 ppm). Data are represented as follows:

Integration, chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances, br s = broad singlet, dd = doublet of doublet), and coupling constant (J) in hertz. Carbon nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (13 C NMR) were recorded using a Bruker DRX-400 (100 MHz). Carbon chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (ppm, δ scale) and are referenced to the carbon resonance of the NMR solvent (CDCl₃, δ 77.16 ppm).

Synthesis of amplification reagent 1

2-Methoxy-4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate (6):

2-Methoxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3-methoxybenzoate 5^2 (3.7 g, 19 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Carbonyldiimidazole (3.75 g, 23.1 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added slowly to the stirring solution, and, after 5 min at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 45 min, after which piperidine (2.3 mL, 23 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, and then was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL). The resulting solution was washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.01 M, 100 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and was successively extracted using CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (1 × 100 mL), brine (2 × 100 mL), and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting white solid was purified using column chromatography (elution with 30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain 2-methoxy-4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate 6 (5.19 g, 16.9 mmol, 90%). IR (cm⁻¹) 2936, 2854, 1695; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.64 (1H, d, J = 7.8), 7.52 (1H, s), 7.36 (1H, d, J = 7.8), 5.21 (2H, s), 3.91 (3H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 3.48–3.46 (4H, m), 1.60–1.54 (6H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.4, 25.7, 44.9, 52.2, 55.6, 61.9, 110.9, 121.9, 127.7, 130.6, 131.0, 155.2, 156.7, 166.9; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 330.3 (11, M + Na⁺), 179.0 (100, M - C₆H₁₁O₂N); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for C₁₆H₂₂NO₅ (M + H⁺): 308.1498; Found: 308.1494.

3-Methoxy-4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid (7):

2-Methoxy-4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate **6** (4.42 g, 14.4 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 68 mL of THF and 27 mL of methanol. Lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.84 g, 20 mmol, 1.4 equiv) dissolved in 27 mL of water was added to the THF-MeOH solution. The resulting solution was stirred for 10 h at room temperature. The solution was acidified by slow addition of aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 25 mL), and was extracted using ethyl acetate (5 × 100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (1 × 100 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 3-methoxy-4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid 7 (3.88 g, 13.2 mmol, 92%). IR (cm⁻¹) 2937, 2859, 2822, 2668, 1684; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 12.24 (1H, br s), 7.73 (1H, d, J = 7.8), 7.58 (1H, s), 7.41 (1H, d, J = 7.8), 5.25 (2H, s), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.51–3.49 (4H, m), 1.59–1.57 (6H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.3, 25.7, 45.0, 55.5, 62.1, 111.2, 122.6, 127.7, 130.0, 131.6, 155.4, 156.7, 171.1; MS (TOF MS ES-, m/z): 292.2 (100, M - H⁺); HRMS (TOF MS ES-, m/z) Calculated for C₁₅H₁₈NO₅ (M - H⁺): 292.1185; Found: 292.1201.

4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)-2-methoxybenzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate (1):

3-Methoxy-4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid 7 (3.65 g, 12.5 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in 100 mL of dry CH₂Cl₂ was cooled to 0 °C with stirring. DIEA (4.75 mL, 27.4 mmol, 2.2 equiv) was added to this cooled solution, followed by drop-wise addition of ethyl chloroformate (2.62 mL, 27.4 mmol, 2.2 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, after which the solution was warmed to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in acetone (50 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of sodium azide (4.0 g, 62 mmol, 5 equiv) in cold water (50 mL) (~10 °C) was added drop-wise to the acetone solution. The resulting suspension was stirred vigorously at 0 °C for 1 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and the aqueous layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted using ethyl acetate (3 \times 100 mL), and the organic layers were combined. These organic extracts were washed with brine (1 \times 50 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration, and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to provide a yellow gelatinous residue. The residue was dissolved in dry toluene (50 mL) and the resulting solution was heated to 100 °C for 1 h. The hot solution was cooled to room temperature, after which 9-fluorenemethanol (870 mg, 14.9 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added. The solution was heated to reflux (112 °C) for 10 h, after which the solution was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure with gentle heating (40 °C). The residue was purified by column chromatography (gradient elution with 20–30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain 4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)-2methoxybenzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate 1 (4.7 g, 9.7 mmol, 78%). IR (cm⁻¹) 2856, 2838, 1725, 1673, 1615; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (2H, d, J = 7.4), 7.60 (2H, d, J = 7.4), 7.39 (2H, t, J = 7.4), 7.30 (2H, t, J = 7.4), 7.24 (1H, s,), 7.21 (1H, d, J = 8.0), 7.07 (1H, s), 6.77 (1H, d, J = 8.0), 5.12 (1H, s), 4.50 (2H, d, J = 6.8), 4.25 (1H, t, J = 6.8), 3.78 (3H, s), 3.42 (4H, m), 1.55 (2H, m), 1.50 (4H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.5, 25.8, 44.9, 47.2, 55.5, 62.2, 66.9, 101.7, 110.2, 120.1, 120.4, 125.1, 127.2, 127.9, 129.9, 139.1, 141.4, 143.8, 153.5, 155.7,

