

Supporting Information

Iron or boron-catalyzed C-H arylthiation of substituted phenols at room temperature

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Table of contents

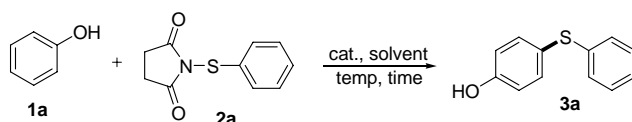
General experimental procedures	P2
Optimization of conditions on reaction of phenol (1a) with 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2a)	P2
General procedure for synthesis of 3a-b'	P4
Characterization data of compounds 3a-b'	P4
Synthesis of <i>N</i> -(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)acetamide (3c')	P13
Synthesis of 7-hydroxy-6,8-bis(<i>p</i> -tolylthio)-2 <i>H</i> -chromen-2-one (3d')	P13
Synthesis of 2-(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)-4 <i>H</i> -chromen-4-one (3e')	P14
References	P14
The ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR spectra of compounds 3a-e'	P16

General experimental procedures

All reactions were carried out at room temperature and monitored by TLC. Proton and carbon magnetic resonance spectra (^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR) were recorded using tetramethylsilane (TMS) in the solvent of CDCl_3 as the internal standard (^1H NMR: TMS at 0.00 ppm, CDCl_3 at 7.26 ppm; ^{13}C NMR: CDCl_3 at 77.16 ppm) and using tetramethylsilane (TMS) in the solvent of $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ as the internal standard (^1H NMR: $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ at 2.50 ppm; ^{13}C NMR: $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ at 39.52 ppm).

Optimization of conditions on reaction of phenol (1a) with 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2a)

Table 1 Optimization of conditions on reaction of phenol (1a) with 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (2a) leading to 4-(phenylthio)phenol (3a)^a



Entry	Cat. (equiv)	Solvent	Temp ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Time	Yield (%) ^b
1	FeCl_3 (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	94
2	$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	92
3	CuI (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
4	CuCl_2 (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
5	$\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$ (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
6	AgOAc (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
7	RuCl_3 (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
8	ZnCl_2 (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	0
9	AlCl_3 (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	83
10	TsOH (0.2)	DCE	RT	10 min	42
11	H_2SO_4 (0.2) ^[c]	DCE	RT	10 min	91
12	-	DCE	RT to 100	16 h	0
13	FeCl_3 (0.1)	DCE	RT	3 h	93
14	$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.1)	DCE	RT	3 h	92
15	FeCl_3 (0.05)	DCE	RT	3 h	53
16	$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (0.05)	DCE	RT	3 h	49
17	FeCl_3 (0.1)	CH_2Cl_2	RT	3 h	94

18	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (0.1)	CH ₂ Cl ₂	RT	3 h	93
19	FeCl ₃ (0.1)	CHCl ₃	RT	3 h	85
20	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (0.1)	CHCl ₃	RT	3 h	82
21	FeCl ₃ (0.1)	MeCN	RT	3 h	64
22	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (0.1)	MeCN	RT	3 h	90
23	FeCl ₃ (0.1)	THF	RT	3 h	52
24	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (0.1)	THF	RT	3 h	0
25	FeCl ₃ (0.1)	DCE	50	3 h	64
26	BF ₃ ·OEt ₂ (0.1)	DCE	50	3 h	62
27	FeCl ₃ (0.1) + CuCl ₂ (0.1)	CH ₂ Cl ₂	RT	3 h	94

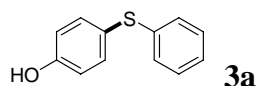
^a Reaction conditions: phenol (**1a**) (0.3 mmol), 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2a**) (0.33 mmol), catalyst (0.015-0.06 mmol), anhydrous solvent (2 mL), temperature (RT - 100 °C), reaction time (10 min - 16 h). ^b Isolated yield. ^c 98% H₂SO₄. DCE = 1,2-dichloroethane.

