

## Supporting Information

### Visible Light-Catalytic Hydroxylation of Aryl Halides with Water to Phenols by Carbon Nitride and Nickel Complex Cooperative Catalysis

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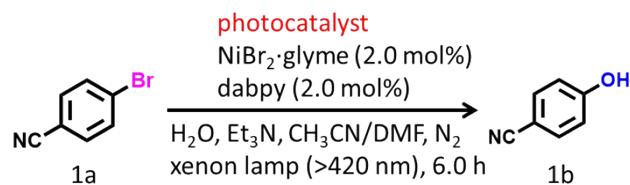
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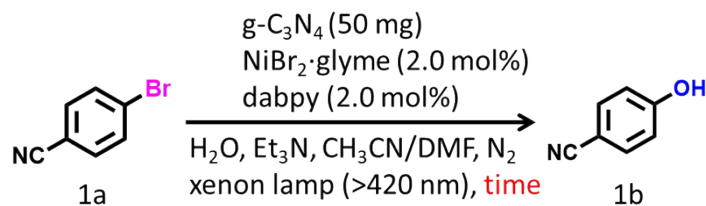
**Table S1.** Catalytic performances of different photocatalyst in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile.<sup>a</sup>



Entry	PC	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	Cu <sub>2</sub> O	trace	trace
2	WO <sub>3</sub>	trace	trace
3	α-Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	trace	trace
4	CdS	5.10	4.20
5	g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub>	67.1	66.5

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NiBr<sub>2</sub>·glyme (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%), photocatalyst (50 mg), DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1, 3.0 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (360 μL, 20 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv), N<sub>2</sub>, xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C. <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

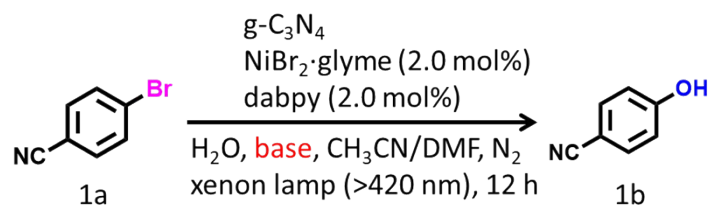
**Table S2.** Catalytic performances of different time in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Time (h)	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	2	18.3	17.1
2	4	34.6	31.0
3	6	67.1	66.5
4	8	81.9	81.6
5	10	94.3	94.0
6	12	99.9	99.9

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot \text{glyme}$  (2.0 mol%),  $\text{dabpy}$  (2.0 mol%),  $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{DMF}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1:1, 3.0 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (360  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20 equiv),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv),  $\text{N}_2$ , xenon lamp (>420 nm), <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

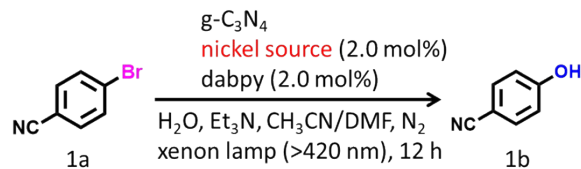
**Table S3.** Catalytic performances of different base in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Catalyst	Addition agent	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	DIPEA	46.0	34.0
2	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	dimethylphenylamine	9.50	trace
3	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	TEOA	2.52	1.95
4	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	Et <sub>3</sub> N	99.9	99.9
5	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	DABCO	trace	trace
6	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	2,6-lutidine	trace	trace
7	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	12.2	trace
8	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	trace	trace

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NiBr<sub>2</sub>·glyme (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%), g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (50 mg), DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1, 3.0 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (360 μL, 20 equiv), base (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv), N<sub>2</sub>, xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

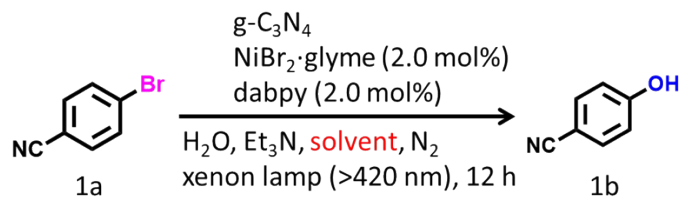
**Table S4.** Catalytic performances of different nickel source in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Catalyst	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·glyme	99.9	99.9
2	NiCl <sub>2</sub>	50.5	50.1
3	NiCl <sub>2</sub> ·6H <sub>2</sub> O	98.6	98.0
4	NiBr <sub>2</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O	59.2	58.1
5	NiBr <sub>2</sub>	23.2	23.0