158.1; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 509.1 (2, M + Na⁺), 358.1 (100, M - C₆H₁₁O₂N); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for C₂₉H₃₄N₃O₅ (M + NH₄⁺): 504.2498; Found: 504.2509.

Synthesis of detection reagent 4

4-(Allyloxycarbonylamino)-2-methoxybenzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate (4):

3-Methoxy-4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid 7 (4.75 g, 16.2 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 150 mL of dry CH₂Cl₂ and cooled to 0 °C. DIEA (6.2 mL, 36 mmol, 2.2 equiv) was added to the solution followed by drop-wise addition of ethyl chloroformate (3.4 mL, 36 mmol, 2.2 equiv). The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, after which the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and all solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was dissolved in acetone (70 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of sodium azide (5.3 g, 81 mmol, 5 equiv) in cold water (70 mL) (~10 °C) was added drop-wise to the acetone solution. The resulting suspension was stirred vigorously at 0 °C for 2 h, after which the solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (200 mL) and the aqueous layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted using ethyl acetate (2 × 100 mL), and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (2 × 100 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration, and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain a yellow gelatinous residue. The residue was dissolved in dry toluene (100 mL) and the resulting solution was heated to 110 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, allyl alcohol (3.3 mL, 49 mmol, 3 equiv) was added, and the solution was heated to reflux (112 °C) for 12 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure with gentle heating (40 °C). The residue was purified by column chromatography (gradient elution with 30-40% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain 4-(allyloxycarbonylamino)-2-methoxybenzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate 4 (3.67 g, 10.5 mmol, 65%). IR (cm⁻¹) 3260, 3204, 3074, 2933, 2850, 1726, 1668, 1610; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.43 (1H, s), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.21 (1H, d, J = 8.1), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 8.1), 5.94 (1H, m), 5.34 (1H, d, J = 17.2), 5.26 (1H, d, J = 15.7), 5.12 (2H, s), 4.65 (2H, d, J = 17.2) = 5.5), 3.79 (3H, s), 3.43 (4H, m), 1.57–1.55 (2H, m), 1.51 (4H, m); δ 24.4, 25.7, 44.9, 55.4, 62.2, 65.7, 101.6, 110.1, 118.1, 120.0, 129.8, 132.5, 139.4, 153.4, 155.7, 158.0; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 371.1 (4, M + Na⁺), 220.1 $(100, M - C_6H_{11}O_2N)$; HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for $C_{18}H_{24}N_2O_5Na$ (M + Na⁺): 371.1583; Found: 371.1576.

Synthesis of amplification reagent 2

Scheme S1. Synthesis of amplification reagent **2**.

4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate (9):

Methyl 4-(hydroxymethyl)benzoate **8** (0.66 g, 4 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Carbonyldiimidazole (0.78 g, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added slowly to the stirring solution, and, after 5 min at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 45 min, after which piperidine (0.47 mL, 4.8 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, and then was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). The resulting solution was washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.01 M, 20 mL). The aqueous layer was separated and was successively extracted using CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (1 × 20 mL), brine (2 × 20 mL), and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting white solid was purified using column chromatography (elution with 30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain 4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate **9** (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol, 91%). IR (cm⁻¹) 2940, 2856, 1723, 1701; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.00 (2H, d, J = 8.2), 7.37 (2H, d, J = 8.2), 5.14 (2H, s), 3.87 (3H, s), 3.44–3.40 (4H, m), 1.56–1.50 (6H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.2, 25.6, 44.8, 52.0, 66.0, 127.2, 129.5, 129.7, 142.2, 154.9, 166.7; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 278.1 (15, M + H⁺), 149.0 (100, M – C₆H₁₁O₂N); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for C₁₅H₂₀NO₄ (M + H⁺): 278.1392; Found: 278.1391.