As shown in Table 1, our search for optimized reaction conditions began by treating phenol (**1a**) with 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2a**) in the presence of different catalysts in dichloroethane (DCE) at room temperature (entries 1-11), and FeCl₃ (entry 1), BF₃·OEt₂ (entry 2), AlCl₃ (entry 9) and H₂SO₄ (entry 11) gave the higher yields, in which FeCl₃ and BF₃·OEt₂ were most efficient (*the two catalysts showed similar catalytic activity*) (entries 1 and 2). No target product was observed in the absence of catalyst when temperature was changed from room temperature to 100 °C (entry 12). Amount of the catalysts were reduced, and 0.1 equiv of catalysts provided similar yields (entries 13 and 14), but 0.05 equiv of catalysts gave lower yields (entries 15 and 16). Other solvents were attempted (entries 17-24), and CH₂Cl₂ was a suitable solvent in this arylthiation of phenol (entries 17 and 18). When temperature was raised to 50 °C, yields decreased (entries 25 and 26). In order to check whether trace amount of copper involve in catalysis in the iron-catalyzed arylthiation of phenol, mixed catalysts (FeCl₃/CuCl₂) were used, and the result showed that addition of CuCl₂ did not affect this reaction (entry 27).

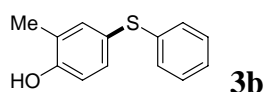
General procedure for synthesis of 3a-b'

A 10 mL flask was charged with a magnetic stirrer, substituted phenol (**1**) (0.3 mmol) and 1-(substituted phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2**) (0.66 mmol for **3n**; 0.33 mmol for others) and dry dichloromethane (2.0 mL). FeCl₃ or BF₃·OEt₂ (0.03 mmol) was added to the flask, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature till the reaction completed (TLC determination). The resulting solution was concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate or dichloromethane/hexane as the eluent to give the desired target product (**3**).

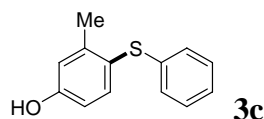
Characterization data of compounds 3a-b'



4-(Phenylthio)phenol (3a).¹ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Yield: 56 mg (93%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 55 mg (92%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.11 - 7.24 (m, 5H), 6.80 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.34 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.8, 138.4, 135.6, 129.1, 128.5, 126.0, 124.8, 116.7. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 202.2.

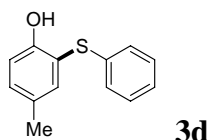


2-Methyl-4-(phenylthio)phenol (3b).² Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1). Yield: 58 mg (89%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 56 mg (87%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Light brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.09 - 7.26 (m, 7H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 154.3, 138.7, 136.9, 133.2, 129.0, 128.2, 125.8, 125.4, 124.1, 116.1, 15.8. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 216.2.

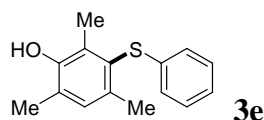


2-Methyl-4-(phenylthio)phenol (3c).² Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate

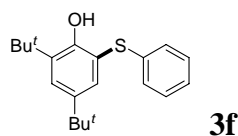
(8:1). Yield: 62 mg (95%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 59 mg (92%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Light brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 - 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.49 (br.s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 156.4, 144.2, 138.4, 137.6, 129.0, 127.1, 125.4, 123.0, 117.9, 114.1, 21.0. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 216.2.



4-Methyl-2-(phenylthio)phenol (3d).¹ Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane (1:3). Yield: 52 mg (81%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 52 mg (81%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Light yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.32 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.11 - 7.17 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.2, 137.0, 136.2, 133.1, 130.7, 129.3, 126.9, 126.1, 115.8, 115.4, 20.4. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 216.2.

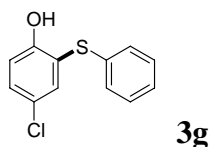


2,4,6-Trimethyl-3-(phenylthio)phenol (3e). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield: 59 mg (81%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 58 mg (79%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Light brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.90 - 6.92 (m, 2H), 4.61 (br.s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 150.8, 138.5, 135.6, 130.2, 129.0, 128.6, 125.6, 124.9, 124.7, 21.3, 16.2, 14.4. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 244.1.