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Ni(II) (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%), g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (50 mg), DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1, 3.0 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (360 μL, 20 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv), N<sub>2</sub>, xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

**Table S5.** Catalytic performances of different solvent in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>

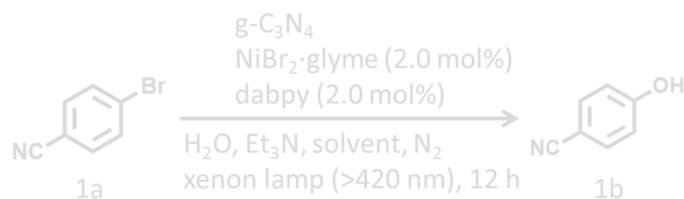


Entry	Catalyst	Solvent	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	$\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$	DMF/ $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	99.9	99.9
2	$\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$	DMF	65.9	64
3	$\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$	DMA/MeOH	82.1	79.1
4	$\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	80.8	79.7

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$  (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%),  $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$  (50 mg), solvent (3.0 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (360  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20 equiv),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv),  $\text{N}_2$ , xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h.

<sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

**Table S6.** Catalytic performances of different amount of solvent in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>

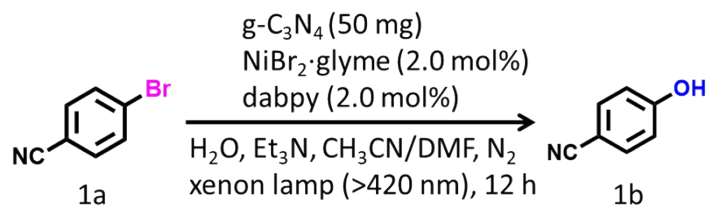


Entry	Amount of solvent (mL)	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	2.0	31.3	28.1
2	3.0	99.9	99.9
3	4.0	87.5	85.8
4	5.0	44.2	43.1

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{NiBr}_2\cdot\text{glyme}$  (2.0 mol%),  $\text{dabpy}$  (2.0 mol%),  $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$  (50 mg),  $\text{DMF}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1:1),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (360  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20 equiv),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv),  $\text{N}_2$ , xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h.

<sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

**Table S7.** Catalytic performances of different dosage of photocatalyst in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>

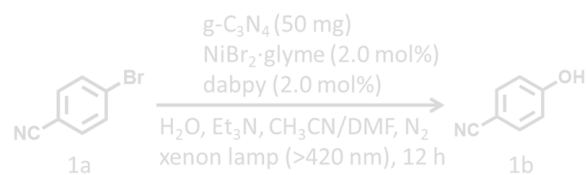


Entry	$\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$ dosage (mg)	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	20	51.9	50.4
2	30	74.1	73.8
3	40	88.3	86.2
4	50	99.9	99.9
5*	50	34.3	33.1

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot \text{glyme}$  (2.0 mol%),  $\text{dabpy}$  (2.0 mol%),  $\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{DMF}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1:1, 3.0 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (360  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20 equiv),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv),  $\text{N}_2$ , xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h.  
<sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard. \*  $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot \text{glyme}$  (1.0 mol%)



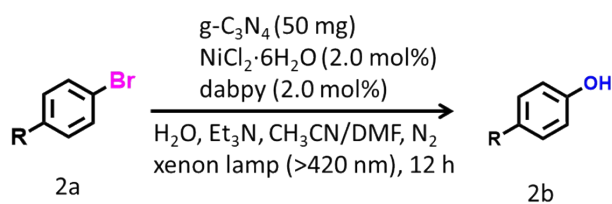
**Table S8.** Catalytic performances of light intensity in the synthesis of phenol from 4-bromobenzonitrile. <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Power (W)	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1	100	12.1	11.5
3	150	20.4	20.1
4	200	58.1	57.6
5	300	99.9	99.9