4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid (10):

4-(methoxycarbonyl)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate **9** (0.95 g, 3.4 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 18 mL of THF and 6 mL of methanol. Lithium hydroxide monohydrate (0.20 g, 4.8 mmol, 1.4 equiv) dissolved in 6 mL of water was added to the THF-MeOH solution. The resulting solution was stirred for 10 h at room temperature. The solution was acidified to a pH of 2 by slow addition of aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M), and was extracted using

ethyl acetate (5 × 25 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (1 × 50 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid 10, which was used without further purification.

4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate (2):

4-{[(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)oxy]methyl}benzoic acid 10 (0.97 g, 3.7 mmol, 1 equiv) dissolved in 25 mL of dry CH-₂Cl₂ and 1 mL of DMF was cooled to 0 °C with stirring. Oxalyl chloride (0.39 mL, 4.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added to this cooled solution and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, after which the solution was warmed to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in acetone (15 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of sodium azide (0.72 g, 11.1 mmol, 3 equiv) in cold water (15 mL) (~10 °C) was added drop-wise to the acetone solution. The resulting suspension was stirred vigorously at 0 °C for 1 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and the aqueous layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted using ethyl acetate (3 × 30 mL), and the organic layers were combined. These organic extracts were washed with brine (1 × 50 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration, and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to provide a yellow gelatinous residue. The residue was dissolved in dry toluene (15 mL) and the resulting solution was heated to 100 °C for 1 h. The hot solution was cooled to room temperature, after which 9-fluorenemethanol (870 mg, 4.4 mmol, 1.3 equiv) was added. The solution was heated to reflux (112 °C) for 10 h, after which the solution was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (gradient elution 20-30% ethyl acetate/hexanes, then pure THF as eluent) to obtain 4-(((9H-fluoren-9yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)benzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate 2 (1.03 g, 92.2 mmol, 61%). IR (cm⁻¹) 3292, 2937, 2855, 1732, 1676; 1 H-NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.77 (2H, d, J = 7.5), 7.61 (2H, d, J = 7.5), 7.42–7.27 (8H, m), 6.72 (1H, s), 5.04 (1H, s), 4.54 (2H, d, J = 6.6), 4.27 (1H, t, J = 6.6), 3.42 (4H, m), 1.55 (6H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.3, 25.7, 44.8, 47.1, 66.5, 66.8, 118.6, 120.0, 124.9, 127.1, 127.8, 128.9, 137.4, 141.3, 143.7, 155.3; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 474.2 (40, M + NH₄⁺), 328.1 (100, M - C₆H₁₁O₂N); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for $C_{28}H_{32}N_3O_5$ (M + NH₄⁺): 474.2393; Found: 474.2386.

Synthesis of amplification reagent 3

Scheme S2. Synthesis of amplification reagent **3**.

(4-bromo-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate (12):

(4-bromo-1,3-phenylene)dimethanol³ **11** (1.66 g, 7.7 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in dry THF (40 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C. Carbonyldiimidazole (3.24 g, 20 mmol, 2.6 equiv) was added slowly to the stirring solution, and, after 15 min at 0 °C, the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours, after which piperidine (4.56 mL, 46 mmol, 6.0 equiv) was added. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 14 h, and then was diluted with ethyl acetate (40 mL). The resulting solution was successively washed with aqueous NH₄Cl (40 mL), aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.1 M, 2 × 20 mL) and brine. The combined organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting white solid was purified using column chromatography (gradient elution with 20 – 60% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain (4-bromo-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate **12** (2.85 g, 6.5 mmol, 84 %). IR (cm⁻¹) 2936, 2855, 1699; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.53 (1H, d, J = 8.1), 7.38 (1H, s), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 8.1), 5.19 (2H, s), 5.08 (2H, s), 3.47–3.42 (8H, m), 1.59–1.54 (12H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.2, 24.2, 25.5, 44.7, 44.8, 65.9, 66.1, 122.2, 128.5, 132.6, 136.3, 136.5, 154.7, 154.8; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 439.1 (100, M + H⁺); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for C₂₀H₂₈N₂O₄Br (M + H⁺): 439.1232; Found: 439.1232.