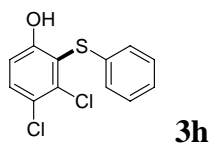


2,4-Di-tert-butyl-6-(phenylthio)phenol (3f). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield: 91 mg (97%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 90 mg (96%)

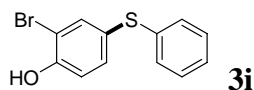
using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 48 - 49 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.41 - 7.42 (m, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.30 (s, 9H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 153.6, 142.9, 136.6, 135.9, 131.2, 129.3, 127.0, 126.5, 125.9, 115.8, 35.5, 34.5, 31.7, 29.6. EIMS: M^+ m/z 314.4.



4-Chloro-2-(phenylthio)phenol (3g). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1). Yield: 48 mg (68%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 46 mg (65%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.51 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (dd, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 160.0, 135.8, 134.9, 132.2, 129.5, 127.6, 126.8, 125.6, 118.3, 116.9. EIMS: M^+ m/z 236.1.

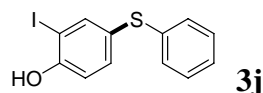


3,4-Dichloro-2-(phenylthio)phenol (3h). Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane (1:1). Yield: 45 mg (55%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 47 mg (58%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Brown oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.45 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.18 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.10 - 7.13 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 157.4, 138.5, 133.4, 133.0, 129.6, 127.5, 127.0, 124.9, 118.4, 114.7. EIMS: M^+ m/z 270.1.

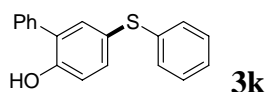


2-Bromo-4-(phenylthio)phenol (3i).¹ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Yield: 65 mg (77%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 65 mg (77%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Brown oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.57 (d, $J = 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 - 7.31 (m, 6H), 6.99 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.63 (br.s, 1H). ^{13}C

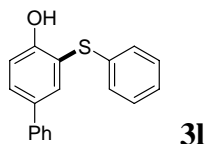
NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.4, 137.3, 136.4, 134.4, 129.3, 129.3, 126.8, 126.6, 117.0, 110.8. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 280.2.



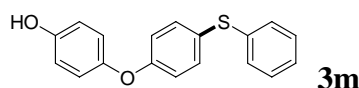
2-Iodo-4-(phenylthio)phenol (3j). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Yield: 70 mg (71%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 72 mg (73%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16 - 7.28 (m, 5H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.43 (br.s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.1, 142.6, 137.4, 135.5, 129.2, 129.1, 127.1, 126.5, 115.9, 86.3. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 328.2.



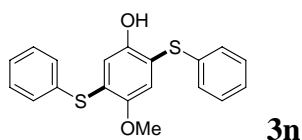
5-(Phenylthio)biphenyl-2-ol (3k). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield: 70 mg (84%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 71 mg (85%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.33 - 7.46 (m, 7H), 7.19 - 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.11 - 7.15 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.8, 138.3, 136.2, 135.7, 134.8, 129.5, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 128.3, 126.0, 124.9, 117.2. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 278.3.



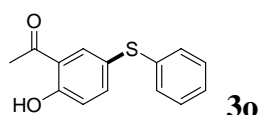
3-(Phenylthio)biphenyl-4-ol (3l). Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane (1:4). Yield: 57 mg (69%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 56 mg (68%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 57 - 58 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 - 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.39 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.11 - 7.15 (m, 4H), 6.53 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 156.8, 139.9, 135.8, 135.4, 134.8, 131.1, 129.4, 129.0, 127.2, 127.1, 126.8, 126.4, 116.9, 116.0. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 278.3.



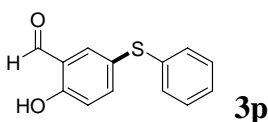
4-(4-(Phenylthio)phenoxy)phenol (3m). Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane (1:4). Yield: 58 mg (66%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 57 mg (65%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 56 - 57 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.22 - 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.15 - 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (br.s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 158.7, 152.2, 149.7, 137.7, 134.6, 129.3, 129.2, 127.2, 126.4, 121.5, 118.3, 116.6. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 294.2.