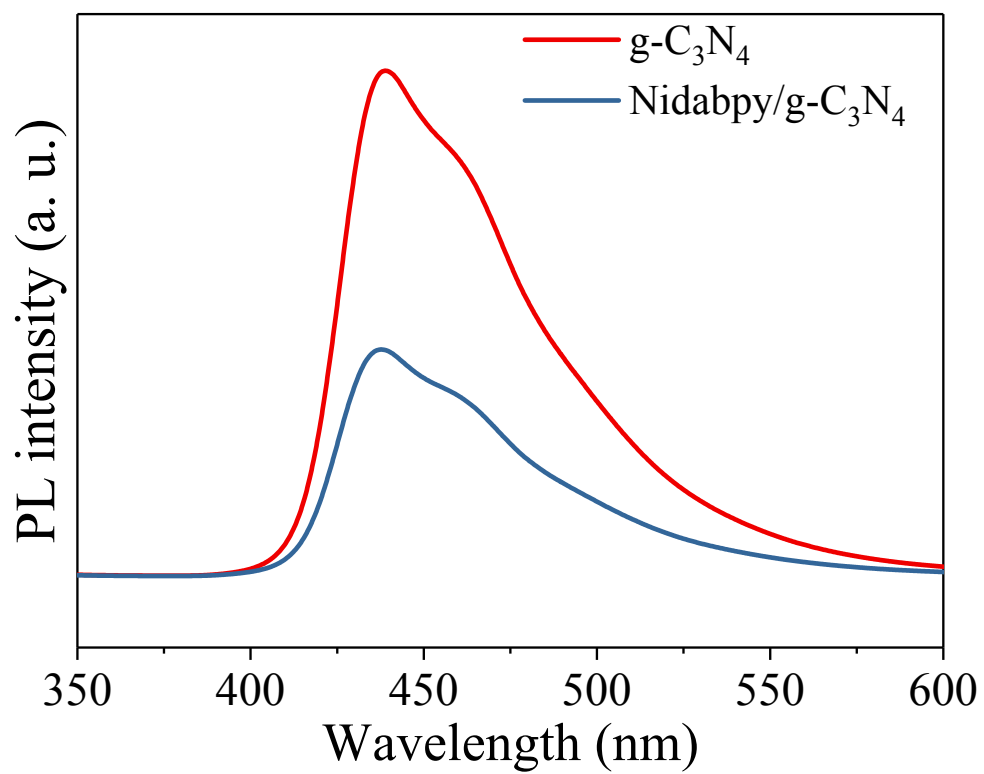
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 4-bromobenzonitrile (1a) (91.1 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv),  $\text{NiBr}_2 \cdot \text{glyme}$  (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%),  $g\text{-C}_3\text{N}_4$  (50 mg),  $\text{DMF}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1:1, 3.0 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (360  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20 equiv),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv),  $\text{N}_2$ , xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25 °C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.

**Table S9** Reaction scope of Nidabpy/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyzed hydroxylation of aromatic halides.<sup>a</sup>

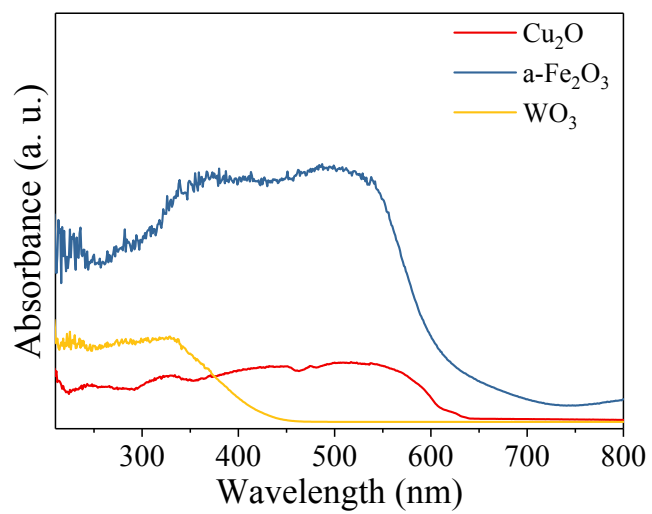


Entry	Substrate	Conversion (%)	Yield (%) <sup>b</sup>
1		98.6	98.0
2		91.1	88.2
3		29.5	22.1
4		50.1	49.0
5		44.9	41.7