(4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate (13)

An oven-dried 100-mL flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with (4-bromo-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate **12** (0.94 g, 2.1 mmol, 1equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (38 mg, 0.17 mmol, 0.08 equiv), dppp (141 mg, 0.34 mmol, 0.16 equiv), triethylamine (0.45 mL, 3.2 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and methanol (4.5 mL). The resulting

brown solution was stirred at room temperature and CO gas was bubbled through it for 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 80 °C under an atmosphere of CO for 72 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with CH_2Cl_2 . The reaction mixture was filtered through a bed of celite and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was purified using column chromatography (gradient elution with 20 – 40% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain (4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate **13** (325 mg, 0.78 mmol, 37 %). IR (cm⁻¹) 2937, 2855, 1700, 1684; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (1H, d, J = 7.9), 7.38 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, d, J = 7.9), 5.52 (2H, s), 5.17 (2H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 3.46 (8H, m), 1.59–1.55 (12H, m); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.4, 24.5, 25.7, 30.2, 45.0, 52.3, 65.3, 66.3, 105.7, 126.3, 126.7, 128.1, 131.2, 139.4, 141.6, 155.2, 167.3; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 419.2 (90, M + H⁺), 290.1 (100, M – $C_6H_{11}O_2N$); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for $C_{22}H_{31}N_2O_6$ (M + H⁺): 419.2182; Found: 419.2178.

2,4-bis((piperidine-1-carbonyloxy)methyl)benzoic acid (14):

(4-(methoxycarbonyl)-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate **13** (60 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in 0.5 mL of THF and 0.5 mL of methanol. Lithium hydroxide monohydrate (6.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.1 equiv) dissolved in 0.2 mL of water was added to the THF-MeOH solution. The resulting solution was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. An additional amount of lithium hydroxide monohydrate (6.6 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.1 equiv) dissolved in 0.4 mL of water was added to the reaction mixture and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for another 10 hours. The solution was then acidified to a pH of 2 by slow addition of aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.3 mL, 1 M), and was extracted using ethyl acetate (5 × 5 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (2 × 5 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain 2,4-bis((piperidine-1-carbonyloxy)methyl)benzoic acid **14**, which was used without further purification.

(4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate (3):

2,4-bis((piperidine-1-carbonyloxy)methyl)benzoic acid 14 (56 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 equiv), dissolved in 1 mL of dry CH_2Cl_2 and 10 μ L DMF, was cooled to 0 °C with stirring. Oxalyl chloride (36 μ L, 0.43 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added to this cooled solution and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, after which the solution was warmed to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in acetone (0.5 mL), and the resulting solution was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of sodium azide (46 mg, 0.72 mmol, 5 equiv) in cold water (0.5 mL) (~10 °C) was added drop-wise to the acetone solution. The resulting suspension was stirred vigorously at 0 °C for 1 h. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (8 mL) and the aqueous layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted using ethyl acetate (3 × 5 mL), and the organic layers were combined. These organic extracts were washed with brine (2 × 5 mL) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The sodium sulfate was removed by filtration, and the resulting solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to provide a yellow gelatinous residue. The residue was dissolved in dry toluene (1 mL) and the resulting solution was heated to 100 °C for 1 h. The hot solution was cooled to room temperature, after which 9-fluorenemethanol (28 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 equiv) was added. The solution was heated to reflux (112 °C) for 5 h, after which the solution was cooled to room

temperature and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (gradient elution with 20–30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) to obtain (4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)-1,3-phenylene)bis(methylene) dipiperidine-1-carboxylate **3** (47 mg, 0.08 mmol, 56 %). IR (cm⁻¹) 3256, 2937, 2855, 1734, 1697, 1672, 1605; 1 H-NMR (360 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.77 (2H, d, J = 7.5), 7.61 (2H, d, J = 7.6), 7.42–7.27 (8H, m), 6.72 (1H, s), 5.04 (1H, s), 4.54 (2H, d, J = 6.6), 4.27 (1H, t, J = 6.5), 3.42 (4H, m), 1.55 (6H, m); 13 C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 24.3, 25.7, 44.8, 47.1, 66.5, 66.8, 118.6, 120.0, 124.9, 127.1, 127.8, 128.9, 137.4, 141.3, 143.7, 155.3; MS (TOF MS ES+, m/z): 615.3 (100, M + Na⁺); HRMS (TOF MS ES+, m/z) Calculated for $C_{35}H_{43}N_4O_6$ (M + NH₄⁺): 615.3183; Found: 615.3179.