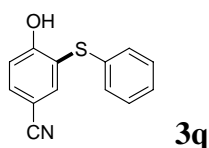
4-Methoxy-2,5-bis(phenylthio)phenol (3n). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield: 93 mg (91%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 97 mg (95%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.53 - 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.38 - 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.21 - 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.12 - 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.05 - 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 152.0, 149.7, 136.1, 135.0, 133.1, 131.0, 129.8, 129.4, 129.1, 126.6, 126.2, 117.5, 114.3, 112.2, 56.7. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 340.2.



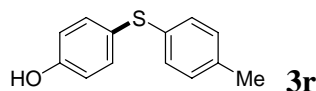
1-(2-Hydroxy-5-(phenylthio)phenyl)ethanone (3o). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (7:1). Yield: 45 mg (62%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 49 mg (67%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 12.4 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.17 - 7.20 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 204.3, 162.7, 142.1, 137.7, 136.4, 129.3, 128.6, 126.4, 123.2, 120.5, 120.1, 26.8. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 244.2.



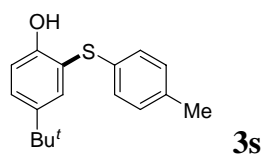
2-Hydroxy-5-(phenylthio)benzaldehyde (3p). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (7:1). Yield: 40 mg (58%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 37 mg (54%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 45 - 46 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 11.1 (s, 1H), 9.85 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.19 - 7.30 (m, 5H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 196.2, 161.7, 142.1, 138.5, 137.1, 129.4, 129.3, 126.7, 125.1, 121.4, 119.3. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 230.2.



4-Hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)benzonitrile (3q). Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane (1:3). Yield: 35 mg (52%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 36 mg (53%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 104 - 105 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 - 7.31 (m, 3H), 7.09 - 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.02 - 7.04 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 160.6, 140.5, 135.7, 133.8, 129.7, 128.3, 127.4, 119.6, 118.3, 116.7, 105.0. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 227.2.

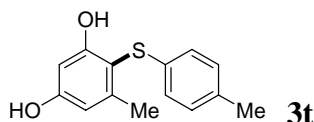


4-(*p*-Tolylthio)phenol (3r).³ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1). Yield: 59 mg (91%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 58 mg (90%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 66 - 67 °C (lit.³ 64 °C). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.29 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.4, 136.4, 134.5, 134.1, 129.9, 129.6, 126.1, 116.5, 21.1. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 216.0.

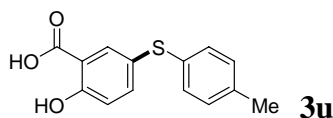


4-*tert*-Butyl-2-(*p*-tolylthio)phenol (3s). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate

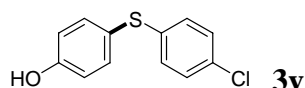
(15:1). Yield: 73 mg (90%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 73 mg (90%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.52 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.97 - 7.04 (m, 5H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 155.0, 144.2, 136.1, 133.5, 132.6, 130.1, 129.4, 127.1, 116.1, 115.0, 34.3, 31.6, 21.0. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 272.3.



5-Methyl-4-(*p*-tolylthio)benzene-1,3-diol (3t). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5:1). Yield: 68 mg (93%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 67 mg (91%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. Gray solid, mp 75 - 76 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (br.s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 158.9, 158.2, 145.9, 135.8, 132.3, 130.1, 126.1, 110.4, 107.8, 99.8, 21.2, 21.0. EIMS: M⁺ m/z 246.2.

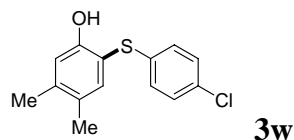


2-Hydroxy-5-(*p*-tolylthio)benzoic acid (3u). Eluent: dichloromethane/hexane/AcOH (1:1:0.001). Yield: 52 mg (67%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 51 mg (65%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 247 - 248 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.10 - 7.15 (m, 4H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz) δ 160.6, 140.5, 135.7, 133.8, 129.7, 128.3, 127.4, 119.6, 118.3, 116.7, 105.0. ESI-MS: [M-H]⁻ m/z 259.1.