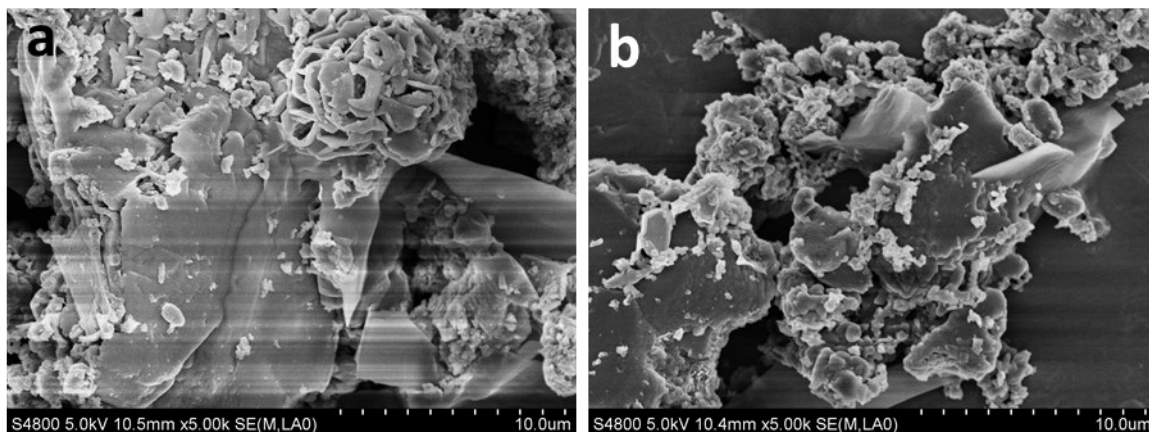
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: aromatic halide (2a) (0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), NiCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (2.0 mol%), dabpy (2.0 mol%), g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (50 mg), DMF/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1:1, 3.0 mL), H<sub>2</sub>O (360 μL, 20 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.75 mmol, 1.5 equiv), N<sub>2</sub>, xenon lamp (>420 nm), 25°C, 12 h. <sup>b</sup>Determined by HPLC analysis against an internal standard.



**Figure S1** Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of Nidabpy/g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> and g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> samples.