LCMS analysis of the reaction of 1 with piperidine

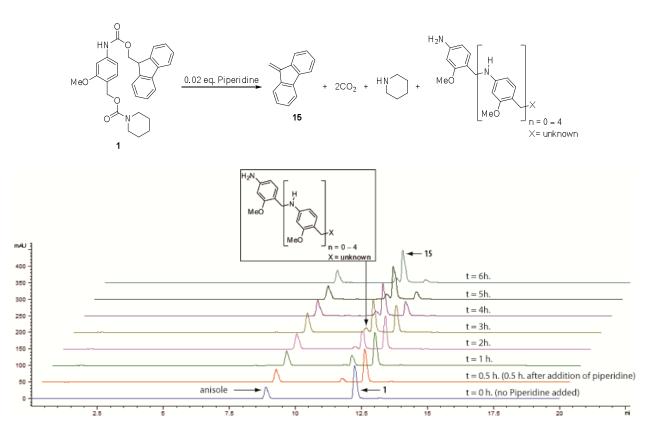


Figure S1: Stacked LC-MS traces (at 254 nm) obtained from the following reaction.

Procedure: A piperidine solution in water (7 μ L, 40 mM, 0.02 equiv) was added to a solution of **1** in DMSO (350 μ L, 40 mM) containing 61 mM anisole as the internal standard. At regular intervals, an aliquot (10 μ L) of the reaction mixture was diluted with acetonitrile (500 μ L) and the resulting solution was injected into an analytical reversed-phase HPLC coupled to a mass spectrometer. The LC-MS data were obtained on an Agilent Technologies 1200 series analytical reversed-phase HPLC coupled to an Agilent Technologies 6120 quadrupole mass spectrometer. The column used was a BETASIL Phenyl-Hexyl column (150 mm × 2.1 mm, 5 μ m particle size). The mobile phase used was a mixture of 5 mM ammonium formate in H₂O (A) and 5 mM ammonium formate in CH₃CN (B). The column was equilibrated with 9:1 A-B at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The solvent gradient was as follows:

Time (minutes)	A (%)	B (%)
0	90	10
3	75	25
6	50	50
9	75	25
12	90	10
15	90	10
17	10	90
20	10	90

A portion of the HPLC stream was automatically injected into the mass spectrometer. The mass spectrometer (ES) settings were as follows: gas temperature of 350 $^{\circ}$ C, drying gas flow of 10–13 L/min, nebulizer pressure of 40–60 psig, and a voltage of 3000 V.

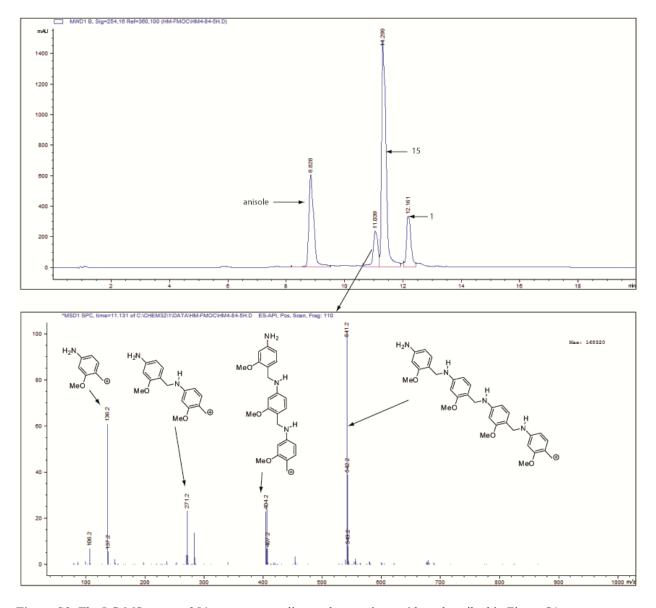


Figure S2: The LC-MS trace at 254 nm corresponding to the reaction at 6 h as described in Figure S1.

Stability of reagent 1 in the solid state

Procedure: 4-(((9H-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonylamino)-2-methoxybenzyl piperidine-1-carboxylate **1** (20 mg solid) was stored in a vial under air at 20 °C. At intervals the sample was dissolved in about 0.5 mL CDCl₃ and ¹H-NMR spectrum was obtained. The solution was transferred back into the vial using a small amount of CH₂Cl₂. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The vial was flushed with air and capped. No change was observed by ¹H-NMR for 14 days.