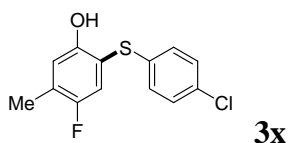


4-(4-Chlorophenylthio)phenol (3v).⁴ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (8:1). Yield: 68 mg (96%) using FeCl₃ as the catalyst; 66 mg (93%) using BF₃·OEt₂ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 32 - 33 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400

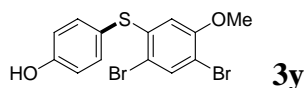
MHz) δ 7.33 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.82 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 5.53 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 156.1, 137.1, 135.7, 131.8, 129.6, 129.2, 124.3, 116.7. EIMS: M^+ m/z 236.2.



2-(4-Chlorophenylthio)-4,5-dimethylphenol (3w). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (15:1). Yield: 67 mg (84%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 68 mg (85%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. White solid, mp 113 - 114 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 155.3, 142.1, 137.2, 135.3, 131.9, 129.9, 129.3, 127.9, 116.8, 112.1, 20.2, 18.8. EIMS: M^+ m/z 264.0.

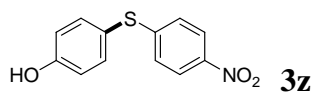


2-(4-Chlorophenylthio)-4-fluoro-5-methylphenol (3x). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield: 55 mg (69%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 52 mg (65%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 94 - 95 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.21 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 2.28 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 155.3 (d, $J = 240.6$ Hz), 153.3, 134.2, 132.5, 130.2 (d, $J = 19.2$ Hz), 129.5, 128.4, 121.8 (d, $J = 24.0$ Hz), 117.8 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz), 113.4 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz), 15.1 (d, $J = 2.9$ Hz). EIMS: M^+ m/z 268.1.

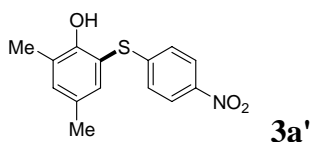


4-(2,4-Dibromo-5-methoxyphenylthio)phenol (3y). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (6:1). Yield: 96 mg (82%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 98 mg (84%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.22 (s, 1H),

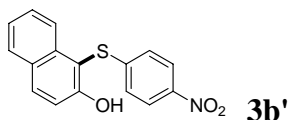
5.53 (s, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 157.0, 155.5, 141.2, 137.2, 136.0, 122.2, 117.1, 111.6, 111.1, 108.7, 56.2. EIMS: M^+ m/z 390.1.



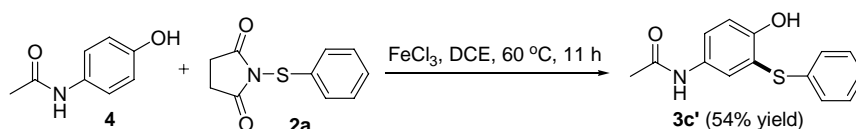
4-(4-Nitrophenylthio)phenol (3z).⁵ Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (4:1). Yield: 48 mg (65%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 47 mg (64%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 153 - 154 °C (lit.⁵ 150 - 151 °C). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 8.05 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 5.42 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 157.5, 150.2, 145.1, 137.6, 125.7, 124.1, 120.5, 117.3. EIMS: M^+ m/z 247.2.



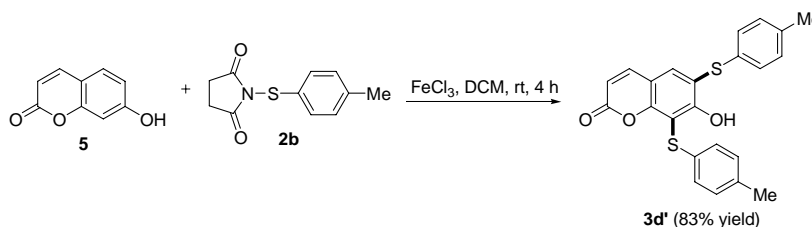
2,4-Dimethyl-6-(4-nitrophenylthio)phenol (3a'). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield: 44 mg (53%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 47 mg (57%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 130 - 131 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 8.07 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.10 - 7.15 (m, 4H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 153.5, 146.4, 145.8, 135.6, 134.3, 130.8, 126.0, 125.6, 124.3, 112.5, 20.4, 16.6. EIMS: M^+ m/z 275.2.