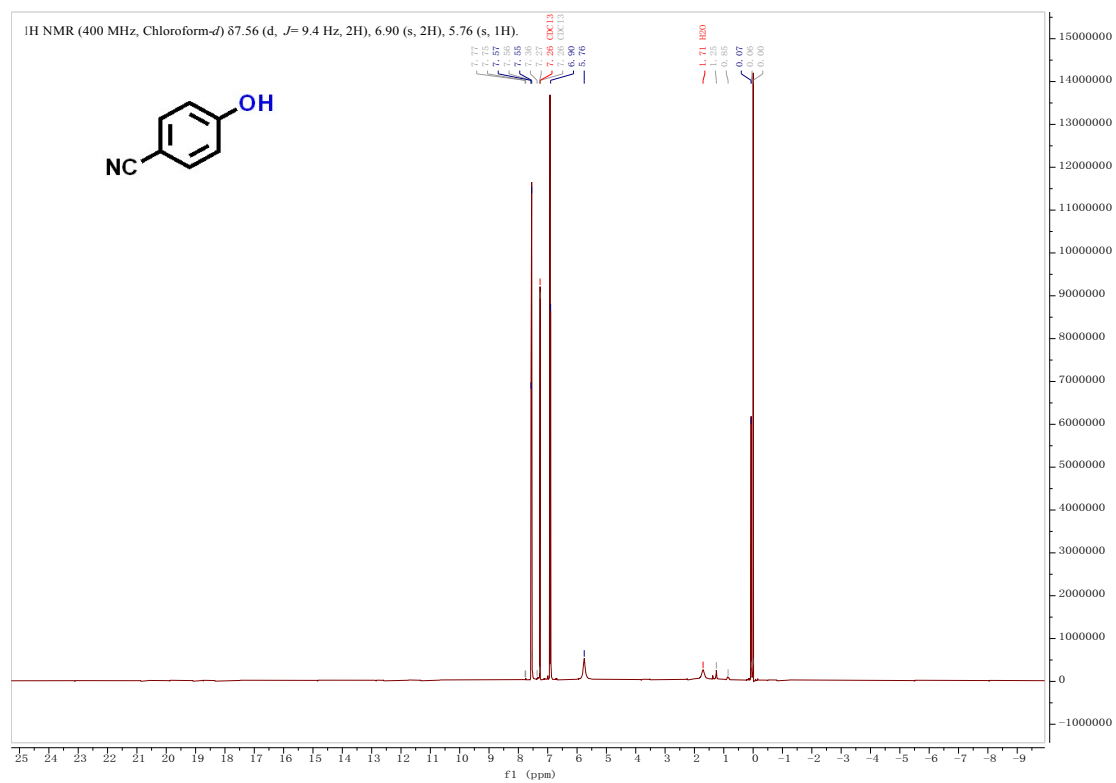


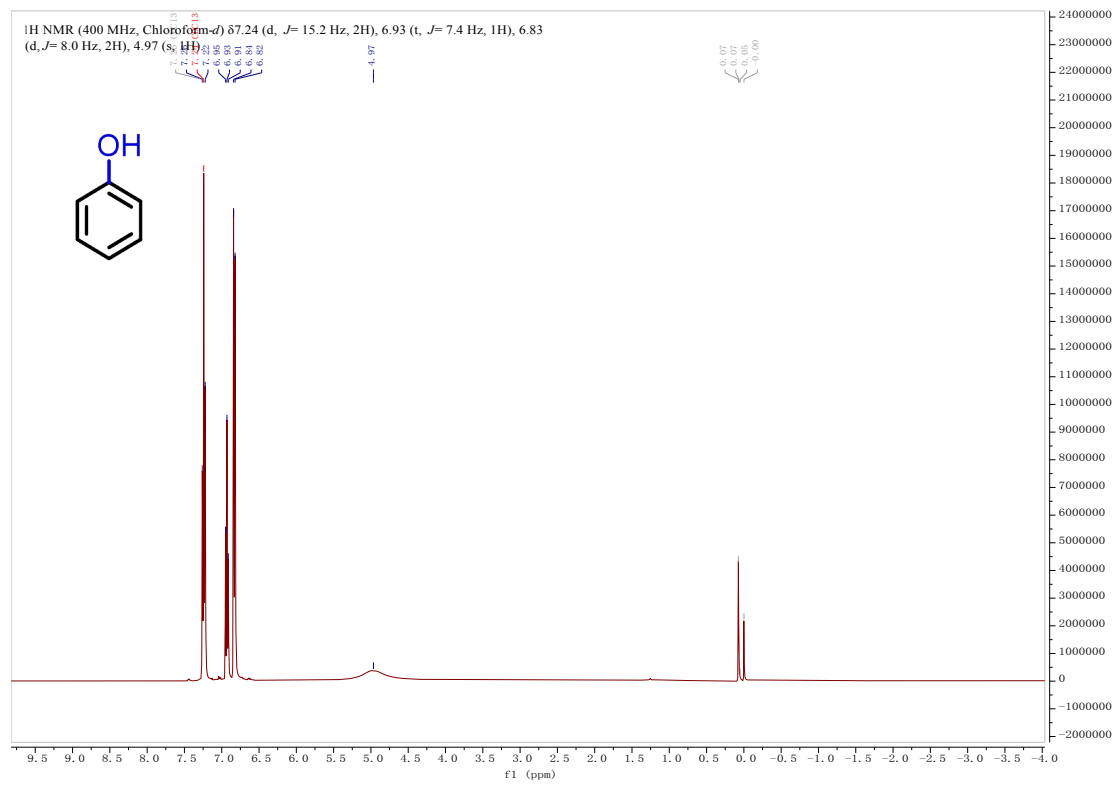
**Figure S2.** UV-Vis spectra of Cu<sub>2</sub>O, a-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and WO<sub>3</sub> samples.