Quantification of dibenzofulvene when 1, 2, or 3 are exposed to substoichiometric quantities of piperidine

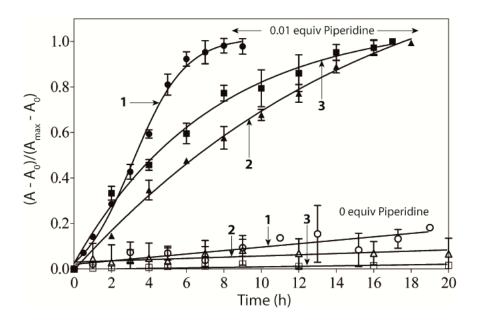


Figure S3. Quantification of dibenzofulvene when **1**, **2**, or **3** is exposed to substoichiometric quantities of piperidine. The graph provides the normalized absorbance of dibenzofulvene at 305 nm during the course of the signal amplification reaction for **1** (circular data points), **2** (triangular data points) or **3** (square data points). The experiments were conducted in triplicate, and the error bars reflect the standard deviations from the average values. The concentration of the amplification reagents was 40 mM in 45:5:1 DMSO–THF–H₂O, and the experiments were conducted at 18 °C.

General experimental procedure corresponding to Figures 3 and S3: A piperidine solution in water (2 μ L, 2 M–2 mM, 1–0.001 equivalents relative to amplification reagent 1, 2 or 3) was added to a solution of the amplification reagent (1, 2 or 3) in 9:1 DMSO–THF (100 μ L, 40 mM). At regular intervals, an aliquot (1 μ L) of the reaction mixture was diluted with THF (600 μ L) and the absorbance of the sample was measured at 305 nm. The absorbance values were normalized using the formula $A_{normal} = (A - A_0)/(A_{max} - A_0)$ where $A_{normal} = normalized$ absorbance, A = absorbance at time t, $A_0 =$ absorbance for a negative control, $A_{max} =$ maximum absorbance obtained for a particular assay.

Tables of data corresponding to Figure 3:

Table S1: Normalized absorbance data for 1.0 equivalent of added piperidine to 1.

Time (h)	Absorbance at 305 nm
0.00	0.0000
0.03	0.4231
0.06	0.7560
0.07	0.7884
0.09	0.8585
0.13	0.8669
0.16	0.9100
0.23	0.9485
0.20	0.9330
0.25	0.9342
0.32	1.0000
0.38	0.9621
0.45	0.9137

Table S3: Normalized absorbance data for 0.01 equivalents of added piperidine to 1.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0.01	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.50	0.0697	0.0736	0.0692
1.0	0.1326	0.1375	0.1532
2.0	0.2718	0.2898	0.2943
3.0	0.4292	0.3933	0.4586
4.0	0.6109	0.5748	0.5946
5.0	0.7620	0.8160	0.8542
6.0	0.9500	0.8885	0.9313
7.0	0.9787	0.8940	0.9857
8.0	1.0000	1.0000	0.9447
9.0	0.9962	0.9393	1.0000

Table S2: Normalized absorbance data for 0.1 equivalents of added piperidine to 1.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0.01	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
0.33	0.4124	0.4138	0.3765
0.66	0.5957	0.5597	0.6082
1.0	0.7283	0.7672	0.7462
1.3	0.8456	0.8379	0.8292
1.7	0.8506	0.9030	0.9091
2.0	0.9449	0.9815	0.9919
2.3	0.8981	0.9995	0.9496
2.7	0.9038	0.9639	0.9502
3.2	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Table S4: Normalized absorbance data for 0.001 equivalents of added piperidine to **1**.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0.01	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2.0	0.0074	0.0611	0.0338
4.0	0.0345	0.0494	0.0354
6.0	0.0686	0.0868	0.0692
8.0	0.1611	0.2180	0.1787
10	0.3675	0.4009	0.4102
12	0.6855	0.7183	0.7531
13	0.8102	0.8305	0.8390
14	0.9590	0.9545	0.9243
15	0.9666	0.9560	0.9540
16	0.9738	0.9307	1.0000
18	1.0000	1.0000	0.9957

Table S5: Normalized absorbance data for 0.0 equivalents of added piperidine to 1.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0.01	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1.0	0.0131	0.0227	0.0264
3.0	0.0583	0.0375	0.1233
5.0	0.1022	0.0419	0.0638
7.0	-0.0020	0.1070	0.0082
9.0	0.0565	0.0916	0.1311
11	0.1268	0.1463	0.1362
13	0.0410	0.2878	0.1330
15.2	0.0430	0.1678	0.0389
17.3	0.1184	0.1789	0.0999
19	0.1797	0.1850	0.1800