1-(4-Nitrophenylthio)naphthalen-2-ol (3b'). Eluent: petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1). Yield: 54 mg (61%) using FeCl_3 as the catalyst; 53 mg (59%) using $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ as the catalyst. Yellow solid, mp 184 - 185 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 8.07 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.42 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.89 (br.s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 157.4, 145.9, 145.2, 135.0, 134.0, 129.7, 129.0, 128.6, 126.1, 124.5, 124.4, 124.1, 117.3, 105.7. EIMS: M^+ m/z 297.1.

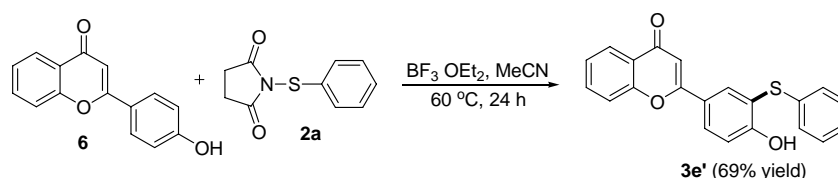


Synthesis of *N*-(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)acetamide (3c'**).** FeCl₃ (0.03 mmol, 5 mg), *N*-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamide (**4**) (0.3 mmol, 45 mg), 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2a**) (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv, 75 mg) and anhydrous dichloroethane (DCE) (2 mL) were added to a 25 mL Schlenk tube charged with a magnetic stirrer, and then the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 11 h. After the reaction completed (TLC determination), the resulting solution was concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (1 : 1) as the eluent to give *N*-(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)acetamide (**3c'**) (42mg, 54%) as a brown oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 600 MHz) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (s, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 168.5, 154.2, 135.5, 131.3, 129.4, 128.4, 127.4, 126.5, 125.0, 116.9, 115.9, 24.4. EIMS: M⁺ *m/z* 259.2.



Synthesis of 7-hydroxy-6,8-bis(*p*-tolylthio)-2*H*-chromen-2-one (3d'**).** A 10 mL flask was charged with a magnetic stirrer, 7-hydroxy-2*H*-chromen-2-one (**5**) (0.3 mmol, 49 mg) and 1-(*p*-tolylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2b**) (0.66 mmol, 146 mg) and dry dichloromethane (DCM) (2.0 mL). FeCl₃ (0.03 mmol, 5 mg) was added to the flask, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h. After the reaction completed (TLC determination), the resulting solution was concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (5 : 1) as the eluent to give 7-hydroxy-6,8-bis(*p*-tolylthio)-2*H*-chromen-2-one (**3d'**) (101 mg,

83%) as a white solid, mp 179 - 180 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.44 - 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.96 - 6.98 (m, 3H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 158.9, 158.7, 154.8, 140.3, 137.1, 135.3, 134.5, 134.1, 131.3, 131.0, 130.3, 127.9, 127.4, 125.9, 115.5, 114.5, 103.2, 21.5, 21.1. ESI-MS: [M-H]⁻ m/z 405.1.



Synthesis of 2-(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)-4*H*-chromen-4-one (**3e'**).

BF₃·OEt₂ (0.03 mmol, 4 uL), 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4*H*-chromen-4-one (**6**) (0.3 mmol, 71 mg), 1-(phenylthio)pyrrolidine-2,5-dione (**2a**) (0.36 mmol, 1.2 equiv, 75 mg) and anhydrous MeCN (2 mL) were added to a 25 mL Schlenk tube charged with a magnetic stirrer, and then the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After the reaction completed (TLC determination), the resulting solution was concentrated by a rotary evaporator, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using dichloromethane/ methanol (40 : 1) as the eluent to give 2-(4-hydroxy-3-(phenylthio)phenyl)-4*H*-chromen-4-one (**3e'**) (72 mg, 69%) as a yellow solid, mp 235 - 236 °C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz) δ 10.95 (br. s, 1H), 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.77 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.37 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz) δ 176.8, 162.2, 159.8, 155.5, 134.5, 134.1, 130.9, 129.7, 129.4, 128.1, 126.9, 125.4, 124.7, 123.2, 122.5, 121.0, 118.2, 116.2, 105.2. ESI-MS: [M+H]⁺ m/z 347.3.

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The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of compounds 3a-e'