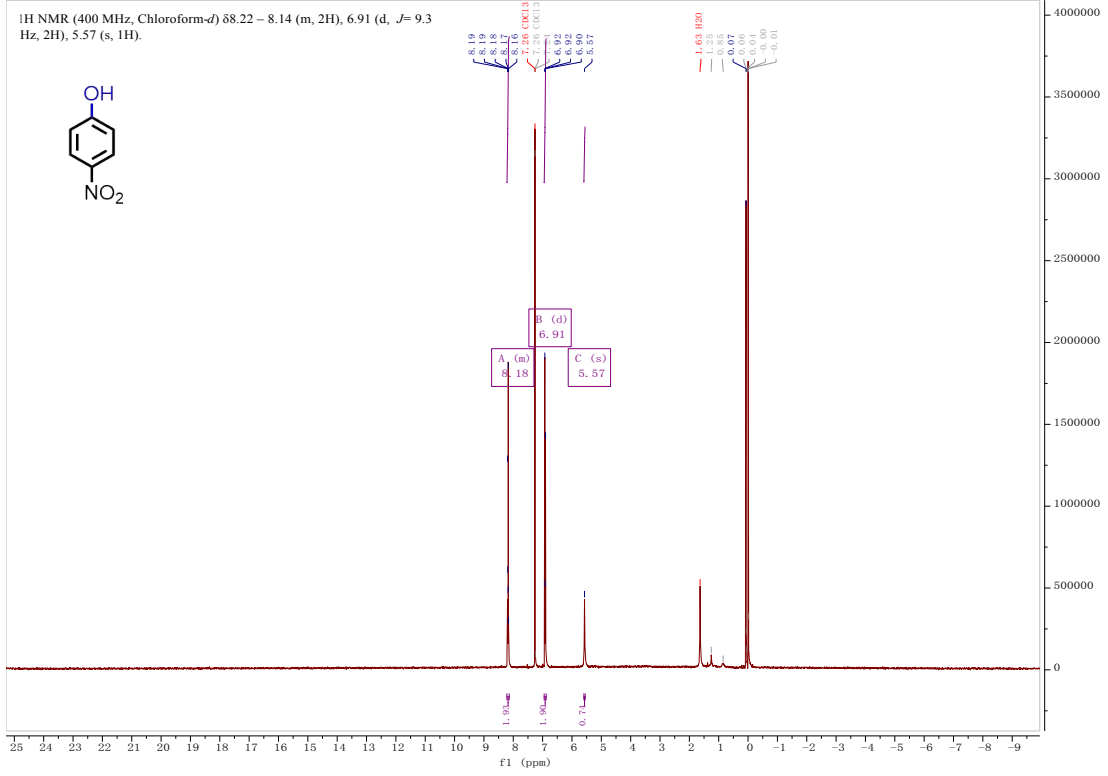
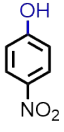
**Figure S3.** SEM images of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> before and after the reaction.