Tables of data corresponding to Figure S3:

Table S6: Normalized absorbance data for 0.01 equivalents of added piperidine to 2.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2	0.1531	0.1416	0.1418
4	0.3373	0.3939	0.3088
6	0.4748	0.4808	0.4719
8	0.5936	0.6146	0.5199
10	0.7017	0.6769	0.6533
12	0.7685	0.8124	0.7342
14	0.9166	0.8915	0.8607
16	1.0000	0.9403	0.9810
18	0.9818	1.0000	1.0000

Table S8: Normalized absorbance data for 0.01 equivalents of added piperidine to **3**.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2	0.2999	0.3589	0.3398
4	0.4785	0.4318	0.4612
6	0.5455	0.6327	0.6080
8	0.7336	0.7995	0.7861
10	0.7476	0.7471	0.8874
12	0.7974	0.8342	0.9514
14	0.9726	0.9112	0.9722
16	0.9913	0.9325	0.9943
17	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Table S7: Normalized absorbance data for 0.0 equivalents of added piperidine to **2**.

	Absorbance at 305 nm		
Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0	0.0915	0.0948	0.1048
1	0.1017	0.0952	0.1014
2	0.1003	0.1008	0.1011
3	0.0995	0.0932	0.0279
4	0.0954	0.1006	0.1073
5	0.1027	0.1009	0.1061
7	0.1032	0.105	0.106
9	0.1073	0.104	0.1197
12	0.1023	0.1068	0.1023
16	0.1051	0.1048	0.1069
20	0.1036	0.1054	0.1098

Table S9: Normalized absorbance data for 0.0 equivalents of added piperidine to **3**.

	equivalents of added piperfume to 3.			
Absorbance at			orbance at 30)5 nm
	Time (h)	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
	0	0	0	0
	1	0.1223	0.0021	0.0088
	2	0.1172	-0.0275	-0.0052
	3	0.0915	0.0126	0.0075
	4	0.1234	0.0042	0.0134
	5	0.0995	-0.0123	0.0165
	7	0.1338	0.0382	0.0317
	9	0.1575	0.0432	0.0446
	12	0.1409	0.0199	0.0431
	16	0.1278	0.0442	0.0346
	20	0.1437	0.0139	0.0403

Demonstration that piperidine is amplified when 1 is exposed to substoichiometric piperidine

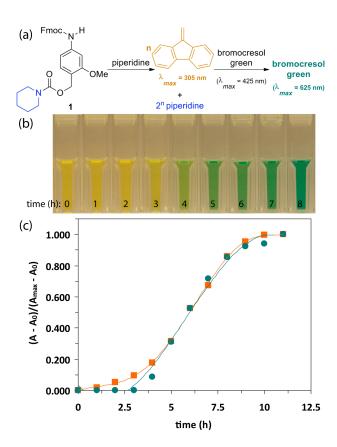


Figure S4. Demonstration that reagent 1 amplifies base autocatalytically. (a) The test reaction of reagent 1 when exposed to piperidine. (b) Photographs of the color produced when aliquots (1 μ L) from the amplification reaction were added to 28.6 μ M solutions of bromocresol green in isopropanol. (c) Normalized absorbance of bromocresol green (green circular data points) at 625 nm and dibenzofulvene (orange square data points) at 305 nm during the course of the signal amplification reaction.

Experimental procedure corresponding to Figure S4:

A stock dye solution (A) was prepared by dissolving bromocresol green (2 mg, 2.86 μ mol) and aqueous sodium hydroxide (2 μ L, 1 M) in isopropanol and by adjusting the volume of the solution to 100 mL using isopropanol. A piperidine solution in water (4 μ L, 20 mM) was added to a solution of 1 in DMSO (200 μ L, 40 mM). At regular intervals, an aliquot (1 μ L) of the reaction mixture was added to a 1-mL aliquot of solution A and the absorbance at 625 nm was measured after an incubation time of 20 minutes. The progress of the reaction also was monitored using the method described for Figure S5. Briefly, an aliquot (1 μ L) of the reaction mixture was diluted with THF (600 μ L) and the absorbance was measured at 305 nm.

Tables of data corresponding to Figure S4:

Table S6: Normalized absorbance for the experiments described above.

	Normalized absorbance at 305 nm	Normalized absorbance at 625 nm
Time(h)	$(A - A_0)/(A_{max} - A_0)$	$(A - A_0)/(A_{max} - A_0)$
0	0.000	0.000
1	0.019	0.001
2	0.052	0.001
3	0.095	0.001
4	0.177	0.086
5	0.314	0.312
6	0.528	0.525
7	0.672	0.715
8	0.859	0.856
9	0.954	0.922
10	0.996	0.939
11	1.000	1.000

Control experiments for the procedure described in Figure S4:

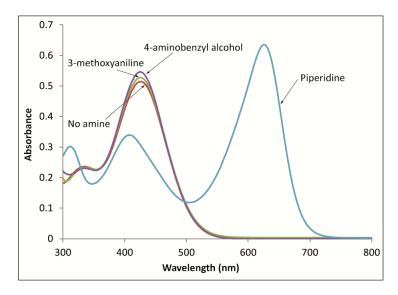


Figure S5: UV-Vis spectra of bromocresol green (1 mL, 28.6 μ M, isopropanol) after addition of a solution of selected amines (1 μ L, 50:1 DMSO-H₂O).

Detection of Pd using reagents 4 and 1

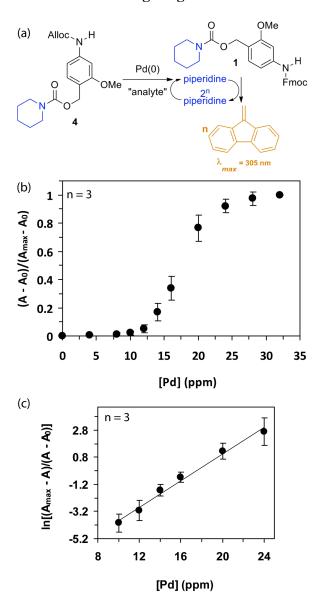


Figure S6: Detection of palladium using (a) a tandem reaction involving reaction of **4**, addition of **1**, and measurement of the absorbance of dibenzofulvene (305 nm) after 16 h of signal amplification. (b) Dose–response curve using normalized absorbance values. The experiments were repeated three times; the errors bars reflect the standard deviations from the average values. (c) Alternative plot that provides a linear calibration curve for quantitative measurements of Pd. The equation for the line is y = 0.4905x - 8.7726, and the R^2 value is 0.99.

Experimental procedure corresponding to Figure S6: A stock solution (Solution A) was prepared containing the detection reagent 4 in THF (0.2 M) and phenylsilane (438 mM). Tri-n-butylphosphine (10 μ L) was added to a solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (1 mL, 0–32 ppm of Pd(II) in THF) and the resulting solution was mixed using a vortex mixer. After 5 minutes, an aliquot (100 μ L) of this palladium solution was added to Solution A (100 μ L) and the reaction mixture was agitated using a vortex mixture for 2 s. The solution was left undisturbed for 1 h. The reaction mixture

was then diluted with water (40 μ L). An aliquot (50 μ L) of this solution was combined with a solution of amplification reagent 1 in DMSO (56.8 μ M, 360 μ L). The amplification reaction was allowed to proceed for 16 h. An aliquot (1 μ L) of the reaction mixture was diluted with THF (600 μ L) and the absorbance of the solution was measured at 305 nm using THF as the blank sample. The absorbance data obtained were normalized using the formula $A_{normal} = (A - A_0)/(A_{max} - A_0)$ where $A_{normal} = normalized$ absorbance, A = absorbance measurements obtained for a reaction, $A_0 = absorbance$ values for a negative control containing no added Pd(II), and $A_{max} = maximum$ absorbance obtained.

Tables of data corresponding to Figure S6:

Table S7: Absorbance data obtained for the experiment described above.

	Normalized absorbance at 305 nm $(A - A_0)/(A_{max} - A_0)$		
[Pd(II)] in ppm	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
0	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4	0.0110	0.0086	-0.0017
8	0.0202	0.0134	0.0004
10	0.0133	0.0103	0.0359
12	0.0735	0.0533	0.0190
14	0.1367	0.1269	0.2404
16	0.2905	0.2849	0.4375
20	0.7122	0.7112	0.8737
24	0.8936	0.8923	0.9797
28	0.9156	1.0062	0.9979
32	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

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Copies of spectra