## NMR spectra of the compounds

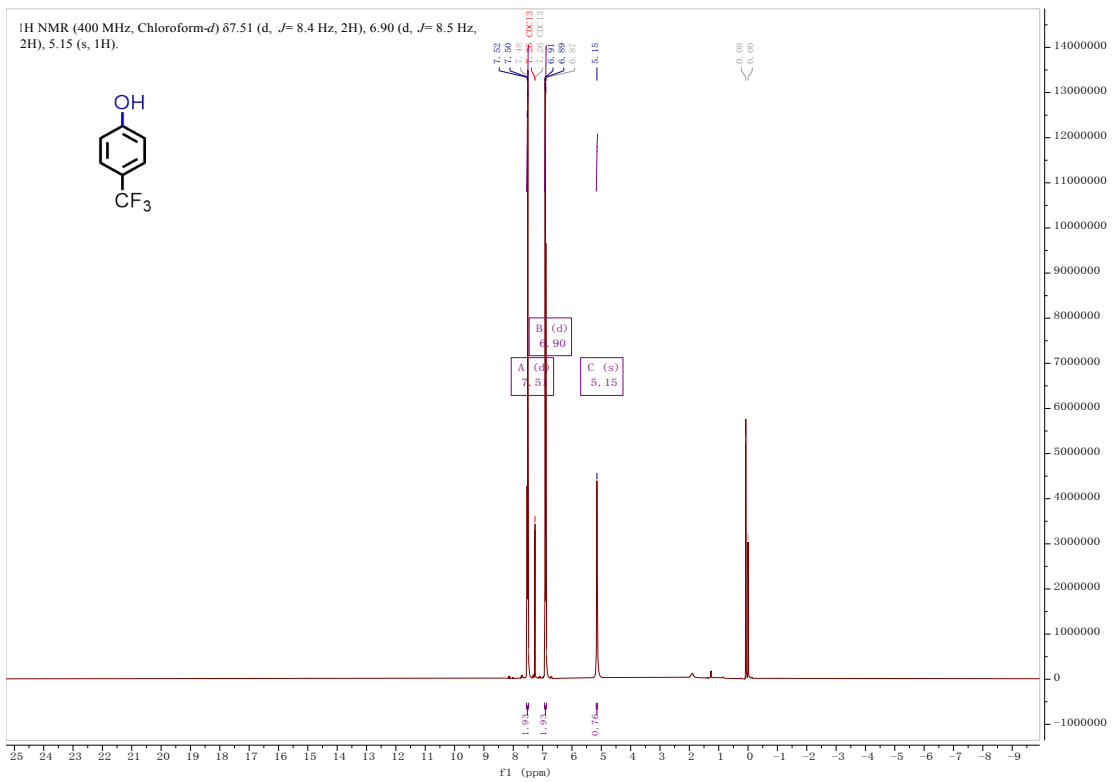


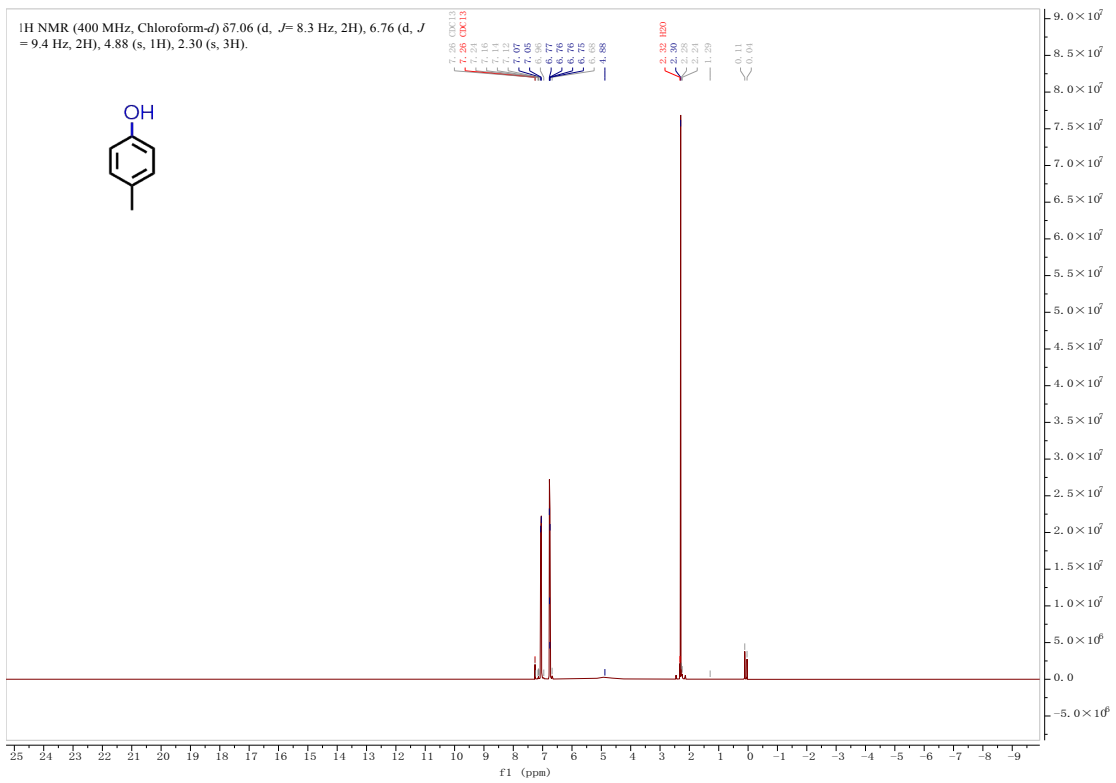


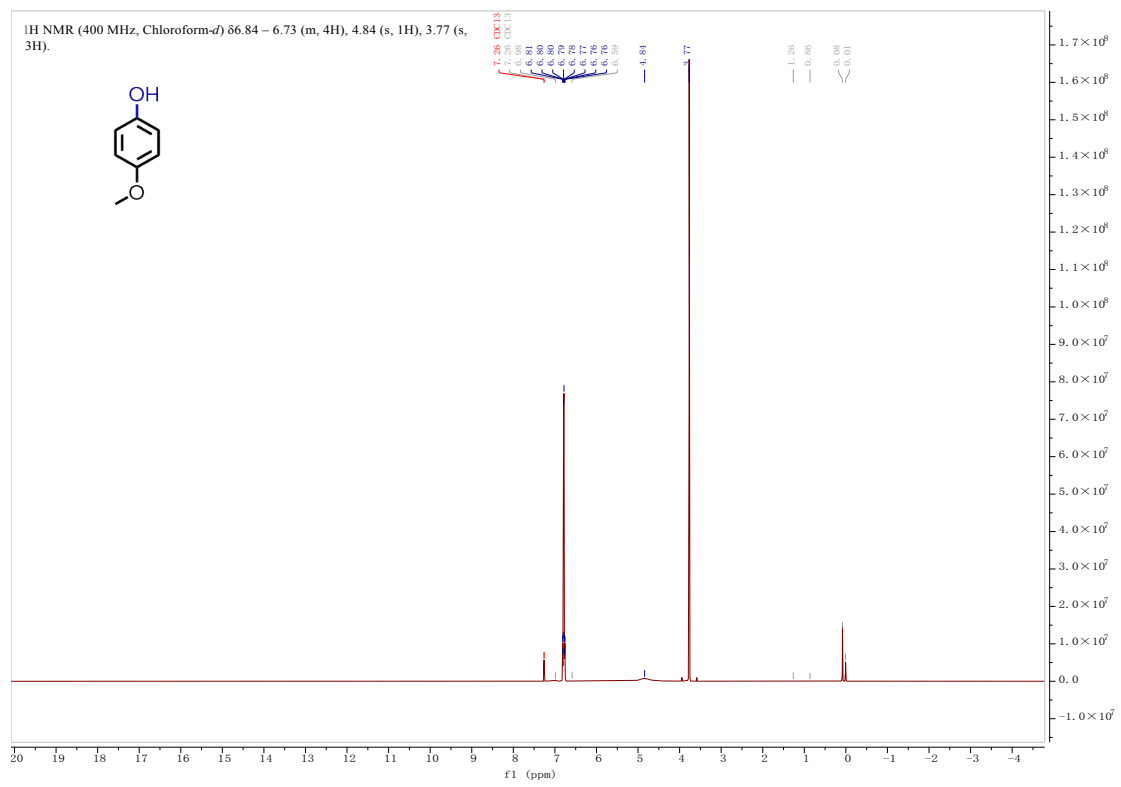
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) 8.22 – 8.14 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 5.57 (s, 1H).



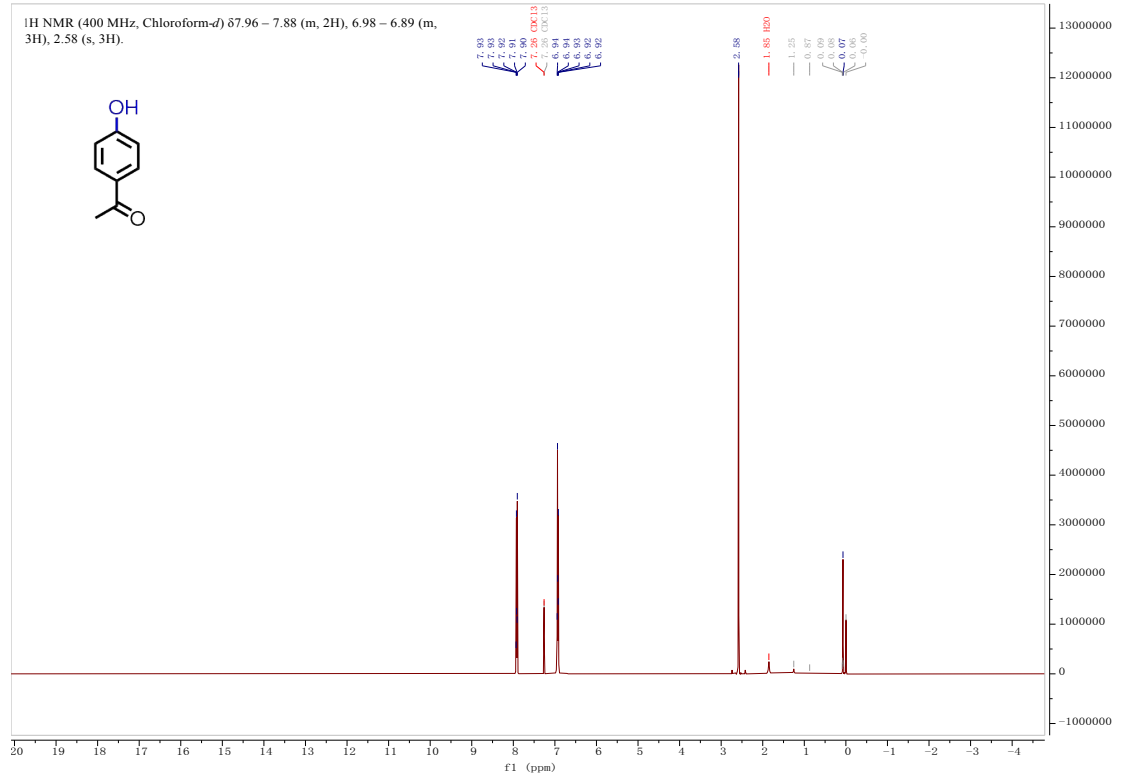








<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.96 – 7.88 (m, 2H), 6.98 – 6.89 (m, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.00 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 6.90 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 5.61 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H).

